



Summary of Church Council Meeting April 20, 2023

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met April 20, 2023, and took action on the following:

- appointed members to the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC), which will hold its first meeting in July: Mr. Roberto Lara Aranda, the Rev. Sean Avery, Ms. Felecia Boone, Mr. Michael J. Chan, the Rev. Tiffany Chaney, Mr. Don Corson, Mr. Antoine Cummins, the Rev. Elizabeth Friedman, the Rev. Charlene Guiliani, the Rev. Gail Hagerty, Bishop Regina Hassanally (*at-large*), the Rev. Douglas A. Hill*, Mx. Ruth Ellen Howard, Ms. Thelma Pruitt Jacks, Mr. Ryan Johnson (*at-large*), Ms. Stacy D. Kitahata, the Rev. Kristin Johnston Largen, Mr. David M. Lenz (*at-large*), Ms. Alexandra Mack, Mr. Thomas Madden (*at-large*), Ms. Susan Wilds McArver, Ms. Candy McCorkle, Mr. Evan Moilan (*at-large*), Ms. Sarah E. Morris, Ms. Laurel Muhly-Alexander, Mr. Anthony Ormsbee-Hale, Bishop Matthew Riegel (*at-large*), Mr. Leon Schwartz, Deacon Dallas Shealy (*at-large*), the Rev. Adam Sornchai, Ms. Melody Stachour, Ms. Cheryl Stuart, Ms. Loni Taylor (*at-large*), Ms. Linda M. Timmons, and the Rev. Carla Christopher Wilson

[*Following the appointment, the Executive Committee learned that Pastor Hill is unavailable to attend the first in-person commission meeting, which was an expectation of membership. The Executive Committee appointed Mr. Ralston Deffenbaugh to fill the vacated position.]

- adopted “Earth’s Climate Crisis” as an official social message of the ELCA; authorized development of a social message on the epidemic of gun-related trauma in the U.S. in light of existing social teaching; and maintained as pending the requests for development of a social message on child abuse and child protection and for a revision of the “Message on Homelessness” (1990)
- received the report and recommendations from the Task Force on the ELCA Discipline Process for Rostered Ministers of Color; referred recommendations concerning the discipline process to the Office of the Secretary and the Conference of Bishops for a report in November 2023; referred a recommendation for the creation of an ombudsperson position or office in the churchwide organization to the Administrative Team, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops; and referred recommendations regarding revisions to the roster manual to the Task Force on Specialized Ministry and On-Leave-from-Call Status
- formally received a proposal for exchangeability of the diaconate between The Episcopal Church and the ELCA
- received a progress report on “Salary Equity in the ELCA” and affirmed commissioning of a survey concerning inequitable gaps in compensation for rostered ministers in the ELCA
- received a response on “Gun Violence Advocacy” from the Witness in Society team in the Service and Justice home area and commended the continued advocacy efforts being implemented across this church related to gun violence and universal background checks
- received a response on “LGBTQ+ Programming for Events” and encouraged consideration of development of LGBTQ+-focused sessions for churchwide events whenever gatherings include such sessions for other communities
- referred a resolution on “LGBTQIA+ Presence among ELCA Governing Bodies” to the Office of the Secretary for a report at the November 2023 Church Council meeting
- received a report on the review of the ELCA Response Team and affirmed the decision of the Administrative Team to make no changes at this time
- received a timeline for response to a resolution requesting addition of “interim deacon” to the Table of Sources of Call for ministers of Word and Service, with a report to come in November 2024

- received a response concerning the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea
- increased the spending authorization for ELCA World Hunger from \$25,250,000 to \$26,770,000
- added \$1.7 million to the Budgeted Operations Support fund for future budgetary needs
- approved a \$300,000 designated fund for the work of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church
- approved changes to the churchwide organization personnel policies and to the Mission Investment Fund's Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan
- approved recommendations for successor beneficiaries of various endowment funds
- approved appointments to seminary boards