



Legislative Update
Friday, August 9, 2019

Elections: Question and Answer Forum for top Seven Nominees for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Secretary; Section X, Results of the Second Ballot for Secretary

The seven nominees on the third ballot for secretary responded to questions prepared by the Executive Committee of the Church Council. Six were able to respond to questions as Mr. John Emery was unable to speak due to health concerns. Below is the list of the top seven nominees and their vote tallies after the second ballot.

- Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, 358 votes
- The Rev. Stephen Herr, 116 votes
- The Rev. Lamont A. Wells, 95 votes
- Bp. Jon V. Anderson, 48 votes
- Mr. John Emery, 38 votes
- Mr. Peter Severson, 27 votes
- The Rev. Tyler D. Rasmussen, 23 votes

Consideration: Social Statement on Women and Justice

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action"

The motion was made to adopt the recommended proposed social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action," as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Social Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee reported on the procedures it used to receive and address three amendments to the proposed social statement. The assembly voted on the committee's recommendations regarding the proposed amendments to the text of the recommended social statement.

Recommending two actions: the amendments to the social statement and the amendments to the implementing resolutions. The Credentials Committee reported that as of 8:45 a.m. there were 832 voting members registered.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-863; NO-26

CA19.05.19

To adopt the amended proposed social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action" as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Accordance with the "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" (2018).

Consideration: Social Statement Implementing Resolutions

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action"

With the adoption of *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action*, the Social Statement *Ad Hoc* Committee reported on six amendments proposed to the statement's implementing resolutions. The assembly voted on the committee's recommendations.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-864; NO-X30

CA19.05.20

To adopt the recommended proposed implementing resolutions as amended.

- 1. To urge members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, social ministry organizations, church-related institutions, ecumenical partners, and all people of good will to be guided by this statement's convictions and commitments to resist and dismantle patriarchy and sexism, and to transform life in the church and in society;**
- 2. To call upon members of this church to pray, work, and advocate for justice for all those affected by sexism and patriarchy and to draw upon this statement in forming their judgments and actions in daily life;**

3. To encourage members to be guided by the ELCA social message on “Gender-based Violence” (2015) in taking action, such as urging their congregations to implement policies and to become intentional sites of advocacy and support for local efforts that serve those affected by such violence;
4. To call upon all members of this church to reflect on how mass media (films, video games, etc.) and social media distort sex, gender, and sexuality and to address this problem in their own actions (especially their care for children);
5. To call upon congregational leaders, rostered and lay, to encourage women and girls to pursue leadership roles within congregations and in discernment toward rostered ministry;
6. To encourage ELCA congregations to present positive gender roles in their educational activities, preschools, and day care, and to urge youth-related ministries within this church to adopt positive modeling of gender equity in all leadership, programs, and educational events;
7. To urge congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization (CWO) to address inequities (in pay, senior leadership, availability of second and third calls, etc.), as well as the systemic causes of such inequities, for rostered and lay women of various backgrounds, identities, and personal experiences and to advocate for adequate and equitable leave for all parents and families;
8. To call upon the Conference of Bishops, synods, and the churchwide organization to use gender-inclusive and expansive language for God, and to direct the ELCA worship team
 - a) to use such language whenever it commissions, curates, or develops new liturgical and related educational resources and
 - b) to supplement existing resources toward that end; and
 - c) to explore the development of an inclusive language lectionary similar to the Psalter in Evangelical Lutheran Worship.
9. To direct the Mission Advancement unit of the CWO to collaborate with the Office of the Presiding Bishop in creating a single page at ELCA.org where readers can access the existing resources of the ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation related to the concerns of this statement and to work to make those resources available in languages other than English;
10. To call upon this church’s advocacy and related ministries, such as ELCA Advocacy and ELCA World Hunger, to support and advocate for measures, policies, and laws consistent with this social statement and to give sustained attention to its convictions and commitments in the creation of programs and projects;
11. To recognize past and present CWO efforts to address institutional sexism and foster gender justice in this church, and to urge sustained devotion of resources, such as support for the CWO’s Justice for Women program;
12. To encourage the ministries of Women of the ELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission to continue and expand their work to address the issues identified in this social statement and to commend greater participation in these efforts;
13. To call upon those engaged in publishing activities throughout the ELCA to continue and extend their support for gender equity in ELCA resources and communications through such dimensions as language, images, stories, Bible studies, themes, and representation of contributors;

14. To urge faculty, staff, and administrators of ELCA-related colleges, universities, and seminaries to renew their efforts to develop syllabi and best practices that affirm and promote the gifts of women from varied identities and backgrounds;
15. To call upon rostered and lay congregational leaders, synod and CWO staff, social ministry organizations, and faculty and staff at ELCA colleges, seminaries, and universities to renew their efforts to welcome, care for, and support the lives and gifts of LGBTQIA persons and to oppose discrimination against these persons so that they may live into the promise of gender justice envisioned in this social statement;
16. To call on the church in all its expressions and related agencies, organizations, and institutions to embed and incorporate anti-sexism training and protocols in their ongoing work, including appropriate adaptations to boundaries training for rostered ministers, and to create institutional resources to support rostered ministers who experience sexual misconduct or gender-based harassment, as well as pastoral care resources for all affected by sexism; and
17. To direct the ELCA Church Council to establish a process for public repentance regarding the sins of patriarchy and sexism and establish a churchwide day of confession and repentance no later than the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
18. To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with appropriate units in the CWO, to establish and oversee processes for implementation of and accountability for these resolutions and to report to the fall meeting of ELCA Church Council in 2021.

Elections: Third Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Secretary, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee

The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 10:00 a.m., 932 voting members were registered. There were 908 votes cast; two-thirds or 606 votes were needed for election. The Elections Committee reported the results of the third ballot for secretary, taken by electronic voting machines, as follows:

Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, 251 votes
 The Rev. Stephen Herr, 184 votes
 The Rev. Lamont A. Wells, 170 votes
 Mr. Peter Severson, 114 votes
 Bp. Jon V. Anderson, 101 votes
 The Rev. Tyler Rasmussen, 78 votes
 Mr. John Emery, 10 votes

The top three moved on to the fourth ballot.

Consideration: Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA

The *Ad Hoc* Committee reported on the procedures it used to receive and address amendments. No amendments were submitted by voting members. The motion was made to adopt the recommended proposed document “Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA.”

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-855; NO-13

CA19.05.21

To thank the Task Force for Strategic Authentic Diversity and all who contributed to its work to develop a report and recommendations on how this church exhibits authentic diversity and formulates its own goals and expectations for racial diversity and inclusion;

To call this church in all its expressions into a time of confession, reflection, and healing as its members renew an honest relational engagement in the body of Christ;

To urge the church in all its expressions and related agencies, organizations, and institutions to intentionally engage more deeply in the recommendations named in the report and to provide funds in support of these recommendations; and

To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with appropriate units in the churchwide organization, to establish and oversee processes for consideration, assignment, implementation of and accountability for these recommendations identified to the churchwide organization and to report regularly to the Church Council.

Consideration: Archival of Certain Social Policy Resolutions

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Archival of Certain Social Policy Resolutions

The assembly voted on the action item. No policy resolutions were removed from *en bloc* for discussion.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-840; NO-16

CA19.05.22

To archive the social policy resolutions identified in the “2019 Archival of Certain Social Policy Resolutions” document as suitable for archive, in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Elections: Fourth Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Secretary, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee

Each of the three nominees on the fourth ballot for secretary—Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, and the Rev. Lamont A. Wells—was given five minutes to address the Churchwide Assembly.

The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 2:05 p.m., 932 voting members were registered. Voting members used electronic voting machines to cast the fourth ballot for secretary. The Elections Committee reported the results of the fourth ballot. There were 906 votes cast; 60 percent or 544 votes were needed for election.

The Rev. Lamont A. Wells, 347 votes

Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, 338 votes

The Rev. Stephen R. Herr, 221 votes

Consideration: Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly acted on proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-855; NO-21

CA19.05.23

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.

Consideration: Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA Removed from *En Bloc*

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly acted on proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* which were removed from *en bloc* action.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-779; NO-105

CA19.05.24 To amend the ELCA constitutional provision 7.52. as follows:

- 7.52. A minister of Word and Service of this church shall be a person whose commitment to Christ, soundness in the faith, aptness to serve, teach, and witness, and educational qualifications have been examined and approved in the manner prescribed in the documents of this church; who has been properly called and **received onto the roster ordained**; who accepts and adheres to the Confession of Faith of this church; who is diligent and faithful in the exercise of ministry; and whose life and conduct are above reproach. A minister of Word and Service shall comply with this church's constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

Elections: Fifth Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure; Section V; Election of the Secretary; Section X; Report of the Elections Committee

The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 2:50 p.m., 932 voting members were registered. The 2019 Churchwide Assembly elected a new secretary on the fifth ballot. The Elections Committee reported that 911 votes were cast and 456 were needed for election.

Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, 509 votes

The Rev. Lamont A. Wells, 402 votes

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA19.05.25 To elect Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer as the next secretary of the ELCA.

Consideration: Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA Removed from *En Bloc* (continued)

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly acted on proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* which were removed from *en bloc* action.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-787; NO-53

CA19.05.26 To amend the ELCA constitutional provision 5.01 as follows:

CHAPTER 5: PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION

- 5.01 c. The congregations, synods, and churchwide organization of this church are interdependent **partners-expressions** sharing responsibly in God's mission. In an interdependent relationship, primary responsibility for particular functions will vary **between the partners among the expressions**. Whenever possible, the entity most directly affected by a decision shall be the principal party responsible for decision and implementation, with the other entities facilitating and assisting. Each congregation, synod, and separately incorporated ministry, as well as the churchwide organization itself, is a separate legal entity and is responsible for exercising its powers and authorities.

- d. Each congregation and synod in its governing documents shall include the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose and such **structural** components as are required in ~~this constitution~~ **the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**. Beyond these common elements, congregations and synods shall be free to organize in such manner as each deems appropriate for its jurisdiction.
- e. ~~The Church Council shall establish an ongoing process to review the function of the structural organization of this church and to develop recommendations for changes.~~
- f. 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, 50 at least 45~~ percent of the lay members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be **female women** and ~~50 at least 45~~ percent shall be **male men**, and that, where possible, the representation of ministers of Word and Sacrament shall ~~be both female and male~~ **include both women and men**. 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.
- gf. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, synods, through **synodical** 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, 50 at least 45~~ percent of the lay members of their assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be **female women** and ~~50 at least 45~~ percent shall be **male men**, and that, where possible, the representation of ministers of Word and Sacrament shall ~~be both female and male~~ **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.
- g. **A layperson is a person who is not on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament or the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church.**

5.01.B169 *Each synod shall submit its **goals** and strategies to the appropriate churchwide unit or office and shall annually submit a report on progress toward its goals to ~~the Church Council~~ **such unit or office**.*

5.01.E19 ***The Church Council shall establish triennial percentage goals for this church to meet the commitment expressed in 5.01.A16. The minimum goal shall be that at least 10 percent of the members of this church shall be persons of color or whose primary language is other than English.***

5.01.F19 ***It is the goal of this church that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, and churchwide boards and committees be youth and young adults. The Church Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of***

the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

5.01.G19 To implement 5.01.g., those deacons elected as laypersons prior to the adoption of this provision may complete the term to which they were elected as a layperson. They would not be eligible for reelection as a layperson if such reelection were otherwise possible.

ASSEMBLY *Two-Thirds Vote Required*
ACTION YES-823; NO-35
CA19.05.27 **To amend the ELCA constitutional provision 4.02.c., subject to ratification at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly:**

4.02 c. Serve in response to God’s love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and, justice, and equality equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing in solidarity with the poor and oppressed and powerless and committing itself to their needs.

ASSEMBLY *Two-Thirds Vote Required*
ACTION YES-792; NO-39
CA19.05.28 **To refer Motion J to the Office of the Secretary.**

Memorials Committee (continued)

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee; Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman and Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, led the assembly in continued discussion on the memorials.

Category CI: Church and State

ASSEMBLY
ACTION YES-782; NO-82
CA19.05.29 **To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Minneapolis Area Synod requesting a social statement on the role of government, the nature of civic engagement, and the relationship of church and state; and**
To authorize the development of an ELCA social statement on government, civic engagement and the relationship of church and state that will allow thorough attention to scriptural, historical, theological, and social issues as a means to probe shared convictions and establish this church’s comprehensive teaching in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018); and
To urgently request the ELCA Church Council to authorize a social message as a priority in the development of a social statement; this message would elaborate in one place what this church already holds regarding issues such as public church, the vocation of citizenship, the relation of church and state in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Category D1: 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-800; NO-19

CA19.05.30

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon, Southwest California, Western North Dakota, Northeastern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Nebraska, Central States, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Western Iowa, North/West Lower Michigan, Northeastern Ohio, New Jersey, New England, Metropolitan New York, Upstate New York, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, and Virginia synods concerning the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women to the ministry of Word and Sacrament;

To encourage all synods and congregations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women in 2020 and the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the Lutheran tradition in the United States and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to remove the barriers to ordination for people in same-gendered relationships and recognize the diversity of gifts that women's ordination brings to this church;

To call upon synods, congregations and the churchwide organization to recognize the need for repentance and continued examination regarding equity for ministerial leadership and to collaborate in systemic work to address disparities based on gender and race for people in rostered ministry;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with other churchwide units, to conduct a gap analysis of rostered women, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by rostered women of color; and

To recognize the implementing resolutions for the proposed social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action" as a response to the sexism and racism concerns raised by these memorials.

Category C3: Migrants

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-811; NO-44

CA19.05.31

To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Delaware-Maryland Synod concerning migrants and refugees;

To reaffirm the long-term and growing commitment of this church to migrants and refugees and to the policy questions involved, as exemplified most recently in the comprehensive strategy Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO);

To encourage members of this church to review existing social teaching and policy and use these guides to take additional action toward addressing harmful political rhetoric against migrants and refugees; and

To request that appropriate staff in the Domestic Mission, Global Mission, and Mission Advancement units develop a plan for additional tools that provide for education and discernment specifically directed to political rhetoric and the accurate portrayal of migrants and refugees.

Category A6: Poor People's Campaign

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-804; NO-65

CA19.05.32

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon, New England and Metropolitan New York synods concerning the National Poor People's Campaign; and

To affirm the Church Council action [CC18.11.23u] recognizing "the importance of the Poor People's Campaign in bringing an end to systemic racism, economic injustice, ecological devastation and related injustices; to support the vision and goals of the Poor People's Campaign that are in alignment with this church's social teachings; to encourage the churchwide organization, synods, congregations and members to become involved with the issues as a faithful witness to God's call to do justice and show love for the neighbor."

Category C5: Call to Edit Human Sexuality Social Statement

Moved;

Yes-440; No-400

Seconded;

To postpone the memorial to "Call to Edit the Human Sexuality Social Statement indefinitely.

Carried;