



Office of the Secretary
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, on April 13–15, 2012. The council centered its work around daily worship, frequent prayer, and Dwelling in the Word reflections led by members of the Communal Discernment Task Force. It lived into its commitment to be a “Book of Faith” council by participating in a Bible study led by the Rev. Jon V. Anderson, bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod.

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

- in response to an action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, established a process for the formation of a task force on mission funding as well as a timetable and process for reporting
- elected the Rev. Joyce M. Graue to a term ending in 2013 on the Church Council
- delegated to the Executive Committee of the Church Council (exclusive of the presiding bishop and secretary and with the addition of the chair of the Conference of Bishops) responsibility for review of the process for election of officers and requested that possible recommendations be brought no later than the November 2012 council meeting
- adopted an interim process for undertaking corporate social responsibility work and approved the following corporate social responsibility documents: Social Criteria Investment Screens Criteria, as revised; Corporate Social Responsibility Issue Paper Policy and Procedures, as revised; Boycott Policy and Procedures, as revised; and the Genetics Issue Paper
- acknowledged the dissolution of the Lutheran Youth Organization in its current form at the churchwide expression and received the plan for new directions in ELCA youth ministry
- approved a revised 2012 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$65,498,135 and a revised 2012 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$19,900,000
- approved \$400,000 in Church Council designated funds for support of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, if necessary
- approved revisions to 2012 synodical mission-support plans and initial 2013 synodical mission-support plans
- requested that Mission Advancement unit provide resources for members of the Church Council as they advocate for the sustaining and increasing of mission support
- elected council members Ms. Pamela E. Pritt and the Rev. Robert G. Moore as advisory members to the task force for the social statement on justice for women
- elected members to the boards of trustees and boards of directors of the following: Portico Benefit Services, Lutheran Medical Center, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and Wartburg Theological Seminary
- responded to resolutions from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod on human rights violations against the Oromo people and the Southwest California Synod on the closing of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly the School of the Americas)
- approved amendments to the amended and restated articles of incorporation and the bylaws of Wartburg Theological Seminary and to the amended bylaws and continuing resolutions of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries
- approved the revised charter and bylaws of Lenoir-Rhyne University to reflect its merger with Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

- approved changes to signatories related to the ELCA Foundation
- affirmed the ongoing work of the Public Ministry Consultation Planning Team in expectation of a report and possible recommendations to the November 2012 council meeting.

The Church Council received the following:

- reports from the officers
- reports from its committees
- a report from the Conference of Bishops
- a report from the executive for administration
- an interim report from the task force on addressing social concerns
- an update on the work of the task force for the social statement on criminal justice
- an update on preliminary work on the social statement on justice for women
- an update on the social message on mental illness
- a legal briefing from the General Counsel
- a greeting from the Rev. Susan C. Johnson, national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- greetings from liaisons from full-communion partner churches
- an interim report from the advisory committee on the work of the task force on Living Into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT)
- a reviewed of work leading to a proposal for the ELCA's observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation
- a report from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Mission Advancement unit, Global Mission unit, Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, and Portico Benefit Services in response to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly action related to the implementing resolutions for the social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust [CA09.04.17]
- a report from the director for racial justice ministries in response to the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly related to the International Year for People of African Descent [CA11.03.12]
- a report from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in consultation with the Theological Discernment team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop related to the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly on state immigration initiatives [CA11.05.31]
- a report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop related to the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly on the ELCA's planting a tree in the Luthegarten [CA11.04.19]

The Church Council also participated in:

- stewardship and whole-person health conversations
- racial and gender awareness training
- process observation
- intentional communal discernment principles
- primers on ecumenism and communal discernment
- health and wellness activities
- sharing of joys and concerns
- conversation about The Lutheran magazine, council leadership development tools, and a possible council retreat