



Office of the Secretary 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 9-11, 2012. The council centered its work around daily worship, frequent prayer, and Dwelling in the Word reflections. It lived into its commitment to be a “Book of Faith” council by participating in a Bible study led by the Rev. Jessica Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops.

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

- endorsed in concept a 25th anniversary campaign for the ELCA and authorized the Mission Advancement unit to continue development and finalization of a comprehensive campaign proposal to be considered by the Church Council in April 2013 and presented to the Churchwide Assembly in August 2013
- received the report of the Mission Funding Task Force and adopted actions to authorize pilots among synods to encourage further conversations regarding stewardship and to strengthen mission support
- requested the Office of the Presiding Bishop to bring a report and recommendations to the April 2013 Church Council in recognition of the changing landscape in this church regarding leadership development, theological education, candidacy and call, and the rosters of this church
- passed a resolution recognizing November as National Native American Heritage Month
- adopted “The Body of Christ and Mental Illness” as a message of the ELCA
- approved an initial 2013 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$69,006,305 and an initial 2013 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$19,000,000
- received revisions to 2012 and 2013 synod mission support plans
- voted to encourage conversation and discernment throughout this church regarding the churchwide officer elections at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
- approved a plan for elections to the Church Council and boards of the separately incorporated ministries in light of the transition to a triennial Churchwide Assembly
- elected Mr. Nick Barber, a young adult from Erie, Pennsylvania, to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015
- appointed members to the Memorials Committee and Reference and Counsel Committee for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly
- expanded the Portico Benefit Services Philosophy of Benefits Task Force and requested a report in April 2013
- affirmed the preliminary conclusion of the Word and Service Task Force that this church should move towards creation of a single, unified lay roster of Word and Service ministry and authorized the task force to continue its work

- affirmed that implementing the actions of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly regarding LIFT remains a work-in-progress and that the LIFT Advisory Committee should continue to serve as a catalyst for missional planning for conversations across all expressions of this church regarding issues raised by the LIFT report, recommendations, and implementing resolutions
- authorized the creation of an Ecclesiology of a Global Church Task Force to review the governing documents for the purpose of addressing how the ELCA can affirm and strengthen its ecclesiology and self-understanding as part of the Lutheran World Federation
- ratified amendments to synod constitutions
- recommended to the Churchwide Assembly proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*
- recommended adoption of *Rules of Organization and Procedure* for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly
- approved revisions to the ELCA Churchwide Personnel Policies regarding electronic communication devices
- commended *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Prayer Book for the Armed Services*
- commended the “Stand for Welcome Sunday” resource for use in congregations that wish to engage in opportunities for mission and ministry with newcomers
- approved program changes to Missionary Sponsorship, which will hereafter be referred to as “ELCA Global Church Sponsorship,” and Mission Founders, which will hereafter be referred to as “ELCA New Congregations”

The Church Council received the following:

- reports from the officers
- reports from its committees
- a report from the Conference of Bishops
- a report from the executive for administration
- updates from churchwide unit executive directors
- an update on the ELCA Malaria Campaign
- an update from the Mission Investment Fund
- an update on the 500th anniversary proposal
- an update on the ELCA 25th anniversary theme
- an update on 2013 Churchwide Assembly planning

The Church Council also participated in:

- process observation
- health and wellness activities
- café conversations on board governance and LIFT
- a primer on budget and financial management
- sharing of joys and concerns