



Legislative Update
Monday, August 5, 2019

The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 6:05 p.m., 888 voting members had registered. The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), declared that a quorum was present for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly in Hall A/B of the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Roll of Assembly Members was accepted without objection as the organization of the assembly.

Consideration of the Rules of Organization and Procedure

Reference: *2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure*

During its first plenary session, the 2019 Churchwide assembly acted on the proposed Rules of Organization and Procedure.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION

YES-859; NO-6

CA19.01.01 To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted provisions and bylaws which are already in force).

In accordance with the adopted rules, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton declared the committees of the assembly authorized and constituted. Without objection, she appointed *ad hoc* committees to consider the proposed social statement “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: One in Christ,” the proposed policy statement “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment,” and the “Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA.”

Appointment of *Ad Hoc* Committees

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton appointed the following individuals to three *ad hoc* committees:

- Social Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee
 - Leslie M. Swenson, *co-chair* (Church Council)
 - James H. Utt, *co-chair* (Church Council)
 - Ann M. Svennungsen (Conference of Bishops)
 - Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld (Women and Justice Task Force)
 - Kathryn Kleinhans, Ph.D. (Women and Justice Task Force)
 - Mary Lowe, Ph.D. (Women and Justice Task Force)
 - William Rodriguez, Ph.D. (Women and Justice Task Force)
 - Brad Wendel (Women and Justice Task Force)
 - Kathryn M. Lohre (ELCA Churchwide Office Staff)
 - Mary J. Streufert, Ph.D. (ELCA Churchwide Office Staff)
 - Roger A. Willer, Ph.D. (ELCA Churchwide Office Staff)
- Inter-Religious Policy Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee
 - Patricia J. Lull
 - Darrell Jodock
 - Kathryn M. Lohre
 - Don Kreiss, adviser
- Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA *Ad Hoc* Committee
 - Abraham D. Allende
 - Cheryl T. Chatman, *chair*
 - Tuhina V. Rasche
 - Judith Roberts
 - Albert Starr

Consideration of the Order of Business

Reference: *Schedule and Events, Order of Business*

There being no discussion, the 2019 Churchwide Assembly acted on the Order of Business as the proposed agenda.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

APPROVED BY MAJORITY VOTE

CA19.01.02 To approve the Order of Business as the agenda of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in keeping with the provisions of the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for calling items of business before the assembly.

Consideration of Certain Constitutional Amendments

Reference: *2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA, pages 34 and 43*

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly considered the amendments 12.51.16. and 12.41.17. These amendments give Church Council both voice and vote at the Churchwide Assembly. The other amendments include moving the Endowment Fund of the ELCA to chapter 17 as a separately incorporated ministry, beginning with 17.60. through 17.60.B19.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

APPROVED BY TWO-THIRDS VOTE

CA19.01.03 To adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: 12.41.16., 12.41.17., and 17.60. through 17.60.B19.*

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA

Reference: *2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section III, Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*

The Rev. Ronald T. Glusenkamp, director of the campaign for the ELCA, and Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive for the Mission Advancement unit, provided an update on the completion of the campaign. At its close on June 30, 2019, cash and multi-year commitments totaled \$195 million dollars. Planned gift commitments toward campaign priorities were \$55 million. The total impact of the campaign was \$250 million.

Elections: First Ballot for Presiding Bishop

Reference: *2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, and Section V: Election of the Presiding Bishop*

Vice President William B. Horne II led the assembly in casting the first ballot for presiding bishop. The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 8:42 p.m., 922 voting members had registered to cast ballots. This number increased due to additional registrants and the addition of Church Council members as voting members.

Deadlines for Tuesday, August 6, 2019

- 10:45 a.m.** Separate consideration (removal from *en bloc*) of proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*
Proposed changes to the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*
Proposed amendments from the floor to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*
Nominations from the floor
- 12:00 p.m.** Withdrawal from ballot for presiding bishop
Questions for presiding bishop nominee forum