



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 November 14–17, 2008. The council centered its work around daily worship, frequent prayer, and Bible study. It lived into its commitment to be a “Book of Faith” council by participating in two studies led by the Rev. Stanley N. Olson, executive director of the Vocation and Education unit.

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

- recommendation to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to establish a relationship of full communion with The United Methodist Church
- recommendation to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to undertake preparation of a social statement on justice for women
- recommendation to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of its Rules of Organization and Procedure
- recommendation to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of amendments to ELCA constitutional provisions and bylaws
- appointment of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly Memorials Committee and Reference and Counsel Committee
- approval of a resolution of support for military chaplaincy
- reception of a report on the work of the Communal Discernment Task Force
- approval of the 2008 income estimate and expenditure authorization and the 2009 income estimate and expenditure authorization
- adoption of new salary ranges for the churchwide organization
- approval of amendments to the personnel policies of the churchwide organization
- approval of responses to synodical memorials and resolutions

The Church Council received updates on the following:

- Lutheran Malaria Initiative
- the work of the Task Force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality
- the feasibility study for a possible churchwide campaign
- the evangelism strategy
- the HIV–AIDS strategy
- new synod staffing patterns in Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission
- recent Lutheran World Federation (LWF) activities through a report by the Rev. Teresita “Tita” Valeriano, LWF North America regional officer
- the ELCA brandmark

The Church Council also participated in

- one-on-one conversations about personal stewardship
- health and wellness activities
- racial justice process observation, as part of its commitment to confronting “the scandalous realities” of racism and sexism