



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