

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 4-7, 2019
Chicago, Illinois

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Pr. Hans Becklin | Ms. Emilee Le Blanc |
| Mr. Allan Bieber | Mr. John Lohrmann |
| Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, Secretary | Mr. Joseph Nolte |
| Ms. Lisa Burk (<i>nominated</i>) | Pr. Linda Nou |
| Ms. Cheryl Chatman | Mr. Gary Pederson |
| Mr. Reid Christopherson | Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli |
| Bp. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop | Pr. Ricardo Rivera (<i>nominated</i>) |
| Ms. Lori Fedyk, Treasurer | Mr. Clarence Smith |
| Pr. William Flippin Jr. | Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson |
| Pr. Dena Gable | Ms. Ingrid Stafford |
| Bp. William Gafkjen | Ms. Leslie Swenson |
| Pr. Joyce Graue | Pr. James Utt |
| Ms. Cynthia Gustavson | Mr. Vernon Veal |
| Mr. William Horne, Vice President | Pr. William Voss |
| Pr. Chad Huebner | Ms. Emma Wagner |
| Ms. Maren Hulden | Pr. Michael Ward |
| Mr. James Hushagen | Mr. Philip Wirtanen (<i>nominated</i>) |
| Mr. James Jennings | Ms. Sonja Wolfe |
| Pr. Peder Johanson | Ms. Man-Hei Yip (<i>excused</i>) |
| | Mr. Seth Zimmann |

Liaison Bishops

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Bp. Jeffrey Clements | |
| Bp. Steve Delzer | Bp. Brian Maas |
| Bp. Suzanne Dillahunt | Bp. John Macholz |
| Bp. Guy Erwin | Bp. Kirby Unti |
| Bp. Richard Graham | Bp. Pedro Suárez |

Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Administration
Ms. Deborah Coe, Executive for Planning Research and Evaluation
Ms. Kathryn Johnson, Director, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, Executive for Human Resources
Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations and Theological Discernment
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Synodical Relations
Ms. Judith Roberts, Program Director, Racial Justice Ministries
Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, Natural Systems Coordinator
Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Bishop, Governance
Dr. Mary Streufert, Director, Justice for Women
Pr. Kevin Strickland, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Worship
Pr. Roger Willer, Director, Theological Ethics

Office of the Secretary

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, General Counsel
Ms. Aja Favors, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Marit Johnson, Manager, Official Documentation
Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Assistant to the Secretary

Unit Staff

Pr. Philip Hirsch, Executive Director, Domestic Mission (DM)
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement (MA)
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission (GM)
Ms. Evelyn Soto, Director for DM Operations and Programs, DM
Pr. David Wunsch, Director for Unit Operations and Programs, GM
Pr. Ronald Glusenkamp, Director for *The Campaign for the ELCA*, MA
Ms. Victoria Flood, Director for Mission Support, MA
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, Director for Strategic Communications, MA
Pr. Albert Starr, Director for Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, President, ELCA Foundation
Mr. Tim Blevins, President and CEO, 1517 Media
Pr. Martin Seltz, Publisher, 1517 Media
Ms. Eva Roby, President and CEO, Mission Investment Fund
Pr. Jeffrey Thiemann, President and CEO, Portico Benefit Services

Press

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

Ecumenical Guests

Pr. Jeffrey Copping, Moravian Church in North America (*excused*)
Bishop Susan Johnson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Pr. Daniel Meeter, The Reformed Church in America
Dr. Steven Nishibayashi, The Episcopal Church
Dr. Kyle Tau, The United Methodist Church

Ethnic Specific Ministry Association Guests

Pr. Joan Conroy, American Indian Alaskan Native Lutheran Association, president (*excused*)
Pr. Khader Khalilia, Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage, representative
Pr. Martín López Vega, Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos, president
Ms. Donna Matteis, European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice, president
Pr. Gigie Sijera-Grant, Asian and Pacific Islander Lutheran Association, president
Pr. Lamont Wells, African Descent Lutheran Association, president

Thursday, April 4, 2019

- 10:00 a.m. Executive Committee, Full Epiphany
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch for Executive Committee, outside Full Epiphany
Salaried officer reviews with Executive Committee teams (working lunch)
- 1:30 p.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
Presider: Pr. Hans Becklin
Preacher: Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson
Assisting Minister: Ms. Cheryl Chatman
Lector: Dr. Kyle Tau, United Methodist Church ecumenical liaison
- Church Council Choir Rehearsal following worship, 1st Floor Chapel

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Council Room
April 4, 2019
3:00 – 6:00 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 only and are 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 Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the [fall 2018](#) of the Church Council have been provided to council members electronically on My.ELCA.org. Minutes for meetings held in executive session were added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on [November 8, 2018](#), [January 29, 2019](#), [February 12, 2019](#) and [March 12, 2019](#) have been provided electronically on My.ELCA.org to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

Please provide in writing for the Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration any notations or typographical errors in the distributed text of the minutes. Proper corrections will be entered into the protocol copies of the minutes. Such corrections need not be raised in the plenary session in connection with the approval of the minutes.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

**To approve the minutes of November 8-11, 2018 meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 8, 2018, January 29, 2019, February 12, 2019 and March 12, 2019.**

I.C [Report from the Presiding Bishop](#)

I.D Ecumenical Greetings

National Bishop Susan Johnson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

I.E Report of the Executive Committee

I.E.1 Church Council Nominations and Elections

The nominating committee has nominated Mr. Philip Wirtanen, Bergland, MI, to replace Mr. Ervin Sparapani, Northern Great Lakes Synod [5G]; Ms. Lisa Burk, Torrington, CT, to replace Ms. Andrea Micovsky, Slovak Zion Synod [7G]; and Pr. Ricardo Rivera, Caguas, Puerto Rico, to replace Pr. Lori "LB" Tatum, Caribbean Synod [9F].

Biographical information for the nominees is provided [here](#).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To elect Mr. Philip Wirtanen, Bergland, MI [5G], Ms. Lisa A. Burk, Torrington, CT [7G], and the Rev. Ricardo E. Rivera, Caguas, Puerto Rico [9F], to the Church Council for a term ending in 2022.

I.E.2 Sustainability Thought Paper

The Joint Leadership Table has reviewed a thought document, including recommendations, on a shared understanding of sustainability in the context of this church. This document entitled “Towards a Faithful and Multidimensional Understanding of Sustainability” advances the aspiration expressed in goal five of Future Directions 2025 for “a well-governed, connected and sustainable church.” This is an internal document for use by the Conference of Bishops, Church Council and the churchwide organization. You can read the sustainability thought paper [here](#).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm “Towards a Faithful and Multidimensional Understanding of Sustainability” as an agreed understanding of sustainability and a joint commitment to further action around church sustainability; and

To approve the accompanying recommendations identified in the sustainability thought paper.

I.E.3 Site for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly

The Office of the Secretary is responsible to “arrange for and manage meetings of the Churchwide Assembly...” (ELCA 13.41.02) and presents its recommendation for a Churchwide Assembly site to the Church Council for approval.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To designate [Greater Columbus Convention Center] Columbus, Ohio – subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church – as the site for the Sixteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August 8-August 13, 2022; and

To authorize the Executive Committee to select another venue, if negotiations are not successful.

I.E.4 Declaration of the ELCA to African Descent Community

At the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, the assembly received the African Descent Lutherans memorial from 10 synods calling for a number of actions related to the ELCA’s observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the commemoration of the United Nation’s International decade of People of African Descent. In response, the assembly requested in part that the Domestic Mission unit staff create a “Declaration to the African Descent Community.” [CA16.05.17]

For the past two years, staff have provided progress updates to Church Council on the development and challenges of the work. At the November 2018 meeting, the Church Council engaged in a “Cleansing and Contemplative Conversation on Racial Justice.” Following that conversation at the same meeting, the Church Council authorized a working group to draft a declaration to the African descent community [CC18.11.23]. Members of the working group were appointed by the Executive Committee at its January 2019 meeting [EC19.01.03]. Those members are Ms. Emma Wagner, Ms. Sonja Wolfe, Mr. Clarence Smith, Bishop Bill Gohl, and Ms. Donna

Matteis. Ms. Judith Roberts, program director for racial justice ministries, Pr. Albert Starr, director for ethnic-specific and multicultural ministries, and Ms. Jodi Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance, serve as staff resource persons to the group.

The working group have reviewed previous apologies from the ELCA as well as from other ecumenical partners and begun drafting the apology. The Executive Committee has received an update on its progress. Church Council will have an opportunity to review and discuss the document.

Once adopted by Church Council, the declaration would be shared at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

10-minute break

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

I.G Report of the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee

At the November 2018 meeting, the Church Council approved a Preface and Part 1 of the Governance Policy Manual [CC18.11.15]. The council, liaison bishops and Administrative Team also engaged in a brainstorming session to identify the issues and solutions for council to more effectively fulfill its role as stated in Part 1.

Since then, the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee has continued its work on the Governance Policy Manual, focusing on Part 2. In that process, the ad hoc committee recognized that a section about the individual responsibilities of a Church Council member should be included in Part 1. The committee also identified a [list of items for further consideration](#).

Church Council and Conference of Bishops received an outline of Part 2. Church Council had the opportunity to provide feedback on the working outline of Part 2, the list of issues previously identified, and the list of ideas and solutions also identified at the November 2018 meeting.

The [addition to Part 1 and a draft of Part 2](#) will be discussed at this April 2019 meeting. We will have about 45 minutes for this discussion and possible action.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To request the Executive Committee establish a process to assess the existing committee structure and future needs for Church Council, and for recommendations to be presented by the April 2021 Church Council meeting;

To request the Board Development Committee consider and implement the list of items for further consideration identified by the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee;

To request the Office of the Secretary and the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee consider a propose bylaw amendment to 14.41.01 related to assigning a governance function role to the Executive Committee; and

To commend the work of the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee and to request the ad hoc committee present a final Governance Policy Manual no later than August 2019 Church Council meeting.

I.H Personal Reflection on Faith by Pr. Jim Utt

I.I Hymn and Prayer

6:15 p.m. Welcome Dinner, Augsburg Room
Wine and beer available (\$5 suggested donation)

Friday, April 5, 2019

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 a.m.)
- 8:00 a.m. 45-minute optional conversation on Trustworthy Servants, Council Room
- 9:00 a.m. Committees meet
Budget and Finance, Pentecost
Legal and Constitutional Review, Council
Program and Services, Full Epiphany
Planning and Evaluation, 10th Floor Training Room
- 12:15 p.m. Mid-Day Prayer, 1st Floor Chapel
Led by Pr. Peder Johanson
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch, Augsburg Room
Ecumenical Liaison Lunch, 6th Floor Planning Room
- 1:30 p.m. Committees continue to meet
Budget and Finance, Pentecost
Legal and Constitutional Review, Council
Program and Services, Full Epiphany
Planning and Evaluation, 10th Floor Training Room
- 3:00 p.m. Break

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Council Room
April 5, 2019
3:30 – 6:00 p.m.

II.A EXECUTIVE SESSION: Legal Briefing

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, General Counsel, will provide a briefing to Church Council on legal matters. This is an executive session for Church Council, liaison bishops, Administrative Team and Minutes Team.

II.B Ecumenical Greeting, United Methodist Church

II.C Update on the [Campaign for the ELCA](#)

The *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* is in its final year of its 5-year effort to raise \$198 million. We are grateful for the ongoing support of generous individuals like you.

Pr. Ron Gluskamp will present an update on the Campaign for the ELCA at this meeting. Mr. Joe Nolte serves as the Church Council liaison on the campaign steering committee.

II.D Update from Task Force on Income Strategies and Future Campaigns

The following report is provided by the Task Force on Income Strategies and Future Campaigns. Mr. Joe Nolte serves as chair for the task force and will present an approximately 15-minute update. The written report can be found [here](#).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To request the churchwide organization lead broad fundraising efforts throughout the ELCA focused around the strategic priorities as outlined in Future Directions 2025, using its major foci to shape efforts;

To approve continuing fundraising for programs that have proven donor interest and where the churchwide organization has an ongoing obligation: ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Fund for Leaders, International Women Leaders, Young Adults in Global Mission, Missionary Sponsorship and Lutheran Disaster Response;

To support the completion of the specific appeals for Disability Ministries, New and Renewing Congregations, Youth and Young Adults, and Global Ministries as specific focus areas after the conclusion of *The Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, not precluding acceptance or distribution of funds offered by donors after the Campaign; and

To affirm the continuation of the Task Force to consider how to grow resources to support the priorities of the churchwide organization, as outlined in Future Directions 2025.

II.E [Report from the Vice President](#)

10-minute break

II.F **Reflection Time with Class of 2019**

On behalf of a grateful church, we are blessed to have this opportunity to hear reflections from the Church Council Class of 2019. They have served thoughtfully and diligently as this church's board of directors.

Members of the Class of 2019 are: Hans Becklin, Allan Bieber, Reid Christopherson, William Flippin, Jr., Joyce Graue, Cynthia Gustavson, James Hushagen, Maren Hulden, Emilee Le Blanc, John Lohrmann, Linda Nou, Meri Jo Petrivelli, Jonathan Splichal Larson, Peder Johanson, Clarence Smith, Ingrid Stafford, Leslie Swenson, Jim Utt, Vernon Veal, Will Voss, Mike Ward, Man Hei Yip, and Seth Zimmann.

II.G **Process Observation**

II.H **Announcements**

II.I **Hymn and Prayer**

6:00 p.m. Dinner, Augsburg Room
 Celebration of the Class of 2019
 Wine and beer available

Saturday, April 6, 2019

6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 a.m.)

PLENARY SESSION THREE

Council Room

April 6, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

III.A Bible Study, led by Bishop Guy Erwin

III.B [Report from the Secretary](#)

III.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 found in the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

III.C.1 Revision of ELCA Philosophy of Benefits

Since the inception of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the health and well-being of rostered ministers and lay employees have been underlying priorities of this whole church and a principal focus of the work of Portico Benefit Services, a ministry of the ELCA, (Portico) (formerly known as the Board of Pensions of the ELCA). These priorities carry with them a foundation in the theology of this church, a legacy from predecessor church bodies, and a history involving the evolution of benefit programs. In an effort to identify foundational principles undergirding its benefit programs and to recognize changes in this church and in society, Portico approved an ELCA Philosophy of Benefits Report in 2004. Since then, even more dramatic changes have occurred, and Portico has revisited and revised the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits to reflect these new realities. The most recent revision was adopted at the August 2013 Church Council meeting [CC13.08.37].

An ELCA Philosophy of Benefits Task Force was tasked with revising the Philosophy of Benefits and completing a thorough review of the one-size-fits-all approach. In this review, the task force determined changes needed to reflect more opportunities for employers and plan members to choose an option that best meets their needs. The ELCA Philosophy of Benefits provides the framework for protection and flexibility. It was reviewed by the Portico of Benefits Board of Trustees and Conference of Bishops this spring. The proposed Philosophy of Benefits can be found [here](#).

The Rev. Jeffrey Thiemann, President and CEO of Portico Benefit Services, will provide an approximately 15-minute presentation.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the revised ELCA Philosophy of Benefits; and

To encourage and invite plan members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA-related agencies and institutions, and other employers to reflect upon, discuss, and

employ the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits when they evaluate and implement benefit programs and engage in employment decisions involving benefits.

III.D Report of the Program and Services Committee

The following report is provided by the Program and Services 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 found in the Program and Services Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

III.D.1 Replacement of Vision and Expectations

This church's governing documents (*Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* bylaws 7.31.01., 7.61.01, and 14.21.02.) assign the adoption of *Vision and Expectations* to the Church Council. Social statements are the teaching documents for our church, setting the standards by which all other documents are developed. The process for creating social statements is extensive, involving thousands of voices across the ELCA. Following the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, *Vision and Expectations* was approved by Church Council in 2010 after review by the Conference of Bishops.

The current review process following the 2016 Churchwide Assembly has been moving along for some time. Minor revisions were completed by the Candidacy Leadership Team of the Domestic Mission unit and presented to the Conference of Bishops at its Spring 2018 meeting. The Conference of Bishops recommended that more revisions were needed before the new document could go to Church Council. The team was also advised to listen to the voices of other partners.

Comments were received from bishops, synod staff, and seminary partners. Conversation was also initiated by Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM) and an offer was made by the person tasked by the Domestic Mission Unit to draft the document to ELM's Executive Director to be included but there was no follow through inviting leaders from that community into the drafting of the new documents.

A second draft was presented to the Conference of Bishops at its Fall 2018 meeting. Recognizing the hurt and pain caused by the former document *Vision and Expectations* to the LGBTQIA community, the Conference of Bishops recommended that a new and differently named document be developed and presented to the Spring 2019 meeting of the Conference of Bishops.

In collaboration with the Leadership Committee of the Conference of Bishops, a writing team was identified, and work began to rewrite the new document, "*Trustworthy Servants of the People of God.*" At its Spring 2019 meeting, the Conference of Bishops reviewed and offered advice and counsel, in accordance with the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*. The Conference of Bishops advised the Domestic Mission unit to present the new document to the Church Council at its April 2019 meeting with the understanding that [*Trustworthy Servants of the People of God*](#) is aspirational, and the ELCA Constitution and the *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* are the documents that focus on discipline.

A public comment period was provided following the Conference of Bishops Spring 2019 meeting. The collection of that feedback is available [here](#). Background and frequently asked questions can be found [here](#).

A 45-minute optional conversation on *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God* is scheduled for Friday, April 5, at 8:00 a.m. CT. Program and Services Committee will review a document to replace *Vision and Expectations*, titled [*Trustworthy Servants of the People of God*](#) and offer its recommendation to Church Council.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

[To be provided]

10-minute break

III.E Report from the Administrative Team

III.F Ecumenical Greetings, The Episcopal Church

III.G Announcements

12:00 p.m. Lunch, Augsburg Room
Board Development Committee, Advent Room (*working lunch*)

12:00 p.m. **Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc**
Deadline for New Business

PLENARY SESSION FOUR

Council Room
April 6, 2019
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

IV.A. Ecumenical Greeting, Reformed Church in America

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

IV.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 found in the Budget and Finance Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

IV.C.1 Proposed 2020-2022 Triennium Budget

The Church Council is responsible for submitting budget proposals for approval by the Churchwide Assembly and authorizing expenditures within the parameters of approved budgets [ELCA Constitution 14.21.05.].

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

2020 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2020 current fund spending authorization of \$68,378,325;
To approve a 2020 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,500,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to revise the spending authorizations after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2021 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2021 current fund income proposal of \$68,442,034;
To approve a 2021 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$21,500,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2022 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2022 current fund income proposal of \$68,507,018;
To approve a 2022 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$21,500,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

IV.C.2 Update on Mission Support Experiments

At the November 2018 meeting, Church Council voted to extend the mission support experiment with the five synods through January 31, 2021 and requested a group of bishops and staff bring an initial report to the April 2019 Church Council meeting [CC18.11.22]. The group convened on March 3 to discuss the impacts of the experiment and to begin to address the broader implications.

The initial report can be found [here](#). A final report and recommendations are expected to come to the November 2019 Church Council meeting.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To accept the following process to measure and communicate the results of the Mission Support Experiment which ends January 31, 2021 in the following synods (Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Nebraska, New England, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast):

- 1) To approve the measurements and process presented at the April 2019 Church Council meeting;**
- 2) To permit the chair of Budget and Finance Committee to formally communicate the measurements and process to the bishops of the Mission Support Experiment Synods as soon as practical after Church Council approval;**
- 3) To request the Mission Support Experiment Synod leaders and appropriate churchwide staff present an initial report at the November 2019 Church Council meeting covering the actions approved at the November 2018 meeting;**
- 4) To provide updates at each Church Council and Conference of Bishops meeting between April 2019 and November 2021;**
- 5) To ask the Mission Support Experiment Synods that as part of ongoing Mission Support intent reporting to provide to the churchwide organization the dollar amounts withheld for the experiment for FY 2020 and FY 2021 for planning purposes;**
- 6) To request final data/report from Mission Support Experiment Synods to be presented at the April 2021 Church Council meeting;**
- 7) To request Mission Support Experiment Synods to prepare for two scenarios for their FY 2022 budget (Continue or End); and**
- 8) To request a final report and decision from the Budget and Finance Committee to be presented for action at the November 2021 Church Council meeting.**

IV.D Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee

The following report is provided by the Planning and Evaluation 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 found in the Planning and Evaluation Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

IV.D.1 Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity Task Force Recommendations

At this meeting, Church Council will receive an update from the Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity with the ELCA Task Force [CA16.05.25] (Motion B). The update will include a [report and recommendations](#) to be considered for transmission to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

[to be provided]

IV.D.2 Churchwide Organization 2018 Operational Plan

Planning and Evaluation Committee will consider the progress toward Future Directions 2025 goals and the churchwide organization operational objectives to-date. This is the first year of a two-year plan.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

**To receive the ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan Report for 2018; and
To thank the staff of the churchwide organization for their ongoing work, with particular
thanks to those staff members who actively participated in the review of the report.**

IV.E Personal Reflection on Faith by Ms. Ingrid Stafford

3:00 p.m. Break

PLENARY SESSION FIVE

Council Room
April 6, 2019
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

V.A Report of the Program and Services Committee

This is a continuation of the Program and Services Committee report.

V.A.1 Social Statement on Women and Justice and Implementing Resolutions

The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ has shared the proposed ELCA social statement, [*Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*](#). Upon completion of their six years of service, the task force has signed off unanimously on this proposed social statement. The public release of the text was March 7.

Church Council, Conference of Bishops and selected churchwide office staff were invited to review and provide any suggested improvements. These corrections to the proposed statement as it came from the task force combined suggestions from a review by these three groups.

The recommendations for correcting the wording have been prepared by a task force review team. The Program and Services Committee will finalize recommendations for Church Council consideration.

This proposed statement with accompanying implementing resolutions will be acted upon by the Church Council at its April meeting for recommendation to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

To adopt the proposed social statement “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action” as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following implementing resolutions for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

- 1. To urge members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, social ministry organizations, church-related institutions, ecumenical partners, and all people of good will to be guided by this statement’s convictions and commitments to resist and dismantle patriarchy and sexism, and to transform life in the church and in society;**
- 2. To call upon members of this church to pray, work, and advocate for justice for all those affected by sexism and patriarchy and to draw upon this statement in forming their judgments and actions in daily life;**
- 3. To encourage members to be guided by the ELCA social message on “Gender-based Violence” (2015) in taking action, such as urging their congregations to implement**

policies and to become intentional sites of advocacy and support for local efforts that serve those affected by such violence;

4. To call upon all members of this church to reflect on how mass media (films, video games, etc.) and social media distort sex, gender, and sexuality and to address this problem in their own actions (especially their care for children);
5. To call upon congregational leaders, rostered and lay, to encourage women and girls to pursue leadership roles within congregations and in discernment toward rostered ministry;
6. To encourage ELCA congregations to present positive gender roles in their educational activities, preschools, and day care, and to urge youth-related ministries within this church to adopt positive modeling of gender equity in all leadership, programs and educational events;
7. To urge congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization (CWO) to address inequities (in pay, senior leadership, availability of second and third calls, etc.) for rostered and lay women of various backgrounds, identities, and personal experiences;
8. To call upon the Conference of Bishops, synods, and the churchwide organization to use gender-inclusive and expansive language for God, and to direct the ELCA worship team
 - a) to use such language whenever it commissions, curates, or develops new liturgical and related educational resources, and (b) to supplement existing resources toward that end;
9. To direct the Mission Advancement unit of the CWO to collaborate with the Office of the Bishop in creating a single page at ELCA.org where readers can access the existing resources of the ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation related to the concerns of this statement and to work to make those resources available in languages other than English;
10. To call upon this church's advocacy and related ministries, such as the Washington office and ELCA World Hunger, to support and advocate for measures, policies, and laws consistent with this social statement and to give sustained attention to its convictions and commitments in the creation of programs and projects;
11. To recognize past and present CWO efforts to address institutional sexism and foster gender justice in this church, and to urge sustained devotion of resources, such as support for the CWO's Justice for Women program;
12. To commend the ongoing ministries of Women of the ELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission, and to encourage participation in their work, especially as they address the issues identified in this social statement;
13. To call upon those engaged in publishing activities throughout the ELCA to continue and extend their support for gender equity in ELCA resources and communications through such dimensions as language, images, stories, themes, and representation of contributors;
14. To urge faculty, staff, and administrators of ELCA-related colleges, universities, and seminaries to renew their efforts to develop syllabi and best practices that affirm and promote the gifts of women from varied identities and backgrounds;
15. To call upon rostered and lay congregational leaders, synod and CWO staff, social ministry organizations, and faculty and staff at ELCA colleges, seminaries, and universities to renew their efforts to welcome, care for, and support the lives and gifts of LGBTQIA persons and to oppose discrimination against these persons so that they may live into the promise of gender justice envisioned in this social statement;

- 16. To call for the church in all its expressions and related agencies, organizations, and institutions to embed and incorporate anti-sexism training and protocols in their ongoing work; and**
- 17. To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with appropriate units in the CWO, to establish and oversee processes for implementation of and accountability for these resolutions and to report to the fall meeting of ELCA Church Council in 2021.**

V.B New Business

V.C Personal Reflection on Faith by Mr. John Lohrmann

V.D Announcements

V.E Hymn and Prayer

5:00 p.m. Dinner (on your own)

Sunday, April 7, 2019

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 am)
- 9:00 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
Installation of Church Council nominees
Offering: International Women Leaders Program
- Presider: Pr. Linda Nou
Preacher: Pr. Mike Ward
Assisting Minister: Ms. Emilee Le Blanc
Lector: Mr. Bill Horne

PLENARY SESSION SIX

Council Room
April 7, 2019
10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

VI.A 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.B Unfinished Business

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

VI.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](#), and [Responses to Synod Resolutions](#). 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 (Two-thirds approval required)

Recommended:

To approve the archival of a social message as listed in En Bloc Items.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

VI.E Personal Reflection on Faith

VI.F Process Observation

VI.G Evaluation and Debriefing

VI.H Hymn and Prayer

VI.I Adjournment

12:00 p.m. Lunch, Brown bag lunch available