



Legislative Update
Monday, August 5, 2019

The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 6:05 p.m., 888 voting members had registered. The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), declared that a quorum was present for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly in Hall A/B of the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Roll of Assembly Members was accepted without objection as the organization of the assembly.

Consideration of the Rules of Organization and Procedure

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure

During its first plenary session, the 2019 Churchwide assembly acted on the proposed Rules of Organization and Procedure.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION

YES-859; NO-6

CA19.01.01 To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted provisions and bylaws which are already in force).

In accordance with the adopted rules, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton declared the committees of the assembly authorized and constituted. Without objection, she appointed *ad hoc* committees to consider the proposed social statement “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: One in Christ,” the proposed policy statement “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment,” and the “Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA.”

Appointment of *Ad Hoc* Committees

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton appointed the following individuals to three *ad hoc* committees:

- Social Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee
 - Leslie M. Swenson, *co-chair* (Church Council)
 - James H. Utt, *co-chair* (Church Council)
 - Ann M. Svennungsen (Conference of Bishops)
 - Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld (Women and Justice Task Force)
 - Kathryn Kleinhans, Ph.D. (Women and Justice Task Force)
 - Mary Lowe, Ph.D. (Women and Justice Task Force)
 - William Rodriguez, Ph.D. (Women and Justice Task Force)
 - Brad Wendel (Women and Justice Task Force)
 - Kathryn M. Lohre (ELCA Churchwide Office Staff)
 - Mary J. Streufert, Ph.D. (ELCA Churchwide Office Staff)
 - Roger A. Willer, Ph.D. (ELCA Churchwide Office Staff)
- Inter-Religious Policy Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee
 - Patricia J. Lull
 - Darrell Jodock
 - Kathryn M. Lohre
 - Don Kreiss, adviser
- Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA *Ad Hoc* Committee
 - Abraham D. Allende
 - Cheryl T. Chatman, *chair*
 - Tuhina V. Rasche
 - Judith Roberts
 - Albert Starr

Consideration of the Order of Business

Reference: *Schedule and Events, Order of Business*

There being no discussion, the 2019 Churchwide Assembly acted on the Order of Business as the proposed agenda.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

APPROVED BY MAJORITY VOTE

CA19.01.02 To approve the Order of Business as the agenda of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in keeping with the provisions of the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for calling items of business before the assembly.

Consideration of Certain Constitutional Amendments

Reference: *2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA, pages 34 and 43*

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly considered the amendments 12.51.16. and 12.41.17. These amendments give Church Council both voice and vote at the Churchwide Assembly. The other amendments include moving the Endowment Fund of the ELCA to chapter 17 as a separately incorporated ministry, beginning with 17.60. through 17.60.B19.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

APPROVED BY TWO-THIRDS VOTE

CA19.01.03 To adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: 12.41.16., 12.41.17., and 17.60. through 17.60.B19.*

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA

Reference: *2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section III, Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*

The Rev. Ronald T. Glusenkamp, director of the campaign for the ELCA, and Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive for the Mission Advancement unit, provided an update on the completion of the campaign. At its close on June 30, 2019, cash and multi-year commitments totaled \$195 million dollars. Planned gift commitments toward campaign priorities were \$55 million. The total impact of the campaign was \$250 million.

Elections: First Ballot for Presiding Bishop

Reference: *2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, and Section V: Election of the Presiding Bishop*

Vice President William B. Horne II led the assembly in casting the first ballot for presiding bishop. The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 8:42 p.m., 922 voting members had registered to cast ballots. This number increased due to additional registrants and the addition of Church Council members as voting members.

Deadlines for Tuesday, August 6, 2019

- 10:45 a.m.** Separate consideration (removal from *en bloc*) of proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*
Proposed changes to the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*
Proposed amendments from the floor to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*
Nominations from the floor
- 12:00 p.m.** Withdrawal from ballot for presiding bishop
Questions for presiding bishop nominee forum



Legislative Update
Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Voting on certain constitutional items

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA, pages 34 and 43

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger announced that a voting member brought constitutional provision **22.21.** of the ELCA Constitution to his attention. It states, "In no event shall an amendment be placed before the assembly for action sooner than the day following its presentation to the assembly." Vice President William B. Horne II declared action CA19.01.03 and the first ballot for presiding bishop from Monday, August 5, 2019, invalid.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

APPROVED BY TWO-THIRDS VOTE

CA19.01.03 To adopt, en bloc, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: 12.41.16., 12.41.17., and 17.60. through 17.60.B19.

The assembly then began discussion on the constitutional amendments regarding making Church Council members voting members and establishing the Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation) as a separately incorporated ministry. It was moved to postpone voting on the item until the scheduled time for other amendments to governing documents. After further discussion, a voting member called the question.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

PASSED BY TWO-THIRDS

CA19.02.03 To end debate.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

MOTION IS DEFEATED

CA19.02.04 To postpone voting on the action on these amendments until the scheduled time to discuss other amendments to governing documents.

A voting member requested to use the voting machines to ensure the accuracy of the vote.

ASSEMBLY

YES-204; NO-670

ACTION

MOTION IS DEFEATED

CA19.02.05 To postpone voting on the action on these amendments until the scheduled time to discuss other amendments to governing documents.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

PASSED BY TWO-THIRDS

CA19.02.06 To adopt, en bloc, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: 12.41.16., 12.41.17., and 17.60. through 17.60.B19.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

PASSED BY TWO-THIRDS

CA19.02.07

To allow the chair to amend the agenda to allow the first ballot for bishop at the most appropriate time once the elections committee has prepared the ballots.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

PASSED BY TWO-THIRDS

CA19.02.08

To extend the plenary for 15 minutes to allow time for the first ballot for presiding bishop.

Elections: First Ballot for Presiding Bishop

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, and Section V: Election of the Presiding Bishop

Vice President William B. Horne II led the assembly in casting the first ballot for presiding bishop. The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 9:16 a.m., 929 voting members had registered to cast ballots.

Introduction: Recommended Proposed Social Statement

“Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action”

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, “Faith, Sexism, Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action,”

Section VI, User’s Guide for “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action”

The co-chairs of the Women and Justice Task Force, the Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld and Mr. Brad Wendel, presented the proposed social statement and the work of the task force to the assembly. Voting members will vote on the proposed social statement during plenary session eight on Friday, August 9.

Introduction: 2020–2022 Budget Proposal

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, 2020–2022 Budget Proposal

The Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration of the churchwide organization, presented the proposed budget for the next triennium along with the Church Council recommendation to adopt the budget. The assembly will vote on the recommendation during plenary session seven on Thursday, August 8.

Elections: Report of the First Ballot for Presiding Bishop

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Presiding Bishop; Section X, Results of the First Ballot for Presiding Bishop

The Elections Committee reported the results of the first ballot for presiding bishop. Of the 893 legal ballots cast, 670 votes were needed for election. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton was reelected to a six-year term as presiding bishop on the first ballot with 725 votes.

Presentation: “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent”

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VI, “A Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent”

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, Bishop William J. Gohl, and Church Council members, the Rev. Peder J. Johanson, Mr. Clarence M. Smith, and Ms. Emma K. Wagner, presented the “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent” to the assembly. The Rev. Lamont A. Wells, president of the African Descent Lutheran Association, and members of the African Descent Lutheran Association, Ms. Tracey Beasley and the Rev. Tiffany Chaney, accepted the document. Presiding Bishop Eaton stated that she will be consulting with others to identify a day of repentance for congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization to observe annually.

Memorials Committee

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman and Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, noted that synod assemblies had addressed 88 memorials to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. The memorials were sorted into 34 categories, and the committee prepared a recommendation for assembly action for each category. The committee moved 32 of the recommended actions *en bloc* and began addressing the remaining two recommendations separately. Voting members removed six recommended actions from *en bloc*. A total of eight memorial topics will be discussed over the course of the assembly.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA19.02.09

YES-829; NO-33

To approve *en bloc*, with the exception of those memorials considered separately, the following responses to 2017, 2018, and 2019 synod memorials printed in the Report of the Memorials Committee:

- Category A1: Gun Violence
- Category A3: Ethiopian Suffering
- Category A4: Earth Charter
- Category A5: Carbon Fee (and Dividend)
- Category A7: Immigrants and Refugees
- Category A8: Deportation
- Category B1: Just Peace
- Category B2: Palestine (No Way to Treat a Child)
- Category B3: Augusta Victoria Hospital
- Category B4: Engagement in the Holy Land
- Category C2: Income Inequality
- Category C4: Gender Identity
- Category C6: Gun Policy
- Category C7: (In Support of) “Faith, Sexism, and Justice”
Recommended Proposed Social Statement
- Category C8: Implementation of “Faith, Sexism, Justice”
Recommended Proposed Social Statement
- Category D2: Sexual Misconduct
- Category D3: Unaltered Augsburg Confession
- Category D4: Thrivent
- Category D5: Social Purpose Funds (Portico)
- Category D6: Seminary Tuition
- Category D8: Vision and Expectations Task Force
- Category D9: Bishop Evaluation
- Category D10: Merging or Consolidating Synods
- Category E1: Word and Service Constitutional Amendments
- Category E2: Binary Designations
- Category E3: Titles of Ministers

Introduction: “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment”

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment”

The Rev. Patricia J. Lull, bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod, and members of the inter-religious task force presented the proposed policy statement “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment.” The Church Council unanimously recommended that the Churchwide Assembly adopt the proposed policy statement. The assembly will vote on the recommendation during plenary session seven Thursday evening, August 8.

Deadlines for Wednesday, August 8, 2019

8:30 a.m. Proposed amendments to inter-religious policy statement
Proposed amendments to strategy toward authentic diversity statement

11:00 a.m. Non-germane resolutions
Proposed amendments to the 2020–2022 budget proposal
Proposed amendments to women and justice social statement and implementing resolutions

2:15 p.m. First common ballot



Legislative Update
Wednesday, August 7, 2019

Recognition of Secretary Boerger's Service

The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger was recognized for his leadership in this church and his six years of service as secretary with the *Servus Dei* award. This award honors officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at the completion of their terms.

Memorials Committee

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee; Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman and Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, addressed the memorial relating to recognizing the 50th anniversary of the decision to ordain women to the ministry of Word and Sacrament and the memorial regarding sanctuary. The sanctuary memorial and the other six memorials for discussion will continue to be addressed later in the day and throughout the week.

Category D1: 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

Moved;

Seconded;

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon, Southwest California, Western North Dakota, Northeastern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Nebraska, Central States, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Western Iowa, North/West Lower Michigan, Northeastern Ohio, New Jersey, New England, Metropolitan New York, Upstate New York, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, and Virginia synods concerning the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women to the ministry of Word and Sacrament;

To encourage all synods and congregations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women in 2020 and the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the Lutheran tradition in the United States recognize the diversity of gifts that women's ordination brings to this church;

To call upon synods, congregations and the churchwide organization to recognize the need for repentance and continued examination regarding equity for ministerial leadership and to collaborate in systemic work to address disparities based on gender and race for people in rostered ministry;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with other churchwide units, to conduct a gap analysis of rostered women, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by rostered women of color; and

To recognize the implementing resolutions for the proposed social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action" as a response to the sexism and racism concerns raised by these memorials.

There was a motion to amend the main motion.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried;

Yes-824; No-75

To insert "**and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to remove the barriers to ordination for people in same-gendered relationships**" after the "Lutheran Tradition in the United States"

The memorial was amended.

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon, Southwest California, Western North Dakota, Northeastern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Nebraska, Central States, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Western Iowa, North/West Lower Michigan, Northeastern Ohio, New Jersey, New England, Metropolitan New York, Upstate New York, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, and Virginia synods concerning the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women to the ministry of Word and Sacrament;

To encourage all synods and congregations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women in 2020 and the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the Lutheran tradition in the United States **and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to remove the barriers to ordination for people in same-gendered relationships** and recognize the diversity of gifts that women's ordination brings to this church;

To call upon synods, congregations and the churchwide organization to recognize the need for repentance and continued examination regarding equity for ministerial leadership and to collaborate in systemic work to address disparities based on gender and race for people in rostered ministry;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with other churchwide units, to conduct a gap analysis of rostered women, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by rostered women of color; and

To recognize the implementing resolutions for the proposed social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action" as a response to the sexism and racism concerns raised by these memorials.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

BY MAJORITY

CA19.03.10 To consider this memorial after the vote of the proposed social statement "Faith, Sexism, Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action" and its implementing resolutions.

Category A9: Sanctuary

Moved;

Seconded; To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Metropolitan New York Synod concerning sanctuary;

To reaffirm the long-term and growing commitment of this church to migrants and refugees and to the policy questions involved, as exemplified most recently in the comprehensive strategy Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO);

To recognize that the ELCA in congregations, synods and the churchwide organization are already taking the actions requested by this memorial; and

To request that appropriate staff on the AMMPARO team and the Domestic Mission, Global Mission, and Mission Advancement units review the existing strategies and practices by the five current sanctuary synods and develop a plan for additional tools that provide for education and discernment around sanctuary.

There was a motion to amend the memorial.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-718; No-191

Carried; To amend the motion to add "**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America declares itself a sanctuary church body.**" as the last clause.

There was motion to make an additional amendment to the memorial.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried;

By majority

To amend the motion to add “LIRS” in the fourth paragraph after “AMMPARO team.”

The amendment to the motion passed.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton called for the orders of the day. Further discussion on the sanctuary memorial occurred in plenary session five.

Elections: First Common Ballot

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VIII: Report of the Nominating Committee; Addenda to tickets

The Elections Committee distributed ballots for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to elect members to the Church Council, boards of separately incorporated ministries, and boards of churchwide committees. There were 112 tickets for action. The deadline to return ballots to the ballot station was 2:15 p.m.

Elections: First Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Secretary

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton led the assembly in casting the first ballot for secretary. The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 9:37 a.m., 932 voting members had registered to cast ballots.

College Corporation Meetings

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Other, College Corporation Meetings.

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly recessed and convened sequentially at 3:44 p.m. as the college corporation meetings for Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa and Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. The 2019 Churchwide Assembly reconvened at 3:52 p.m.

Memorials Committee (continued)

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee; Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman and Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, led the assembly in continued discussion on memorials.

Category A9: Sanctuary

Moved;
Carried;

Passed by majority

To amend the memorial so that the last clause states:

To request the ELCA Church Council, in consultation with the appropriate churchwide units and offices, provide guidance for the three expressions of this church about what it means to be a sanctuary church body and provide a report to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

The amendment to the motion passed.

**ASSEMBLY
ACTION**

BY MAJORITY

CA19.03.11 To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Metropolitan New York Synod concerning sanctuary;

To reaffirm the long-term and growing commitment of this church to migrants and refugees and to the policy questions involved, as exemplified most recently in the comprehensive strategy “Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities” (AMMPARO);

To recognize that the ELCA in congregations, synods and the churchwide organization are already taking the actions requested by this memorial; and

To request that appropriate staff on the AMMPARO team, LIRS, and the Domestic Mission, Global Mission, and Mission Advancement units review the existing strategies and practices by the five current sanctuary synods and develop a plan for additional tools that provide for education and discernment around sanctuary;

To declare the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America a sanctuary church body; and

To request the ELCA Church Council, in consultation with the appropriate churchwide units and offices, provide guidance for the three expressions of this church about what it means to be a sanctuary church body and provide a report to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

Category A2: Peacebuilding

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-656; NO-224

CA19.03.12 To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Sierra Pacific Synod concerning the creation of a U.S. Department of Peacebuilding but to decline to take action at this time.

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Ms. Emma K. Wagner and Mr. James J.F. Jennings, co-chairs of the Reference and Counsel Committee, made the motion to adopt Motion A: “Resolution to Establish June 17th as Emmanuel 9 Day of Repentance” on behalf of the committee. An amendment was proposed to the resolution. After further discussion, Presiding Bishop Eaton called for the orders of the day. The motion will continue to be discussed tomorrow, Thursday, August 8.

Elections: Results of First Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Secretary, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee

The Elections Committee presented the results of the first ballot for secretary. Of the 861 legal ballots cast, none of the nominees received the necessary 646 votes for election. Those who received votes are able to remove their names from being included on the second ballot for secretary. Names must be withdrawn by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 8. The list of names on the first ballot can be found in the Guidebook app under the Report of the Elections Committee.

Deadlines for Thursday, August 8, 2019

12:00 p.m. Withdrawal from ballot for secretary

2:15 p.m. Second common ballot (if needed)



Legislative Update
Thursday, August 8, 2019

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Ms. Emma K. Wagner and Mr. James J.F. Jennings, co-chairs of the Reference and Counsel Committee, made the motion to adopt Motion E on behalf of the committee.

**Motion E: Resolution on Support for Engagement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the #ThursdaysinBlack Campaign of the World Council of Churches
Submitted by: Bishop Donald Kreiss [Southeast Michigan, 6A]**

WHEREAS, in 2015, the ELCA Church Council adopted the ELCA social message “Gender-based Violence” in order to increase awareness, accountability, and action across the church about the alarming degree of gender-based violence in church and society; and

WHEREAS, the companion “Foundational documentation for a social message on Gender-based Violence” provides additional resources for understanding gender-based violence as a deeply systemic social problem, a theological concern, a pastoral challenge, and a critical matter for faith-based action and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Lutheran World Federation Council adopted a “Gender Justice Policy,” laying out a biblically-rooted framework for the global Lutheran communion of churches to take concrete, contextually-appropriate steps to implement gender justice; and

WHEREAS, the XII Assembly of the LWF in 2017 passed a resolution encouraging member churches to partner with civil society on sex education and the elimination of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in church and society; and

WHEREAS, the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998) gave witness to the movements of women against gender-based violence around the world and inspired the launch of a global, ecumenical campaign, Thursdays in Black: Resistance and Resilience; and

WHEREAS, the WCC, on the occasion of its 70th anniversary in 2018, relaunched its #ThursdaysinBlack campaign, calling upon its member churches and the global ecumenical family to recommit to work toward education about and elimination of gender-based violence; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America calls upon all people across all expressions of the church to participate in the #ThursdaysinBlack campaign by wearing black on Thursdays and actively participating in the various reflection and action items detailed in the ELCA “Gender-based Violence” social message and documentation; the LWF Gender Justice Policy; and the WCC resources for #ThursdaysinBlack.

- www.ELCA.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Gender-Violence
- www.LutheranWorld.org/Content/Resource-LWF-Gender-Justice-Policy
- www.Oikoumene.org/En/Get-Involved/Thursdays-In-Black

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

We recommend adopting the **Resolution of Support for Engagement of the ELCA through the #ThursdaysinBlack Campaign of the WCC.**

ASSEMBLY

YES-891; NO-4

ACTION

CA19.04.13 **To adopt Motion E.**

Elections: Report of the First Common Ballot and Second Common Ballot

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee

The Elections Committee reported elections on 109 of the 112 tickets of the first common ballot for the Church Council, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee, and the boards of the Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services), Mission Investment Fund, Endowment Fund of the ELCA (ELCA Foundation), and the Publishing House of the ELCA (1517 Media). There was no election on Ticket 19, Ticket 52, and Ticket 99 on the first common ballot; the assembly used electronic voting machines to conduct the second common ballot election between the two nominees on each of the three remaining tickets.

Elections: Second Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure; Section V; Election of the Secretary; Section X; Report of the Elections Committee

The Elections Committee presented the names received on the first ballot for secretary that were not withdrawn by the nominee from further consideration for election. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton led the assembly in casting the second ballot for secretary. There were 114 people nominated on the first ballot; 53 individuals withdrew their names from consideration, leaving 61 people for the second ballot. A nominee must receive three-fourths of the votes to be elected on the second ballot.

The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 2:16 p.m., 932 voting members were registered.

Consideration: “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment” Policy Statement

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton led the assembly in voting on the policy statement. The Policy Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee received one proposed amendment, which it did not forward for recommendation to the assembly. Thirty-nine ecumenical and interreligious guests were in attendance during the vote and passage of the policy statement.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-890; NO-23

CA19.04.14 To adopt the proposed policy statement, “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment: A policy statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.”

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee (continued)

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Ms. Emma K. Wagner and Mr. James J.F. Jennings, co-chairs of the Reference and Counsel Committee, made the motion to refer Motion F to the Office of the Presiding Bishop on behalf of the committee.

Motion F: Resolution to Hire an Assistant Program Director Justice for Women

Submitted by: Ms. Bethany Fayard [Southeastern Synod, 9D]

WHEREAS, the ELCA has invested considerable time and resources developing the proposed social statement, “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action”; and

WHEREAS, a primary concern of the church body as expressed throughout the hearings process is that the church take action on any resulting implementing resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the office of Theological Discernment has an insufficient budget to support additional staff that would be necessary to implement the resolutions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that, should the proposed social statement pass, \$100,000 be allocated from budget line item “address social issues and work for justice” to the Office of the Presiding Bishop for Justice for Women to monitor, assess, and ensure the fulfillment of proposed commitments.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

We recommend that this resolution be referred to the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-789; NO-59

CA19.04.15 To refer Motion F to the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

Consideration: 2020–2022 Budget Proposal

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, 2020–2022 Budget Proposal

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger who presented the Church Council's recommendation.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA19.04.16

YES-880; NO-10

2020 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2020 current fund spending authorization of \$68,378,325;

To approve a 2020 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,500,000; and

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

2021 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2021 current fund income proposal of \$68,442,034;

To approve a 2021 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$21,500,000; and

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

2022 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2022 current fund income proposal of \$68,507,018;

To approve a 2022 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$21,500,000; and

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

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee (continued)

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Ms. Emma K. Wagner and Mr. James J.F. Jennings, co-chairs of the Reference and Counsel Committee, made the motion to adopt Motion A on behalf of the committee.

Motion A: Resolution to Establish June 17th as Emanuel 9 Feast Day of Repentance Submitted by: The Rev. Kwame Pitts [Metropolitan Chicago Synod, 5A]

WHEREAS, the Lord teaches us "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance."(Luke 5:31-32); and

WHEREAS, the Emanuel 9 (Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Rev. Daniel L. Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson) on June 17, 2015, while in prayer and bible study at the historic African-American church, Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Charleston, South Carolina were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist adult who was raised and formed in the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, that self-professed white supremacist espoused racist rhetoric and epithets before and after committing these murders; and

WHEREAS, two of his victims, Rev. Daniel Lee Simmons Sr. and Rev. Clementa Pickney, were graduates of the Lutheran Theology Southern Seminary, one of eight ELCA seminaries.; and

WHEREAS, the deep sin of white supremacy and racism continues to be a plague and hindrance in the life of the ELCA as a church called to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America reaffirm its commitment to repentance from racism by:

1. Venerating June 17th as a feast day of repentance in the ELCA for the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9; and
2. Having the names of the Emanuel 9 (Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel L. Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson) added to future ELCA publications to venerate their martyrdom and lead us to repentance because of the white supremacy and racism in our church; and
3. Calling for this feast day be grounded in prayer as the Emanuel 9 were murdered while in prayer at the end of the bible study; and
4. Directing the Division on Worship to help develop future worship prayers and litanies around repentance from racism; and
5. To encourage giving both prayer and financial support for the memorial to be built in remembrance of the Emanuel 9 (<https://www.emanuelnine.org/>); and
6. Be in deeper conversations with the AME church on ways of reconciliation and repentance on the matters of white supremacy and racism.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

We recommend adopting the **Resolution to Establish June 17th as Emanuel 9 Feast Day of Repentance.**

A voting member made the following motion to amend the main motion.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried; To amend the language of the motion

YES-851; NO-35

Motion A: Resolution to Establish June 17th as Emanuel 9 Feast Commemoration and Day of Repentance

1. ~~Venerating~~ Commemorating June 17th as a ~~feast~~ day of repentance in the ELCA for the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9; and
2. Having the names of the Emanuel 9 (Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel L. Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson) added to future ELCA publications to venerate their martyrdom and lead us to repentance because of the white supremacy and racism in our church; and
3. Calling for this ~~feast day~~ commemoration be grounded in prayer as the Emanuel 9 were murdered while in prayer at the end of the bible study; and
4. Directing the ~~Division on Worship~~ Office of the Presiding Bishop to help develop future worship prayers and litanies around repentance from racism; and
5. To encourage giving both prayer and financial support for the memorial to be built in remembrance of the Emanuel 9 (<https://www.emanuelnine.org/>); and
6. Be in deeper conversations with the AME church on ways of reconciliation and repentance on the matters of white supremacy and racism.

ASSEMBLY

YES-887; NO-8

ACTION

CA19.04.17 To adopt Motion A as amended.

**Motion B: Resolution on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to Condemn White Supremacy
Submitted by: The Rev. Kerry L. Nelson [Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, 4F]**

WHEREAS, we are members of the Body of Christ called to love and serve a hurting world; and

WHEREAS, each of us is called through our Baptisms to proclaim that God's love is for all people, not just for people who are white; and

WHEREAS, we have observed with alarm a rising tide of racist rhetoric, hate crimes, and domestic terrorism in the name of white supremacy in our nation; and

WHEREAS, we have now seen again the terrible consequences of violence visited on immigrants and people of color in the name of so-called "Christian Nationalism" or "white supremacy"; and

WHEREAS, we now grieve with the communities of El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio, who have experienced terrible losses as a result of mass shootings or racist violence directed against their neighbors, friends, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, we continue to grieve with and remember the communities of Charleston, South Carolina and Charlottesville, Virginia, who have also been victims of hate crimes in the name of white supremacy; and

WHEREAS, as Lutherans, we have a unique historical calling to recognize, name, and condemn racist acts, imagery, and violence that seeks to injure, demean, or marginalize persons who are not white or Christian; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge with horror that Christians, including persons raised in congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, have committed mass shootings in our nation; and

WHEREAS, we understand that interpretations of Scripture that seek to legitimize racism or white supremacy are false teachings that must be named and condemned as such by this Church with one, powerful voice; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, we the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America do hereby resolve and proclaim that:

1. White supremacy is racism and we condemn it;
2. Violent rhetoric against persons of color in the name of so-called "Christian Nationalism" is not a true Christian faith. It is idolatry and we condemn it;
3. The love of God is for all people, without exception, and we proclaim it;
4. The justice and mercy of God are for all people, without exception, and we proclaim this;
5. Our religious and political leaders have a moral responsibility to condemn racist rhetoric and to speak with respect for the innate dignity of all persons, regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, or faith tradition and we call our leaders to honor this responsibility; and
6. Language that refers to people of color or immigrants with words like "invasion" or "infestation" or "white replacement" is racism and we condemn it;
7. We are called by Jesus to "love our neighbors as ourselves." As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy. We stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions. With them, we demand and will advocate for a more just, loving, and peaceful world where the gifts of all people are appreciated, and the lives of all people are treasured; and
8. We call all congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to engage in communal study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

We support the **Resolution to Condemn White Supremacy** and recommend referral to the Office of the Presiding Bishop of the churchwide organization.

Moved;

Seconded;

YES-178; NO-708

Defeated; To refer Motion B to the Office of the Presiding Bishop

The Reference and Council Committee presented a new recommendation.

We support the **Resolution to Condemn White Supremacy** and recommend adopting the resolution ~~referral to the Office of the Presiding Bishop of the churchwide organization.~~

ASSEMBLY

YES-893; NO-5

ACTION

CA19.04.18 To adopt Motion B as amended.

Elections: Report of the Second Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Secretary; Section X, Results of the Second Ballot for Secretary

The Elections Committee reported that 862 votes were cast on the second ballot for secretary requiring 647 votes for election. There was no election on the second ballot. The names of the seven receiving the greatest number of votes were presented:

Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, 358 votes

The Rev. Stephen Herr, 116 votes

The Rev. Lamont A. Wells, 95 votes

Bp. Jon V. Anderson, 48 votes

Mr. John Emery, 38 votes

Mr. Peter Severson, 27 votes

The Rev. Tyler D. Rasmussen, 23 votes

Biographical information about the nominees can be found online and in the Guidebook app. The election process will proceed in accordance with Part Sixteen of the Rules of Organization and Procedure. The nominees will address the assembly Friday morning, August 9, 2019 in plenary session eight.



Legislative Update
Friday, August 9, 2019

Elections: Question and Answer Forum for top Seven Nominees for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Secretary; Section X, Results of the Second Ballot for Secretary

The seven nominees on the third ballot for secretary responded to questions prepared by the Executive Committee of the Church Council. Six were able to respond to questions as Mr. John Emery was unable to speak due to health concerns. Below is the list of the top seven nominees and their vote tallies after the second ballot.

- Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, 358 votes
- The Rev. Stephen Herr, 116 votes
- The Rev. Lamont A. Wells, 95 votes
- Bp. Jon V. Anderson, 48 votes
- Mr. John Emery, 38 votes
- Mr. Peter Severson, 27 votes
- The Rev. Tyler D. Rasmussen, 23 votes

Consideration: Social Statement on Women and Justice

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action"

The motion was made to adopt the recommended proposed social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action," as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Social Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee reported on the procedures it used to receive and address three amendments to the proposed social statement. The assembly voted on the committee's recommendations regarding the proposed amendments to the text of the recommended social statement.

Recommending two actions: the amendments to the social statement and the amendments to the implementing resolutions. The Credentials Committee reported that as of 8:45 a.m. there were 932 voting members registered.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-863; NO-26

CA19.05.19

To adopt the amended proposed social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action" 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).

Consideration: Social Statement Implementing Resolutions

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action"

With the adoption of *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action*, the Social Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee reported on six amendments proposed to the statement's implementing resolutions. The assembly voted on the committee's recommendations.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-864; NO-X30

CA19.05.20

To adopt the recommended proposed implementing resolutions as amended.

- 1. To urge members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, social ministry organizations, church-related institutions, ecumenical partners, and all people of good will to be guided by this statement's convictions and commitments to resist and dismantle patriarchy and sexism, and to transform life in the church and in society;**
- 2. To call upon members of this church to pray, work, and advocate for justice for all those affected by sexism and patriarchy and to draw upon this statement in forming their judgments and actions in daily life;**

3. To encourage members to be guided by the ELCA social message on “Gender-based Violence” (2015) in taking action, such as urging their congregations to implement policies and to become intentional sites of advocacy and support for local efforts that serve those affected by such violence;
4. To call upon all members of this church to reflect on how mass media (films, video games, etc.) and social media distort sex, gender, and sexuality and to address this problem in their own actions (especially their care for children);
5. To call upon congregational leaders, rostered and lay, to encourage women and girls to pursue leadership roles within congregations and in discernment toward rostered ministry;
6. To encourage ELCA congregations to present positive gender roles in their educational activities, preschools, and day care, and to urge youth-related ministries within this church to adopt positive modeling of gender equity in all leadership, programs, and educational events;
7. To urge congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization (CWO) to address inequities (in pay, senior leadership, availability of second and third calls, etc.), as well as the systemic causes of such inequities, for rostered and lay women of various backgrounds, identities, and personal experiences and to advocate for adequate and equitable leave for all parents and families;
8. To call upon the Conference of Bishops, synods, and the churchwide organization to use gender-inclusive and expansive language for God, and to direct the ELCA worship team
 - a) to use such language whenever it commissions, curates, or develops new liturgical and related educational resources and
 - b) to supplement existing resources toward that end; and
 - c) to explore the development of an inclusive language lectionary similar to the Psalter in Evangelical Lutheran Worship.
9. To direct the Mission Advancement unit of the CWO to collaborate with the Office of the Presiding Bishop in creating a single page at ELCA.org where readers can access the existing resources of the ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation related to the concerns of this statement and to work to make those resources available in languages other than English;
10. To call upon this church’s advocacy and related ministries, such as ELCA Advocacy and ELCA World Hunger, to support and advocate for measures, policies, and laws consistent with this social statement and to give sustained attention to its convictions and commitments in the creation of programs and projects;
11. To recognize past and present CWO efforts to address institutional sexism and foster gender justice in this church, and to urge sustained devotion of resources, such as support for the CWO’s Justice for Women program;
12. To encourage the ministries of Women of the ELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission to continue and expand their work to address the issues identified in this social statement and to commend greater participation in these efforts;
13. To call upon those engaged in publishing activities throughout the ELCA to continue and extend their support for gender equity in ELCA resources and communications through such dimensions as language, images, stories, Bible studies, themes, and representation of contributors;

14. To urge faculty, staff, and administrators of ELCA-related colleges, universities, and seminaries to renew their efforts to develop syllabi and best practices that affirm and promote the gifts of women from varied identities and backgrounds;
15. To call upon rostered and lay congregational leaders, synod and CWO staff, social ministry organizations, and faculty and staff at ELCA colleges, seminaries, and universities to renew their efforts to welcome, care for, and support the lives and gifts of LGBTQIA persons and to oppose discrimination against these persons so that they may live into the promise of gender justice envisioned in this social statement;
16. To call on the church in all its expressions and related agencies, organizations, and institutions to embed and incorporate anti-sexism training and protocols in their ongoing work, including appropriate adaptations to boundaries training for rostered ministers, and to create institutional resources to support rostered ministers who experience sexual misconduct or gender-based harassment, as well as pastoral care resources for all affected by sexism; and
17. To direct the ELCA Church Council to establish a process for public repentance regarding the sins of patriarchy and sexism and establish a churchwide day of confession and repentance no later than the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
18. To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with appropriate units in the CWO, to establish and oversee processes for implementation of and accountability for these resolutions and to report to the fall meeting of ELCA Church Council in 2021.

Elections: Third Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Secretary, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee

The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 10:00 a.m., 932 voting members were registered. There were 908 votes cast; two-thirds or 606 votes were needed for election. The Elections Committee reported the results of the third ballot for secretary, taken by electronic voting machines, as follows:

Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, 251 votes
 The Rev. Stephen Herr, 184 votes
 The Rev. Lamont A. Wells, 170 votes
 Mr. Peter Severson, 114 votes
 Bp. Jon V. Anderson, 101 votes
 The Rev. Tyler Rasmussen, 78 votes
 Mr. John Emery, 10 votes

The top three moved on to the fourth ballot.

Consideration: Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA

The *Ad Hoc* Committee reported on the procedures it used to receive and address amendments. No amendments were submitted by voting members. The motion was made to adopt the recommended proposed document “Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA.”

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-855; NO-13

CA19.05.21

To thank the Task Force for Strategic Authentic Diversity and all who contributed to its work to develop a report and recommendations on how this church exhibits authentic diversity and formulates its own goals and expectations for racial diversity and inclusion;

To call this church in all its expressions into a time of confession, reflection, and healing as its members renew an honest relational engagement in the body of Christ;

To urge the church in all its expressions and related agencies, organizations, and institutions to intentionally engage more deeply in the recommendations named in the report and to provide funds in support of these recommendations; and

To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with appropriate units in the churchwide organization, to establish and oversee processes for consideration, assignment, implementation of and accountability for these recommendations identified to the churchwide organization and to report regularly to the Church Council.

Consideration: Archival of Certain Social Policy Resolutions

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Archival of Certain Social Policy Resolutions

The assembly voted on the action item. No policy resolutions were removed from *en bloc* for discussion.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-840; NO-16

CA19.05.22 To archive the social policy resolutions identified in the “2019 Archival of Certain Social Policy Resolutions” document as suitable for archive, in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Elections: Fourth Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Secretary, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee

Each of the three nominees on the fourth ballot for secretary—Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, and the Rev. Lamont A. Wells—was given five minutes to address the Churchwide Assembly.

The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 2:05 p.m., 932 voting members were registered. Voting members used electronic voting machines to cast the fourth ballot for secretary. The Elections Committee reported the results of the fourth ballot. There were 906 votes cast; 60 percent or 544 votes were needed for election.

The Rev. Lamont A. Wells, 347 votes

Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, 338 votes

The Rev. Stephen R. Herr, 221 votes

Consideration: Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly acted on proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-855; NO-21

CA19.05.23 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.

Consideration: Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA Removed from *En Bloc*

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly acted on proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* which were removed from *en bloc* action.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-779; NO-105

CA19.05.24 To amend the ELCA constitutional provision 7.52. as follows:

- 7.52. A minister of Word and Service of this church shall be a person whose commitment to Christ, soundness in the faith, aptness to serve, teach, and witness, and educational qualifications have been examined and approved in the manner prescribed in the documents of this church; who has been properly called and **received onto the roster ordained**; who accepts and adheres to the Confession of Faith of this church; who is diligent and faithful in the exercise of ministry; and whose life and conduct are above reproach. A minister of Word and Service shall comply with this church's constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

Elections: Fifth Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure; Section V; Election of the Secretary; Section X; Report of the Elections Committee

The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 2:50 p.m., 932 voting members were registered. The 2019 Churchwide Assembly elected a new secretary on the fifth ballot. The Elections Committee reported that 911 votes were cast and 456 were needed for election.

Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, 509 votes

The Rev. Lamont A. Wells, 402 votes

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA19.05.25 To elect Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer as the next secretary of the ELCA.

Consideration: Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA Removed from *En Bloc* (continued)

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly acted on proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* which were removed from *en bloc* action.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-787; NO-53

CA19.05.26 To amend the ELCA constitutional provision 5.01 as follows:

CHAPTER 5: PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION

- 5.01 c. The congregations, synods, and churchwide organization of this church are interdependent **partners-expressions** sharing responsibly in God's mission. In an interdependent relationship, primary responsibility for particular functions will vary **between the partners among the expressions**. Whenever possible, the entity most directly affected by a decision shall be the principal party responsible for decision and implementation, with the other entities facilitating and assisting. Each congregation, synod, and separately incorporated ministry, as well as the churchwide organization itself, is a separate legal entity and is responsible for exercising its powers and authorities.

- d. Each congregation and synod in its governing documents shall include the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose and such **structural** components as are required in ~~this constitution~~ **the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**. Beyond these common elements, congregations and synods shall be free to organize in such manner as each deems appropriate for its jurisdiction.
- e. ~~The Church Council shall establish an ongoing process to review the function of the structural organization of this church and to develop recommendations for changes.~~
- f. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the **appropriate office or unit of the** churchwide organization, through the Church Council, shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; that ~~as nearly as possible, 50 at least 45~~ percent of the lay members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be **female women** and ~~50 at least 45~~ percent shall be **male men**, and that, where possible, the representation of ministers of Word and Sacrament shall ~~be both female and male~~ **include both women and men**. At least 10 percent of the members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English. Processes shall be developed that will assure that in selecting staff there will be a balance of women and men, persons of color and persons whose primary language is other than English, laypersons, and persons on the rosters of this church. This balance is to be evident in the selection of staff consistent with the inclusive policy of this church.
- gf. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, synods, through **synodical** councils, shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of their assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; that, ~~as nearly as possible, 50 at least 45~~ percent of the lay members of their assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be **female women** and ~~50 at least 45~~ percent shall be **male men**, and that, where possible, the representation of ministers of Word and Sacrament shall ~~be both female and male~~ **include both women and men**. Each synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of the membership of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- g. **A layperson is a person who is not on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament or the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church.**

5.01.B169 *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 ~~the Church Council~~ **such unit or office**.*

5.01.E19 ***The Church Council shall establish triennial percentage goals for this church to meet the commitment expressed in 5.01.A16. The minimum goal shall be that at least 10 percent of the members of this church shall be persons of color or whose primary language is other than English.***

5.01.F19 ***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.G19 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.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-823; NO-35

CA19.05.27 To amend the ELCA constitutional provision 4.02.c., subject to ratification at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly:

4.02 c. Serve in response to God’s love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and, justice, and equality equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing in solidarity with the poor and oppressed and powerless and committing itself to their needs.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-792; NO-39

CA19.05.28 To refer Motion J to the Office of the Secretary.

Memorials Committee (continued)

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee; Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman and Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, led the assembly in continued discussion on the memorials.

Category CI: Church and State

ASSEMBLY

YES-782; NO-82

ACTION

CA19.05.29 To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Minneapolis Area Synod requesting a social statement on the role of government, the nature of civic engagement, and the relationship of church and state; and

To authorize the development of an ELCA social statement on government, civic engagement and the relationship of church and state that will allow thorough attention to scriptural, historical, theological, and social issues as a means to probe shared convictions and establish this church’s comprehensive teaching in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018); and

To urgently request the ELCA Church Council to authorize a social message as a priority in the development of a social statement; this message would elaborate in one place what this church already holds regarding issues such as public church, the vocation of citizenship, the relation of church and state in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Category D1: 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-800; NO-19

CA19.05.30

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon, Southwest California, Western North Dakota, Northeastern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Nebraska, Central States, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Western Iowa, North/West Lower Michigan, Northeastern Ohio, New Jersey, New England, Metropolitan New York, Upstate New York, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, and Virginia synods concerning the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women to the ministry of Word and Sacrament;

To encourage all synods and congregations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women in 2020 and the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the Lutheran tradition in the United States and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to remove the barriers to ordination for people in same-gendered relationships and recognize the diversity of gifts that women's ordination brings to this church;

To call upon synods, congregations and the churchwide organization to recognize the need for repentance and continued examination regarding equity for ministerial leadership and to collaborate in systemic work to address disparities based on gender and race for people in rostered ministry;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with other churchwide units, to conduct a gap analysis of rostered women, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by rostered women of color; and

To recognize the implementing resolutions for the proposed social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action" as a response to the sexism and racism concerns raised by these memorials.

Category C3: Migrants

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-811; NO-44

CA19.05.31

To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Delaware-Maryland Synod concerning migrants and refugees;

To reaffirm the long-term and growing commitment of this church to migrants and refugees and to the policy questions involved, as exemplified most recently in the comprehensive strategy Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO);

To encourage members of this church to review existing social teaching and policy and use these guides to take additional action toward addressing harmful political rhetoric against migrants and refugees; and

To request that appropriate staff in the Domestic Mission, Global Mission, and Mission Advancement units develop a plan for additional tools that provide for education and discernment specifically directed to political rhetoric and the accurate portrayal of migrants and refugees.

Category A6: Poor People's Campaign

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-804; NO-65

CA19.05.32

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon, New England and Metropolitan New York synods concerning the National Poor People's Campaign; and

To affirm the Church Council action [CC18.11.23u] recognizing "the importance of the Poor People's Campaign in bringing an end to systemic racism, economic injustice, ecological devastation and related injustices; to support the vision and goals of the Poor People's Campaign that are in alignment with this church's social teachings; to encourage the churchwide organization, synods, congregations and members to become involved with the issues as a faithful witness to God's call to do justice and show love for the neighbor."

Category C5: Call to Edit Human Sexuality Social Statement

Moved;

Yes-440; No-400

Seconded;

To postpone the memorial to "Call to Edit the Human Sexuality Social Statement indefinitely.

Carried;



Legislative Update
Saturday, August 10, 2019

Consideration: Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA Removed from *En Bloc* (continued)

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly acted on proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* which were removed from *en bloc* action.

ASSEMBLY ACTION **Defeated** **To amend ELCA bylaw provision 7.41.03** **Two-Thirds Vote Required**
YES-315; NO-499

ASSEMBLY ACTION **Defeated** **To amend ELCA constitutional provision 7.71.02** **Two-Thirds Vote Required**
YES-359; NO-458

Memorials Committee (continued)

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee; Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman and Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, led the assembly in continued discussion on a memorial.

Category D7: Health Care Benefits

ASSEMBLY ACTION **CA19.06.33** **RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly direct the Church Council, in partnership with the Conference of Bishops and Portico Benefit Services, to review the current Church Council's recommendation for the Gold+ coverage for all rostered ministers and employees of the church and that they develop a recommendation for the whole church for health insurance coverage by the spring meeting of the Church Council in 2020 for the 2021 enrollment.** **YES-662; NO-127**
To request the churchwide organization survey employees to understand the impact on staff and identify any modifications that can be made within budgeted funds for 2020; and
To encourage Portico to continue to provide educational tools to assist employees of the churchwide organization which thoroughly explain the different plans.

Announcement of 2022 Churchwide Assembly

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton announced that the 2022 Churchwide Assembly will be held in Columbus, Ohio at the Greater Columbus Convention Center from August 8 through 13, 2022.

Unfinished Business

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The following items were left unfinished by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and will be directed to the ELCA Church Council for action.

FORWARDED

ACTION ITEM To refer Motion C to the Church Council for consideration.

FORWARDED

ACTION ITEM To refer Motion D to the Church Council for consideration.

FORWARDED

ACTION ITEM *To adopt the following resolution:*
Resolution of Appreciation for Church Council Members who are Ending their Terms of Service in 2019 (Motion L)

We, the members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, give thanks to God for the members of the Church Council who will be concluding their six-year terms at this assembly. We wish to thank these 22 individuals for their dedicated service to this church during their terms and to acknowledge that their service included membership on task forces, *ad hoc* committees, attendance at synod assemblies, and representation of this church in global, national, and local forums.

We appreciate their tireless work of renewing and growing the church's mission. We continue to keep them and their work, which is our work, in prayer.

FORWARDED

ACTION ITEM *To adopt the following resolution:*
Resolution of Appreciation for Churchwide Staff (Motion M)

The members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gathered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, thank the churchwide organization and staff for their hard work and dedication to the mission of Christ in this church. We thank God for their willingness to serve as a part of the everyday lifeblood of this church both here in the United States and globally.

We thank each of the offices and units of the Churchwide organization:

- Office of the Presiding Bishop
- Office of the Secretary
- Office of the Treasurer
- Mission Advancement
- Domestic Mission
- Global Mission

We are church together in Christ because of this churchwide organization's willingness to continue renewing and growing our church in both acceptance of others and what it means to truly live the Gospel.

FORWARDED

ACTION ITEM

To adopt the following resolution:

Resolution of Appreciation and Thanksgiving for Hospitality (Motion N)

The members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America deeply thank the City of Milwaukee and the Greater Milwaukee Synod for hosting this assembly, for their drinks of barley and hops, and for their cheese curds. Our host synod is truly living the Miller High Life.

As we join in fellowship together, we are reminded of the indigenous history of the land we are on and the Algonquian name of Milwaukee as the “gathering place.” We give thanks for the Menominee, Fox, Mascouten, Sauk, Potawatomi, Ojibwa, and other American Indian tribes that called this land home.

We are appreciative to the City of Milwaukee for allowing us the ability to walk in the Word together on Wednesday to and from the ICE detention center.

We give thanks for the Wisconsin Center for their accommodations, for their assistance in helping us assemble together in prayer and business, facilitating our ability to worship boldly, for providing us with laughs in their lifelike—and creepy—police officer statue, and for serving as a focal point in the work of this church.

We give thanks for the Hyatt Regency and Hilton hotels for giving us a place to rest and reflect on our time together. We also give thanks to the hotel staff, Wisconsin Center staff, and restaurant workers of Milwaukee for their hard work.

The City of Milwaukee embodies a beautiful expression of what it means to be church, and we thank them for welcoming us into their city so warmly.

The fifteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was adjourned at 12:03 p.m. in Hall A/B of the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.