# 2019 Churchwide Assembly

**North/West Lower Michigan Synod (6B)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mr. Connor K. Ashley</th>
<th>Pr. Marilyn V. Robinson</th>
<th>Ms. Sandra J. Schlesinger</th>
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<td>Ms. Rebecca Bossenbroek</td>
<td>Bp. Craig A. Satterlee</td>
<td>Pr. Andreas H. Teich</td>
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<td>Pr. Rachel A. Laughlin</td>
<td>Ms. Anna M. Scheck</td>
<td>Mr. Richard Weingartner</td>
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<td>Mr. Nyamukora C. Muganza</td>
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Preparation Meeting #1 – July 10, 2019

- Review of the Guidebook App and Overview of the CWA Schedule (includes plans for our group dinner)
- Review of the Ecclesiastical Ballot Process for Election of the Presiding Bishop and Secretary – what to expect
- Nominations Committee, Bios, and how to prepare for General Elections
- Memorials Committee and how to review their recommendations
- Overview of the Social Statement Process and what to expect as we are asked to approve a new Social Statement on “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action”
- Review the Proposal to Archive older Social Policy Resolutions
- General Questions
Preparation Suggestions

• Familiarize yourself with the Guidebook
• Review as many of the documents as possible in advance of the assembly so that you have a sense of the topics to be addressed and the wealth of information provided
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<td>8:30 - 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Plenary - Hall A/B</td>
<td>8:30 - 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>(Aug. 7 morning plenary extended by 15 mins)</td>
<td>Closing Worship &amp;</td>
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<td>Secretary-Elect</td>
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<td>- Ballroom</td>
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<td>10:30 - 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Break</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. - 12:00</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Holy Communion - Ballroom</td>
<td>Closing Plenary -</td>
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<td>Hall A/B</td>
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<td>12:00 - 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Lunch - Hall D</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hall A/B: 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Assembly Orientation; 2:00 p.m. ELCA Guidebook training</td>
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<td>1:30 - 2:15 p.m.</td>
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<td>Bible Study - Hall A/B</td>
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<td>2:15 - 2:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>2:30 - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Ballroom: 2:30 p.m. Pre-Service Music; 3:00 p.m. Opening Worship</td>
<td>Plenary - Hall A/B</td>
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<td>Plenary - Hall A/B (2:30 - 5:30 p.m.)</td>
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<td>4:30 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<td>5:00 - 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner - Hall D</td>
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<td>Hearings</td>
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<td>6:00 - 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Dinner - Hall D</td>
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<td>Dinner on own</td>
<td>50th Anniversary</td>
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<td>Women's Ordination to Word and Sacrament</td>
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<td>7:00 - 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Plenary - Hall A/B</td>
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<td>Hearings</td>
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<td>Reception, Banquet and Program - Hall D</td>
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**Registration Desk Hours:**
- Aug 5: 11:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
- Aug 6: 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Aug 7: 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Aug 8: 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Aug 9: 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Aug 10: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Nomination Desk Hours:**
- Aug 5: 12:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Aug 6: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Aug 7: Closed
- Aug 8: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Aug 9: Closed
- Aug 10: Closed
Election of the ELCA Secretary and Presiding Bishop via the Ecclesiastical Ballot Process

Presiding Bishop

Bylaw 19.01.02, specifies the process for nomination and election of the presiding bishop, as follows:
The presiding bishop shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot.

Secretary

Constitutional bylaw 19.01.04, specifies the process for nomination and election of the secretary, as follows:
The secretary shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. The election shall proceed without oral nominations. If the first ballot for secretary does not result in an election, it shall be considered a nominating ballot. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. Thereafter only such votes as are cast for persons who received votes on the first or nominating ballot shall be valid. On the second ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. On the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the second ballot and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On the fourth ballot, voting shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and 60 percent of the votes cast shall elect. On subsequent ballots, voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and a majority of the votes cast shall elect.

Preparation Suggestions

- Review the two linked recommendation documents for awareness
- Consider how you will vote for both positions
  - Note that the first ballot for both will require entering the name of a qualified candidate
  - You can review Potential Nominees for Secretary at the following link to the Potential Nominees for Secretary until the assembly begins (at which time they will be removed from the ELCA Guidebook)

Link to Recommendations for Election of the Presiding Bishop

Link to Recommendations for Election of the Secretary
This is the expected process . . .

**Ballot 1**
Open Nominations by registered voting members (% of legal votes cast required to elect)

**Nominating Ballot**
If no one is elected on Ballot 1, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot

**Nominating Ballot**
Nominees may remove their names by the stated deadline prior to the vote on Ballot 2 using withdrawal form

**Ballot 2**
Nominees remaining on Nominating Ballot (% of legal votes cast required to elect)

**Top 7 Nominees**
Submit Bio, Disclosure, and Background forms by stated deadline prior to the vote on Ballot 3

**Top 7 Nominees**
Introduction of Top 7 Nominees via 5-min Speeches

**Ballot 3**
Top 7 Nominees remaining on the ballot (2/3 of legal votes cast required to elect)

**Top 3 Nominees**
Q&A Session for Top 3 Nominees

**Ballot 4**
Top 3 Nominees remaining on the ballot (60% of legal votes cast required to elect)

**Ballot 5**
Top 2 Nominees remaining on the ballot (50% of legal votes cast required to elect)

**Election of Presiding Bishop or Secretary**
Nominating Committee Report & Bios for General Elections

Preparation Suggestions

• Review the Report of the Nominating Committee
  • Note that Position 11 (an ELCA Church Council position for a Minister of Word & Sacrament) is aligned to our synod
  • We appointed our two Nominees for this position at our 2018 Synod Assembly to move forward to this CWA
  • The entire assembly will make the final decision by vote as to who joins the ELCA Council for a 6-year term
• Consider how you will vote for all positions
  • Bios for all nominees are provided in the 123-page report. Plan ahead!

Proposal to Archive Older Social Policy Resolutions

Preparation Suggestions

• Review the Recommendations for awareness and understanding
• Consider how you will vote on the motion to archive – either “as is” or with amendments
ELCA Social Statements

• ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that assist members in discernment for action and in forming judgments on social issues
  • They offer a framework for moral discernment
  • They set policy for this church and guide its advocacy work
  • Adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA churchwide assembly

• Current ELCA Social Statements:
  • Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective (1991)
  • Abortion (1991)
  • The Death Penalty (1991)
  • Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice (1993)
  • Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture (1993)
  • For Peace in God’s World (1995)
  • Economic Life: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All (1999)
  • Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor (2003)
  • Education (2007)
  • Human Sexuality: Gift & Trust (2009)
  • Genetics (2011)
  • The Church and Criminal Justice (2013)
  • Pending Approval: Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action (2019)
Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action
(Approximate Timeline)

- **2011-2012**
  - Social Statement authorized by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly
  - Planning and development by Theological Discernment unit

- **2013-2017**
  - Consultation completed and Task Force formed
  - Listening Posts completed and study document published
  - Responses to study submitted to the Task Force

- **2018-2019**
  - Draft social statement published for review, Hearings completed, and comments submitted to the Task Force
  - Proposed statement published for review
  - Recommended Proposed statement to be considered at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly
Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action

**Preparation Suggestions**
- Review the User’s Guide for Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action
- Review the Proposed Social Statement and Implementing Resolutions
- Consider attending one of the two Hearings on this topic on Tuesday, August 6 from 5-6 PM or 7-8 PM
- Consider how you will vote:
  - Proposed Social Statement – either “as is” or with amendments
  - Implementing Resolutions – either “as is” or with amendments

[Link to the User's Guide](#)
[Link to the Proposed Social Statement & Implementing Resolutions](#)
Memorials Committee and how to review their recommendations
Overview of Future Directions 2025 along with the ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan
Overview of “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment: A Policy Statement of the ELCA” (proposed)
Review Rationale for Amendments to Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA Constitution
Includes the proposal to change to Ordination as the entrance rite for Ministers of Word and Service (Deacons) and transitioning their representation from “Lay” to “Rostered” in formal meetings
General Questions
For separate consideration

The Memorials Committee recommends that the Churchwide Assembly consider separately the following responses to 2017, 2018 and 2019 synod memorials:

Category C1: Church and State ................................................................. 42
Category D1: 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament ......... 56

A voting member who desires to offer an amendment or a substitute to a recommendation of the Memorials Committee must submit the memorials form electronically or as a paper form. The text of the proposed amendment or substitute also must be submitted on the motion form electronically or on a paper form to the secretary or the secretary’s deputy. Copies of the paper motion form may be requested from the secretary’s deputy. Amendments and substitute recommendations must be submitted to the secretary of this church or the secretary’s deputy no later than 9:45 p.m., Monday, August 5, 2019, as established in the Rules of Organization and Procedure for this assembly.

Consultation with at least one of the co-chairs of the Memorials Committee is required when a substitute to the response recommended by the Memorials Committee will be proposed. Consultation with one of the co-chairs is recommended when proposing an amendment.

Deadline to offer an amendment or a substitute to a recommendation must be submitted no later than 9:45 PM on Monday, 8/5/19.

Consultation with at least one co-chair is required.
Deadline to request removal from en bloc is no later than 9:45 PM on Monday, 8/5/19.

Request must be supported by 10 other voting members.
Future Directions 2025

This strategy is the result of a yearlong process of conversation, listening and prayerful discernment concerning what God is calling this church to be and do today and into the future. We believe that the Called Forward Together in Christ, ELCA Strategic Directions 2025 provides a road map toward this church’s participation in God’s mission for the life of the world.

- Presented at the 2016 CWA and Grace Gathering
- Supported by Conference of Bishops
- Approved by ELCA Church Council

Preparation Suggestions

- Review the “Called Forward Together in Christ – ELCA Future Directions 2025” document (12-page document)
- Review the ELCA Organization Operation Plan (41-page document with interesting survey input and metrics)
- Consider impact on our synod – alignment with our strategy, etc.
- Consider how you will vote – either “as is” or with amendments
GOAL ONE:
A thriving church spreading the gospel and deepening faith for all people

Acts 1:8, 1 Peter 2:9-10, Matthew 28:16-20, Romans 1:16

PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

Church identity
Develop a deep and shared understanding of who we are as a Lutheran church and equip leaders and all the baptized to communicate our theology and beliefs in accessible and compelling ways.

Renew and strengthen evangelism
Through all expressions of this church, and in accompaniment with global companions, foster new approaches to evangelism that are compatible with being Lutheran and generationally, technologically, and contextually relevant and effective.

Church leaders
Adopt a strategic and coordinated approach to formation, education and continuing development of lay leaders and rostered ministers, with emphasis on theological fluency and equipping leaders for evangelism and vocations in a wide range of contexts and ministries.

Renewal and formation of congregations and worship communities
Support and empower congregations and communities of worship through mission planning and development, encouraging a culture of deepening faith, hope and openness to change.

Ecumenical dialogues and relationships
Maintain our commitment to being a church deeply engaged in ecumenical dialogue, relationships and partnerships for the sake of Christian unity.
GOAL TWO: A church equipping people for their baptismal vocations in the world and this church

Philippians 2:4-11, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Romans 6:3-4, Mark 10:13-16

PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

Baptismal vocation
Form and equip the baptized to express their faith through their life and witness as followers of Jesus.

Faith formation and practice
Support and provide resources for faith formation and practice with children and across the life span – within households, workplaces and communities – and share learnings across this church.

Youth and young adults in mission
Provide space, support and opportunities for youth and young adults to participate in ministries and pursue their calling.
GOAL THREE:
An inviting and welcoming church that reflects and embraces the diversity of our communities and the gifts and opportunities that diversity brings.

1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 2:14-20, Acts 10, Galatians 3:26-28

PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

An outwardly focused church
Support congregations and worship communities in actively reaching out to people in their neighborhoods through relationships, in service and with an openness for mutual learning.

Theological and cultural competence of leaders
Build confidence and competence among lay leaders and rostered ministers to provide an authentic welcome to people from different cultures and circumstances and embrace the ideas and experience they bring.

Church leadership profile
Pursue a leadership profile that reflects the diversity to which the ELCA aspires and endeavor to match the gifts and experience of leaders to communities and ministries where those gifts are needed.

Addressing discrimination and oppression
Equip and support leaders at all levels of the church to understand, speak out and act against discrimination based on race, gender, disability, sexual orientation and social status.
GOAL FOUR:
A visible church deeply committed to working ecumenically and with other people of faith for justice, peace and reconciliation in communities and around the world


PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

Poverty and hunger
Encourage and harness resources for local, national and global ministries to alleviate poverty and hunger and improve the way this church tells these stories of God’s work in the world — internally and externally.

Response to disasters and humanitarian crises
Support and take action in local and international response to natural disasters, violence and conflict and assist the growing number of people affected by displacement and forced migration.

Lift up the work of ELCA-related social ministries
Build awareness across this church of the important work of ELCA-related social ministry organizations and understanding their work as central to the life of this church.

Advocacy and action on economic justice, racial justice, gender justice and climate justice
Be a visible witness and agent of change for justice and creation care.
GOAL FIVE:
A well-governed, connected and sustainable church

1 Corinthians 4:1-2, 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, Micah 6:8, 2 Corinthians 9

PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

Leadership in governance
Re-evaluate and strengthen governance of the ELCA to provide for clarity in roles and authority, strong relationships and shared leadership and a culture of willing accountability.

Church structures
Review church structures to ensure their fit with future needs of the ELCA, with a focus on responsibilities, functions and resourcing of synods and the churchwide organization and how best to support and resource congregations.

Resources for mission
Develop and take forward a church strategy to grow resources for mission and ministry and ensure distribution and use of resources aligns with roles, expectations and priorities for the whole church.

Communication
Improve communication across this church in support of proclaiming the gospel, new forms of evangelism, connecting the church as one part of the body of Christ and sharing success stories, experience and learning.
Proposal for Ordination as the Entrance Rite for Ministers of Word and Service (Deacons)

**Preparation Suggestions**
- Review the linked document – it is aligned to proposed changes to the Constitution, Bylaws and CR’s (below)

Rationale for Amendments to Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA Constitution

**Preparation Suggestions**
- Review the linked documents
  - Many of these amendments are “housekeeping” amendments.
  - We are removing the term ELCA as a modifier.
  - We have replaced the word “partner” or “partnership” with words we hope give a better description of the relationships.
  - The entrance rite for ministers of Word and Service and their status in the “representational principle” of this church has been studied by the “Entrance Rite Discernment Working Group.” Their recommendations are incorporated in the establishment of ordination as the entrance rite for this roster. They also recommended that ministers of Word and Service would not be counted as laypersons when implementing the “representational principle” of this church.
- Consider how you will vote – either “as is” or with amendments
Preparation Suggestions

• Review the Proposed Rules of Organization & Procedure
• Consider how you will vote – either “as is” or with amendments

“A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment: A Policy Statement of the ELCA”

Preparation Suggestions

• Review the Proposed Policy Statement
  • Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton appointed an ELCA Inter-Religious Task Force in 2016 for the purpose of developing an official statement to describe this church’s commitments and aspirations in its interfaith work. The task force produced a draft policy statement and conducted a review and comment period during the first six months of 2018.
  • The task force incorporated recommendations it received about the draft into this proposed policy statement.
• Consider how you will vote – either “as is” or with amendments
Additional Documents of Interest to Review

Preparation Suggestions

• Review the following documents for awareness and possible action:
  • Link to ELCA Churchwide Organization Leadership Reports
  • 2020-2022 Budget Proposal
    • Consider how you will vote – either “as is” or with amendments
  • Reports of Separately Incorporated Ministries (i.e., Women of the ELCA, Board of Pensions, etc.)
  • Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent
  • Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA
  • Human Rights Social Message
  • Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns
  • A 60-Day Journey Toward Justice in a Culture of Gun Violence
  • A Sustained Journey - How the ELCA has Addressed the Issue of Gun Violence
  • Worship Resource: Gun Violence Litany
  • Links to other General Information