



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 7-10, 2019. The council centered its work around worship, Bible study, prayer and personal reflections on faith.

The Church Council took the following actions:

- elected the Rev. Marcus Bigott, Mr. Joe Nolte and Ms. Loni Taylor to serve on the council's Executive Committee with the officers, chair of Conference of Bishops and standing committee chairs
- thanked the Rev. Wyvetta Bullock for her faithful service as the executive for administration and many years of service to this church
- authorized use of the rites for Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Service, Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, Installation of a Deacon, and Installation of a Pastor
- created an advisory team to receive updates, track progress and provide periodic reports to the council on the "Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA"
- adopted a continuing resolution creating a Resource Development Committee of the council to continue developing strategies related to funding initiatives and future churchwide appeals
- requested a report on research being done to determine the extent opportunity and pay gaps exist, based on gender and race, among rostered ministers of this church
- adopted the "Memorandum of Mutual Recognition of Relations of Full Communion" among The Episcopal Church, Anglican Church of Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and ELCA, recognizing that the relations of the ELCA with the Anglican Church of Canada serve as full communion
- authorized development of a social message on the vocation of citizenship, civic engagement, and church and state as requested by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly
- deferred questions of developing social messages on U.S. National Drug Policy, aging, gender identity, or gun policy until the Fall 2020 Church Council meeting when a new assessment of each issue, staff capacity and finances will be made
- affirmed development of a resource on deportation as well as a plan to develop a study guide and a deliberative model regarding "Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities" (AMMPARO)
- referred the Conference of Bishops recommendation "to give priority to this church's response to the global crisis of climate change" to the Domestic Mission unit
- affirmed a timeline, which included conversation with Conference of Bishops and Church Council at its joint spring 2020 meeting, and asked the AMMPARO team for definitions and guidelines of what it means to be a sanctuary church body for the three expressions of the ELCA to be provided to the fall 2020 Church Council meeting
- adopted Reference and Counsel Committee recommendations regarding unfinished business from the 2019 Churchwide Assembly
- approved a 2020 spending authorization of \$67,666,652 for the churchwide organization and \$21,596,595 for ELCA World Hunger
- received the final report of its Theological Education Advisory Committee, approved the committee's recommended transition plan, and thanked its members for their service
- ratified or approved the appointments of its members to the Church Council standing committees for the 2019-2022 triennium

- approved the audit committee report for fiscal year 2018 and engaged Crowe LLP and Capin Crouse LLP to audit the churchwide organization for fiscal year 2019
- approved amendments to certain corporate social responsibility documents
- approved revised governing documents of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
- encouraged council members to engage regularly with their own synods and their partner synods
- approved revised committee charters
- elected members to certain churchwide boards and committees and to certain governing boards and advisory committees of ELCA seminaries

The Church Council received/engaged in the following:

- reports from the officers, its committees, the Administrative Team and the Conference of Bishops
- greeting from Ms. Rose Simmons whose father, the Rev. Daniel Lee Simmons Sr., was one of the nine martyred on June 27, 2015, at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina
- Bible study led by the Rev. Cheryl Pero using “Luther’s Small Catechism with African Descent Reflections”
- update on the replacement of “Vision and Expectations”
- reports or timelines for reports requested by the Churchwide Assembly
- update from the Task Force to Consider a Future Campaign and Income Strategies
- update on mission support experiments being conducted in five synods
- reports and presentations from this church’s separately incorporated ministries
- stewardship conversations
- conversation on the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to inform planning for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly
- greetings from ecumenical partners