



July 28 – August 2
PHOENIX, ARIZONA



Report of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Summary of Meetings

August 7, 2022

The 112th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened with the Conference of Bishops and synod vice presidents on Aug. 7, 2022, in the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Carlos E. Peña, interim vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

Voted:

CC22.08.22

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

Voted:

CC22.08.23

To designate the Phoenix Convention Center, 100 N. Third St., Phoenix, Ariz.—subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church—as the site for the Seventeenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, July 28–Aug. 2, 2025; and

To authorize the Executive Committee to select another venue if negotiations are not successful.

Voted:

CC22.08.24

To thank Mr. Carlos Peña for his faithful service as the interim ELCA vice president; and

To extend the council's appreciation for his wisdom and insights that have assisted the Church Council in its work during the transition.

Voted:

CC22.08.25

To take action *en bloc* on the following items listed in *En Bloc* Items.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.08.25a

To approve the updated *Manual of Policies and Procedures for the Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* for use by synod bishops, synod staff members, and others who hold responsibilities for such matters in this church, subject to approval by the Churchwide Assembly of proposed amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* regarding synod-authorized ministry;

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to provide periodic updates reflecting new or revised policies subsequently adopted by the Church Council; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.08.25b

To authorize the continuing members of the Executive Committee to serve as the Executive Committee of the Church Council between the close of the Churchwide Assembly on August 12, 2022, and the November 2022 meeting of the Church Council.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.08.25c

To approve the revised charters for the Audit Committee and the Resource Development Committee; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.08.25d

RESOLVED, that the prior resolution adopted by this Council, CC22.04.08, be modified by reducing the amount designated for the Campaign Readiness Fund from \$3.0 million to \$1.2 million.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.08.25e

To elect to the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to a term beginning Oct. 1, 2022, and expiring Sept. 30, 2026: the Rev. Kelly Chatman.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.08.25f

RESOLVED, that the Church Council approve and ratify the decision of the South Dakota Synod to incorporate in South Dakota, and to no longer be incorporated in Minnesota.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.08.25g

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

To adopt, *en bloc*, the following amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

10.01.01. Names and Boundaries. The names and boundaries of the synods shall be:

[...]

Synod 2.C—Pacifica. The counties of Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego in the state of CALIFORNIA; the congregations St. Andrew, Salem Evangelical, Shepherd of the Hills, and Good Shepherd Evangelical, and Prince of Peace, Los Angeles County, in the state of CALIFORNIA; the state of HAWAII; the territories of the U.S. in the Pacific Ocean.

[...]

Synod 8.D—Lower Susquehanna. The counties of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, York in the state commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA; the congregations St. Michael and Zion Klingerstown Lutheran Parish in Schuylkill County, in the state commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA.

14.33.01. Advisory Members. Categories of advisory members may be designated by the Church Council. These categories shall be set forth in continuing resolutions. Advisory members shall have voice but not vote.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.08.25h

To recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the voting members of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly:

To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.08.25i

To receive the resolution regarding Nondisclosure Agreements in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from the New England Synod; and

To acknowledge the action of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as the response of the Church Council concerning this resolution.

The 112th meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 4:22 p.m. (EDT) on Aug. 7, 2022.

Nov. 10–13, 2022

The 113th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened Nov. 10–13, 2022, in the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Ill. Mr. Imran Siddiqui, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST).

Voted:

CC22.11.26

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

Voted:

CC22.11.27

To ratify the appointments to the Church Council standing committees for the 2022–2025 triennium.

Voted:

CC22.11.28

To affirm the amended process for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2022–2025 triennium.

Voted: **CC22.11.29**

To acknowledge the commitment of the Church Council to have greater interaction of members of the Church Council with synod councils and synod assemblies in their respective areas;

To urge members of the Church Council to accept this responsibility and interact with their own synods and assigned synods in various ways, including attending at least one Synod Council meeting per year and participating in a Synod Assembly, especially in a year when a synod is considering nominations to the Church Council; and

To note that expenses for attending Synod Council meetings and Synod Assemblies will be reimbursed by the churchwide organization in accordance with the ELCA travel policy.

Voted: Two-thirds required **CC22.11.30**

To adopt the following amendment to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

14.33.A22. The Church Council shall have as advisory members each president, or the designated representative of the president, of the ELCA ethnic associations, as well as a representative of ReconcilingWorks. Advisory membership of the Church Council shall be reviewed each triennium.

Voted: **CC22.11.31**

To approve the engagement of Fox Swibel Levin & Carroll LLP to perform a diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility audit of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*, the Roster Manual, the ELCA Church Council Governance Policy Manual, and the *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*, with the total cost not to exceed \$100,000.

Voted: **CC22.11.32**

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop to manage the initiation of work on the reconsideration of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* (2009), per authorization of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, by delaying task force initiation to 2024 due to timing, budgetary, and leadership capacity demands.

Voted: **CC22.11.33**

To approve the amended Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.

Voted: **CC22.11.34**

To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions, Responses to Synod Actions, and Responses to Previous Church Council Actions.

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.11.34a**

To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing its review of the audited financial statements for the churchwide organization's fiscal year ended Jan. 31, 2022.

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.11.34b**

To approve the revisions to the 2006 Church Council Action CC06.11.38 for the Mission Development Fund as presented in the "Mission Development Fund Policy."

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.11.34c**

To transfer the excess liability in the amount of \$622,977.90 which represents the excess accrual for Post-Retirement Medical Benefits to the Designated Fund for Budgeted Operations Support.

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.11.34d**

To approve the completion of the special appeal in response to COVID-19; and

To thank this church's members, congregations, synods, churchwide organization, and other institutions and agencies for their generous support.

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.11.34e**

To approve the revisions to the ELCA Church Council Governance Policy Manual; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.11.34f**

To approve the proposed amendments to the Restated Bylaws of the Board of Pensions of the ELCA as listed in the "Portico Bylaws Changes Nov. 2022" document.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34g

To approve the amended bylaws of Lenoir-Rhyne University.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34h

To ratify the amendments in the constitution of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, with the exception of the following provisions:

- S6.04.03.
- S9.05.
- S9.06.
- S9.07.
- S10.01.02.
- S10.01.03.

To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34i

To approve the amended bylaws of United Lutheran Seminary.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34j

To defer the questions of developing social messages on U.S. national gun policy or on child abuse and protection and of considering the authorization of a revision of the “Message on Homelessness” (1990) until the Spring 2023 Church Council meeting to allow for a careful and thorough assessment of each issue, staff capacity, and finances; and

To request that the secretary of this church notify the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34k

To approve the amendments to the following corporate social responsibility documents to serve as the basis for ongoing corporate social responsibility work in this church:

- Sustainability Issue Paper
- Domestic Access to Capital Issue Paper
- Genetics Issue Paper;

To approve the “Privatized Immigration Detention Social Criteria Investment Screen;” and

To request that the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34l

To repeal the 2003 Policy on Criteria for Synodically-Authorized Worshiping Communities; and

To direct the Christian Community and Leadership home area, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, to consider a new policy to be reviewed by the Conference of Bishops and approved by the Church Council.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34m

To approve the minutes of the March 31–April 2, 2022, June 27, 2022, and Aug. 7, 2022, meetings of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the March 31–April 2, 2022, April 26, 2022, June 28, 2022, Aug. 7, 2022, Sept. 13, 2022, and Oct. 13, 2022, meetings.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34n

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to issue letters of call on behalf of the Church Council for rostered ministers in accordance with the *Tables of Sources of Calls* in Chapter 7 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

To note that this action supersedes Church Council action CC08.04.19.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34o1

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to a term beginning Oct. 1, 2022, and expiring Sept. 30, 2024: Mr. DeWayne A. Cook.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34o2

To re-elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary to a term beginning Jan. 1, 2023, and expiring Dec. 31, 2028: Ms. Elizabeth L. Jones.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34o3

To elect to the advisory board of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University to a term beginning July 1, 2022, and expiring June 30, 2025: the Rev. Stephen D. Wachtman.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34o4

To elect to the Committee of Hearing Officers to a six-term beginning November 2022: Mr. Arundel T. Clarke.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34o5

To elect to the Mission Investment Fund Board of Trustees to a term expiring in August 2025: Mr. Randall S. Foster.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34o6

To elect to the Board of Directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., for a renewable four-year term beginning in March 2023 and concluding March 2027: the Rev. Michael J. Vinson.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34p

To receive the response on “Fortifying Urban Ministries in the Underserved Urban Areas” from the Christian Community and Leadership home area;

To request a progress report on the work by the Spring 2024 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34q

To receive the progress report on “Equity and Clarity in the Mission Development Process” from the Christian Community and Leadership home area;

To request a progress report on the work by the Fall 2023 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34r

To receive the response on “Greenhouse Gas Reduction” from the Service and Justice home area;

To urge the churchwide organization to continue its efforts to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and commend it for its initiatives and commitments to creation care and environmental advocacy;

To request a progress report be provided by the Spring 2025 Church Council meeting with a report expected for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly; and

To request that the secretary inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34s

To receive the response on “Voting Rights and D.C. Statehood” from the Service and Justice home area;

To affirm the timeline proposed and to anticipate a report by the Fall 2023 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34t

To receive the timeline on “Right to Boycott” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Service and Justice home area;

To request a report be provided by the April 2024 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34u

To receive the response on “Unaltered Augsburg Confession” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

To support the actions identified in the memorials to raise awareness of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession more widely in the church, renew attention of the Augsburg Confession in seminary education, and develop resources for use in this church’s congregations, synods, and institutions;

To affirm the steps proposed by the Office of the Presiding Bishop to fulfill the actions; and

To request that the secretary inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34v

To receive the progress report on “Salary Equity in the ELCA” from the Office of the Secretary;

To request a report on the consideration of a study identified in the memorial by the Spring 2023 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34w

To receive the timeline on “Motion I: Nominations and Elections Process” from the Office of the Secretary on when the resolution will receive further attention; and

To request a progress report by the Fall 2023 Church Council meeting, with a final report and recommendations by the Fall 2024 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34x

To receive the report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop concerning the exploration of a Racial Justice Ombudsperson position; and

To encourage the continued conversation within the Task Force Addressing Disciplinary Concerns of Leaders of Color.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34y

To receive the report from the Christian Community and Leadership home area regarding the research work related to discriminatory treatment within the call process and the inequitable compensation of rostered ministers of color;

To acknowledge and commend the research work that is underway to address inequities in the call process and compensation patterns; and

To direct further reports on the related topics be provided to the Christian Community and Leadership Committee through the work occurring on the "Salary Equity in the ELCA" memorial and from the Candidacy and Leadership Development Working Group.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34z

To receive the progress report on “Addressing Anti-Semitism in Lectionary Readings” from the Christian Community and Leadership home area;

To request an update be provided by the Spring 2024 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34aa

To receive the timeline on “LGBTQ+ Programming for Events” from the Christian Community and Leadership home area;

To request a response by the Spring 2023 Church Council meeting on LGBTQ-specific programming for pre-gathering events and in-gathering sessions for other communities; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34bb

To receive the response on “ELCA Advocacy Support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act” from the Service and Justice home area;

To affirm the Witness in Society Team's decision to not endorse the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act or similar legislation;

To direct the Witness in Society Team to continue its climate advocacy efforts on legislative opportunities that will have a transformational impact on U.S. carbon emissions and achieve net zero emissions by 2050; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34cc

To receive the response on “ELCA Name Change” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Office of the Secretary;

To request the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church consider the question of whether the denomination name, “Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” should be changed;

To anticipate a recommendation when the commission presents its findings for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34dd

To receive the response on “Adoption of Gender Inclusive Language” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Secretary;

To support the previous actions by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly and the Church Council related to gender inclusive language as outlined in the response;

To commend the ongoing efforts in the Office of the Presiding Bishop to develop educational resources that build awareness of the broad varieties of gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation;

To urge the churchwide organization to conduct another review and update of its forms and reports for gender-inclusive language by the end of 2023; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34ee

To receive the report on “Guidance on Retired or Retiring Ministers for the Roster of the ELCA” from the Office of the Secretary;

To support the recommendation of the Roster Committee of the Conference of Bishops to postpone the revision until other related decisions are made; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34ff

To receive the timeline on “Concurrent Calling of Pastors by More than One Congregation” from the Office of the Secretary on when the resolution will receive further attention;

To request a progress report by the Fall 2023 Church Council meeting, with a final report and recommendations by the Fall 2024 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34gg

To receive the response on “Extending Pastoral Counseling through Private Practice” from the Office of the Secretary;

To direct the review team that will be initiating a review process of the roster manual and the constitutional provisions and policies and procedures as it relates to Specialized Ministry to incorporate this matter into its review; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34hh

To receive the response on “Paid Leave for Rostered Ministers” from Portico Benefit Services;

To encourage synods to evaluate their compensation guidelines and consider incorporating parental and medical leave policies and resources where appropriate for their synod; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34ii

To receive the response on “Justice for the Rev. Nelson Rabell-Gonzalez” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Office of the Secretary;

To request the Task Force Addressing Disciplinary Concerns of Leaders of Color and the review team for the roster manual to address the concerns identified in this resolution as they complete their work; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.11.34jj

To receive the response on “Preferred Vendors and Privacy” from the Office of the Treasurer;

To affirm that outside ELCA “preferred vendors” are not allowed to exchange any financial information with individuals, other businesses, synods, or other congregations that would be in violation of the vendor’s privacy policy and that if an ELCA “preferred vendor” does exchange individual personally identifiable information without prior written permission, the vendor would lose its “preferred vendor” status; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted:

CC22.11.35

To revise the 2023 fiscal year current fund spending authorization from \$68,814,000 to \$68,429,562; and

To revise the 2023 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization from \$22,869,000 to \$25,250,000.

Voted:

CC22.11.36

To approve the engagement of Crowe LLP to perform the audit service plan for the churchwide organization’s year ending January 31, 2023.

Voted:

CC22.11.37

To approve the revised committee charters; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.

Voted:

CC22.11.38

To establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church consisting of no more than 35 voting members, directing the Executive Committee of the Church Council to initiate the process of forming the commission, fulfilling the responsibilities of the Church Council related to nominations in accordance with 14.41.01.c., and receiving nominations to fill positions allocated in the following manner:

- Three voting members from each region for a total of 27, two of whom will be selected from nominations received by each Synod Council or Synod Council Executive Committee and one of whom will be received through an open nomination process;
- Each Synod Council or Synod Council Executive Committee will be invited to submit two potential nominees;
- Up to 8 at-large voting members will be selected from either the synod nominations or the open nomination process;

To populate the commission according to the representational principles of this church, requiring that at least 25% of the commission be persons of color/primary language other than English; and striving for at least 20% of members to be youth/young adults;

To request the nomination process be completed prior to the April 2023 Church Council meeting, presenting a slate of nominees to the Church Council for action; and

To invite this church to join us in prayer as this church embarks on this process of renewal.

The 113th meeting of the Church Council of the ELCA adjourned at 10:58 a.m. (CST) on Nov. 13, 2022.

April 20, 2023

The 114th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened electronically on April 20, 2023. Mr. Imran Siddiqui, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT).

Voted:

CC23.04.01

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

Voted:

CC23.04.02

To adopt the standing rules for the April 2023 Church Council meeting.

Voted:

CC23.04.03

To appoint the following members to the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church: Mr. Roberto Lara Aranda, the Rev. Sean Avery, Ms. Felecia Boone, Mr. Michael J. Chan, the Rev. Tiffany Chaney, Mr. Don Corson, Mr. Antoine Cummins, the Rev. Elizabeth Friedman, the Rev. Charlene Guiliani, the Rev. Gail Hagerty, Bishop Regina Hassanally (*at-large*), the Rev. Douglas A. Hill, Mx. Ruth Ellen Howard, Ms. Thelma Pruitt Jacks, Mr. Ryan Johnson (*at-large*), Ms. Stacy D. Kitahata, the Rev. Kristin Johnston Largen, Mr. David M. Lenz (*at-large*), Ms. Alexandra Mack, Mr. Thomas Madden (*at-large*), Ms. Susan Wilds McArver, Ms. Candy McCorkle, Mr. Evan Moilan (*at-large*), Ms. Sarah E. Morris, Ms. Laurel Muhly-Alexander, Mr. Anthony Ormsbee-Hale, Bishop Matthew Riegel (*at-large*), Mr. Leon Schwartz, Deacon Dallas Shealy (*at-large*), the Rev. Adam Sornchai, Ms. Melody Stachour, Ms. Cheryl Stuart, Ms. Loni Taylor (*at-large*), Ms. Linda M. Timmons, and the Rev. Carla Christopher Wilson; and

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint members as necessary if a vacancy occurs.

Voted:

CC23.04.04

To receive a proposal for exchangeability of the diaconate between The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Voted:

CC23.04.05

To receive the report and recommendations from the Task Force on the ELCA Discipline Process for Rostered Ministers of Color and thank the members of the task force for their care and due diligence to the work;

To refer the recommendations regarding the current discipline process to the Office of the Secretary, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, with a report to be made to the Church Council at its November 2023 meeting;

To refer the recommendations regarding the creation of an ombudsperson position/office to the Administrative Team, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, with a report to be made to the Church Council at its November 2023 meeting; and

To refer the recommendations regarding revisions to the Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the Task Force on Specialized Ministry and On-Leave-from-Call Status.

Voted: **CC23.04.06**

To increase the FY23 spending authorization in ELCA World Hunger by \$1,520,000, from \$25,250,000 to \$26,770,000.

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote **CC23.04.07**

To adopt “Earth’s Climate Crisis” as a social message of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Voted: **CC23.04.08**

To take action *en bloc* on the items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions, Responses to Synod Actions, and Responses to Previous Church Council Actions.

Voted: En Bloc **CC23.04.08a**

To approve the establishment of a Church Council designated fund, entitled Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church, in the amount of \$300,000, to be used to cover the costs of meetings and other resources.

Voted: En Bloc **CC23.04.08b**

To add \$1.7 million to the Budgeted Operations Support designated fund to provide support for future budgetary needs.

Voted: En Bloc **CC23.04.08c**

To approve the naming of successor beneficiaries of the distributions from the following endowment funds to the new areas as described below:

E270660 - Instituto Superior Evangélico de Estudios Teológicos Chicago, Ill.

Recommendation: To name Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida en Argentina y Uruguay (IELU) as the successor beneficiary of the Instituto Superior Evangélico de Estudios Teológicos Endowment Fund.

Rationale: This fund was established to support theological education at the Instituto Superior de Educación Teológica (ISEDET) in Argentina. After the closing of ISEDET, the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida en Argentina y Uruguay (IELU) developed a training program under the leadership of Dr. Mercedes García Bachmann (OT Professor at ISEDET). These funds will continue to assist IELU in the formation of its leaders in collaboration with the Universidad Pedagógica, the recipient of ISEDET Theological Library, which IELU continues to access for the formation of its leaders. Leadership of the Service and Justice home area of the churchwide organization recommend that this endowment begin distributing to IELU given the fact that ISEDET is no longer in existence.

E270634 – The Vincent L. and Annette L. Myers Memorial Endowment Fund

Recommendation: The endowment names Stand With Africa as a beneficiary. The Stand With Africa initiative concluded in 2009. Staff kept the account open to receive additional gifts for a number of years (which is consistent with the churchwide organization existing practices because this church is still doing the work of seeking to eradicate hunger, address HIV/AIDS, and seek conflict resolution in Africa via ELCA World Hunger programming). It is time to close this initiative completely. At its March 17, 2023, meeting the ELCA Foundation Board of Trustees approved the recommended action to name ELCA World Hunger as the successor beneficiary of this endowment to support the ELCA’s work in Africa. Staff propose the ELCA Church Council concur with this decision.

Voted: En Bloc **CC23.04.08d**

To authorize the Budget and Finance Committee on behalf of the Church Council to approve recommendations from churchwide staff of successor beneficiaries for various endowments benefitting the churchwide organization, based on recommendations from the Resource Development Committee.

Voted: En Bloc **CC23.04.08e**

To approve the amended Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08f

To approve the revised Mission Investment Fund Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08g

To authorize the development of a social message on the epidemic of gun-related trauma in the U.S. with attention to the cluster of issues underlying it, such as national gun policy, personal security, growing community violence, public health, and social perplexity in light of existing social teaching and in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08h

To maintain as pending the request for consideration of developing a social message on child abuse and child protection and the request of a substantive revision of the “Message on Homelessness” (1990) to be assessed by the Theological Discernment team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop for possible recommendation to the Church Council following the 2023–24 social message development cycle.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08i

To approve the minutes of the Nov. 10–13, 2022, meeting of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the Nov. 10–13, 2022, Dec. 13, 2022, Jan. 17, 2023, Feb. 14, 2023, Feb. 21, 2023, March 14, 2023, and March 23, 2023, meetings.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08j1

To elect to the advisory board of directors of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary at Lenoir-Rhyne University to a term beginning June 1, 2023, and expiring May 31, 2027: the Rev. Philip A. Bouknight, Ms. Sandra R. Cline, the Rev. Rachel L. Connelly, Deacon Adrainne J. Gray, Mr. LaMont J. Johnson, and the Rev. Franklin Eric Wester.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08j2

To elect to the board of directors of Luther Seminary to a term beginning July 1, 2023, and expiring June 30, 2027: Ms. Charlotte Haberaecker and Mr. Paul Siegle.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08j3

To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary to a term beginning April 20, 2023, and expiring Dec. 31, 2029: the Rev. Emily Harkins Norris.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08j4

To elect to the advisory board of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary at California Lutheran University to a term beginning June 1, 2023, and expiring June 1, 2026: the Rev. Erik Utto-Galarneau.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08k

To receive the response on “Gun Violence Advocacy” from the Witness in Society team in the Service and Justice home area;

To commend the continued advocacy efforts being implemented across this church related to gun violence and universal background checks; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08l

To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary on “Salary Equity in the ELCA” to consider a study;

To affirm the timeline and commissioning of a single survey about inequitable gaps in compensation for rostered ministers in the ELCA; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08m

To receive the response on “LGBTQ+ Programming for Events” from the Christian Community and Leadership home area and to encourage consideration of the development of LGBT-focused sessions for churchwide events as appropriate whenever the churchwide organization gatherings include such sessions for other communities; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08n

To receive the response on “Council of Nicaea 1700th Anniversary” resolution from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

To commend the Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations team in its efforts to lift up and engage ELCA congregations and synods in observing this anniversary by distributing and contextualizing resources from the World Council of Churches and The Lutheran World Federation as encouragement to study the Nicene Creed and canons, and as an opportunity for deepening Lutheran identity and ecumenical witness;

To welcome the Slovak Zion Synod to connect with Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations in the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08o

To receive the timeline on “LGBTQIA+ Presence among ELCA Governing Bodies” resolution from the Office of the Secretary and to anticipate a response at the November 2023 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08p

To receive the timeline on “Amend Continuing Resolution 7.74.A21.” resolution from the Office of the Secretary and to anticipate a response at the November 2024 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.04.08q

To receive the report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and affirm the decision of the Administrative Team of the churchwide organization concerning the review of the ELCA Response Team.

The 114th meeting of the Church Council of the ELCA meeting electronically adjourned at 7:48 p.m. (CDT) on April 20, 2023.

Nov. 9–12, 2023

The 115th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened Nov. 9–12, 2023, at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Ill. Mr. Imran Siddiqui, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. (CST).

Voted:

CC23.11.09

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

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote Required

CC(ES)23.11.10

To re-elect Ms. Lori S. Fedyk to a six-year term as treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, beginning Feb. 1, 2024.

Voted:

CC(ES)23.11.11

To appoint the Rev. Michael Burk to serve as presiding bishop *pro tempore* beginning Nov. 17, 2023, and expiring when the presiding bishop returns from her leave of absence.

Voted:

CC23.11.12

To elect the Rev. Benjamin B. Bergren, Henderson, Nev. [2D], to the Church Council for a term ending in August 2025.

Voted:

CC23.11.13

To approve a 2024 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$68,083,962.

Voted:

CC23.11.14

To approve the 2024 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$26,000,000, provided the Jan. 31, 2024, fund balance is in excess of \$10.0 million.

Voted:

CC23.11.15

To approve the alignment and focus of the fundraising priorities to these areas: Where Needed Most, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, and Future Church: God’s Love Made Real, and to empower the Development team to align their resources around these priorities accordingly.

Voted:

CC23.11.16

To create a task force to address the need for Council and Administrative Team (with advisors) to explore needed changes to budget work and priorities. This task force shall be composed of members of the Executive Committee (or designees of the committee chairs), the Administrative Team and its advisors, two members from the Church Council advisory members, and one liaison bishop. The task force shall report to the Church Council at its Spring 2024 meeting.

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote Required

CC23.11.17

To adopt the following amendment to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

19.01.A243. *In a year when the presiding bishop, vice president, or secretary shall be elected, those who will serve as voting members of the upcoming Churchwide Assembly shall be invited to identify the names of up to three persons who might be considered for election as presiding bishop, vice president, or secretary. Names shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary at least four months prior to the assembly. The Office of the Secretary shall contact those persons identified and request biographical information. At least 60 days prior to the Churchwide Assembly, the biographical information received from those persons open to consideration shall be distributed to the voting members.*

Voted:

CC23.11.18

That the ELCA Church Council will intentionally participate in racial justice education when it gathers.

Voted:

CC23.11.19

To acknowledge the Order of Lutheran Franciscans as an Independent Lutheran Organization relating to the Christian Community and Leadership home area.

Voted:

CC23.11.20

To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions, Responses to Synod Actions, and Responses to Previous Church Council Actions.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20a

To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing its review of the audited financial statements for the churchwide organization's fiscal year ended Jan. 31, 2023.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20b

To assign responsibility for the engagement of Crowe LLP to perform the audit service plan for the churchwide organization's year ending Jan. 31, 2024, to the Executive Committee.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20c

To approve the reappointment of Mr. Kevin Anderson, Ms. Tracey Beasley, Ms. Kerry Fehrman, and Mr. Keoni Newman as members to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year term expiring in August 2025; and

To approve the reappointment of Ms. Ingrid Stafford as a member to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year, renewable term beginning November 2023.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20d

To approve the amended Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20e

To allocate for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly two additional voting members to the Alaska Synod (1A), Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C), Slovak Zion Synod (7G), West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (8H), and Caribbean Synod (9F), making a total of six voting members per synod.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20f

To ratify the amendments to the Bylaws of Wartburg Theological Seminary.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20g

To approve the amendments to the ELCA Participating Annuity Trust and the ELCA Retirement Plan relating to references to the "Bridge Fund."

<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h1</i>
To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Northwest Intermountain Synod (1D); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h2</i>
To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Oregon Synod (1E); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h3</i>
To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Rocky Mountain Synod (2E); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h4</i>
To ratify the amendment to the constitution of the Western North Dakota Synod (3A); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h5</i>
To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod (5C); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h6</i>
To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h7</i>
To ratify the amendment to the constitution of the Northern Great Lakes Synod (5G); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h8</i>
To ratify the amendments to the constitution of Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (5H) (with the exception of S9.04.1.); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h9</i>
To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5I); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h10</i>
To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h11</i>
To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Upstate New York Synod (7D); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h12</i>
To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the South Carolina Synod (9C); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h13</i>
To ratify the amendment to the constitution of the Southeastern Synod (9D); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20h14</i>
To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Florida-Bahamas Synod (9E); and To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.	
<i>Voted: En Bloc</i>	<i>CC23.11.20i</i>
To defer the question of reconsidering the selected paragraph in the “Message on End-of-Life Decisions” (1992) following the 2023–24 social message development cycle in order to allow for a careful and thorough assessment of that request along with continued assessment of the pending request for a social message on child abuse and protection	

and the request of a substantive revision of the “Message on Homelessness” (1990). This assessment will include input from relevant leadership circles as well as the availability of staff capacity, and finances; and

To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20j

To approve the amendments to the following corporate social responsibility documents to serve as the basis for ongoing corporate social responsibility work in this church:

- Code of Conduct Issue Paper
- Domestic Access to Health Issue Paper
- Extractive Industries and Environmental Justice Issue Paper
- Community Economic Development Social Criteria Investment Screen
- Gambling Social Criteria Investment Screen; and

To request that the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20k

To approve the minutes of the April 20, 2023, meeting of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 11, 2023, April 14, 2023, April 20, 2023, April 24, 2023, May 25, 2023, June 20, 2023, July 25, 2023, Aug. 29, 2023, Sept. 25, 2023, and Oct. 17, 2023, meetings.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.2011

To elect to the advisory board of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary at California Lutheran University to a term beginning in June 2023 and expiring in June 2026: Mr. Antoine Ricardo Cummins, Mr. Richard Alan Deschamps, Mr. Mark Dalton Fornwall, and The Rev. Herbert Shao.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.2012

To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary to a term beginning Nov. 12, 2023, and expiring Dec. 31, 2027 (term end date subject to approval of amended Bylaws of Wartburg Theological Seminary): the Rev. Rudy Trevino Flores and Deacon Ross Robert Murray.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.2013

To re-elect to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc. to a three-year term expiring in 2027: the Rev. Keith Douglas Hohly and Ms. Monica Elizabeth Holle.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.2014

To re-elect to the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., for a four-year term beginning in March 2024 and concluding March 2028: the Rev. Carol L. Schneider.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.2015

To elect to the ELCA Foundation board of trustees to a term expiring on Dec. 31, 2025: Mr. Andrew George Steele.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.2016

To elect to the Committee on Appeals to a term expiring in August 2025: the Rev. Andrew Arthur Taylor.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20m

To receive the report and findings on “Disability Status to Persons Experiencing Mental Illness” from Portico Benefit Services;

To affirm Portico’s recommendation to not include new plan amendments; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20n

To receive the report on “Voting Rights and D.C. Statehood” resolution from the Service and Justice home area;

To encourage the ELCA Witness in Society team to seek opportunities to communicate this church’s support for D.C. statehood to the U.S. Congress;

To commend the collaboration efforts to support the “Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy Act” legislation;

To urge the ELCA Witness in Society team to prioritize education and advocacy on voting access and voting rights utilizing ELCA social teaching during the 2024 ELCAvotes initiative; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20o

To receive the response on “Equity and Clarity in the Mission Development Process” from the Christian Community and Leadership home area;

To request a progress report on the work by the Spring 2024 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20p

To receive the progress report on the pay gap analysis study from the Office of the Secretary and to request further reports on this topic be received through the reports of the ELCA Task Force to Study Educational Debt.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20q

To receive the response on “Motion I: Nominations and Elections Process” from the Office of the Secretary; and

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint members to the task force on synod nominations and elections processes.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20r

To receive the report on “ELCA Churchwide Organization Directory” from the Information Technology (IT) team in the Office of the Treasurer;

To commend the IT team for its collaboration with synod staff to determine improvements on the ELCA Directory and to offer training and guidance on the use of the ELCA Constituent Information System (ECIS);

To affirm the security protocol in place for the ELCA Directory and to request that the IT team continue to collaborate with synod staff and churchwide staff to improve user accessibility features for digital solutions containing public information; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20s

To receive the response on “Structured Process for the Pre-Assembly Identification of Nominees for the Election of a Presiding Bishop” from the Office of the Secretary;

To anticipate a verbal update during the November 2023 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20t

To receive the report from the Administrative Team regarding the creation of an ombudsperson position and to anticipate a report in 2024.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20u

To receive the report from the Office of the Secretary regarding the recommendations to the current discipline process; and

To direct further reports on the topic be received from the Task Force on On-Leave-from-Call and Specialized Ministry.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20v

To receive the response on “Roth Tax Option for ELCA Leaders” from Portico Benefit Services;

To affirm the implementation of a Roth option to ELCA Retirement Plan members and to request the related plan amendments be presented at the April 2024 Church Council meeting for consideration; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20w

To receive the response on “Proposing Peace” from the Service and Justice home area;

To affirm the call, articulated in *For Peace in God's World* (1995), “to be advocates for a Christian peacemaking that strives for human rights, political alternatives to war, social justice, control of the arms trade, and creative means of working for peace in God's world;”

To affirm the five core accompaniment values that inform this church's relationships with global partners and communities in the United States: mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment and sustainability;

To strongly encourage and support nonviolent action and efforts to develop the potential of nonviolence to bring about just and peaceful change;

To call on all nations to honor and enforce the principle of Article 2 (4) of the United Nations Charter, namely that nations “refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state...;”

To call on this church in all of its expressions to be a public witness alongside people whose land has been seized or occupied as an expression of this church’s accompaniment values in pursuit of peace with justice; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20x

To affirm the proposed timeline on “Climate-Displaced Persons” from the Witness in Society team in the Service and Justice home area;

To commend the Witness in Society team in identifying its thematic priorities to better understand the impact of climate change on displacement, migration, and planned relocation on people and communities and to employ the primary mechanisms and instruments to advocate for the protection of people; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20y

To receive the response on “LGBTQIA+ Presence among ELCA Governing Bodies” resolution from the Office of the Secretary and the Theological Discernment team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

To postpone a recommendation on the adoption of a continuing resolution setting a goal of having an intentional and dedicated LGBTQIA+ presence among the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council, and churchwide boards and committees until after the completion of the reconsideration of this church’s teaching on bound conscience; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20z

To receive the progress report on “Concurrent Calling of Pastors by More than One Congregation” from the Office of the Secretary and to anticipate a report and recommendations at the November 2024 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20aa

To receive the response on the “Including Creation Care” resolution from the Office of the Secretary;

To anticipate possible amendments related to this resolution when the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee reviews proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* at the November 2024 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20bb

To receive the response on the “Supporting Vulnerable Youth” resolution from the Office of the Secretary;

To anticipate possible amendments related to this resolution when the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee reviews proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* at the November 2024 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20cc

To receive the response on “Providing for Ordination of Candidates Serving as Interim Pastors” resolution from the Office of the Secretary and to anticipate further reports on this topic to be received through the Task Force on On-Leave-from-Call and Specialized Ministry; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20dd

To receive the response on “Restoration of Language to the *Constitution for Synods*” resolution from the Office of the Secretary;

To anticipate possible amendments related to this resolution when the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee reviews proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* at the November 2024 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC23.11.20ee

To receive the timeline on “Full Funding for Churchwide Ministries” resolution from the Office of the Treasurer;

To request a report to present findings of possible funding of the Youth and Young Adult ministries, College ministries, Latinx ministries, African descent ministries, Arab and Middle Eastern ministries, Asian and Pacific Islander ministries, Disabled and differently abled person ministries, Urban ministries, Education ministries, LGBTQIA+ ministries, and Congregational Renewal ministries to the Church Council no later than its Spring 2025 meeting, with a commitment to implement proposed and sustainable actions for funding of these ministries during the 2026–2028 triennium budget cycle; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

The 115th meeting of the Church Council of the ELCA adjourned at 11:27 a.m. (CST) on Nov. 12, 2023.

April 11–14, 2024

The 116th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened April 11–14, 2024, at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Ill. Mr. Imran Siddiqui, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. (CDT).

Voted: ***CC24.04.01***

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

Voted: Two-thirds Vote Required ***CC(ES)24.04.02***

To elect the Rev. Dr. M. Wyvetta Bullock as the executive for administration for a term coterminous with the term of the presiding bishop, as provided in churchwide continuing resolution 15.12.A22.

Voted: ***CC24.04.03***

To receive “Faithful Teaching,” the Common Statement of the Twelfth Round of the U.S. Lutheran–Catholic Dialogue.

Voted: Two-thirds Vote Required ***CC24.04.04***

To adopt “Gun-related Violence and Trauma” as a social message of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Voted: ***CC24.04.05***

To authorize the development of a social message on child protection and maltreatment as requested by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly [CA22.01.05r], in light of existing social teaching and in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Voted: ***CC24.04.06***

To request the Office of the Treasurer, in consultation with the appropriate churchwide organization home areas, to review the FY24 revenue and expense performance of ELCA World Hunger through May 2024 and to share any recommendations with the Budget and Finance Committee; and

To authorize the Executive Committee to approve any necessary revisions to the FY24 Spending Authorization in ELCA World Hunger if recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Voted: ***CC24.04.07***

To approve adding Roth as an option for member elective contributions for the plan year beginning Jan. 1, 2025; and

To approve the proposed amendments by the Portico Benefit Services, as outlined in the “Proposed Portico Plan Amendments” document.

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote Required ***CC24.04.08***

To take action *en bloc* on the item amending the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA* listed in *En Bloc* Items.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC24.04.08a***

To adopt the following amendment to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

19.01.A234. *In a year when the presiding bishop, vice president, or secretary shall be elected, those who will serve as voting members of the upcoming Churchwide Assembly shall be invited to identify the names of up to three persons who might be considered for election as presiding bishop, vice*

president, or secretary. Names shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary at least four months prior to the assembly. The Office of the Secretary shall contact those persons identified and request biographical information. At least ~~60~~30 days prior to the Churchwide Assembly, the biographical information received from those persons open to consideration shall be distributed to the voting members.

Voted:

CC24.04.09

To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions, Responses to Synod Actions, and Responses to Previous Church Council Actions.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.04.09a

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant treasurers of this corporation: ~~Cecilia Favela~~, Santiago Padilla, ~~and~~ Annette Roman, and Stephanie Ulba to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Treasurer;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing or attesting, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant secretaries of this corporation: Thomas A. Cunniff, ~~Aja M. Favors~~, ~~and~~ Norman K. Fry, and Paul K. Irwin to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Secretary.

RESOLVED, that prior resolutions adopted by this Council, including CC21.04.06a and the prior actions identified in CC15.04.31b, are hereby rescinded and replaced by this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.04.09b.

To approve the minutes of the Nov. 9–12, 2023, meeting of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the Nov. 9, 2023, Dec. 12, 2023, Jan. 10, 2024, Jan. 17, 2024, Feb. 20, 2024, and March 19, 2024, meetings.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.04.09c1

To elect to the advisory board of directors of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary at Lenoir-Rhyne University to a first term beginning June 1, 2024, and expiring May 31, 2028: the Rev. Kenneth Charles Blyth, the Rev. Jennifer Goodwin Roberts, Deacon Tammy Jones West, and the Rev. Michael Lonny Rhyne;

To re-elect to the advisory board of directors of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary at Lenoir-Rhyne University to a term beginning June 1, 2024, and expiring May 31, 2026: the Rev. Richard Goeres; and

To re-elect to the advisory board of directors of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary at Lenoir-Rhyne University to a second term beginning June 1, 2024, and expiring May 31, 2028: the Rev. Angela Ford Nelson.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.04.09c2

To re-elect to the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University to a second term beginning July 1, 2024, and expiring June 30, 2027: the Rev. Niklaus Christian Schillack and the Rev. Abraham D. Allende.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.04.09c3

To re-elect to the board of directors of United Lutheran Seminary to a second term beginning July 1, 2024, and expiring June 30, 2027: Ms. Elizabeth Baran Wagner.

[*Note: In the original action CC24.04.09c3, the election of Ms. Wagner was erroneously presented as a re-election to a second term. The error was later corrected by a vote of the Executive Committee of the Church Council (EC24.04.19).*]

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.04.09c4

To elect to the board of trustees of the Publishing House of the ELCA—1517 Media—to fill a vacancy with a term expiring in August 2025: Mr. Kurt Barneson Galvez.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.04.09c5

To appoint to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc. with a three-year term expiring in 2027: Mr. Peter J. Enko.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.04.09d

To receive the response on “Equity and Clarity in the Mission Development Process” from the Christian Community and Leadership home area;

To request a final report by the Spring 2026 Church Council meeting; and
To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.04.09e

To receive the response on “Fortifying Urban Ministries in the Underserved Urban Areas” from the Christian Community and Leadership home area;

To request a final report on the work by the Spring 2025 Church Council meeting; and
To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.04.09f

To receive the response on “Right to Boycott” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Service and Justice home area;

To commend the staff to release an ELCA letter to the U.S. President and the U.S. Congress to oppose legislation penalizing or criminalizing support for nonviolent boycotts, divestment, and/or sanctions on behalf of Palestinian human rights at a time when it will best benefit public conversation on this matter; and

To request that the secretary inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.04.09g

To receive the response on “ELCA Strategy Regarding Black Migrants” from the Service and Justice home area;

To request a final proposal for the strengthening of advocacy, protection, and accompaniment of Black migrants, including cost estimates, for Church Council consideration by its November 2024 meeting; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.04.09h

To receive the update from the Office of the Presiding Bishop on the “Addressing Anti-Semitism in Lectionary Readings” resolution;

To commend the Worship team in its ongoing efforts to address this topic in collaboration with ELCA and ecumenical partners, and by distributing and contextualizing future resources from The Consultation on Common Texts and other sources; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.04.09i

Resolved, that a social policy resolution on affirming Jubilee USA Network be presented to the November 2024 Church Council meeting in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018); and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted:

CC24.04.10

To approve the amended Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary, in consultation with People Solutions in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.

The 116th meeting of the Church Council of the ELCA adjourned at 11:17 a.m. (CDT) on April 14, 2024, following devotions.

Nov. 14–17, 2024

The 117th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened Nov. 14–17, 2024, at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Ill. Mr. Imran Siddiqui, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. (CST).

Voted:

CC24.11.11

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

To adopt the amendments to Chapter 5 of the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as described in “Proposed Amendments—Continuing Resolutions” as amended.

Chapter 5.

PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION

- 5.01.A16A24.** *This church commits itself to ethnic and racial diversity. Each expression of this church shall annually assess its ethnic and racial diversity when compared to the demographic data of its community or territory. The churchwide organization will work with synods as they assist congregations to reach out to persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.*
- 5.01.B19.** *Each synod shall submit its goals and strategies to the appropriate churchwide unit or office and shall annually submit a report on progress toward its goals to such unit or office.*
- 5.01.C21.** *~~The term, “persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English,” shall be understood to mean African American, African Descent, Black, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, American Indian, and Alaska Native people. This definition, however, shall not be understood as limiting this church’s commitment to inclusive participation in its life and work.~~*
- 5.01.D16C16.** *The Churchwide Assembly shall receive reports from the presiding bishop and the secretary that monitor this church’s progress toward meeting the commitment expressed in 5.01.A16A24.*
- 5.01.E19D24.** *The Church Council shall establish triennial percentage goals for this church to meet the commitment expressed in 5.01.A16A24. The minimum goal shall be that at least 10 percent of the members of this church shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.*
- 5.01.F19E19.** *It is the goal of this church that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, and churchwide boards and committees be youth and young adults. The Church Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.*
- 5.01.G19F19.** *To implement 5.01.g., those deacons elected as laypersons prior to the adoption of this provision may complete the term to which they were elected as a layperson. They would not be eligible for reelection as a layperson if such reelection were otherwise possible.*
- 5.01.H21G24.** *For purposes of the representational principles set forth in 5.01.e. and f., the percentage of laypersons that is not allocated to women or men may be allocated to persons who identify as gender non-binary, gender fluid, genderqueer, transgender, women, men, or other gender identities.*
- 5.01.H24.** *This church is dedicated to fostering a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible environment that honors the diversity of God’s creation so that as many people as possible have the opportunity to participate fully in the life and work of this church. None of the definitions in Chapter 5 shall be construed as limiting this church’s commitment to inclusive participation in its life and work. For all purposes in this church’s governing documents, the terms diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility shall have the following meanings:*
- a. **Diversity** is a reality rooted in the variety found in the body of Christ: the wide range of communities and identities related to race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexuality, age, background, ability, socio-economic status, culture, and perspective.*
 - b. **Equity** means fair treatment of people according to their needs. The principle of equity takes into account that due to poverty, sexism, racism, and other factors individuals or groups may require different resources and support to ensure that they have the same rights and abilities to make choices as others do.*
 - c. **Inclusion** means the proactive and meaningful engagement of diverse individuals in all aspects of church life, especially in decision-making processes and leadership roles, creating a church culture of welcome, respect, and value for unique perspectives and abilities.*
 - d. **Accessibility** means aspiring to develop and maintain this church’s physical infrastructure, information, communication technology, programs, and services to maximize participation in the life of this church.*
- 5.01.I24.** *This church commits to working to intentionally lift up voices from historically underrepresented groups in its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units. While specific identities*

are listed below, this church recognizes that humans have multiple aspects of their identities that are tied to systemic privilege and oppression that shape the lives of individuals and communities in distinct ways, For all purposes in this church's governing documents, historically underrepresented groups shall be understood to include the following:

- a. Persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English;
- b. Persons of diverse gender identities and persons of diverse sexual orientations;
- c. Persons experiencing poverty or persons of lower income;
- d. Persons living with disabilities;
- e. Persons who are not natural-born United States citizens.

5.01.J24 For all purposes in this church's governing documents, the terms above shall have the following meanings:

- a. Persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English means African American, African Caribbean, African Descent, African National, Black, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, South Asian, Latin(-o, -a, -é, -x), Hispanic, American Indian, Indigenous, and Alaska Native people, as well as multi- and bi-racial people.
- b. Persons of diverse gender identities and persons of diverse sexual orientations means individuals who identify beyond the sex and gender binary, individuals whose gender identity may be fluid, and individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, or other sex, gender, and sexual identities that are more complex than sex, gender, and sexuality binaries.
- c. Persons experiencing poverty or persons of lower income means individuals whose economic circumstances inhibit their ability to meet basic living needs according to their societal context and standards.
- d. Persons living with disabilities means individuals who have physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments that may hinder their full participation in church life.
- e. Persons who are not natural-born United States citizens needs no additional clarifying definition.

5.01.K24. It is the goal of this church that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, and churchwide boards and committees be members of historically underrepresented groups in addition to the required 10 percent representation of persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English in 5.01.e. The Church Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal.

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote Required

CC24.11.13

To adopt the amendments, other than amendments to Chapter 5, to the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as described in “Proposed Amendments—Continuing Resolutions.”

Chapter 7. MINISTRY

7.44.A19A24. Sources of Calls for Ministers of Word and Sacrament

....

- b. *Table of Sources of Calls for Ministers of Word and Sacrament*

Setting		Calling Body
1.0	Congregational ministry	
1.7	<u>Supply ministry</u>	<u>Synod Council</u>
10.0	Educational ministry	
10.1	ELCA-related seminary <u>(incorporated or unincorporated)</u> chaplain/faculty/ administrator	Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit

10.2	Chaplain/faculty/ administrator of seminary unrelated to ELCA	Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit
10.3	ELCA-related college chaplain/ non-seminary faculty/ non-seminary administrator	Synod Council of the synod in which college is located

7.74.~~A21~~**A24.** Sources of Calls for Ministers of Word and Service

....

b. Table of Sources of Calls for Ministers of Word and Service

Setting	Calling Body
1.0 Congregational ministry	
<u>1.5 Interim congregation deacon</u>	<u>Synod Council</u>

Chapter 10. SYNODS

10.31.~~A19~~A24.** ~~In special circumstances~~~~When authorized by the Synod Council to address special circumstances,~~ the synod bishop may, when authorized by the Synod Council, be compensated as an employee or contractor for specified services to another expression of this church. Such an arrangement may be terminated by the Synod Assembly or Synod Council if determined to be detrimental to the function of the office or if the special circumstances no longer apply.**

10.81.~~B14~~**B24.** Organization of the Conference of Bishops

The Conference of Bishops may establish committees as the members, from time to time, may determine to assist in fulfillment of assigned responsibilities. ~~Quadrennially~~Triennially, the Conference of Bishops shall elect a chair and vice chair to preside at meetings and serve as ex officio members of the executive committee of the conference with the presiding bishop and secretary. The Conference of Bishops shall establish criteria and terms for three synod bishops to be elected by the conference as members of the executive committee.

Chapter 12. CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

12.41.~~D24.~~ If the term of office of an ex-officio member of the Churchwide Assembly ends during a Churchwide Assembly, such person shall nevertheless remain an ex-officio member of the Churchwide Assembly, and shall not be replaced in that capacity, until the conclusion of the Churchwide Assembly.

Chapter 17. SEPARATELY INCORPORATED MINISTRIES

17.40.~~A19~~**A24.** Responsibilities of the Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—also known as ~~1517 Media~~Augsburg Fortress Publishers—shall:

....

~~j.—Distribute the church periodical in accord with provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.~~

~~k.~~ j. determine its necessary financial reserves, appropriations, and publishing subsidies.

~~l.~~ k. make available resources to meet unique language and cultural needs, as feasible.

Chapter 19. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION PROCESS

19.01.A24. *In a year when the presiding bishop, vice president, or secretary shall be elected, those who will serve as voting members of the upcoming Churchwide Assembly shall be invited to identify the names of up to three persons per office who might be considered for election as presiding bishop, vice president, or secretary. Names shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary at least four months prior to the assembly. The Office of the Secretary shall contact those persons identified and request biographical information. At least 30 days prior to the Churchwide Assembly, the biographical information received from those persons open to consideration shall be distributed to the voting members.*

19.01.D24. Election Procedures Utilizing the Ecclesiastical Ballot

- a. ~~For each election by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot, the exact number of appropriate ballot sets equal to the number of voting members from each synod will be given to the bishop of each synod. Unless an electronic or computerized voting system is being utilized, the bishops, or their designees, will be responsible for distributing the ballot sets to each of the voting members from their synods. The Elections Committee will be responsible for distributing the ballot sets to each officer and member of the Church Council serving as an ex officio voting member of the assembly.~~*
- bq. The chair will announce what type of voting system is to be used for the election. ~~If ordered by the chair to use paper ballots, one of the numbered ballots from the appropriate ballot set is to be used on each ballot. The chair will announce the number of the ballot from the appropriate ballot set that is to be used for each ballot. Failure to use the correct numbered ballot will result in an illegal ballot.~~*
- eb. On the first ~~two~~ ballots for each office being selected by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot, both the first and last names of a nominee should be used. Members should endeavor to use correct spelling and should provide, ~~on the first ballot,~~ any additional accurate information identifying the nominee, such as title, position, synod, congregation, or residence.*
- d. ~~On the third and subsequent ballots conducted by written ballot, only the last name of the nominee need be used, provided there is no other nominee with the same or similar name.~~*
- ec. A member may vote for only one nominee on each ballot.*
- fd. Ballots should not be marked prior to the time the chair advises the voting members to do so.*
- g. ~~Written ballots should not be folded.~~*
- h. ~~Written ballots will be collected from the voting members in accordance with instructions from the Elections Committee or from the chair.~~*
- ie. When the results of the first ballot are presented, the chair of the assembly will announce when and how persons nominated may withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot.*
- jf. ~~On the second and subsequent ballots~~When voting by electronic device, the first position on each ballot shall be given to the nominee who received the greatest number of votes on the immediately preceding ballot, with the remaining positions assigned to the other nominees in descending order of the number of votes received on the immediately preceding ballot. If two or more nominees were tied with the same number of votes on the immediately preceding ballot, their respective positions shall be in alphabetical order~~determined by draw by the chair of the Elections Committee.~~*
- kg. On each ticket ~~for which balloting is conducted by electronic device~~, the polls will remain open for a reasonable time, as determined by the chair, to permit voting members to record their votes.*

19.02.A21A24. *On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America— in the year preceding each regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly—shall solicit from eligible synods on a rotating basis the names of two persons in specified categories, in keeping with the ~~representation~~ principles of organization of this church as specified in Chapter 5 of this constitution, for possible election to the Church Council. Upon their ~~selection as nominees~~nomination by the assemblies of the respective synods, the names of the two persons shall be presented to the Nominating Committee for submission to the Churchwide Assembly. In the event that any nominee withdraws or is disqualified from possible service, the Nominating Committee shall request that the nominee's synod provide a replacement name. In the event that the vacancy occurs subsequent to the preparation of the report of the Nominating Committee to the Churchwide Assembly, a floor nomination shall be provided from the same synod as the original nominee. Except as provided herein, no floor nominations for positions on the Church Council shall be permitted at the Churchwide Assembly.*

19.11.A21A24. Churchwide Assembly Nominations Desk and Nominations Form

....

- c. The required form to be used in making nominations from the floor shall include the nominee's name, address, phone number, congregation or synod-authorized worshiping community membership, synod membership, information that enables compliance with the principles of organization as specified in Chapter 5 of this constitution, and such other information as the secretary of this church shall require.
- d. For purposes of nomination procedures, "synod membership" ~~means~~ is defined in 19.04.02.
 - 1) ~~In the case of a layperson who is not on the roster of this church, the synod that includes the congregation in which such person holds membership; and~~
 - 2) ~~In the case of a rostered minister, the synod on whose roster such minister's name is maintained.~~

19.11.F21F24. Election Procedures Utilizing the Common Ballot

- a. The common ballot is used in those elections when the ecclesiastical or nominating ballot is not used.
- ~~b. Unless an electronic or computerized voting system is being utilized, the exact number of ballot forms equal to the number of voting members from each synod will be given to the bishop of each synod. When instructed by the chair, the bishops, or their designees, will be responsible for distributing the ballot forms to each of the voting members from their synods. The vice president of this church will be responsible for distributing the ballot forms to each member of the Church Council serving as an ex officio voting member of the assembly. The Elections Committee will be responsible for distributing the ballot forms to each officer of this church.~~
- e. Upon recommendation of the chair and with the consent of the assembly, the second common ballot may be conducted by electronic device. If the second common ballot is not conducted by electronic means, the distribution of ballot forms for the second common ballot will be in the same manner as the first common ballot.
- ~~d. Any discrepancy between the number of ballots given to a synod bishop and the number of voting members (including the synod bishop) from such synod must be reported by the synod bishop to the Elections Committee.~~
- ~~eh.~~ Each ticket for which an election is held will be considered a separate ballot.
- ~~fc.~~ A voting member may vote for only one nominee on each ticket.
- ~~gd.~~ Failure to vote for a nominee for every ticket does not invalidate a ballot for the tickets for which a nominee is marked.
- ~~he.~~ Ballots must be marked in accordance with the instructions presented in plenary session.
- ~~i.~~ If a paper common ballot is utilized, ballot forms should not be folded.
- ~~j.~~ Completed paper ballots must be deposited at the designated Ballot Stations at certain exits of the hall in which plenary sessions are held.
- ~~k.~~ If a paper ballot is damaged so that it cannot be scanned, a replacement ballot may be obtained at the Ballot Station upon surrender of the damaged ballot.
- ~~lf.~~ Unless otherwise ordered by the assembly, polls for the first common ballot close at the time designated in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure.
- ~~mg.~~ On the second ballot each ticket for which balloting is conducted by electronic device, the polls will remain open for a reasonable time, as determined by the chair, to permit members to record their votes.
- ~~n.~~ Unless the second ballot is conducted electronically, polls for the second common ballot close at the time designated in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure or as otherwise ordered by the assembly.
- ~~oh.~~ On the second ballot, ~~whether by paper ballot or electronically,~~ the first position on each ticket shall be given to the nominee who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot. If two nominees are tied for the highest number of votes, their respective first positions ~~on the ticket~~ shall be in alphabetical order determined by draw by the chair of the Elections Committee.

Chapter 20.

CONSULTATION, DISCIPLINE, APPEALS, AND ADJUDICATION

20.51.A19A24. Recall or Dismissal of an Officer

- ~~...~~
- b. In the case of alleged physical or mental disability or incapacity of the officer,

Voted: **CC24.11.14**
To recommend the following for adoption by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, certain amendments recommended by the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to the *Articles of Incorporation and 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.

[The recommended amendments are presented in “Recommendation: Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Constitutions of the ELCA” in Section V of this *Bulletin of Reports*.]

Voted: **CC24.11.15**
To approve a 2025 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,875,000.

Voted: **CC24.11.16**
To approve a 2025 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,500,000.

Voted: **CC24.11.17**
To approve the financial compliance policy for separately incorporated ministries and other affiliated organizations.

Voted: **CC24.11.18**
To refer consideration of proposed bylaws 7.31.12. and 7.61.08. to the Committee on Appeals for further consideration with a report back to the April 2025 meeting of the Church Council.

Voted: **CC24.11.19**
To recommend the following for adoption by the 2025 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 Articles of Incorporation and 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.

[The recommended amendments are presented in “Recommendation: Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Constitutions of the ELCA” in Section V of this *Bulletin of Reports*.]

Voted: **CC24.11.20**
To take action *en bloc* on the items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions, Responses to Synod Actions, and Responses to Previous Church Council Actions.

Voted: En Bloc **CC24.11.20a**
To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing their approval from June 2024 of the audited financial statements for the churchwide organization’s fiscal year ended Jan. 31, 2024.

Voted: En Bloc **CC24.11.20b**
To approve the engagement of Crowe LLP to perform the audit service plan for the churchwide organization’s fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 2025.

Voted: En Bloc **CC24.11.20c**
To approve the termination of the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Plan for Government Chaplains and the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Trust for Government Chaplains.

Voted: En Bloc **CC24.11.20d1**
To approve changes to the Cash Management Policy.

Voted: En Bloc **CC24.11.20d2**
To approve changes to the Operating Investment Policy.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20d3

To approve changes to the Core Investment Policy.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20e

To appoint the members of the Memorials Committee for the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

1. The Rev. Emily Hartner [9B] (co-chair)
2. Mr. Noah Roux [8E] (co-chair)
3. Ms. Sheena Foster [8G]
4. Bishop Patricia Lull [3H]
5. Bishop Christopher deForest [7E]
6. Ms. Rachel Pritchett [1B]
7. Mr. Jeffrey Pennington [2A]
8. Ms. Elna Solvang [3B]
9. Deacon Timothy Siburg [4A]
10. The Rev. Michael Schmidt [5D]
11. The Rev. Katherine “Kate” Van Valkenburg [6B]
12. Ms. Janasia Carter [7A]
13. Ms. Sylvia Black [9B]; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the Memorials Committee for the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly as needed.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20f

To appoint the members of the Reference and Counsel Committee for the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

1. The Rev. Gwendolyn King [7F] (co-chair)
2. Mr. Mitchell McCartney [5E] (co-chair)
3. The Rev. Lisa Ahlness [3A]
4. Bishop Stacie Fidler [5B]
5. Bishop Michael Lozano [8A]
6. Mr. Mondo Davila [1D]
7. Mr. Jeff Cours [2C]
8. Deacon Sarah Bjornebe [2E]
9. Ms. Carolyn Davis [3G]
10. Ms. Lorie Garcia [4E]
11. Dayle Matheny [6A; NB]
12. Ms. Rachel Faulkner [8B]
13. The Rev. Matthew Henning [9D]; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the Reference and Counsel Committee for the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly as needed.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20g

To delegate to the Executive Committee of the Church Council responsibility for review and evaluation of and recommendations for Part 16 of the draft Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly, particularly the assembly discernment process; and

To bring to the Church Council recommendations for Part 16 of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly no later than the April 2025 meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20h

To designate the Iowa Events Center, 730 Third Street, Des Moines, Iowa—subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church—as the site for the Eighteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Aug. 7–11, 2028; and

To authorize the Executive Committee to select another venue, if negotiations are not successful.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20i1

To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Pacifica Synod (2C); and

To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20i2

To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Nebraska Synod (4A); and

To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.

- Voted: En Bloc*** ***CC24.11.20i3***
 To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the New Jersey Synod (7A); and
 To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.
- Voted: En Bloc*** ***CC24.11.20i4***
 To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Upstate New York Synod (4D); and
 To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.
- Voted: En Bloc*** ***CC24.11.20i5***
 To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E); and
 To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.
- Voted: En Bloc*** ***CC24.11.20i6***
 To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F); and
 To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.
- Voted: En Bloc*** ***CC24.11.20i7***
 To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Upper Susquehanna Synod (8E); and
 To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.
- Voted: En Bloc*** ***CC24.11.20j***
 To ratify the amended articles of incorporation and bylaws of the National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Incorporated.
- Voted: En Bloc*** ***CC24.11.20k***
 To approve the amendments to Article 9 in “Terms and Conditions of Support for Long-Term Global Personnel.”
- Voted: En Bloc*** ***CC24.11.20l***
 To approve the amendments to the following corporate social responsibility documents to serve as the basis for ongoing corporate social responsibility work in this church:
- Human Rights Issue Paper
 - Freed in Christ: Nondiscrimination in Business Activities Issue Paper
 - Violence in Our World Issue Paper
 - Environment Social Criteria Investment Screen
 - Human Rights Social Criteria Investment Screen
 - Military Weapons Social Criteria Investment Screen; and
- To request that the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes.
- Voted: En Bloc*** ***CC24.11.20m***
 To approve the criteria described in the “Outdoor Ministry Affiliation” document for the ELCA to use as it establishes and maintains its relationship with the outdoor ministries of this church.
- Voted: En Bloc*** ***CC24.11.20n***
 To thank the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage in its Biannual Assembly for the “ELCA Advocacy for Peace & Justice in the Middle East and Dismantling of Christian Zionism in our Churches” resolution; and
 To encourage the congregations and members of the ELCA to implement the following recommendations identified in the resolution:
- Become informed about the SUMUD initiative of the ELCA: <http://elca.org/sumud>;
 - Learn more about the conflict and occupation, and its effects using books, articles video or online ELCA approved resources provided by Palestineportal.org or SUMUD;
 - Build awareness of the scriptural errors of Christian Zionism and its negative impact on the people of the Holy Land and be engaged in dismantling it;
 - Become informed that there are Christians and Christian churches in Gaza and Lebanon;
 - Use ELCA, SUMUD, Kairos Document, and other recommended resources to learn about the history of the region and current causes for conflict;
 - Consider signing up for ELCA advocacy alerts about the Middle East at <http://elca.org/sumud>;
 - Pray for Palestinians and Israelis who work to create a future of justice, equality, reconciliation, and peace for all in both communities; and

- Stand in solidarity with all who are suffering in Palestine and Israel and support the work of the ELCJHL (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land), LWF (Lutheran World Federation), ALAMEH (Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage), in bringing comfort, support, accountability, justice, equity, and relief

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20o

To approve the minutes of the April 11–14, 2024, meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 11, 2024, April 29, 2024, May 21, 2024, June 12, 2024, July 23, 2024, Aug. 21, 2024, and Sept. 18, 2024, meetings.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20p1

To re-elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary to a term beginning Jan. 1, 2025, and expiring Dec. 31, 2028: the Rev. Andrea F. DeGroot-Nesdahl and Ms. Debra Ann Hibbard.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20p2

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to a term beginning Oct. 1, 2024, and expiring Sept. 30, 2028: Mr. Laurence John Tietjen and Ms. Patricia Zoe Cornelius Woods.

To re-elect to the board of directors of Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to a term beginning Oct. 1, 2024, and expiring Sept. 30, 2028: Mr. DeWayne Allen Cook and Mr. Oswald Gregory Lewis.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20p3

To elect to the advisory board of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary to a term expiring in June 2027: Bishop Jeff R. Johnson and the Rev. Marjorie Ann Funk-Pihl.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20p4

To elect to the Publishing House of the ELCA Board of Trustees to a term expiring in Aug. 2025: Ms. Shelly Talcott.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20p5

To appoint to the National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., Board of Directors to a term beginning March 2025 and expiring March 2029: Ms. Anne Marie Gerrietts, Mr. David Neas Schaeffer, and the Rev. Herb G. Wounded Head.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20q

To receive the response on “Holy Communion Practices” from the Worship Team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

To thank those who contributed to the conversation including teaching theologians, the Conference of Bishops, and others;

To commend congregations and worshipping communities for their ongoing care of the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and especially for the flexibility and resilience required during the COVID-19 pandemic, and

To encourage continued dialogue and discernment on sacramental practice, especially as it relates to online Holy Communion, throughout this church and with global and ecumenical partners; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20r

To receive the response on “Motion I: Nominations and Elections Process” from the Office of the Secretary;

To thank the Task Force on Synod Nominations and Elections for their diligent exploration and analysis of nomination and election processes used by synods; and

To commend to synods the document on best practices regarding discernment processes, nominations, pre-identification, and education of voting members for their use in nominations and elections processes.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20s

To receive the response and preliminary report on the memorial concerning specialized ministries and on-leave-from-call status from the Office of the Secretary and the Task Force on On-Leave-from-Call and Specialized Ministries;

To thank the Task Force on On-Leave-from-Call and Specialized Ministries for their faithful work in the review process;

To affirm the recommendations for on-leave-from-call status, interim ministry, retired roster status, and average time requirements for calls that are identified in the preliminary report;

To anticipate another report and recommendations regarding specialized ministries to be presented at the April 2025 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20t

To receive the response and proposal with cost estimates on "ELCA Strategy Regarding Black Migrants" from the Service and Justice home area;

To affirm the recommended strategies and activities for strengthening and supporting advocacy, protection, and accompaniment around Black Migrants as identified in the proposal;

To refer the proposed cost estimates to the Office of the Treasurer and the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Service and Justice home area, to determine the necessary additional funding to cover the associated activities; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20u

To receive with gratitude the response on "ELCA Name Change" from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church;

To defer consideration of the question of whether the denomination name, "Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," should be changed until after the 2025 Churchwide Assembly when at such time a task force may be authorized to address the matter; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20v

To receive the progress report on "Concurrent Calling of Pastors by More than One Congregation" from the Office of the Secretary;

To request a report and recommendation be presented at the April 2025 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20w

To receive the response on "Non-Binary Inclusion" resolution from the Office of the Secretary;

To acknowledge the action on the amendments to continuing resolutions in Chapter 5 of the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA* as the response of the Church Council to the resolution from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20x

To receive the response on "Seasonal Membership" resolution from the Office of the Secretary;

To decline to propose the constitutional amendments to Chapter 8 in the *Model Constitution for Congregations* for the reasons stated in the response; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20y

To receive the response on "Including Creation Care" resolution from the Office of the Secretary;

To acknowledge the constitutional amendments identified in the resolution are under the general purview of the purposes of the expressions of this church and to refer this discussion to the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church as it considers the purposes; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20z

To receive the response on "Supporting Vulnerable Youth" resolution from the Office of the Secretary;

To acknowledge the constitutional amendments identified in the resolution are under the general purview of the purposes of the expressions of this church and to refer this discussion to the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church as it considers the purposes; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20aa

To receive the response on "Amending Gendered Constitutional Language" resolution from the Office of the Secretary;

To acknowledge the action on the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA* as the response of the Church Council to the resolution from the Greater Milwaukee Synod; and
To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20bb

To adopt the Social Policy Resolution on Jubilee USA Network.

Voted: En Bloc

CC24.11.20cc

To receive the report from the Administrative Team regarding the ongoing conversation on the creation of an ombudsperson position;

To affirm the churchwide organization's efforts in utilizing an investigative reporting hotline to allow employees to anonymously report fraud, ethics, and compliance issues; and

To encourage the Administrative Team to research how such a reporting tool might be used to support the intent of the request for an ombudsperson position as it continues its dialogue with the Conference of Bishops regarding this matter.

The 117th meeting of the Church Council of the ELCA adjourned at 11:27 a.m. (CST) on Nov. 17, 2024.

April 3–6, 2025

The 118th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened April 3–6, 2025, at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Ill. Mr. Imran Siddiqui, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. (CDT).

Voted:

CC25.04.01

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

Voted:

CC(ES)25.04.02

To endorse changes to the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plans as outlined in the “Proposed changes to ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plans” for the plan year beginning Jan. 1, 2026.

Voted:

CC25.04.03

To recommend the following for reception by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

WHEREAS, 2025 is the 1700 anniversary of the first ecumenical Council of Nicaea, and a year in which we will celebrate a common date for Easter, which presents a unique opportunity for reconciliation between Eastern and Western Christianity; and

WHEREAS, the end-result of the Council of Nicaea—later expanded in 381—was the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, which has served as a common confession of faith for Christians around the world ever since; and

WHEREAS, the addition to the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed of the *filioque*—meaning “and the son”—by the Latin Church in an attempt to resolve a dispute, resulted in the division between the Eastern and Western churches in the year 1054; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, talks between the ELCA and the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas arrived at “A Lutheran-Orthodox Common Statement on Faith in the Holy Trinity,” coming to a shared understanding of history and the emphases of each tradition with regard to the creed; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the ELCA Church Council adopted “A Lutheran-Orthodox Common Statement on Faith in the Holy Trinity,” and *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* was published with a footnote to the Nicene Creed that says it is appropriate to confess the creed without the phrase; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is a member church of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and the LWF has been in dialogue with the Orthodox Church for more than forty years; and

Whereas, in 1990, at the Eighth LWF Assembly in Curitiba, the LWF approved omitting the *filioque* clause in ecumenical services when the Orthodox Church is present, setting a precedent later adopted by other world communions; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Joint International Commission on Theological Dialogue between the LWF and the Orthodox Church affirmed a “Common Statement on the *Filioque*,” affirming that the *filioque* is not a church-

dividing issue and encouraging renewed theological reflection on the Trinity and the role of the Holy Spirit, which was adopted by the LWF Council that June; and

WHEREAS, this Common Statement presents a ground-breaking opportunity to understand our history in light of our dialogue with the Orthodox, and to begin to heal millennium-old divisions in the body of Christ; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA prayerfully engage in commemorating the 1,700th anniversary of the first ecumenical council at Nicaea, and the common date of Easter, as an opportunity for continued theological reflection on the Trinity and the role of the Holy Spirit and reconciliation between the Western and Eastern churches; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2025 Churchwide Assembly prayerfully receive the 2024 Lutheran-Orthodox “Common Statement on the *Filioque*,” understanding such reception to be an intention to lean into a fuller understanding of this issue and the promise of greater unity in the Body of Christ.

Voted:

CC25.04.04

To receive with appreciation “Immediate Action on Dismantling Racism” Recommendation 1 from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church which urges the creation of mutual accountability measures and compliance incentives across all expressions of the ELCA to ensure the proactive centering of dismantling racism within the denomination;

To authorize the Executive Committee of Church Council to consult with the Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity (STAD) Advisory Team and their resource staff to review the purpose of the advisory team;

To request the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Christian Community and Leadership and Service and Justice home areas, to identify possible individuals for service on the STAD Advisory Team and to provide those names to the Executive Committee;

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint members, including a bishop and a Church Council member, to the STAD Advisory Team;

To authorize the Executive Committee to identify persons from the Church Council to work with the STAD Advisory Team to create an ELCA handbook, including recommended diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) standards for congregations;

To commit the Church Council to continue to work on cultural competency training in every official meeting of the Church Council;

To encourage the Conference of Bishops to work on creating DEIA standards for synods (including synod staff and councils), and to continue to work on cultural competency training within the conference;

To request the senior director for diversity, equity, and inclusion to report annually to the spring meeting of the Church Council regarding diversity of the synods and of the churchwide organization relative to historically underrepresented groups and assessments of initiatives that enable and advance anti-racism and diversity measures across all expressions of this church; and

To designate financial and human resources to incentivize engagement in multicultural educational events and creation of materials for ongoing leadership development (rostered and lay) across this church.

Voted:

CC25.04.05

To receive with appreciation “Accountability within the ELCA” Recommendation 2.1 from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church;

To direct the Office of the Secretary to continue to explore collaboration with this church’s full-communion partners to develop processes for conflict resolution within this church that are endorsed by, but independent of, the churchwide organization and which are responsive to the needs of historically underrepresented groups, referring, as appropriate, to the considerations outlined in the rationale of “Accountability within the ELCA;” and

To consult with the Conference of Bishops on such resources and present a report by the Fall 2026 meeting of the Church Council.

Voted:

CC25.04.06

To receive with appreciation “Accountability within the ELCA” Recommendation 2.2 from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church;

To request that the Committee on Appeals:

- a. develop resources to help synods identify candidates with the appropriate spiritual gifts and demonstrated competencies in working with varied ethnic backgrounds to serve on synod consultation committees, referring, as appropriate, to the considerations outlined in the rationale of “Accountability within the ELCA;”

consult with the Conference of Bishops on such resources; and present a report by the Fall 2026 meeting of the Church Council;

- b. develop resources for training synod consultation committees in conflict resolution, referring, as appropriate, to the considerations outlined in the rationale of “Accountability within the ELCA,” consult with the Conference of Bishops on such resources, and present a report by the Fall 2026 meeting of the Church Council; and

To direct the Office of the Secretary and the Christian Community and Leadership home area to provide staff support to the Committee on Appeals for such work.

Voted:

CC25.04.07

To receive with appreciation “Task Force on Interdependence and Purpose” Recommendation 3 from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church;

To establish a task force on interdependence and purpose that will be grounded and rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ and guided by Scripture and our theological discernment as we live into the gospel through the leading of the Spirit. The task force will consist of no more than 14 voting members, at least four of whom shall be members of historically underrepresented groups, and of whom no more than five members shall also have been voting members of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church, and including the presiding bishop and secretary of this church; and directing the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint the task force, fulfilling the responsibilities of the Church Council related to nominations in accordance with 14.41.01.c.;

To populate the task force according to the representational principles of this church;

To request the appointment process be completed prior to the November 2025 Church Council meeting;

To direct the task force to undertake the following:

- Assess the adequacy and clarity of the several purpose statements in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and make recommendations for modification;
- Assess the impact of the current governance structures and interdependence of the three expressions of this church on the fulfillment of its mission, and in so doing, develop recommendations for governance improvements;
- Consider how existing governance structures have (or may have) perpetuated systemic inequalities, and in so doing, develop recommendations to promote inclusion and equity;
- Evaluate the current structure of the synods (including number, geographic boundaries, governance structure, and other relevant factors) and make recommendations for change;

To direct the task force to consult with the Conference of Bishops regarding its work;

To direct the task force to present its report and recommendations to the Fall 2027 meeting of the Church Council;

To direct the task force to make periodic progress reports to the Executive Committee as the committee may request from time to time;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Office of the Secretary to provide staff support to the task force; and

To invite this church to join us in prayer as this church embarks on this process.

Voted:

CC25.04.08

To receive with appreciation “Financial Coordinating Task Force” Recommendation 4 from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church;

To authorize the Executive Committee to create a Financial Coordinating Task Force by the Spring 2026 Church Council meeting that will be composed of no more than eight members with financial expertise representing all three expressions of this church, including a synod bishop and at least half from historically underrepresented communities. In addition, a member of the Budget and Finance or Audit committees will be appointed as a member. The ELCA treasurer will be an *ex officio* member. Staff support will be provided by the Office of the Treasurer and the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

To request that the task force, guided by the Holy Spirit:

- a. review existing resources of the ELCA or educational institutions that support financial management;
- b. explore opportunities where greater collaboration or shared processes/resources among the financial functions of the three expressions of this church may be beneficial;
- c. commit to sharing best practices, resources, and tools related to financial management;
- d. affirm the commitment of the financial separately incorporated ministries (ELCA Foundation, Mission Investment Fund, Portico Benefit Services) to continue collaboration amongst themselves and to identify

possible ways to enhance operational efficiencies, to leverage synergies, to align strategic initiatives, and to identify opportunities for cost savings and to receive a report from the financial separately incorporated ministries to the Financial Coordinating Task Force by December 2026; and

To direct the task force to present a report on the work of the task force at the Spring 2027 Church Council meeting.

Voted: ***CC25.04.09***

To receive with appreciation the “Creation of a Task Force to Develop a Comprehensive Congregational Management and Governance Toolkit and Orientation Program” Recommendation 5 from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church;

To encourage rostered ministers, congregations, and synods to identify and share knowledge of existing congregational management and governance resources from the churchwide organization, seminaries, and the Publishing House of the ELCA, but to decline the establishment of a task force.

Voted: ***CC25.04.10***

To receive with appreciation “Strengthening the Framework for Ministers of Word and Service” Recommendation 6 from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church;

To affirm the vocation of ministers of Word and Service to equip the baptized for ministry in daily life and to serve this church’s mission in the world through teaching, advocacy, and service;

To affirm the existing educational resources about the theology and practice of Word and Service ministry;

To direct the churchwide organization to post such educational resources on the ELCA website; and

To encourage congregations and synods to provide education about the role of ministers of Word and Service and the varied contexts in which they serve, emphasizing their contributions to this church’s mission and ministry.

Voted: ***CC25.04.11***

To receive with gratitude the findings and recommendations from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) to be shared with the 2025 Churchwide Assembly;

To give thanks to God for the faithful, dedicated, and conscientious members of the CRLC who gave tirelessly of their time and energy to the commission's mandate “to reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism;” and

To encourage the members, congregations, synods, churchwide organization, and related institutions, organizations, and ministries of this church to use this report in their continued discernment and engagement to live more fully into God’s mission in this changing world.

Voted: ***CC25.04.12***

To authorize staff of the Theological Discernment Team, in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns (2018),” to review and bring a recommendation regarding the request for a social message on White Supremacy to the November 2025 Church Council meeting.

Voted: ***CC25.04.13***

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the proposed social statement “Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-Being of All” as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

[The social statement is included in “Background and Resolutions for Recommended, Proposed Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life & Its Implementing Resolutions” in Section V of this Bulletin of Reports.]

Voted: ***CC25.04.14***

To recommend the following implementing resolutions for adoption by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

1. To urge members of this church to pray, participate in, and advocate for civic life in the United States that reflects God’s activity and call seeking the well-being of all people and creation marked by justice and peace;
2. To encourage members to draw inspiration from the ELCA social message on “Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in a Democracy,” which highlights the call to embrace daily our baptismal vocation through active participation in self-governance;

3. To reaffirm and encourage use across this church of other existing social teaching and policy documents that promote robust and wise civic participation, such as those that address matters of voting, campaign finance, public service, nonviolent protest, and the like;
4. To recognize with deep appreciation the commitments and efforts by those in this church—including but not limited to churchwide organization teams such as Witness in Society and Building Resilient Communities, as well as the many church-related social ministry organizations and educational institutions—that contribute to healthy civic life through service, advocacy, or education;
5. To call upon all members of this church to intentionally evaluate the dangers of polarization and the threats posed by disregard for democratic practices and self-government;
6. To encourage ELCA worshiping assemblies and ministries to build bridges, foster reconciliation, practice communal discernment, provide opportunities for difficult conversations, and address polarization constructively in their communities;
7. To encourage synod leaders, in collaboration with other appropriate bodies, to explore creating or expanding state public policy advocacy in their domains as part of the ELCA Witness in Society network, similar to those already existing in several states;
8. To direct the churchwide organization, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, theologians and ethicists, and rostered ministers, as well as elected lay leaders, to develop guidelines and protections consistent with this social statement regarding the roles in civic life of representatives of this church with official responsibility to preach, teach, and lead on behalf of this church;
9. To call upon the publishing and educational ministries of this church, including but not limited to Augsburg Fortress Publishers, to consider the need for civics education curricula, civic participation guidance, and related theological reflection, and to create these in multiple formats, including multimedia and online;
10. To call upon the publishing and educational ministries of this church, including but not limited to Augsburg Fortress Publishers, to explore the need for resources dedicated to nonviolent resistance and peaceful engagement in civic life, with special concern for materials dedicated to religious and political histories, liturgical guidance, and training for rostered and lay leaders;
11. To direct the Witness in Society team of the churchwide organization and call upon all expressions of this church in their advocacy efforts to support and advocate for policies and laws consistent with this social statement and to give sustained attention to the fresh convictions and commitments found here in its creation of programs and projects;
12. To direct the Ecumenical and Inter-religious Relations team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop to share this statement as a resource for dialogue, discernment, and collaboration with ecumenical and inter-religious partners toward the well-being of all people and creation from within the U.S. context;
13. To urge faculty, staff, and administrators of ELCA-related colleges, universities, and seminaries to renew and emphasize education toward callings in public service and to model and encourage dynamic civic participation among their students;
14. To direct appropriate units in the churchwide organization, coordinated by the Office of the Presiding Bishop, to establish or oversee processes for implementation of these resolutions, with an initial report to the Fall 2027 meeting of the Church Council.

Voted:

CC25.04.15

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the identified changes to the social statement on “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” (2009) as an editorial update to bring wording up to date, to clarify, and to bring it into congruence with subsequent social teaching, as authorized by 2022 Churchwide Assembly action CA22.01.07.

[The recommended amended social statement is presented in “Background and Resolution for Recommended, Proposed Edited Social Statement, Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” in Section V of this Bulletin of Reports.]

Voted:

CC25.04.16

To approve adding \$159,399 (the balance of net revenues over expenses for the year ended Jan. 31, 2025) to the Church Council designated fund, “Support for Possible Work from Churchwide Assembly Actions.”

Voted:

CC25.04.17

To revise the 2025 fiscal year current fund spending authorization from \$67,875,000 to \$65,375,000.

Voted:

CC25.04.18

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

2026 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2026 current fund spending authorization of \$61,500,000;

To approve a 2026 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,550,000; and

To authorize the Church Council to revise the spending authorizations after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2027 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2027 current fund income proposal of \$56,915,000;

To approve a 2027 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$21,300,000; and

To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2028 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2028 current fund income proposal of \$56,320,000;

To approve a 2028 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$21,050,000; and

To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

Voted:

CC25.04.19

To approve the addition of the definition of ‘hate group’ to the “Definitions” section of *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* and the related modifications to the “Guidelines for Discipline of Rostered Ministers and Members of Congregations” as set forth in “Proposed Changes to *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*.”

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote Required

CC25.04.20

To adopt the amendments in Chapter 10 of the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as described in “Proposed Amendments—Continuing Resolutions,” as amended.

Chapter 10. SYNODS

10.30.

OFFICERS

10.31.B25

Association of Synod Vice Presidents: The Association of Synod Vice Presidents shall be composed of the synod vice presidents of this church. The churchwide vice president shall be a member with voice but not vote. The Church Council may appoint a member to serve as a liaison to the association with voice but not vote. The Conference of Bishops may appoint a synod bishop as a liaison to the association with voice but not vote. Triennially, the Association of Synod Vice Presidents shall elect a chair and vice chair to preside at meetings.

a. The Association of Synod Vice Presidents shall provide to synod vice presidents opportunities for orientation, worship, spiritual renewal, continuing education, collaboration, and leadership development. To fulfill these responsibilities, the Association of Synod Vice Presidents shall:

1) meet at every Churchwide Assembly and may hold one additional in-person meeting each triennium and periodically gather informally as desired;

2) provide a forum in which goals, objectives, and strategies concerning lay leadership may be developed and shared;

3) participate in cultural competency training at each in-person meeting;

4) serve as a resource for training and guidance in the governance of this church;

5) assist the vice presidents in their role as collaborative leaders with bishops in fostering the work of the synods; and

6) when requested, provide advice and counsel to the Church Council and others holding leadership positions in this church.

b. The Association of Synod Vice Presidents may establish committees as the members from time to time may determine to assist in fulfillment of its responsibilities.

- c. Staff services for meetings of the Association of Synod Vice Presidents shall be provided by the synod relations staff in the Office of the Secretary.
-

Voted:

CC25.04.21

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2025 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.

[The recommended amendments are presented in “Recommendation: Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Constitutions of the ELCA” in Section V of this *Bulletin of Reports*.]

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote Required

CC25.04.22

To amend continuing resolution 5.01.D24 of the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA* as follows:

“ . . . The ~~minimum~~ goal shall be that at least 10 percent of the members of this church shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.”

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote Required

CC25.04.23

To adopt the amendments to continuing resolutions in the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* included in *En Bloc* Items.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.23a

To adopt the amendments, other than amendments to Chapter 10, to the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as described in “Proposed Amendments—Continuing Resolutions.”

Chapter 12.

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

12.30. MEETINGS OF THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

12.31.A25. Certain proposals that are scheduled on the agenda for assembly action or information at the Churchwide Assembly are the subject of hearings. Hearings for the Churchwide Assembly may be held either during the assembly or by remote communication prior to the assembly. Notice of the hearings shall be provided electronically.

- a. Voting members, advisory members, resource members, and other categories approved by the Church Council may attend with voice.
 - b. Other categories of non-members may attend the hearing, if space permits, and shall not have voice.
 - c. The chair of the hearing shall endeavor to maintain decorum and order. For serious breaches of order, the chair may call upon the assistance of sergeants-at-arms, if the hearing is held in-person, or technology support staff, if the hearing is held remotely.
 - d. Insofar as is possible during discussion, a speaker on one side of the question shall be followed by a speaker on the other side.
 - e. Hearings have no legislative authority.
- Hearing procedures shall follow Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, unless otherwise ordered by the Church Council.

12.41.18. Other Non-Voting Members. Other categories of non-voting members may be established by the Churchwide Assembly.

12.41.C21C25. *Congregation Observers. Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may register with the secretary of this church one congregation observer for the Churchwide Assembly prior to May 31 in the year of a Churchwide Assembly.*

....

- b. A registration fee shall be established by the secretary of this church for registration and related costs, ~~including enabling observers to receive the same meals as are provided for voting members.~~*
- c. Transportation costs, housing, ~~other~~ meals, and related expenses shall be the responsibility of the registered observer or sending congregation.*

Chapter 15.

CHURCHWIDE ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICES

15.10. OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION

15.11.01. There shall be the following offices:

- a. Office of the Presiding Bishop;
- b. Office of the Secretary; and
- c. Office of the Treasurer.

15.11.A20. ~~*The work of the offices shall be coordinated through the Operations Leadership Team.*~~

15.11.02. Administrative Team. The presiding bishop, secretary, treasurer, and executive for administration, along with the executive directors of the churchwide units, shall function as an administrative team, directed by the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop may appoint up to two additional members to the administrative team for terms of one year with the possibility of reappointment. This administrative team shall assist the presiding bishop in providing leadership, planning, oversight, management, supervision, and coordination in the operation of the churchwide organization.

15.11.B20. ~~Leadership Teams~~ ~~*Three leadership teams shall complement the work of the Administrative Team in providing collaborative leadership for planning, oversight, and management of the churchwide organization and other churchwide efforts. Each team may be composed of a combination of churchwide staff, synod leadership, and representatives from congregations, networks, and/or affiliated ministries, appointed by the presiding bishop.*~~

- ~~*a. Strategic Leadership Team: The Strategic Leadership team, convened by the presiding bishop, shall set, lead, and evaluate the strategic framework to achieve and support priority goals and initiatives of this church.*~~
- ~~*b. Operations Leadership Team: The Operations Leadership team, convened by the executive for administration, shall provide efficient and effective leadership, planning, oversight, management, and coordination of the daily operations of the churchwide organization, including infrastructure and resource management (human and financial) and governance-related matters.*~~
- ~~*c. Innovation Leadership Team: The Innovation Leadership team, convened by the executive director for innovation, shall assess, implement, and evaluate experimental ideas and initiatives to further this church's shared mission.*~~

15.12. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

15.12.A22A25. Responsibilities of the Executive for Administration

The executive for administration shall be accountable to the presiding bishop and shall serve as chief administrator of the churchwide organization. The executive for administration shall be elected by the Church Council upon nomination of the presiding bishop and shall serve coterminous with the term of the presiding bishop. At the direction of the presiding bishop, the executive for administration shall:

....

- e. provide staff services and documentation to the Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee and the Board Development Committee of the Church Council; ~~and~~*
- f. oversee churchwide strategic communications, including branding, messaging, and content development; ~~and~~.*

~~g. provide for building management and coordinate central services for the churchwide organization.~~

15.12.B21B25. Responsibility for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations

Responsibility for ecumenical, inter-Lutheran, and inter-religious relations shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop by upholding this church's ecumenical vision and inter-religious commitments through various bilateral discussions, dialogues, and multi-lateral and conciliar bodies and initiatives, as well as in supporting synods, congregations, and the churchwide organization in their ecumenical and inter-religious vocation. This includes guiding reception of theological agreements, implementation of inter-religious commitments, and advising on relational matters. Responsibility also includes supporting membership in ecumenical and inter-religious organizations such as the World Council of Churches, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, and The Lutheran World Federation. The presiding bishop, who serves as this church's chief ecumenical and inter-religious officer, shall appoint an executive who will assist the presiding bishop, coordinate the staff and groups that engage in this work, and recommend policies, guidelines, and agreements through the presiding bishop to the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly.

~~a. The presiding bishop shall appoint an executive who shall coordinate the ecumenical, inter-Lutheran, and inter-religious activities of this church, and shall recommend, through the presiding bishop, policies to the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly. To fulfill these responsibilities, the executive shall:~~

- ~~1) assist the presiding bishop of this church in carrying out the presiding bishop's role as the chief ecumenical officer of this church;~~
- ~~2) administer the ecumenical, inter-Lutheran, and inter-religious discussions (including bilateral dialogues) in which this church is involved;~~
- ~~3) provide active support of the membership of this church in ecumenical organizations, such as World Council of Churches, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and The Lutheran World Federation;~~
- ~~4) guide the process of reception of theological agreements and give advice in matters of fellowship and unity with other Lutheran churches; and~~
- ~~5) assist synods, congregations, and churchwide units in carrying out their ecumenical, inter-Lutheran, and inter-religious responsibilities by giving guidance and by preparing guidelines for action.~~

~~ba.~~ From time to time as necessary, the Executive Committee of the Church Council shall convene as the U-S-A- National Committee of The Lutheran World Federation. The U-S-A- National Committee also consists of the members of this church who serve as voting members of the council of The Lutheran World Federation. An ELCA advisor to the council of The Lutheran World Federation and/or the executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations shall serve as consultants to the U-S-A- National Committee of The Lutheran World Federation.

~~eb.~~ Ecumenical representatives shall be chosen by the presiding bishop ~~of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America~~ in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Church Council. These representatives include members of delegations to national and international inter-church entities in which this church holds membership and members of inter-Lutheran, inter-faith, and ecumenical discussions, ~~including and~~ bilateral dialogues ~~and conversations~~, in which this church participates. All such appointments shall be reported to the Church Council as information.

15.12.~~C21C25.~~ Responsibility for Human Resources~~People Solutions~~ and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Responsibility for ~~people solutions~~human resources and diversity, equity, and inclusion shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop, which shall develop and manage the personnel policies and procedures for the churchwide organization, including policies and procedures regarding equal-employment opportunity; recruitment, interview, and selection of staff; compensation and benefits; employee-assistance programs; just and equitable employee-relations practices; performance evaluation; maintenance of personnel records; and training. In accordance with bylaw 14.21.06., the Church Council shall adopt personnel policies upon recommendation of the Office of the Presiding Bishop. The presiding bishop shall appoint an executive who shall be responsible for ~~people solutions~~human resources and this church's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

15.12.D21D25. Responsibility for Theological Discernment

~~Responsibility for theological discernment shall be exercised in by the Office of the Presiding Bishop for serving the Church's theological work by promoting, coordinating, and facilitating theological discernment of the this Church's church's message and its theological foundations in collaboration with all who share in the responsibilities to be teachers of the faith in the Church, including the Conference of Bishops, the seminary faculties, teaching theologians, theological networks, the convocation of teaching theologians, networks such as Lutheran ethicists and women theologians, the editorial staff of the publishing ministry and publications, and all rostered ministers. This includes upholding this church's commitments to address matters of theological ethics in church and society through ELCA social teaching and to advance full participation, equal opportunity, and justice through work that addresses issues including patriarchy and white supremacy, economic injustice, sexism, and gender injustice. This responsibility for serving the Church's theological work also shall encompass theological work in and commitment to discern, understand, and respond to racism, classism, and sexism and issues of justice for women in the Church and in society in order to advance full participation, equal opportunity, and justice for all.~~ To fulfill these responsibilities, the presiding bishop shall appoint an executive who will assist the presiding bishop and coordinate the ~~service of staff~~ and groups that provide theological resources and ~~support assistance in~~ programmatic implementation.

15.12.E21E25. Responsibility for Development

Responsibility for planning, coordination, and management of the execution of this church's fundraising efforts and donor communications shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop. To fulfill these responsibilities, the presiding bishop shall appoint an executive who, in collaboration with the Endowment Fund of the ELCA, shall:

- a. ~~set and implement strategy and development of donor communications, engagement, and solicitation~~ guide strategy and development of marketing communications;
- b. ~~provide for Mission Support interpretation, consultation, and stewardship support for synods and congregations and consultations in collaboration with the Office of the Treasurer;~~
- c. ~~develop and execute programs to seek current gifts, major and deferred gifts, bequests, grants, and endowment funds to support ministries of this church;~~
- d. ~~engage individuals~~ members, congregations, synods, and ~~agencies and institutions of this church~~ in efforts to raise financial support for the ministries of this church;
- e. ~~provide advice to the Office of the Treasurer in the recommendation and establishment within that office of policies and procedures for gift acceptance and management, as well as annual revenue projections;~~
- f. ~~process gifts, support constituents, steward donors, and manage constituent data of the church in collaboration with the Office of the Treasurer;~~ and
- g. ~~coordinate its programs with other stewardship and financial resource development activities of this church and in alignment with its mission objectives.~~

15.12.F25. Responsibility for Worship

~~Responsibility for leadership of the worship life of this church shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop. This includes supporting the worship ministry of this church, overseeing the development, review, interpretation, and introduction of worship resources intended for use throughout this church, and, through the presiding bishop, recommending policies related to worship and sacramental practices to the Church Council and, when appropriate, the Churchwide Assembly. Responsibility also includes assisting synods, congregations, and the churchwide organization in carrying out the ministry of worship; developing and implementing worship for churchwide assemblies and other events; providing worship opportunities for the churchwide organization; and representing the presiding bishop and the churchwide organization to other church bodies and organizations on matters related to worship. The Office of the Presiding Bishop shall provide, through the Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, worship resources and shall support the development of a variety of congregational resources that are consistent with the proclamation, prayer, worship, and sacramental practices of this church. To fulfill these responsibilities, the presiding bishop shall appoint an executive for worship.~~

15.12.G25. The Office of the Presiding Bishop shall relate to the Alliance for Faith, Science, and Technology, the Association for Christian Fundraising, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, and the Lutheran Music Program/Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival.

15.14.A20A25. Responsibilities of the Office of the Treasurer

.....

- j. This office, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop (Development) and the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall recommend:
 - 1) policy for the valuation process for noncash gifts;
 - 2) the management of assets of its life-income agreements;
 - 3) gift acceptance policies for the establishment and management of memorial funds administered by the Endowment Fund of the ELCA in cooperation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and
 - 4) the distribution of earned-income payments to remainder beneficiaries as regulated by the life-income, trust, and other fiduciary donor agreements held by the churchwide organization.
- k. This office shall provide for the management of operating and capital funds within the policies established by the Churchwide Assembly and the Church Council.
- l. This office shall manage capital loan funds established by the Church Council. The management shall be within policies established jointly by the Office of the Treasurer and other affected churchwide units.
- m. This office shall provide for building management and coordinate central services for the churchwide organization.
- n. This office, in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary, shall examine the risk management and insurance needs of the churchwide organization and synods.

15.14.B21B25. Responsibility for Information Technology

The treasurer shall provide for information technology and digital solutions in support of the work of the churchwide organization. The treasurer shall appoint an executive who shall be responsible for the development and review of guidelines and policies for computer standards, security of electronic data, application development, data storage and data retrieval, and shall enable use of electronic technologies and digital solutions for churchwide staff to assist in support of congregations, synods, and related institutions and agencies of this church.

Chapter 16.

UNITS OF THE CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION

16.10. CHURCHWIDE UNITS

16.11. A unit of the churchwide organization is assigned leadership responsibility for major, identified portions of the mission and ministry of this church.

16.11.A21. As it pertains to the churchwide organization, a unit may also be described as a home area.

16.11.B20B25. Identity of Units

Units of the churchwide organization, which shall function through cooperation, coordination, and collaboration, are the following:

- a. Christian Community and Leadership unit;
- b. Innovation unit; and
- ~~c. Operations unit; and~~
- ~~d.~~ Service and Justice unit.

Each unit, ~~except the Operations unit~~, shall have an executive director.

16.12. Each unit shall report to the Churchwide Assembly and will report to the Church Council in the interim.

16.12.01. The responsibilities of the units shall be described in continuing resolutions.

16.12.A21A25. Responsibilities of the Christian Community and Leadership Unit

The Christian Community and Leadership unit shall foster and facilitate the work of synods, congregations, the churchwide organization, and others in reaching and welcoming more people into the Christian faith through Christian communities. It energizes and engages the core membership and works with the whole of this church to recruit, ~~develop-train~~, and ~~deploy-send~~ lay and rostered

leadership to fulfill ~~the~~ this Church's church's purpose. It works across all expressions of this church to accomplish these goals domestically and internationally.

This unit shall:

- a. create and revitalize congregations and ministries;
- b. ~~enhance~~ inspire and coordinate evangelism ~~and discipleship~~;
- c. oversee ~~the~~ development of multicultural ministries and collaborate with the Service and Justice unit on this development and on the commitment of this church to diversity and inclusivity;
- d. support efforts to reach and disciple new ~~people, and~~ young people, and to become more ~~economically~~ diverse;
- e. foster relationships with educational institutions, including participation in and support of the Network of Colleges and Universities of this church;
- f. recruit, train, and ~~help to deploy~~ send lay and rostered leaders;
- g. ~~support~~ manage and maintain the candidacy and assignment processes;
- h. coordinate the work of Young Adults in Global Mission ~~and~~;
- i. organize the ELCA Youth Gathering and the Rostered Ministers Gathering; and
- ii. oversee the chaplaincies of this church in domestic specialized ministry settings as well as federal chaplaincies both at home and abroad; ~~and~~;
- j. ~~support the worship ministry of this church by overseeing the development and review of worship resources intended for use throughout this church, and recommend, through the presiding bishop, policies related to worship and sacramental practices to the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly.~~

This unit shall relate to Lutheran Men in Mission, National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc., the Order of Lutheran Franciscans, the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association, the Association of Partners in Christian Education, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, LuMIN, the ELCA Youth Ministry Network, the Christian Education Network of the ELCA, the Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association, Kogodus Renewal Ministry, and Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry.

16.12.C20. — ~~Responsibilities of the Operations Unit~~

~~The Operations unit shall comprise the following:~~

- ~~a. the Office of the Presiding Bishop;~~
- ~~b. the Office of the Secretary; and~~
- ~~c. the Office of the Treasurer.~~

16.12.~~D21~~C25. Responsibilities of the Service and Justice Unit

The Service and Justice unit shall foster and facilitate this church's engagement in service and promote efforts to call and act for justice. It shall engage in mission, service, and justice in accompaniment with churches and organizations in other countries; serve as the means through which churches in other countries engage in mission to this church and society; engage with communities, coalitions and networks, congregations, and synods in service and justice work within the territorial jurisdiction of this church; and provide guidance to members on matters of social justice.

The Service and Justice unit shall support the freedom of Christians to love and serve their neighbor through the following areas:

- a. Global Mission: sustain and accompany this church's~~Peoples and Communities: maintain~~ global church-to-church relationships and mutual endeavors for evangelical witness and sharing of mission personnel; engage with synods and congregations in shared partnership of the global work;
- b. Ministries of Diverse Cultures and Communities: support~~oversee the work of the~~ ethnic specific and multicultural ministries, serve as a resource on behalf of these communities to the wider Church and carry out ~~and collaborate on multicultural ministries and the~~ this church's commitment ~~of this church~~ to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging ~~and inclusivity~~;
- ~~bc.~~ Building Resilient Communities: meet human need and enhance human dignity; work to overturn oppression and injustice; and engage members and constituents collaboratively toward the flourishing of human community and creation through domestic and international programs including ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, and AMMPARO~~advocacy, development, and disaster response programming internationally and domestically; and~~

~~ed.~~ *Witness in Society: equip and encourage~~—empower~~ members to engage with systems and processes in the public square, with local and federal government, and with corporations and the international community to promote the well-being of the human community and creation in the public square, local and federal government, and the international community; equip and encourage members to seek dignity and peace; advance justice in response to human suffering, marginalization, and exclusion; and promote equality, justice, and respect for the value of every person to reduce the systemic injustices impacting communities and societies; to advance corporate social responsibility through environmental, social, and justice principles to create a just and sustainable society.*

~~The Service and Justice~~*This unit shall relate to ~~those~~ Independent Lutheran Organizations and other social ministries that engage in efforts related to service, justice, and global mission, including Global Refuge, Lutheran Services in America, Lutheran World Relief, Friends of Mwangaza, Global Health Ministries, Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh, Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry, ReconcilingWorks, and the Deaconess Community of the ELCA; the service, justice, and global mission efforts of full communion churches; and Church World Service~~and the Deaconess Community of the ELCA~~.*

The Service and Justice unit shall develop personnel policies for long-term and other missionaries in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and administer such policies after their approval by the Church Council.

Chapter 17.

SEPARATELY INCORPORATED MINISTRIES

17.30. This church shall have a separately incorporated ministry, known as the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, . . .

17.30.01. The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall have a board of trustees composed of 9–12 persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly to one six-year term and shall not be eligible for consecutive re-election. The terms of members of the board of trustees elected by the Churchwide Assembly shall begin at the commencement of the first board meeting following the assembly. The composition of the board of trustees shall comply with the representational principles described in constitutional provision 5.01.e. Up to two trustees may be members of congregations of church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, provided that both are not from the same church body.

17.30.B25. *To effect the change from the possibility of three three-year terms to one six-year term for trustees of the Mission Investment Fund adopted by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, the Executive Committee of the Church Council shall divide the trustees to be elected by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly into two classes, one class elected to three-year terms and one class elected to six-year terms. The two classes shall be as nearly equal in size as possible.*

Voted:

CC25.04.24

To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions, and Responses to Synod Actions.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24a

To appoint the members of the Elections Committee for the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

- Ms. Jennifer E. Trom (*chair*)
- Ms. Bobbie Ochoa
- Mr. Kenny Olmedo
- Mr. Casy Goslin
- Mr. Erik Rehms; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the Elections Committee for the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly as needed.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24b

To receive the progress report from the Educational Debt Task Force and to postpone the final report with possible recommendations to the November 2025 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24c

To ratify the following appointments of continuing members of the ELCA Church Council to Church Council committees for the 2025–2028 time period beginning at the close of the Churchwide Assembly on Aug. 2, 2025:

Budget and Finance Committee: the Rev. A. Elizabeth (Lisa) Ahlness, the Rev. Heather E. Brown, Deacon Kari A. Olsen, and Mr. Rindra Josoa;

Christian Community and Leadership Committee: Ms. Sheena R. Foster, Mr. Hans W. Giller, Mr. Joel A. Miller, and Ms. Linda C. Rivera;

Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee: Ms. Jamie Bruesehoff, the Rev. Gwendolyn S. King, and Ms. Olivia L. Martin-Call;

Legal and Constitutional Review Committee: the Rev. Leroy Cannon, Mr. Mitch S. McCartney, and Ms. Jennifer E. Trom; and

Service and Justice Committee: Ms. Kristy K. Henriksen and Mr. Iván A. Pérez.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24d1

To declare that the newly elected chair of the Christian Community and Leadership Committee shall be a member of the Executive Committee of the Church Council effective immediately.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24d2

To declare that the newly elected chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee; Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee; Legal and Constitutional Review Committee; and Service and Justice Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council beginning at the close of the Churchwide Assembly on Aug. 2, 2025.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24e1

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24e2

To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editorial and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the Rules prior to their publication in the *Churchwide Assembly Bulletin of Reports*; and

To report any changes to the Church Council at its July 2025 meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24f

To recommend the following en bloc action for adoption by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To archive the social policy resolutions identified in the “2025 Archiving of Certain Social Policy Resolutions” document, in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24g

To affirm a one-year experiment, beginning in Fall 2025 and ending in Fall 2026 and involving several synods selected by the Candidacy staff of the churchwide organization based on demographic criteria and willingness of synods to partner to finalize the proposed revisions to the candidacy process;

To request that the synods in the experiment continue to form candidates for ministry utilizing the proposed process and give feedback to the Candidacy Working group and Candidacy staff for process improvement; and

To request that the director for candidacy consult with experimenting synods and provide updates to the Church Council throughout the duration of the one-year period.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24h

To approve the minutes of the Nov. 14–17, 2024, meeting of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the Oct. 29, 2024, Nov. 14, 2024, Dec. 18, 2024, Jan. 21, 2025, and Feb. 18, 2025, meetings.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24i1

To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary to a term beginning June 1, 2025, and expiring May 31, 2029: Ms. Courtney Wiler.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24i2

To elect to the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to a term beginning Oct. 1, 2024, and expiring Sept. 30, 2028: Ms. Carmen Teresa Cintron-Figueroa; and

To elect to the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to a term beginning April 3, 2025, and expiring Sept. 30, 2026: Mr. Tony Johnston.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24i3

To re-elect to the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University to a second term beginning July 1, 2025, and expiring June 30, 2028: the Rev. Jack Sullivan and the Rev. Stephen Donald Wachtman.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24j

To receive the written report of the Office of the Secretary on nominees for the churchwide Nominating Committee;

To note that bylaw 19.11.01 states in regard to the Nominating Committee: “The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position. The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region. Nominations from the floor shall also be permitted, but each floor nomination shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Church Council and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Church Council shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor”;

To request, therefore, that the Church Council restrict the tickets to the following: lay woman (Region 1); lay woman (Region 2); lay woman (Region 3); lay woman (Region 4); lay woman (Region 6 or 9); lay man (Region 8); rostered minister (Region 1); rostered minister (Region 2 or 8); and rostered minister (Region 5, member of historically underrepresented group);

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the Nominating Committee for the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly as needed; and

To request that the Church Council transmit the following slate of nominees to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly: Churchwide Nominating Committee

Group 1: Lay Woman (Region 1)

1. Ms. Carolyn Beth Adams, Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)
2. Ms. Kasey Miranda Schultz, Northwest Washington Synod (1B)

Group 2: Lay Woman (Region 2)

1. Ms. Diane L. Brauer, Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)
2. Ms. Karen Michele McClain, Southwest California Synod (2B)

Group 3: Lay Woman (Region 3)

1. Ms. Kristine Kay Bjorke, Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)
2. Ms. Kathy Fick, Eastern North Dakota Synod (3B)

Group 4: Lay Woman (Region 4)

1. Ms. Elizabeth Ann Dieringer, Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)
2. Ms. Susan Humphrey, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)

Group 5: Lay Woman (Region 6 or 9)

1. Ms. Ginger Mildred Cutrell, Southeastern Synod (9D)
2. Ms. Jillan Marie Russell, Northwestern Ohio Synod (6D)

Group 6: Lay Man (Region 8)

1. Mr. Kevin D. Anderson, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)
2. Mr. John Henderson (8F)

Group 7: Rostered Minister (Region 1)

1. The Rev. Susan Marie Halvor, Alaska Synod (1A)
2. The Rev. Martin Wells, Northwest Intermountain Synod (1D)

Group 8: Rostered Minister (Region 2 or 8)

1. The Rev. Nicole Raddu Ferry, Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)
2. [to be determined]

Group 9: Rostered Minister (Region 5, member of historically underrepresented group)

1. The Rev. Anthony F. Acompanado, Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J)
2. The Rev. Lukas E. Harris-Ferree, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24k

To combine CC24.11.14 and CC24.11.19 for consideration by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly to now read:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, certain amendments recommended by the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to the Articles of Incorporation and *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, and other amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and 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.

[The recommended amendments are presented in “Recommendation: Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Constitutions of the ELCA” in Section V of this *Bulletin of Reports*.]

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24l

To receive the final report on “Fortifying Urban Ministries in the Underserved Urban Areas” from the Christian Community and Leadership home area;

To thank the members of the Fortifying Urban Ministries Task Force for their faithful and comprehensive work in finding ways for this church to fortify the witness and service among people and communities in underserved urban areas;

To affirm the recommendations outlined in the final report and urge the churchwide organization to explore ways to implement them; and

To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24m

To receive the report on the “Land Back” memorial from the churchwide organization regarding its findings of possible funding for ELCA Indigenous congregations and services ministries;

To acknowledge the diminishing revenues to increase funding during the 2026–2028 triennium budget cycle;

To encourage the Service and Justice home area to utilize the available funds in the two identified endowments as a sustainable source of income to support the initiatives of ELCA Indigenous congregations and service ministries;

To urge the churchwide organization staff to provide assistance as requested to the identified ELCA Indigenous ministries by providing training, offering training on research and grant-writing applications and review of applications prepared by these ministries, and developing fundraising trainings that respond to the realities of each unique ministry context; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24n

To receive the response and final report on the memorial concerning specialized ministries and on-leave-from-call status from the Office of the Secretary and the Task Force on On-Leave-from-Call and Specialized Ministries;

To thank the Task Force on On-Leave-from-Call and Specialized Ministries for their faithful work in the review process;

To affirm the recommendations for on-leave-from-call status, steps for requesting a roster status, interim ministry, retired roster status, average time requirements for calls, specialized ministry, and exceptions to the three-year congregational service bylaw that are identified in the final report;

To affirm the report as the response to the following:

- “Guidance on Retired or Retiring Ministers for the Roster of the ELCA” (CC22.11.34.ee.)
- “Extending Pastoral Counseling through Private Practice” (CC22.11.34.gg.)
- “Providing for Ordination of Candidates serving as Interim Pastors” (CC23.11.20cc)
- “Revisions to Roster Manual” regarding roster appeals (EC23.11.53c1)
- “Extending OLFC to Six Years” (EC22.03.10c); and
- Recommendations regarding the current discipline process shared by the Task Force on the ELCA Discipline Process for Rostered Ministers of Color (CC23.04.05); and,

To request that the secretary inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24o

- To receive the report on “Greenhouse Gas Reduction” from the Service and Justice home area;
- To commend the initiatives and efforts supported through the Creation Care Network to engage in creation care and environmental advocacy to guide this church in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions; and
- To request that the secretary inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24p

- To receive the progress report on “Concurrent Calling of Pastors by More than One Congregation” from the Office of the Secretary;
- To request the Office of the Secretary and the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee consider it along with the proposed constitutional amendments that will be brought to the 2028 Churchwide Assembly; and
- To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24q

- To receive the response on “Enhancing the Call Process” from the Christian Community and Leadership home area;
- To decline to create and implement a procedure and system to allow congregations, after completing their Ministry Site Profile, to review brief summary statements from potential candidates for called positions; and
- To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC25.04.24r

- To receive the report on the “Full Funding for Churchwide Ministries” resolution from the churchwide organization;
- To acknowledge the diminishing revenues to increase funding during the 2026–2028 triennium budget cycle;
- To encourage the churchwide organization to look for additional revenue streams to continue its support of the work of the following ministries: Youth and Young Adult ministries, College ministries, Latin-x ministries, African Descent ministries, Arab and Middle Eastern ministries, Asian and Pacific Islander ministries, Disabled and Differently Abled Persons ministries, Urban ministries, Education ministries, LGBTQIA+ ministries, and Congregational Renewal ministries;
- To urge the churchwide organization staff to provide assistance as requested to diverse ELCA ministries through means such as notifying them to potential funding opportunities, offering training on research and grant-writing applications, reviewing of applications prepared by these ministries, and developing fundraising trainings that respond to the realities of each unique ministry context; and
- To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

The 118th meeting of the Church Council of the ELCA adjourned at 2:05 p.m. (CDT) on April 6, 2025.