



## 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, April 7-10, 2016. The council 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. Eric Wester, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Federal Chaplaincy Ministry. It spent considerable time engaged in the Called Forward Together in Christ process.

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

- created a new advisory committee to the Church Council that will sustain a network of theological education for the ELCA and implement the Theological Education Advisory Council recommendations
- recommended action to the Churchwide Assembly to approve the Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) strategy as a whole church response to the migration of children and their families
- received the 2015 ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan Report
- received The Lutheran World Federation’s invitation to study the significance of the Lutheran communion for the LWF member churches
- recommended the following for adoption by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly:
  - current fund spending authorization of \$65,296,005 for 2017
  - current fund income proposal of \$64,057,220 for 2018 and \$64,151,175 for 2019
  - ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$24,800,000 for 2017; \$25,000,000 for 2018; and \$25,000,000 for 2019
- approved a revised 2016 fiscal year ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$22,000,000
- approved the report of the ELCA Audit Committee, appointment of assistant officers and authorization to act for the ELCA as a trustee
- designated synod assembly churchwide representatives
- recommended adoption of *Rules of Organization and Procedure* for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly
- recommended action to the Churchwide Assembly to amend the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* related to college corporation meetings
- adopted amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* that changes the name of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to Domestic Mission unit
- approved amended Policy and Procedures for Review of Liturgical Material
- elected members to the board of directors of Luther Seminary, The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Trinity Lutheran Seminary; to the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and to the Committee of Hearing Officers

**The Church Council received the following:**

- reports from the officers, its committees and the Conference of Bishops
- introductions to International Women Leader Scholarship Recipients
- updates on The Campaign for the ELCA and from the Church Council visitors to the Conference of Bishops
- greetings from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, ecumenical partners and ethnic specific ministry associations
- primer on Federal Chaplaincy Ministry and Church Council roles at Churchwide Assembly