

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS OF THE 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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SUMMARY OF ACTIONS OF THE 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

En Bloc action archiving Social Policy Resolutions

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-705; NO-9

CA22.01.04

To archive the social policy resolutions identified in the “2022 Archiving of Certain Social Policy Resolutions” document, in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Responses to Synod Memorials approved en bloc:

The text of responses to synod memorials approved *en bloc* are included in the Appendix to this document, beginning on p. 15.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-726; NO-44

CA22.01.05

To approve *en bloc*, with the exception of those memorials considered separately, the following responses to 2019, 2021, and 2022 synod memorials printed in the Report of the Memorials Committee:

Category A1: Diversity

Category A2: Nuclear Weapons

Category A3: Voting Rights and D.C. Statehood

Category A9: Russian Divestment

Category A10: Right to Boycott

Category A11: Gun Violence

Category A12: LGBTQIA+ Welcome

Category A13: Substance Abuse

Category B1: Conflict Free Metals

Category B2: Remembrance of Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek Genocide

Category B3: Parental and Family Medical Leave

Category B6: Process for Pre-Assembly Identification of Nominees Presiding Bishop

Category B7: Churchwide Organization Directory

Category B10: Holy Communion Practices

Category B12: Disability Status

Category B13: Committee on Appeals

Category C1: Renew Social Statement on Creation Care

Category C2: Child Abuse and Protection

Category C4: Social Statement on Homelessness

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category B4: Restructure the Governance of the ELCA

Assembly

Action

Yes-738; No-72

CA22.01.06

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northeastern Ohio Synod, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Allegheny

Synod, Lower Susquehanna Synod, Delaware-Maryland Synod, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod concerning the restructure of the ELCA's governance; and

To direct the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church comprised of leaders of diverse representation from all three expressions that, working in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, shall reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism, and will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention to be called under the rules for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category C3: Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust Revision

Assembly

Action

Yes-741; No-59

CA22.01.07

To receive with gratitude the memorials on “Review and Revision of LGBTQIA+ References in the ELCA Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*” from the Greater Milwaukee Synod, Southeastern Synod, and Florida-Bahamas Synod;

To authorize a social statement reconsideration to revise *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* (2009) so that its wording reflects current church understanding, church policy, civil law, and public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender non-conforming couples in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018). While references would be reviewed throughout the whole statement, the following sections are designated for reconsideration as described here:

- “Marriage: shelter and context for trust” p.15. This would not reconsider the idea of marriage as shelter and context for trust but would consider the import that marriage legally is now a covenant between two individuals;
- “Lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships” p.18f. Revision here would not change this church’s current understanding that recognizes four identified positions of bound conscience within its life. p.19, but would review wording about “publicly accountable, lifelong monogamous same-sex relationships” in light of public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender-non-conforming couples;
- “Loving families: ground and source for social trust” p.21f. Review here would consider references to diversity of family configurations; and

To authorize the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Church Council to approve the parameters and expense budget of this process and identify the revenue source(s) to provide for this revision to be considered as early as the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A5: Fortifying Urban Ministries

Assembly

Action

Yes-762; No-31

CA22.01.08

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Fortifying Ministries in Underserved Urban Areas” from the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod;

To affirm the strategic direction of the ELCA Fund for Leaders ministry to enhance the capacity of people of color through its disbursement of scholarships to Theological Education for Emerging Ministries candidates;

To refer this memorial to the Congregational Vitality Training and Development Team in the Christian Community and Leadership home area to create a churchwide Urban Ministry group, in partnership with the appropriate leaders in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, to accompany ELCA synods in their urban strategies that lead to the enhancement of congregational vitality and ministry sustainability in the urban context. The group will 1) collaborate with other studies already underway, 2) resource synods by gathering best practices in urban ministry and emerging ideas in the care and creative use of church facilities, 3) identify supportive networks within this church and among ecumenical partners, and 4) encourage piloting innovative ways to address the realities and complexities of urban ministry, including enhancing urban internship opportunities. The group may consider additional topics as needed;

To request that the churchwide Urban Ministry group consult with and provide regular reports to the Church Council to ensure that the purposes and objectives of this memorial are being fulfilled; and

To provide a final report to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly on the results of its study, new urban initiatives, and ways for this church to fortify the witness and service among people and communities in underserved urban areas.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A7: Black Migrant Strategy

Assembly

Action

Yes-783; No-16

CA22.01.09

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “ELCA Strategy Regarding Black Migrants” from the Delaware-Maryland Synod;

To direct the Service and Justice home area, in consultation with the program directors for African Descent Ministries, African Nationals, and Latino Ministries; African Descent Strategy Team; African Descent Lutheran Association; Association of Latino Ministries of the ELCA; and Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities (AMMPARO), to prepare a proposal for the strengthening of advocacy, protection, and accompaniment of Black migrants, that includes cost estimates, for Church Council consideration by its Spring 2024 meeting;

To strengthen the current protection and accompaniment of Black migrants through AMMPARO in partnership with ecumenical and interfaith partners both domestically and internationally;

To recommit this church to advocating for Temporary Protected Status and just and humane immigration policy through the Witness in Society team within the Service and Justice home area; and

To encourage congregations to affirm the aims of the African Descent Strategy Implementation Plan for 2020–2025 and the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category B9: Mission Development Process

Assembly

Action

Yes-758; No-38

CA22.01.10

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Equity and Clarity in the Mission Development Process” from the Delaware-Maryland Synod;

To refer this memorial to the Congregational Vitality Training and Development team in the Christian Community and Leadership home area to establish a working group in partnership with the appropriate leaders in the Delaware-Maryland Synod to study and refine current ELCA guidelines and systems for appointments, calls, funds, and support mechanisms for mission developers and new ministries; and

To request that the working group consult with and provide regular reports to the Church Council beginning by Fall 2023 to ensure that the purposes and objectives of this memorial are being fulfilled.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A6: Advance Salary Equity

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

Yes-774; No-46

CA22.02.11

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Salary Equity in the ELCA” from the Delaware-Maryland Synod;

To refer the memorial to the Church Council to consider commissioning a study of pay gaps for rostered ministers in the ELCA, particularly as they relate to women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQIA+ community, and to consider using such a study not only for the purposes described in this memorial but also for the study of inequitable compensation of clergy of color previously called for by the Church Council (CC19.06.23.), for the Quality of Call Initiative for Women in Ministry, for the study of educational debt, and for such other purposes as might serve the needs of this church;

To encourage Portico Benefit Services and the Churchwide organization to make appropriate changes to their bylaws and data privacy policies in order to facilitate a deeper understanding of compensation patterns for rostered ministers;

To replace the “Current gross compensation” question from the Rostered Minister Profile with “Minimum Compensation for Next Call;”

To amend the “Current Health Benefits” question to read “Needed Health Benefits;” and

To remove the “Current Retirement Contribution” question from the Rostered Minister Profile.

Approval of the 2023–2025 Budget

**ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA22.03.12**

YES-751; NO-19

2023 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2023 current fund spending authorization of \$68,814,000;
To approve a 2023 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$22,869,000;
and
To authorize the Church Council to revise the spending authorizations after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2024 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2024 current fund income proposal of \$70,191,000;
To approve a 2024 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$22,930,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2025 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2025 current fund income proposal of \$71,594,000;
To approve a 2025 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$22,960,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A8: Land Back

**ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA22.03.13**

YES-737; NO-65

To receive with gratitude the memorials from Northwest Washington Synod, Oregon Synod, and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod concerning the Land Back movement;
To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners to explore including land acknowledgements which center Native voices as part of their public gatherings;
To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners to become educated about the Indigenous peoples who thrived, prior to European contact, on the land they currently inhabit;
To learn about, learn from, and be in deepening relationship with Indigenous people and tribal nations;
To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners, to support creative programs of restorative justice in partnership with Indigenous people, including, but not limited to, whenever considering a transfer or sale of real property, including returning land (and any structures built on it) after satisfying any financial obligations, to the appropriate Native nations, and when direct return is not feasible or not desired by the Indigenous people, to return the proceeds from the sale

of the land to the ELCA Native American Ministry Fund or other local Indigenous led ministries or organizations;

To call upon the appropriate home areas and offices of the churchwide organization to work collaboratively with the relevant local synods and their local Indigenous partners to explore sources and needs in funding for the more than 30 ELCA Indigenous congregations and service ministries; and to direct the Resource Development and the Budget and Finance Committees of the Church Council to identify potential sources of sustainable funding for these congregations and service ministries; and for these synods, home areas, offices, and committees to present findings of possible funding of these ministries to the Church Council no later than its Spring 2025 meeting, with a commitment to implement proposed and sustainable actions for funding of these ministries during the 2026-2028 triennium budget cycle; and

To call upon the appropriate home areas and offices of the churchwide organization to first engage with the relevant local synods and their local Indigenous partners whenever planning or considering work related to Indigenous people or ministries.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category B8: Separation Agreements

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-721; NO-79

CA22.03.14

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Southwest California Synod, and Northwestern Ohio Synod concerning separation agreements;

To affirm the commitment of the churchwide organization of the ELCA to limit the use of non-disclosure provisions to the small minority of cases in which they are truly necessary to protect confidential and sensitive materials related to donors, personnel, legal, information technology, and similar categories;

To urge synods, congregations, agencies, institutions, and other parts of the ELCA to limit the use of non-disclosure agreements to the small minority of cases in which they are truly necessary and not to use such agreements as a matter of course or in the termination of calls of rostered ministers; and

To direct the Church Council to update the “Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies” to appropriately limit the use to non-disclosure agreements consistent with these memorials.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A14: Roe v. Wade

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-776; NO-27

CA22.03.15

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “A Change in Roe v. Wade and Its Effect Upon Pastoral Counseling” from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and to affirm the intent of the memorial;

To encourage support and prayer for all people affected by the overturning of Roe v. Wade, especially the most vulnerable;

To encourage bishops to amplify support for rostered ministers and lay staff of our congregations and affiliated social ministry organizations;

To encourage synod and congregational conversation around this church's teachings on abortion, gender justice, and related topics; and

To encourage synods of the ELCA to review the impact that the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and any legislation and/or judicial rulings of their state(s), commonwealth(s), or territory (or territories) of the United States may have upon pastoral counseling, the pastor-client relationship, and the rostered ministers and social ministry agencies and organizations of the ELCA.

En Bloc Action to Ratify Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

The text of amendments included in *en bloc* ratification are found in the *2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section 05d1 - Ratification Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA*.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-757; NO-27

CA22.03.16

To ratify, *en bloc*, the actions of the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly regarding amendments to constitutional provision 4.02.c. and related provisions in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

En bloc adoption of Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

The text of amendments included in *en bloc* adoption are found in the *2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section 05d2 - General Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA*.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-784; NO-18

CA22.03.17

To adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make appropriate changes in the *Constitution for Synods* and the *Model Constitution for Congregations* congruent with the ELCA constitution as amended.

Amendment of Constitutional provision 5.01.-e and f

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-700; NO-104

CA22.03.18

To amend constitutional provision 5.01.-e and f as follows:

5.01. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be one church. This church recognizes that all power and authority in the Church belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ, its head. Therefore, all actions of this church by congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization shall be carried out under his rule and authority in accordance with the following principles: [...]

e. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the appropriate office or unit of the churchwide organization, through the Church Council, shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of its

assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men, and that, ~~where possible~~, the representation of rostered ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ shall include both men and women. At least 10 percent of the members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English. Processes shall be developed that will assure that in selecting staff there will be a balance of women and men, persons of color and persons whose primary language is other than English, laypersons, and persons on the rosters of this church. This balance is to be evident in the selection of staff consistent with the inclusive policy of this church.

- f. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, synods, through synod councils, shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of their assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of their assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men, and that, ~~where possible~~, the representation of rostered ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ shall include both women and men. Each synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of the membership of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

Amendment of the Constitution for Synods †S6.04

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-760; NO-48

CA22.03.19

To amend the *Constitution for Synods †S6.04* as follows:

- †S6.04. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the Synod Council shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of the synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; and that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men; and that, where possible, the representation of rostered ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ shall include both men and women. This synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

Amendment of the Constitution for Synods †S7.21.01

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-616; NO-178

CA22.03.20 To amend the *Constitution for Synods †S7.21.01* by striking the dagger and therefore making the provision non-required:

- †S7.21.01. Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until the opening of the next regular Synod Assembly.

Referral of amendment of the Constitution for Synods †S11.04 to the Conference of Bishops, Church Council, and Office of the Secretary

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-747; NO-30

CA22.03.21 To refer consideration of the amendment to the *Constitution for Synods †S11.04* to the Conference of Bishops, Church Council, and Office of the Secretary for discussion to determine appropriate mutual ministry structures.

Referral of amendment of the Constitution for Synods †S15.31 to the Office of the Treasurer

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-742; NO-29

CA22.03.22 To refer consideration of the amendment to the *Constitution for Synods †S15.31* to the Office of the Treasurer to determine options available for future financial reporting and auditing requirements.

Authorization of possible revision of Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-708; NO-93

CA22.03.23 To authorize a possible revision of the social statement on *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* which reconsiders the church's current concept of the four positions of bound conscience. This revision would focus on pages 19-21 ("lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships) and any other references to the four positions of bound conscience.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category B11: Specialized Ministries and On Leave from Call Status

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-642; NO-76

CA22.04.24 To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Southwest California Synod, South Dakota Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, La Crosse Area Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, and Lower Susquehanna Synod concerning specialized ministries and On Leave from Call status;

To direct the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to initiate a review process of the "Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the

Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” and the constitutional provisions and policies and procedures as they relate to interim, transition, bridge, specialized, non-parish-based, and innovative calls, as well as on-leave from call status, protocols for removal from the rosters, and communication protocols;

To direct the Church Council to ensure that this review process include in its scope of inquiry, but not be limited to: the time limits given for On-leave-from-Call, steps for requesting a roster status, and a process by which an action or lack of recommendation from a bishop may be appealed, including the possibility of an appeal in a judicatory other than the synod from which they were removed from the roster;

To require that those involved in the review process include a diverse group representing both the roster of Word and Sacrament and the roster of Word and Service who are or have recently been involved in specialized ministries (e.g., interim, transition, campus, outdoor, college or seminary faculty, chaplains, mission developers, etc.), and those currently or recently on leave from call for a variety of reasons (e.g., between calls, family, disability, study, healing from abuse, etc.);

To urge bishops and synod councils to use sparingly any action by which a minister is removed from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons, unless the minister requests removal, until this review is complete, especially for those serving contract calls, as supply preachers, and in other ELCA ministries that don't qualify as a call; and

To require that the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization prepare a report and recommendations for consideration by the fall 2024 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A4: Greenhouse Gas Reduction

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA22.04.25

YES-672; NO-45

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon Synod, Southwest California Synod, Northeastern Minnesota Synod, Minneapolis Area Synod, Saint Paul Area Synod, Southwestern Texas Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, Northeastern Iowa Synod, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee Synod, North/West Lower Michigan Synod, New England Synod, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Central States Synod, and Delaware-Maryland Synod concerning greenhouse gas reduction;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to engage in creation care and advocacy based on the principles of sufficiency, sustainability, participation, and solidarity;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to advocacy and action in support of 50% reduction from 2005 levels in United States economy-wide net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;

To direct the ELCA Churchwide organization to set the goal of reducing its net greenhouse gas pollution 50% by 2030, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;

To urge the churchwide organization to continue its network ministry through the Creation Care Network to inform and guide this church in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

To encourage congregants, rostered ministers, and bishops to commit themselves to education about the urgency of the climate emergency, the global opportunities of

a just transition and to lift up loving our neighbor in response to the climate emergency through their preaching;

To affirm the Mission Investments Fund’s “Green Building” initiative and resources, and to encourage continued commitment to supporting ministries in caring for creation and addressing climate change;

To refer to the Service and Justice home area, Office of the Treasurer, Office of the Secretary, and Office of the Presiding Bishop, for implementation consistent with the memorials; and

To request the churchwide organization provide a report to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly assessing the progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions across all three expressions and sharing lessons learned to help meet reduction goals.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category B5: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility (DEIA) ELCA Governance Audit

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

Yes-538; No-175

CA22.04.26

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Audit of Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA” from the Northwest Washington Synod;

To authorize the Church Council to determine the parameters and the expense budget of this process and identify the revenue source(s) to provide for this audit;

To direct the Church Council to engage an external auditor to conduct a comprehensive audit for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility of the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA and related governance documents and present a report of the findings by the Fall 2023 Church Council meeting;

To direct the Church Council to release the findings of the audit to this church; and

To direct the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee to use the findings of this audit to recommend changes to the governing documents to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

Authorization of a task force to analyze nomination and election processes

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-600; NO-39

CA22.04.27

To adopt Motion I as submitted.

RESOLVED, that the Church Council appoint a Task Force to explore and analyze nomination and election processes used by synods and the churchwide organization, including but not limited to the ecclesiastical ballot, in order to determine best practices and to make practical recommendations concerning options for the selection of all synod and churchwide officers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force report to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council in sufficient time that potential governing document amendments and/or a report on best practices can be prepared in time for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

Adoption of resolutions expressing appreciation

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

CA22.04.28-37 *Resolutions expressing appreciation to various individuals and groups.*

APPENDIX TO THE SUMMARY OF ACTIONS OF THE 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

Including the text of responses
to synod memorials approved *en bloc*
at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A1: Diversity

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “To Empower and Educate Believers on Diversity and Inclusion” from the Metropolitan New York Synod;

To commend the ELCA educational resources on justice for use across this church; and

To encourage all three expressions of this church to coordinate discussions that address the intersecting issues of racial justice and faith.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A2: Nuclear Weapons

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Minneapolis Area Synod concerning the ban of nuclear weapons;

To re-affirm this church’s unequivocal rejection of nuclear war;

To strongly support the ELCA’s continued advocacy for:

- a. agreements among the leading nuclear powers to reduce their strategic and tactical nuclear stockpiles and to decrease the possibility of nuclear confrontation;
- b. the successful negotiation of a renewed Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and the strengthening of mechanisms to monitor and enforce nuclear treaties; and
- c. efforts that move toward the elimination of nuclear weapons; and

To affirm the continued use of the ELCA Military Weapons social criteria investment screen by Portico Benefit Services, the ELCA Foundation, and other ELCA-related entities.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A3: Voting Rights and D.C. Statehood

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Voting Rights and D.C. Statehood” from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod;

To request that the presiding bishop communicate this church’s support for statehood for the District of Columbia to the United States Congress;

To direct the ELCA Witness in Society team in the Service and Justice home area to promote opportunities for education and advocacy regarding statehood for Washington, D.C.;

To direct the ELCA Witness in Society team to listen to and support calls for self-determination for American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Nations, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and other U.S. territories and to act on requests related to these matters from the Caribbean Synod and the ELCA director for Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations; and

To encourage all ELCA synods, congregations, and members to inform and educate themselves about ELCA social teaching and witness in society on voting access and voting rights.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A9: Russian Divestment

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Divestment of Russian Assets Held by the ELCA” from the Lower Susquehanna Synod; and

To re-affirm this church’s continued use of social screens to support human rights and the rejection of companies benefitting from occupation.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A10: Right to Boycott

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod and the New England Synod in relation to Palestinian human rights; and

To urge Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and ELCA members to call on the president of the United States and the U.S. Congress to oppose legislation penalizing or criminalizing support for nonviolent boycotts, divestment, and/or sanctions on behalf of Palestinian human rights.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A11: Gun Violence

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, and Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod concerning gun violence;

To reaffirm this church's social teaching to address the broad issues of violence in society as called for in "Message on Community Violence" (1994);

To reaffirm this church's sense of urgency for advocacy for the renewal or replacement of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban (expired in 2004), including a definition of assault weapons comparable to that in the renewal attempt of the Assault Weapons Ban bill of 2013 and expanded background checks and other measures to increase gun safety;

To reaffirm that ELCA social policy does not reject gun ownership or the recreational activities associated with guns as morally wrong; and

To refer to the Witness in Society team in the Service and Justice home area for implementation and a report of the continuing advocacy efforts related to gun violence and universal background checks to the Church Council at its Spring 2023 meeting.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A12: LGBTQIA+ Welcome

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorial on "LGBTQIA+ Welcome" from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod;

To reaffirm the public teaching of this church that LGBTQIA+ individuals are beloved children of God as set forth in ELCA social statements *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* (2009) and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action* (2019); and

To reaffirm the public teaching of this church as set forth in ELCA social statements *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action* that call for welcome in the means of grace and pastoral care.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category A13: Substance Abuse

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Northeastern Iowa Synod and the Western North Dakota Synod concerning substance abuse and the addiction crisis; and

To encourage congregations and synods to become involved in initiatives to combat substance abuse and addiction and to engage in the vast array of available information, support, educational materials, and networks for ministries already dedicated to combating this crisis.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category B1: Conflict Free Metals

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorial on "Conflict Free Metals" from the Minneapolis Area Synod;

To encourage the churchwide organization to purchase electronics with conflict free minerals, using an up-to-date measure such as The Enough Project Conflict Minerals Company Rankings;

To direct the corporate social responsibility program within the Service and Justice home area to continue monitoring human rights in the mining of minerals as part of its work in extractive industries tracking; and

To report its advocacy efforts on conflict minerals to the Church Council as may be requested.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category B2: Remembrance of Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek Genocide

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Remembrance of Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek Genocide” from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod;

To encourage congregations to find appropriate times in worship, such as a Sunday near April 24, to hold in remembrance those lives lost during the genocide committed against Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks, and those whose lives have been severely damaged as a result of acts of genocide; and

To reaffirm the ELCA’s continued advocacy for an end to all genocide throughout the world.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category B3: Parental and Family Medical Leave

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Parental and Family Medical Leave” from the Southwestern Washington Synod;

To encourage the synods of this church to include the following in their compensation guidelines for rostered ministers: “Parental and Family Leave: *Parental Leave*: Paid leave of up to twelve weeks is recommended upon the birth or adoption of a child to recover and/or care for a new child. *Family Medical Leave*: Paid leave of up to twelve weeks is recommended to care for a family member with a serious health condition.”;

To encourage the congregations of this church to study the issues, explore their capacity and the needs of staff, and adopt these guidelines not only for rostered ministers but also, where possible, for other staff, not only as compensation guidelines but also as a justice issue; and

To recommend that synods make available to congregations resources such as lists of supply pastors and model short-term supply contracts and compensation rates that may encourage congregations to offer the parental and family medical leave described in this action.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category B6: Structured Process for the Pre-Assembly Identification of Nominees for the Election of a Presiding Bishop

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the St. Paul Area Synod and the Allegheny Synod concerning a structured process for the pre-assembly identification of nominees for the election of a presiding bishop;

To refer the question to the Church Council to consider a process for the pre-assembly identification of nominees for the office of presiding bishop in a way that allows identified nominees to become publicly known prior to the Churchwide Assembly and to complete the necessary background checks;

To direct the Church Council to charge its Legal and Constitutional Review Committee with exploring such a process that would include conversation with The Episcopal Church USA about its process, and with the Church Council liaison bishops concerning processes used in the synods in their regions; and

To report recommendations to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council at their Fall 2023 meetings.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category B7: Churchwide Organization Directory

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “ELCA Churchwide Organization Directory” from the Delaware-Maryland Synod;

To direct the Customer Service Information Technology team in the Office of the Treasurer to work with representatives from synods and congregations to determine improvements that can help users find public information about churchwide organization personnel and discern what information is public to everyone versus requiring a login public to this church;

To direct the Customer Service Information Technology team to collaborate more closely with the Directors for Evangelical Mission (DEM) within each synod to aid in facilitating information given their level of access to this data through the ELCA Constituent Information System database and other churchwide organization tools;

To direct the Customer Service Information Technology team to create opportunities for continuous improvement to the ELCA Directory for user experience while not compromising security; and
To provide a report to the Church Council at its Fall 2023 meeting.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category B10: Holy Communion Practices

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Holy Communion Practices in Unusual Circumstances and in Pandemic Times” from the Pacifica Synod;

To request that the Worship team of the Christian Community and Leadership home area, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops, the Office of the Presiding Bishop, and teaching theologians, facilitate continued conversation and study regarding Holy Communion practices; and

To request that a report be provided to the Church Council no later than its Fall 2024 meeting.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category B12: Disability Status

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Disability Status to Persons Experiencing Mental Illness” from the Northwest Washington Synod;

To receive the background information as an explanation of Portico Benefit Services’ disability process;

To ask Portico to present a primer to the Fall 2022 Conference of Bishops on the disability process, especially as it relates to disability stemming from mental illness; and

To ask Portico to include a review of mental-health-related disability claims in its next regular review of disability benefits and to report any findings and recommendations to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council at its Fall 2023 meetings.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category B13: Committee on Appeals

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Committee on Appeals” from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod; and

To affirm the decision of the ELCA Church Council to create a task force charged with reviewing the current process for discipline and its impact on persons of color and other historically marginalized groups, considering recommendations for staffing, community healing, and restoration.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category C1: Renew Social Statement on Creation Care

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Rocky Mountain Synod concerning a renewal of *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice* (1993), but to decline to take action in light of the current development of a social message on climate care.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category C2: Child Abuse and Protection

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Saint Paul Area Synod, Central States Synod, and Northeastern Iowa Synod concerning development of a social statement on child abuse and protection; and

To request that the Church Council consider authorizing development of a social message on child abuse and protection.

Response to Synod Memorials grouped as Category C4: Social Statement on Homelessness

Assembly action

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Social Statement on Homelessness” from the Sierra Pacific Synod; and

To request that the Church Council consider authorizing the revision of the “Message on Homelessness” (1990) to reflect contemporary analysis of housing insecurity and its effects on individuals and communities.