The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Lutheran Center, Chicago, Illinois, April 4-6, 2014. The council welcomed 3 new members and centered its work around daily worship, frequent prayer, and personal reflections on faith. It lived into its commitment to be a "Book of Faith" council by participating in a Bible study led by Bishop Claire Burkat, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Among the items on which the Church Council took action were the following:

- elected Mr. Fernando Mercado, Warrenville, Illinois; Rev. Karsten Decker, Bermuda; and Ms. Man Hei Yip, North Quincy, Massachusetts, to the Church Council
- extended the time for the development of a social message on gender-based violence to the April 2015 Church Council meeting
- approved the Planning and Reporting Framework of the Churchwide Organization Operational Plan
- placed 25% of the proceeds retained by the ELCA from the sale of the Tonner Collection into a Church Council designated fund for support of regional archives
- received responses from churchwide units to synod resolutions on confirmation, parental leave for rostered persons, isolation of individuals living in our communities (which was referred back to the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit), seminarian debts incurred through inadequate health insurance, commissioning of an adult catechism, peacemaking with justice in Israel and Palestine, Uniting American Families Act, community violence, and communion practices.
- approved minor amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA
- approved bylaws of Lutheran Services in America
- approved revisions to the ELCA Global Mission Unit Personnel Policies and Expectations
- elected members to the boards of the Publishing House of the ELCA (Augsburg Fortress, Publishers), Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg; Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, and to the Committee of Hearing Officers

The Church Council received the following:

- reports from the officers
- reports from its committees
- report from the Conference of Bishops
- report from the executive for administration
- update on the Bishops' think tank on mission support
- update and invitation to participate in *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, including the implementation and integration of churchwide assembly action related to youth and young adults and disability ministries
- update on work related to the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

- progress on the social statement on women and justice
- final report of Living into the Future Together (LIFT)
- primer on communal spiritual discernment
- update on the Church Council Retreat to be held in August 2014
- primer on the work of Augsburg Fortress

The Church Council also participated in:

- racial and gender awareness training
- conversation as a Committee of the Whole regarding the work of the Word and Service Task Force
- listening event on the social statement on women and justice
- lunch conversations with directors and staff of separately incorporated ministries
- process observation
- health and wellness activities
- café conversations
- sharing of joys and concerns

The complete list of Church Council actions will be posted on the Office of the Secretary web pages.