

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN  
AMERICA**

**Church Council**

**MINUTES**

**Aug. 7, 2022**

**Prepared by the  
Office of the Secretary**



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**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES  
Aug. 7, 2022**

The 112th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened Aug. 7, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), in the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio. Attendance at Plenary Session I included the Church Council, the Conference of Bishops, and the synod vice presidents.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

The following people were present for all or part of the meeting:

***Voting members***

**Officers:**

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop  
Mr. Carlos E. Peña, interim vice president  
Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, secretary  
Ms. Lori S. Fedyk, treasurer

**Chair of the Conference of Bishops:**

The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, bishop of the New Jersey Synod

**Church Council:**

Mr. Kevin Anderson	The Rev. Pamela J. Hoh ( <i>excused</i> )
Ms. Tracey A. Beasley	Ms. Cherrish Holland ( <i>excused</i> )
The Rev. Marcus A. Bigott	Mr. James J.F. Jennings
The Rev. Nicholas M. Billardello III	Mr. David M. Lenz
Ms. Susan Boxberger	The Rev. Tara R. Lynn
Ms. Lisa Burk ( <i>excused</i> )	Mr. Keoni Newman
The Rev. William H. Callister	Mr. Joseph T. Nolte
The Rev. Karn S. Carroll	Mr. Gary A. Pederson
Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman	Mr. William D. Rice ( <i>excused</i> )
Ms. Alyssa J. Cobb	The Rev. Ricardo Rivera
Mr. Ismael E. Danforth ( <i>excused</i> )	Mr. Noah F. Roux
Ms. Divine	Ms. Valerie J. Shaw
The Rev. Joanne E. Engquist	Mr. Loren A. Solberg ( <i>excused</i> )
Ms. Kerry A. Fehrman ( <i>excused</i> )	The Rev. Kjersten L. Sullivan
The Rev. Dena M. Gable	Ms. Loni Taylor ( <i>excused</i> )
The Rev. Daniel W. Gerriets	Ms. Sonja Wolfe ( <i>excused</i> )
The Rev. Emily C. Hartner	Ms. Merritt G. Zesinger ( <i>excused</i> )

***Representatives of the Conference of Bishops:***

Bp. Brenda K. Bos, Region 2	Bp. Patricia J. Lull, Region 3
Bp. Sue J. Briner, Region 4	Bp. Paula J. Schmitt, Region 8
Bp. Yehiel Curry, Region 5	Bp. Pedro M. Suárez, Region 9
Bp. Christopher deForest, Region 7	Bp. Shelley R. Wickstrom, Region 1
Bp. Donald M. Kreiss, Region 6	

***Churchwide Staff Resource People:***

Mr. Thomas A. Cunniff, general counsel  
Mr. Daniel Eppley, official documentation manager  
Ms. Aja M. Favors, associate general counsel  
Ms. Victoria Flood, director for Mission Support  
The Rev. N. Keith Fry, executive for Office of the Secretary administration

Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, senior director for strategic communications  
Ms. Jennifer Johnson, synod relations support and events manager  
The Rev. Louise N. Johnson, executive for administration  
Ms. Marit E. Johnson, official documentation manager  
Mr. Nicholas Kiger, associate director for Mission Support  
Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre, executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations and theological discernment  
The Rev. Barbara Lund, senior director, operations and innovation, service and justice  
The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director for service and justice  
Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, executive for synod relations  
Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, executive for governance  
Deacon John E. Weit, executive for worship

***Guests:***

**Separately Incorporated Ministries:**

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president and CEO, Portico Benefit Services

**Ethnic-Specific Ministry Associations:**

The Rev. Khader N. El-Yateem, president, Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage  
Mr. Roberto Lara Aranda, president of the Asociación de Ministerios Latinos de la ELCA  
Ms. Shari Seifert, president, European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice  
The Rev. Maria (Gigie) Sijera-Grant, president, Asian and Pacific Islander Lutheran Association  
The Rev. Lamont A. Wells, president, African Descent Lutheran Association

**Media:**

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, public relations manager

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PLENARY SESSION I  
Joint Session with the Conference of Bishops and Synod Vice Presidents

**CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

(Agenda I.A.)

Mr. Carlos E. Peña, interim vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. (EDT).

*Background:*

Agenda items were distributed electronically.

*Church Council action:*

A motion was made to adopt the agenda.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

**VOTED:**

**CC22.08.22 To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.**

**REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS**

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP**

(Agenda I.B.1)

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton began by welcoming the attendees to her home state of Ohio and expressing appreciation to ELCA leadership. She acknowledged that COVID-19 continues to be a challenge that had kept some people from attending the Churchwide Assembly and reminded those present of the protocols in place for the assembly. She provided an overview of the upcoming week and emphasized the need to end the assembly promptly at 12:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 12. She reported that two hearings and a listening session were held online in the week before the assembly that were centered on the proposed budget, memorials addressed to the assembly by synod assemblies, and the draft of the social statement on faith and civic engagement. The presiding bishop reported that, following the assembly, she, Vice President Peña, and other representatives of the ELCA would be attending the meeting of the World Council of Churches. Finally, she announced that an agreement had been reached bringing the ELCA into a full communion relationship with the Anglican Church of Canada.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

(Agenda I.B.2)

Ms. Lori S. Fedyk, treasurer of the ELCA, began by discussing concerns arising from the new system being implemented to reimburse costs incurred by Churchwide Assembly voting members, providing details of problems of which she was aware and how they were being addressed. Regarding broader financial matters, she reported that the most recent audit of the churchwide organization raised no concerns. Through the first five months of the current fiscal year, net revenues exceeded expenses by approximately \$1.4 million, primarily due to lower expenses. Expenses are expected to increase as the year goes on. Revenue is behind both projections and last year's revenue, due primarily to lower returns on investments and lower Mission Support than had been projected. Currently, there is no plan to adjust the proposed triennial budget for 2023-2025. The Office of the Treasurer will continue to monitor revenue and may bring forward proposals to revise the triennial budget at a later date. The treasurer expressed thanks for strong support of ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response. There is a detailed plan in place to distribute over the next five years the more than \$10.3 million raised to support work in Ukraine. The Office of the Treasurer has engaged GSB Consulting to lead a program entitled "Building a Culture of Generosity." The treasurer announced that 14 synods are engaged in the program and invited leaders of these synods to encourage their congregations to consider participating. The cost of the program is \$450, of which \$200 is covered by the churchwide organization and \$250 is the responsibility of the participating congregation.

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

(Agenda I.B.3)

Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, secretary of the ELCA, thanked all who had a hand in organizing the Churchwide Assembly, noting the many logistical challenges the meeting has faced. She announced that, as of Sunday afternoon, 868 of a possible 902 voting members had registered for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. Of these, 61.5% were lay persons. Persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English were 20% of the registrants, and 16% were youth or young adults. The secretary invited Mr. Thomas A. Cunniff, chair of the Elections Committee, to share information regarding the election process. Mr. Cunniff clarified procedures for electronic voting at the assembly. The secretary explained how holding hearings and Bible studies online prior to the assembly had allowed for a shorter assembly and seemed to provide a means to better steward time and resources. The hearings were better attended than similar events held onsite at previous assemblies. The secretary closed her report by announcing personnel changes within the Office of the Secretary.

### **CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY OVERVIEW**

(Agenda I.C)

Presiding Bishop Eaton and Secretary Rothmeyer gave an overview of Churchwide Assembly business, including the consideration of memorials calling for review of the governance structures of the ELCA and the election of a vice president.

### **RECESS**

The meeting of the Church Council recessed at 3:17 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION II

**CALL TO ORDER AND EXECUTIVE SESSION**

(Agenda II.A)

Vice President Peña called the second plenary session to order at 3:46 p.m. (EDT). The Church Council immediately entered into executive session for a legal briefing. Minutes for meetings held in executive session are added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary. The council returned to open session at 3:53 p.m. (EDT).

**SITE FOR THE 2025 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY**

(Agenda II.A.1)

Secretary Rothmeyer introduced a motion concerning the location of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly. There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

**VOTED:**

**CC22.08.23 To designate the Phoenix Convention Center, 100 N. Third St., Phoenix, Ariz.—subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church—as the site for the Seventeenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, July 28-Aug. 2, 2025; and To authorize the Executive Committee to select another venue if negotiations are not successful.**

**CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM *EN BLOC***

(Agenda II.A.2)

Vice President Peña ceded the chair to Secretary Rothmeyer, who announced that there was one item to be removed from *en bloc* consideration, a motion to thank Mr. Peña for his service as interim vice president of the ELCA.

**RECOGNITION OF MR. CARLOS PEÑA'S SERVICE**

After ELCA Vice President Bill Horne passed away unexpectedly on Aug. 14, 2021, the Executive Committee of the Church Council acted on Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's recommendation to appoint Mr. Carlos Peña as interim vice president of the ELCA on Aug. 24, 2021. Mr. Peña will serve in the role until Oct. 31, 2022. The election of a new vice president will occur at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, with a six-year term beginning on Nov. 1, 2022.

This church thanks Mr. Peña for his gracious return to service during this transitional time.

**VOTED:**

**CC22.08.24 To thank Mr. Carlos Peña for his faithful service as the interim ELCA vice president; and To extend the council's appreciation for his wisdom and insights that have assisted the Church Council in its work during the transition.**

Following the vote, Mr. Peña returned to the chair.

***EN BLOC* APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS**

(Agenda II.A.3.)

*Background:*

A motion was made to take *en bloc* action on the remaining recommendations on the consent calendar. As the items were voted on *en bloc*, there was no discussion; the vice president called for the vote.

**VOTED:**

**CC22.08.25 To take action *en bloc* on the following items listed in *En Bloc* Items.**

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**A. Revision to Roster Manual**

The 2022 Churchwide Assembly will be considering a bylaw amendment to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* related to synod-authorized ministry. If this amendment is updated, then the *Manual of Policies and Procedures for the Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* would need to reflect the change. The following action would allow for the change to be made effective immediately if the amendment is adopted.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC22.08.25a       **To approve the updated *Manual of Policies and Procedures for the Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* for use by synod bishops, synod staff members, and others who hold responsibilities for such matters in this church, subject to approval by the Churchwide Assembly of proposed amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* regarding synod-authorized ministry;**

**To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to provide periodic updates reflecting new or revised policies subsequently adopted by the Church Council; and**

**To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.**

**B. Authorization of Executive Committee**

In order for the functions of the Executive Committee to be carried out between the Churchwide Assembly in August 2022 and the first regular meeting of the newly constituted Church Council in November 2022, a recommendation on this matter needs to be brought to the Church Council at its pre-assembly meeting.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC22.08.25b       **To authorize the continuing members of the Executive Committee to serve as the Executive Committee of the Church Council between the close of the Churchwide Assembly on August 12, 2022, and the November 2022 meeting of the Church Council.**

**C. Report of the Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations regarding committee charters. The [Audit Committee](#) and the [Resource Development Committee](#) charters are forwarded to Church Council for approval.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC22.08.25c       **To approve the revised charters for the Audit Committee and the Resource Development Committee; and**

**To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.**

**D. Report of the Budget and Finance Committee**

The Budget and Finance Committee met on July 26, 2022, and recommends the following action for Church Council approval.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC22.08.25d       **RESOLVED, that the prior resolution adopted by this Council, CC22.04.08, be modified by reducing the amount designated for the Campaign Readiness Fund from \$3.0 million to \$1.2 million.**

**E. Church Council Nominations and Elections**

Bylaws 8.21.03. and 8.21.04. outline basic parameters for the election of members to the boards of ELCA seminaries. Pursuant to 14.22. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, the Church Council is also to elect nominees to a vacancy on a board or committee of the churchwide organization.

Biographical information is provided in [Biographies](#).

VOTED: EN BLOC  
CC22.08.25e **To elect to the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to a term beginning Oct. 1, 2022, and expiring Sept. 30, 2026: the Rev. Kelly Chatman.**

**F. Change to Incorporation for South Dakota Synod**

The Office of the Secretary received a request from the South Dakota Synod to change the location of its incorporation.

VOTED: EN BLOC  
CC22.08.25f **RESOLVED, that the Church Council approve and ratify the decision of the South Dakota Synod to incorporate in South Dakota, and to no longer be incorporated in Minnesota.**

**G. Proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America***

Since the Spring 2022 Church Council meeting, additional amendments to certain bylaws as highlighted below have been identified for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly. The process for adopting bylaw amendments at a Churchwide Assembly is specified in Chapter 22 of the ELCA Constitution.

A two-thirds vote of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly is required for adoption.

VOTED: EN BLOC  
CC22.08.25g **To recommend the following for adoption by the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:**

**To adopt, *en bloc*, the following amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.**

**10.01.01. Names and Boundaries.** The names and boundaries of the synods shall be:

[...]

Synod 2.C—Pacifica. The counties of Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego in the state of CALIFORNIA; the congregations St. Andrew, Salem Evangelical, Shepherd of the Hills, and Good Shepherd Evangelical, and Prince of Peace, Los Angeles County, in the state of CALIFORNIA; the state of HAWAII; the territories of the U.S. in the Pacific Ocean.

[...]

Synod 8.D—Lower Susquehanna. The counties of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, York in the state commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA; the congregations St. Michael and Zion Klingerstown Lutheran Parish in Schuylkill County, in the state commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA.

**14.33.01. Advisory Members. Categories of advisory members may be designated by the Church Council. These categories shall be set forth in continuing resolutions. Advisory members shall have voice but not vote.**

**H. Churchwide Assembly “Rules of Organization and Procedure”**

Since the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee is not meeting prior to this Church Council meeting where the recommendations to the Church Council usually are made, the action comes directly to the Church Council for consideration from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Secretary.

The Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Secretary made some revisions to the [Rules of Organization and Procedure](#). Most notably, the use of the white paper, electronic submission, and the Nominations Desk hours have been clarified.

VOTED: EN BLOC  
CC22.08.25h **To recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the voting members of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly:**

**To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).**

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**I. Synod Council Resolution**

In accordance with ELCA bylaw 14.41.01.b., the Executive Committee of the Church Council transmits resolutions from synods to the appropriate churchwide units or offices for response. The New England Synod Council transmitted the following resolution from the New England Synod.

RESOLVED, that the New England Synod Assembly direct the New England Synod Council to request that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) begin the process to modify the governing documents of the ELCA so that Nondisclosure Agreements, Non-disparagement Agreements, or similar legal contracts will not be used in any of the three expressions of the ELCA (churchwide, synods, and congregations) and that Nondisclosure Agreements, Non-disparagement Agreements, or similar legal contracts entered into by any churchwide organization, synod or congregation will not be legally binding.

**VOTED:**

*EN BLOC*

**CC22.08.25i To receive the resolution regarding Nondisclosure Agreements in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from the New England Synod; and  
To acknowledge the action of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as the response of the Church Council concerning this resolution.**

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**PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH**

(Agenda II.B)

The Rev. Daniel W. Gerrietts offered a personal reflection on his faith.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

(Agenda II.C)

**FEEDBACK FROM THE CLASS OF 2022**

(Agenda II.C.1)

Members of the Class of 2022 are Lisa Burk, Cheryl Chatman, Alyssa Cobb, Ismael Danforth, Pastor Dena Gable, Pastor Dan Gerrietts, Jim Jennings, Joe Nolte, Gary Pederson, Bill Rice, Ricardo Rivera, Sonja Wolfe, and Merritt Zesinger.

The Church Council Class of 2022 will be honored during the final plenary session of the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Outgoing members of the Church Council were recognized and appreciation was shown. Outgoing members shared reflections on their time on Church Council.

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOV. 2022 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

(Agenda II.C.2)

The November 2022 meeting of the Church Council will be held Nov. 10-13, 2022, at the Lutheran Center in Chicago. Orientation for newly elected members of the Church Council will be Friday, Sept. 23, 2022, in Chicago.

Mentors have been identified for the incoming class of Church Council members.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, executive for governance, made several announcements regarding preparations for the Churchwide Assembly.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 4:22 p.m. (EDT) on Aug. 7, 2022.