Summary of Church Council Meeting
April 16, 2026

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met electronically on April 16, 2026.

The Church Council took action on the following:

- Affirmed a new Asian and Pacific Islander Ministry Strategy of the ELCA
- Affirmed the commitment of this church to support the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action (2025–2034) and urged this church to seek out ways to engage in systemic transformation, including consideration of the World Council of Churches "pathways to climate justice"
- Elected Rachel Wind to serve as the executive for administration for a term coterminous with the presiding bishop
- Elected Jeffrey Akerson [4A] to the Church Council for a term ending August 2031 and Denise Beumer [9E] to the Church Council for a term ending August 2028 *(to fill vacancies)*
- Received a timeline from a working group on the development of a plan to address barriers to youth and young adult participation in the governing bodies of the ELCA and deferred presentation of a plan to address implementation of ELCA continuing resolution 5.01.E25. until the November 2026 Church Council meeting
- Revised policies governing the Audit Committee of the Church Council provided in ELCA continuing resolution 14.41.F26
- Updated the assistant officers of the ELCA in accord with changes to churchwide organization personnel
- Approved a revised Core Investment Policy
- Ratified amendments to the "Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings against Rostered Ministers and Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" related to the consultation process in Rule D2
- Affirmed resources to help synods identify nominees with the gifts to serve on consultation committees
- Approved amendment of Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies
- Deferred consideration of the development of a social message on rural, remote communities and sovereign Tribal Nations until the November 2026 Church Council meeting
- Requested the Theological Discernment team to develop a social policy resolution on the issue of abortion and provide a recommendation concerning additional resources related to the 1991 *Abortion* social statement to the November 2026 Church Council meeting
- Approved updates to the "Terms and Conditions of Support for Long-term Global Personnel"

- Appointed/elected persons to fill the following open positions:
  - Board of Trustees of Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
  - Advisory Council of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University
  - Board of Trustees of Luther Seminary
  - Board of Trustees of the Mission Investment Fund
  - Board of Directors of Mosaic, Inc.
- Received reports and approved actions related to the following Churchwide Assembly actions:
  - "Confession of Faith in Our Time" *(received a response from the Witness in Society team)*
  - "A.I. in the Church" *(received a progress report and proposed timeline from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Service and Justice unit)*
  - "Immigration Detention" *(received a response from the Service and Justice unit)*
  - "Review of ELCA Investments and Procurement" (*received a response from the Service and Justice unit*)
  - "Stand for Palestinian Rights and End to Occupation of Palestine" (*received a response from the Service and Justice unit*)
  - "Justice for Palestinians and Israelis" (*received a response from the Service and Justice unit*)
  - "Equity and Clarity in the Mission Development Process" *(received a progress report and proposed timeline from the Christian Community and Leadership unit)*

The Church Council received/engaged in the following:

- Reports and updates from churchwide officers
- Reports and updates from the chair of the Conference of Bishops
- Recognized the service of The Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock
- Updates on the Task Force on Interdependence and Purpose and the Financial Coordinating Task Force, task forces recommended by the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church and established by the Church Council
- Reports and updates from committees of the Church Council
- Update on the Reimagined Candidacy Process experiment
- Legal briefing
- Prayer and fellowship