

2019 Churchwide Assembly

North/West Lower Michigan Synod (6B)

Mr. Connor K. Ashley

Ms. Rebecca Bossenbroek

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Mr. Nyamukora C. Muganza

Pr. Marilyn V. Robinson

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Ms. Anna M. Scheck

Ms. Sandra J. Schlesinger

Pr. Andreas H. Teich

Mr. Richard Weingartner

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

ELCA Guidebook Link:

<https://guidebook.com/guide/151152/list/761252/>

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

guidebook



2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Milwaukee, WI



About the Assembly



Schedule & Events



Pre-Assembly Report



General Information



Announcements



Biographical Information



Submissions



Maps & Visitor Info



Legislative Updates



News & Social Media

Pre-Assembly Report

I: General Information

II: Reports of the Officers

III: Reports of the Churchwide Organization

IV: Reports of the Separately Incorporated Ministries

V: Recommendations of the Church Council

VI: Other Assembly-Related Documents

VII: Report of the Memorials Committee

VIII: Report of the Nominating Committee

IX: Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

X: Report of the Elections Committee

XI: Report of the Church Council

XII: Governing Documents

Other

2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Schedule
Subject to Change - Updated 6/04/19

Time	Aug 5	Aug 6	Aug 7	Aug 8	Aug 9	Aug 10			
8:30 -10:30 am.		Plenary - Hall A/B (Aug. 7 morning plenary extended by 15 mins)			Consider wearing Black in support of the ELCA's work to end gender-based violence (Thursdays in Black)	8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Closing Worship & Installation of Secretary-Elect - Ballroom			
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.						Break			10:30 a.m. - 12:00
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.						Holy Communion - Ballroom			Closing Plenary - Hall A/B
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch on own	Lunch - Hall D							
1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Hall A/B: 1:00 p.m.	Break							
1:30 - 2:15 p.m.	Assembly Orientation; 2:00 p.m. ELCA	Bible Study - Hall A/B							
2:15 - 2:30 p.m.	Guidebook training	Break							
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Ballroom: 2:30 p.m. Pre-Service Music; 3:00 p.m. Opening Worship	Plenary - Hall A/B	Plenary - Hall A/B (2:30 - 5:30 p.m.)						
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Break	Break							
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Dinner - Hall D	Hearings							
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Dinner - Hall D	Seminary, College, University Presidents' and Campaign Reception - Art Museum	Dinner on own Synod Dinner at Mader's	50 th Anniversary Women's Ordination to Word and Sacrament Reception, Banquet and Program - Hall D				
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Opening Plenary - Hall A/B	Hearings							

Registration Desk Hours: 11:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Nomination Desk Hours: 12:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Closed 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Closed 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.

[Link to Recommendations for Election of the Presiding Bishop](#)

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.

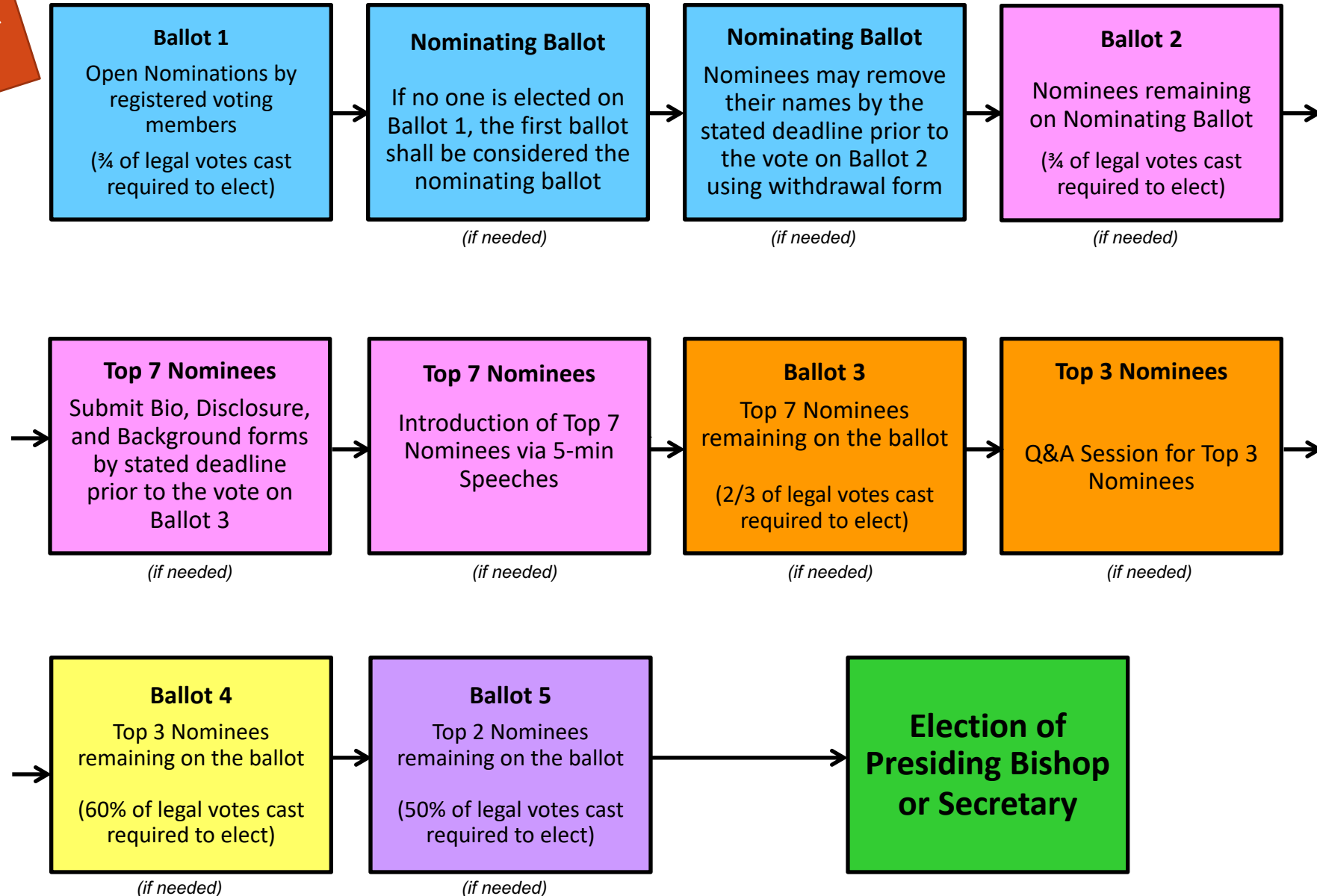
[Link to Recommendations for Election of the Secretary](#)

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)

ELCA Presiding Bishop and Secretary Election Process via Ecclesiastical Ballot

This is the expected
process . . .



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!

[Link to the Report of the Nominating Committee](#)

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

[Link to Recommendations on Archival of Certain Social Policy Resolutions](#)

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



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USER'S GUIDE FOR *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](#)

Preparation Meeting #2 – July 23, 2019

- 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

Recommendation of the Memorials Committee

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.

[Link to the Report of the Memorials Committee](#)

Preparation Suggestions

- Review the Report of the Memorials Committee (94-page document)
- Determine if you are OK with the *En Bloc* Groupings and Recommendations (next slide).
 - If you want to add a Category to the "Separate Consideration" list, the process is provided on the next slide.
- Consider how you will vote:
 - Memorials for separate consideration – either "as is" or with amendments
 - Memorials in the En Bloc listing

Recommendation of the
Memorials Committee

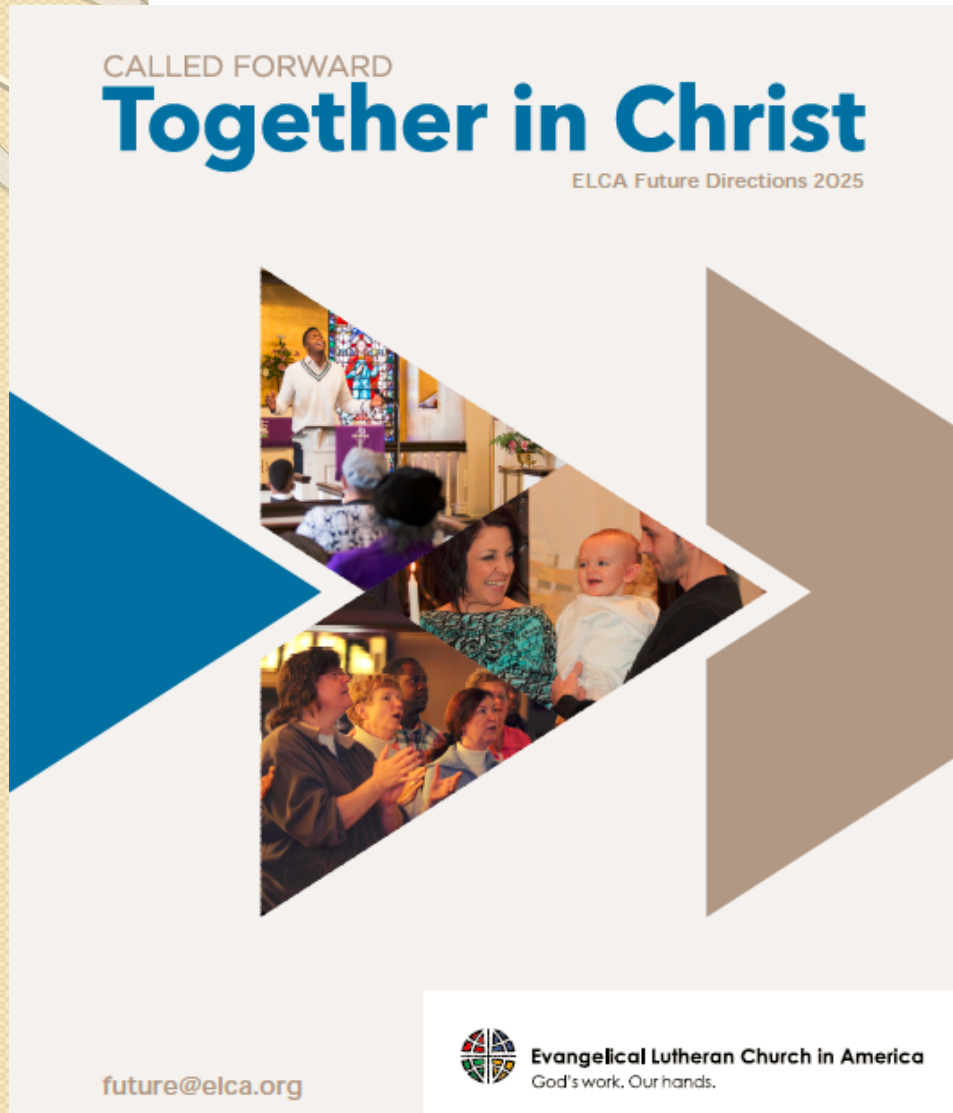
To approve *en bloc*, with the exception of those memorials considered separately, the following responses to 2017, 2018 and 2019 synod memorials printed in the Report of the Memorials Committee (2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, pages as listed):

Category A1: Gun Violence	9
Category A2: Peacebuilding	12
Category A3: Ethiopian Suffering.....	13
Category A4: Earth Charter.....	14
Category A5: Carbon Fee (and Dividend).....	18
Category A6: Poor People’s Campaign	If a voting member desires the assembly to discuss a synod memorial or the Memorials Committee’s response that is proposed for <i>en bloc</i> consideration, she or he may request that it be removed from the proposed <i>en bloc</i> resolution, provided the member’s request is supported by 10 other voting members. The voting member must submit notification electronically or on a paper form to the secretary of this church or the secretary’s deputy no later than 9:45 p.m., Monday, August 5, 2019, on the memorials form. The form is available in the ELCA Guidebook app, and paper forms are available from the secretary’s deputy. The assembly then will consider separately the proposed response of the Memorials Committee.
Category A7: Immigrants and Refugees	
Category A8: Deportation.....	
Category A9: Sanctuary.....	
Category B1: Just Peace.....	
Category B2: Palestine (No Way to Treat a Child).....	
Category B3: Augusta Victoria Hospital.....	
Category B4: Engagement in the Holy Land	39
Category C2: Income Inequality	43
Category C3: Migrants	44
Category C4: Gender Identity	46
Category C5: Call to Edit Sexuality Social Statement.....	48
Category C6: Gun Policy	50
Category C7: (In Support of) “Faith, Sexism, and Justice” Recommended Proposed Social Statement	51
Category C8: Implementation of “Faith, Sexism, Justice” Recommended Proposed Social Statement.....	54
Category D2: Sexual Misconduct	74
Category D3: Unaltered Augsburg Confession.....	78
Category D4: Thrivent	80
Category D5: Social Purpose Funds (Portico).....	81
Category D6: Seminary Tuition	83
Category D7: Health Care Benefits.....	84
Category D8: Vision and Expectations Task Force	87
Category D9: Bishop Evaluation.....	88
Category D10: Merging or Consolidating Synods	89
Category E1: Word and Service Constitutional Amendments	90
Category E2: Binary Designations	91
Category E3: Titles of Ministers.....	92

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



[Link to Future Directions 2025](#)

[Link to ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan](#)

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

CALLED FORWARD

Together in Christ

ELCA Future Directions 2025



future@elca.org



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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.

[Link to Future Directions 2025](#)

CALLED FORWARD

Together in Christ

ELCA Future Directions 2025



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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.

[Link to Future Directions 2025](#)

CALLED FORWARD

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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.

[Link to Future Directions 2025](#)

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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

2 Corinthians 5:14-21, John 13:12-15, Isaiah 58:1-11

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.

[Link to Future Directions 2025](#)

CALLED FORWARD

Together in Christ

ELCA Future Directions 2025



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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.

[Link to Future Directions 2025](#)

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)

[Link to the Entrance Rite Discernment Group Update](#)

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

[Link to the Rationale for Amendments](#)

[Link to the the Constitution, Bylaws and CR with Proposed Changes](#)

Rules of Organization & Procedure for the 2019 CWA

Preparation Suggestions

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

[Link to Proposed Rules of Organization & Procedure for the 2019 CWA](#)

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

Preparation Suggestions

- Review the Proposed Policy Statement
 - The 1989 Churchwide Assembly adopted [CA89.3.15] “Ecumenism: The Vision of the ELCA” as a working document. The 1991 Churchwide Assembly adopted [CA91.3.7] its second part, “A Declaration of Ecumenical Commitment: A Policy Statement of the ELCA”, as the policy of this church.
 - 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

[Link to the Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment Proposed Policy Statement](#)

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](#)