

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**November 9-12, 2023**  
**Chicago, Illinois**

**AGENDA**

**Participants**

**Voting Members**

Pr. Lisa Ahlness	Ms. Cherrish Holland
Mr. Kevin Anderson	Mr. Rindra Josoa
Bp. Tracie Bartholomew	Pr. Gwendolyn King
Ms. Tracey Beasley	Mr. David Lenz
Pr. Benjamin Bergren ( <i>nominated</i> )	Pr. Tara Lynn
Pr. Marcus Bigott	Ms. Olivia Martin-Call
Pr. Nick Billardello ( <i>excused</i> )	Mr. Mitch McCartney
Ms. Susan Boxberger	Mr. Joel Miller
Pr. Heather Brown	Mr. Ethan Miller-Perez
Ms. Jamie Bruesehoff	Mr. Keoni Newman
Pr. Bill Callister	Deacon Kari Olsen
Pr. Leroy Cannon	Mr. Iván Perez
Ms. Divine	Ms. Linda Rivera
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop	Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Secretary
Pr. Joanne Engquist	Mr. Noah Roux
Ms. Lori Fedyk, Treasurer	Ms. Valerie Shaw
Ms. Kerry Fehrman ( <i>excused</i> )	Mr. Imran Siddiqui, Vice President
Ms. Sheena Foster	Ms. Andraine Sinaga
Mr. Hans Giller	Mr. Loren Solberg
Pr. Emily Hartner	Pr. Kjersten Sullivan
Ms. Kristy Henriksen	Ms. Loni Taylor
Pr. Pamela Hoh	Ms. Jennifer Trom

**Liaison Bishops**

Bp. Shelley Bryan Wee ( <i>in lieu of Bp. Wickstrom; excused for Nov. 12</i> )	Bp. Donald Kreiss ( <i>excused for Nov. 12</i> )
Bp. Brenda Bos	Bp. Christopher deForest
Bp. Patricia Lull	Bp. James Dunlop ( <i>in lieu of Bp. Schmitt</i> )
Bp. Sue Briner	Bp. Pedro Suárez
Bp. Yehiel Curry ( <i>excused for Nov. 10-12;</i>	<i>Bp. Amy Current, in lieu of Bp. Curry</i> )

**Resource People**

**Operations: Office of the Presiding Bishop**

Ms. Jennifer DeLeon, director for racial justice (*excused*)  
Ms. Victoria Flood, senior director for Mission Support (*excused*)  
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, senior director for strategic communications  
Pr. Louise Johnson, executive for administration  
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, executive for People and diversity, equity, and inclusion  
Ms. Kathryn Lohre, executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations and theological discernment  
Ms. Judith Roberts, senior director for diversity, equity, and inclusion  
Ms. Mary Streufert, director for gender justice and women's empowerment & director for Quality of Call Initiative  
Deacon John Weit, executive for worship  
Pr. Roger Willer, director for theological ethics (*excused; online for portion of meeting*)  
Ms. Rachel Wind, executive for development

**Operations: Office of the Secretary**

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, general counsel  
Mr. Dan Eppley, manager for official documentation  
Pr. Keith Fry, executive for Office of the Secretary administration  
Mr. Paul Irwin, associate general counsel  
Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, executive for synod relations  
Ms. Jodi Slattery, executive for governance

**Christian Community and Leadership (CCL)**

Pr. Philip Hirsch, executive director  
Pr. Sara Cutter, senior director for operational effectiveness

**Service and Justice (SJ)**

Ms. Tammy Jackson, interim executive director  
Pr. Barbara Lund, senior director for operations and innovation

**Innovation (INO)**

Mr. Iain Chester, executive director

**Press**

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, public relations manager

**Separately Incorporated Ministries**

Mr. Tim Blevins, president and CEO, 1517 Media  
Ms. Stacy Kruse, interim president and CEO, Portico Benefit Services  
Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director, Women of the ELCA (*excused*)  
Ms. Eva Roby, president and CEO, Mission Investment Fund (*excused*)  
Ms. Annette Shoemaker, interim president and CEO, ELCA Foundation

**Ecumenical Guests**

Pr. Dale Buettner, The Reformed Church in America (*excused*)  
Pr. Mark Goodman, The Episcopal Church  
Pr. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, The United Methodist Church (*excused*)  
Ms. Elona Street Stewart, Presbyterian Church in America (*excused*)

**Advisory Members**

Pr. Alejandro Mejia, president, Latino Ministries Association  
Pr. Joan Conroy, president, American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association  
Pr. Khader El-Yateem, president, Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage  
Ms. Shari Seifert, president, European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice  
Pr. Moses Penumaka, president, Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders  
Pr. Jesse W Brown Jr, president, African Descent Lutheran Association  
Ms. Aubrey Thonvold, executive director, ReconcilingWorks (*excused*)

**Revised Nov. 6, 2023**

**Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023**

2:00-5:00 p.m. Audit Committee, Pentecost

**Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023**

11:00 a.m. Executive Committee, 6<sup>th</sup> floor Planning Room

12:00 p.m. Lunch for Executive Committee, outside 6<sup>th</sup> floor Planning Room

12:30 p.m. Executive Committee, 6<sup>th</sup> floor Planning Room

3:00 p.m. **HOLY COMMUNION**, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Chapel

Presider: Pr. Emily Hartner

Preacher: Bp. Don Kreiss

Assisting Minister: Loni Taylor

Lector: Loren Solberg

**PLENARY SESSION ONE**

Council Room  
Nov. 9, 2023  
4:15 – 6:20 p.m.

**I.A Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda**

Agenda items have been distributed electronically. Additional items will be distributed at the meeting to the members of the Church Council and invited resource people. The times noted in the agenda are estimates and provided for information only.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

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

**I.B Report of the Executive Committee**

**I.B.1 Executive Session: Personnel Matters and Election of the Treasurer (*election of the Treasurer excludes the Treasurer in executive session*)**

The Church Council will enter an executive session to discuss personnel matters. This is an executive session for Church Council, Liaison Bishops, Administrative Team, Legal Team and Minutes Team. Other attendees will be invited back to the meeting after this executive session.

Section 13.50 of the ELCA Constitution describes the position, responsibilities, and process for election of the ELCA Treasurer. According to provision 13.52., “The treasurer shall be elected by the Church Council to a six-year term and serve until a successor takes office.” Churchwide bylaw 19.01.01., specifies “The treasurer shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council.” The term of the treasurer, elected at the November 2023 meeting of the Church Council, will begin on February 1, 2024.

In accordance with provision 13.51., “The treasurer shall serve under the presiding bishop of this church.” Bishop Eaton is recommending re-election of Ms. Lori Fedyk to the Executive Committee, who will forward it to the Church Council for consideration. Additional information related to the recommendation will be provided in executive session.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:** *Two-thirds vote required*

**To re-elect Ms. Lori Fedyk to a six-year term as treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, beginning February 1, 2024.**

**I.B.2 Report of Actions in Executive Session**

**I.C Report from the Presiding Bishop**

**I.D Report from the Vice President**

**I.E Report of the Executive Committee**

**I.E.1 Election of Church Council Member**

The Executive Committee has nominated the Rev. Benjamin Bergren, Henderson, NV to fill the vacancy of the Rev. Karn Carroll, Grand Canyon Synod [2D], who resigned from Church Council in

June 2023. If elected, Pr. Bergren would fulfill the remainder of the term ending in 2025. The biographical information for Pr. Bergren can be found [here](#).

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To elect the Rev. Benjamin B. Bergren, Henderson, NV [2D], to the Church Council for a term ending in August 2025.**

**I.F Report from the Administrative Team**

The Administrative Team of the churchwide organization will offer a report. There will be approximately 25 minutes for this time.

**I.G [Report from the Conference of Bishops](#)**

**I.H Ecumenical Greeting, The Episcopal Church**

**I.I Personal Reflection on Faith, Tracey Beasley**

6:30 p.m. Welcome Dinner, Augsburg Room  
*Assorted sodas (complimentary); Wine and beer available (\$5 suggested donation)*

**Revised Nov. 7, 2023**

**Friday, Nov. 10, 2023**

6:30 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)

7:00 a.m. Board Development Committee, Epiphany I (*working breakfast*)

9:00 a.m. Committees meet  
Budget and Finance, Pentecost  
Christian Community and Leadership, Epiphany I  
Faith, Society, and Innovation, 5<sup>th</sup> floor screening room  
Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent  
Service and Justice, Epiphany II

**12:00 p.m.** Lunch, Augsburg Room  
Ecumenical Liaison Lunch, reserved seating in Augsburg Room

**12:30 p.m.** “A Prayer for Lament and Peace” Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Holy Land  
Zoom webinar hosted by the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern  
Heritage (ALAMEH), broadcasted in Augsburg Room

## PLENARY SESSION TWO

Augsburg Room  
Nov. 10, 2023  
2:30 – 6:05 p.m.

### II.A Conversation on Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church

The Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) has met twice so far this year, once in-person and once online. A summary of both meetings can be found at [www.ELCA.org/CRLC](http://www.ELCA.org/CRLC).

Currently, commission members are hosting listening sessions in a variety of settings to gather feedback from a wide range of stakeholders and encourage both participation in and support for the CRLC work. This hour-long agenda time is to engage with Church Council members.

### II.B [Report from the Treasurer](#)

### II.C Report of the Budget and Finance Committee

The following report is provided by the Budget and Finance Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Background information can be located in the Budget and Finance Committee section of Microsoft Teams.

#### II.C.1 FY24 Spending Authorizations for [Unrestricted](#) and [World Hunger](#)

##### **CC ACTION**

##### **Recommended:**

To approve a 2024 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$68,083,962

##### **CC ACTION**

##### **Recommended:**

To approve the 2024 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$26,000,000, provided the January 31, 2024 fund balance is in excess of \$10.0 million.

#### II.C.2 [Review of Fundraising Priorities](#)

##### **CC ACTION**

##### **Recommended:**

To approve the alignment and focus of the fundraising priorities to these areas: Where Needed Most, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, and Future Church: God's Love Made Real, and to empower the Development team to align their resources around these priorities accordingly.

*10-minute Recess*

### II.D Update on Churchwide Organization Priorities and Future Church: God's Love Made Real

This is an opportunity to receive an update on churchwide organization priorities, on the landscape for the focused work, and on the Barna Fuller study for the [Future Church: God's Love Made Real](#) movement. This movement in the ELCA is to create a world experiencing the difference

God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation. This effort is shaping this church's part in the larger world to share God's grace and love through deep listening, hard conversations, and equipping and engaging ELCA ministries to a culture of experimentation and radical welcome.

More information about "God's Love Made Real" can be found at: <https://lovemadereal.elca.org/>.

**II.E Process Observation**

**II.F Announcements**

6:30 p.m. Dinner, The Farehouse O'Hare Plaza Restaurant (8725 W. Higgins Rd)



**Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023**

- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)
- 8:30 a.m. College Corporation Meeting for Luther College, Augsburg Room  
*Church Council members to be present in Augsburg Room*  
*Luther College Board of Regents to be present online ([Zoom link](#))*
- 9:00 a.m. *Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc*  
*Deadline for New Business*

**PLENARY SESSION THREE**

Augsburg Room  
Nov. 11, 2023  
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

**III.A Bible Study**

This 30-minute Bible Study will be led by the Rev. Mark Goodman, ecumenical liaison of The Episcopal Church. The Rev. Goodman will help Church Council reflect on how God came to enter us a changed and transformed people and center the council for its discussions on churchwide priorities.

**III.B Continued update on landscape for Future Church work**

The update on the landscape for Future Church work will be continued. Approximately 30-minutes are scheduled for this agenda time.

**III.C Update on Innovation Projects**

Iain Chester, executive of Innovation home area, will provide a 30-minute update on the innovation projects.

*15-minute break*

**PLENARY SESSION FOUR**

Augsburg Room

Nov. 11, 2023

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**IV.A Open Discussion on Churchwide Organization Priorities**

This hour-long agenda time will be for conversation and discussion on the churchwide organization priorities.

**IV.B Update on ELCA Peace Not Walls Campaign**

In 2022, the Middle East and North Africa desk of ELCA Service and Justice began a review of the ELCA campaign Peace Not Walls, which for almost twenty years has served as a program of accompaniment, awareness-raising, and advocacy for Israel/Palestine in accordance with the ELCA Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine (adopted by the ELCA Church Council and Churchwide Assembly in 2005). A summary of that review process, the key learnings, and the approved recommendations can be found [here](#).

The Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, ELCA Theologian-in-Residence for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and the Rev. Gabi Aelabouni, Director for Middle East and North Africa in the Service and Justice home area, will be present remotely from Jerusalem to provide an update.

**IV.C Process Observation**

**IV.D Announcements**

12:00 p.m.     **SIM (Separately Incorporated Ministry) Lunch Presentations**  
*Lunches available in Augsburg Room*  
Women of the ELCA, Advent  
1517 Media, Epiphany I  
ELCA Foundation, Epiphany II  
Portico Benefit Services, Pentecost  
Mission Investment Fund, 4<sup>th</sup> floor Learning Center Planning Room

**PLENARY SESSION FIVE**

Council Room  
Nov. 11, 2023  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

**V.A Report of the Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee**

The following report is provided by the Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Background information can be located in the Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee section of Microsoft Teams.

**V.B [Report from the Secretary](#)**

**V.C Report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee**

The following report is provided by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Background information can be located in the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee section of Microsoft Teams.

**V.C.1 [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility Audit](#)**

**V.D Legal Briefing** (*executive session for Church Council, Liaison Bishops, Administrative Team, Minutes Team, and Legal Counsel*)

3:30 p.m.      Break

**PLENARY SESSION SIX**

Council Room  
Nov. 11, 2023  
4:00 – 5:10 p.m.

**VI.A Update on 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ELCA World Hunger**

The 15-minute update on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ELCA World Hunger will be provided by Rachel Wind, executive for development in the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

**VI.B Report of the Service and Justice Committee**

The following report is provided by the Service and Justice Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Background information can be located in the Service and Justice Committee section of Microsoft Teams.

**VI.C Report of the Christian Community and Leadership Committee**

The following report is provided by the Christian Community and Leadership Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Background information can be located in the Christian Community and Leadership Committee section of Microsoft Teams.

**VI.D Report of the Board Development Committee**

The following report is provided by the Board Development Committee. Additional items may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

**VI.E Personal Reflection on Faith, Noah Roux**

**VI.F Process Observation**

**VI.G Announcements**

5:30 p.m. Dinner (on your own)

**Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023**

6:30 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 am)

9:00 a.m. **HOLY COMMUNION**, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Chapel

Presider: Pr. Bill Callister

Preacher: Bp. Patricia Lull

Assisting Minister: Ethan Miller-Perez

Lector: Andraine Sinaga

Offering: “Where Needed Most” priority

**PLENARY SESSION SEVEN**

Council Room

Nov. 12, 2023

10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

**VII.A Personal Reflection on Faith, Pr. Kjersten Sullivan**

**VII.B New Business**

**VII.C Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc***

**VII.D *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items**

The following *en bloc* resolution includes agenda items that will be considered on the last day of the Church Council meeting. Inclusion of these items in the *en bloc* action reflects a judgment that these items are relatively non-controversial in nature and may not require plenary discussion and a separate vote.

Each of the items is noted as [*En Bloc*] in [En Bloc Items](#), [Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions](#), [Responses to Synod Actions](#), and [Responses to Previous Church Council Actions](#). On the first day of the Council meeting, the chair will remind members of the deadline to remove items from *en bloc* consideration in order to discuss separately any of the items listed in the *en bloc* resolution; any such item will be removed from the *en bloc* resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

The chair will not call for a discussion or separate vote on those items that are not removed from the *en bloc* resolution. The items remaining in the *en bloc* resolution normally will be considered as one of the last items of council business.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To take action *En Bloc* on the items listed in *En Bloc Items*, *Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions*, *Responses to Synod Actions*, and *Responses to Previous Church Council Actions*.**

**VII.E Q&A women in ministry question boards**

During the Church Council meeting, there will be question boards placed throughout the hallway. This is part of the Quality of Call for Women in Ministry Initiative to draw people into thinking about the systemic inequities women in ministry experience. Dr. Mary Streufert, director for gender justice

and women's empowerment and director for Quality of Call Initiative, will be with Church Council to engage and ask questions about Church Council members' interaction with the content of the question boards.

**VII.F Unfinished Business, if needed**

**VII.G Evaluation and Debriefing**

**VII.H Announcements and Adjournment**

11:30 a.m. Lunch, Brown bag lunch available **outside Council Room**

12:00 p.m. *Ad Hoc* Committee on Implementing Resolution 17 related to *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action* (2019), Pentecost (*includes brown bag lunch*)