



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Lutheran Center, Chicago, Illinois, November 7-10, 2014. The council welcomed one new member and centered its work around daily worship, frequent prayer, and personal reflections on faith. It lived into its commitment to be a “Book of Faith” council by participating in a Bible study led by the Rev. Richard Perry, professor of Church and society and urban ministry, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Among the items on which the Church Council took action were the following:

- elected Vernon K. Veal, Bloomington, Illinois, to the Church Council
- approved a revised 2015 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$69,650,020 and a revised 2015 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$20,000,000
- approved the Private Prisons Social Criteria Investment Screen and amendments to the Environment Social Criteria Investment Screen, the Extractive Industries Issue Paper, and the Military Weapons Social Criteria Investment Screen, and affirmed the proposed succession plan in joint planning around corporate social responsibility work between the churchwide organization and Portico Benefit Services
- approved the implementation of the Disability Ministries program into the *Always Being Made New* campaign as detailed in the case statement
- approved the implementation of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries program into the *Always Being Made New* campaign, setting a goal of \$2 million for current fund gifts and a goal of \$2 million for the creation of a permanent endowment to support youth and young adult ministries into the future
- conferred the honorary title of “presiding bishop emeritus” to the Rev. Herbert W. Chilstrom, Rev. H. George Anderson and Rev. Mark S. Hanson
- approved the amended Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies
- supported the Special Needs Retirement Fund Management Committee’s efforts to provide financial support for annuitants who are receiving at or near the minimum pension
- postponed until the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council a report and possible recommendations from the Theological Discernment Team regarding the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies
- elected members to the ELCA Audit Committee, and to the boards of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., Mosaic, Inc., Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Wartburg Theological Seminary

The Church Council received the following:

- reports from the officers
- reports from its committees
- report from the Conference of Bishops
- report from the executive for administration
- updates from Global Mission, Congregational and Synodical Mission and Mission Advancement
- update on the Campaign for the ELCA

- update on the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation
- update on draft social message on gender-based violence
- presentation from Lutheran World Relief
- update on Mission Support Think Tank
- update on Table and Font conversations and study on *The Use of the Means of Grace*
- greetings from ecumenical partners
- primer on Lutheran Outdoor Ministries
- primer on ELCA Youth Ministry Network

The Church Council also participated in:

- conversation on priorities in the ELCA
- committees of the whole on Theological Education Advisory Council and New Congregational Development
- process observations
- health and wellness activities
- sharing of joys and concerns