



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Lutheran Center, Chicago, Illinois, November 9-12, 2017. The council centered its work around worship, Bible study, prayer and personal reflections on faith.

The Church Council took action on the following:

- elected a new treasurer* of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to a six-year term, beginning February 1, 2018
- presented the Servus Dei Award to Treasurer Linda Norman in thanksgiving for her service
- elected Ms. Man-Hei Yip to the Church Council; Ms. Ingrid Stafford to the Executive Committee; and Pastor Tiffany Chaney to the Nominating Committee
- approved the process of transferring the activities of the ELCA Foundation to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA
- directed the Theological Education Advisory Committee to define a single seminary governance structure
- adopted a revised social message on human rights
- appointed a task force to provide benchmarks, accountability and support for attaining diversity goals in all expressions of this church
- declined the request for the ELCA to declare itself a sanctuary denomination, yet supported the spirit of the sanctuary movement by encouraging congregations to serve and support the protection of migrants in their communities
- affirmed the recommendations adopted by the African Descent Lutheran Association biennial gathering related to a process for relationship building and systematic analysis
- approved a 2018 fiscal year fund spending authorization of \$67,140,670 and an ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$23,750,000
- requested that the churchwide organization prepare a plan for the process by which “where needed most” dollars in *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* will be allocated
- deferred the question of developing social messages on aging or the U.S. National Drug Policy until 2018
- adopted “Vision, Process and Practice of ELCA Campus Ministry: Guidelines and Recommendations”
- approved revisions to the Environment Social Criteria Investment Screen
- approved the report of the audit committee
- elected members of the boards of separately incorporated ministries, seminaries, and other organizations and approved appointments to the audit committee and the Justice for Women Consulting Committee
- allocated additional members to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly
- approved amended bylaws of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA
- ratified amendments to synod constitutions
- approved the Asset Transfer Agreement for the reunion of Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary and revised bylaws of Capital University
- commended the Lutheran World Federation Gender Justice Policy to the ELCA for study and consideration

The Church Council received/engaged in the following:

- reports from the officers, its committees, the churchwide organization Administrative Team and the Conference of Bishops
- update on the hearing process for the Women and Justice Social Statement
- discussion on sustainability and church structures
- discussion on Joint Leadership Table commitments
- shared congregational vitality learnings
- primer on AMMPARO Strategy
- conversation with ethnic specific association representatives
- updates on Lutheran Disaster Response
- update on The Campaign for the ELCA
- greetings from ecumenical partners

*The name of the treasurer will be released once the individual has had an opportunity to inform the current employer.