



## **Summary of Church Council Meeting November 12–14, 2020**

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met November 12–14, 2020. The council met for the first time in a fully electronic meeting.

### **The Church Council took action on the following:**

- affirmed the Future Church design to strengthen the churchwide organization and align this church for the purpose of activating all ELCA members so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice, and love; and approved amendments to continuing resolutions in the ELCA Constitution to enable implementation of the design
- approved a 2021 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$65,847,000, and a 2021 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,500,000
- elected Ms. Alyssa J. Cobb and the Rev. Daniel W. Gerrietts to the Church Council for terms ending in 2022
- deferred until spring 2021, following the revision of *Definitions and Guidelines*, the question of developing a document to describe the high aspirations this church has for its rostered ministers
- deferred questions of developing social messages on U.S. national drug policy, aging, gender identity or gun policy until the spring 2021 Church Council meeting
- voted to reconsider the social message on Suicide Prevention (1999) for editorial changes to update wording for accuracy and relevance to the contemporary social context
- approved observance of Juneteenth as a paid holiday for the churchwide organization
- encouraged continuation of research and work toward economic justice and the study of reparations and engagement in anti-racism and racial justice work, and requested a report on the naming of an annual Day of Repentance, including a liturgical resource of lamentation and repentance to accompany this annual Day of Repentance, for the spring 2021 council meeting
- urged this church to continue its efforts to repent of the sins of racism and white supremacy and to raise awareness of the Emanuel 9 commemoration
- approved the audit committee report for fiscal year 2019
- approved amendments to the corporate social responsibility documents to serve as the basis for ongoing corporate social responsibility work in this church
- approved amendments to the Portico Benefit Services Plan and Trust
- elected members to the governing bodies of four ELCA seminaries and of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc.
- elected members to fill vacancies on the board of trustees of 1517 Media, the Publishing House of the ELCA

- approved amendments to the articles of incorporation of Luther Seminary
- adopted the Mission Investment Fund Deferred Compensation Plan and the Mission Investment Fund Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan
- extended the Mission Support Experiment in five synods
- approved nine additional voting members for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly
- affirmed a recommendation from the Conference of Bishops for amendments to forms in the ELCA Candidacy Manual

**The Church Council received/engaged in the following:**

- reports from the officers, its committees, and the Conference of Bishops
- update from the Committee on Appeals concerning a revision of *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*
- reflection on Luther's *Freedom of the Christian*
- worship using resources from the new *All Creation Sings* worship supplement