



**Summary of Church Council Meeting  
March 31–April 2, 2022**

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met March 31–April 2, 2022.

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

- created and appointed an *ad hoc* committee to guide a process for public repentance and a churchwide day of confession and repentance regarding the sins of patriarchy and sexism
- adopted “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the Muslim Community” as a statement on Lutheran-Muslim relations
- authorized the creation of a task force to review the current process for discipline and its impact on persons of color and other historically marginalized groups, with a report to be provided to the Spring 2023 Church Council meeting
- authorized creation of a task force charged with studying the issue of educational debt among rostered ministers and developing a comprehensive strategy to provide educational debt relief to as many rostered ministers as possible, with an interim report to be provided to the Spring 2023 Church Council meeting and a possible final report in Spring 2025
- approved necessary related continuing resolutions for the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA* (CBCR) having approved a new structure of Church Council standing committees in November 2021, approved new or revised committee charters, and appointed members to each committee: Budget and Finance; Legal and Constitutional Review; Faith, Society, and Innovation; Christian Community and Leadership; and Service and Justice; the Executive Committee will include the chairs of each of these committees following the 2022 Churchwide Assembly
- adopted revisions to the “Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings against Rostered Ministers and Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America”
- recommended proposed Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly
- adopted a rule concerning hearings to be held online the week before the Churchwide Assembly
- transmitted to the Churchwide Assembly a slate of nominees for the Nominating Committee
- revised a continuing resolution to reduce to three years the time that must elapse before a former employee of the churchwide organization can serve on the board of a separately incorporated ministry or a committee related to the churchwide unit or office in which the employee served
- recommended bylaw amendments concerning synod-authorized ministers and a synod boundary
- approved an amendment to Portico’s Restated Articles of Incorporation
- affirmed the design concept for the Deacon’s Unified Cross
- elected board members for five seminaries
- recommended archiving of certain social policy resolutions to be considered by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly
- received final reports on sanctuary and climate change action
- received an update on research work related to discriminatory treatment within the call process and the inequitable compensation of rostered ministers of color and requested a progress report at the Fall 2022 Church Council meeting and a final report at the Spring 2023 Church Council meeting
- received a resolution on “Ethiopia” and directed the Office of the Presiding Bishop to take the actions deemed most appropriate
- received a resolution on “Amending Gendered Constitutional Language,” requested the Office of the Secretary consider an amendment to constitutional provision 5.01. and related bylaw and continuing resolution references as it reviews possible amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly, and directed the churchwide organization to adhere to the “ELCA Style Guide” to ensure the appropriate usage of gender inclusive language in ELCA communications and documents
- received an update on “Guidance on Retired or Retiring Ministers for the Roster of the ELCA”

- approved establishment of a \$3 million Church Council designated “Campaign Readiness Fund” to be used to assess the feasibility of a future fundraising campaign
- added \$1.5 million to the Youth Gathering designated fund to offset losses incurred by the cancellation of the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering and to provide start-up support for future Youth Gathering events
- increased the FY22 spending authorization by \$650,271 to \$66,466,421
- increased the FY22 spending authorization for ELCA World Hunger by \$3,321,700 to \$25,986,700
- recommended triennial budgets for the current fund and for ELCA World Hunger to be considered by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly

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

- reports from the officers, its committees, and the Conference of Bishops
- personal faith statements from council members
- conversation on cultural humility
- a report and primer on youth and young adults and the church from the Church Council Young Adult Working Group
- a primer on the role of the Church Council at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly
- ecumenical greetings from The Episcopal Church
- worship, prayer, and fellowship