

ELCA 2019-2026

2019 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

The Assembly adopted a formal letter of repentance to commit to examine the church's complicity in slavery and to acknowledge "the ELCA's perpetuation of racism."

The Assembly overwhelmingly approved "A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment." The document includes this perspective – "We must be careful about claiming to know God's judgments regarding another religion. . . . All we know, and all we need to know, is that our neighbors are made in God's image and that we are called to love and serve them." In other words, the Christian faith has nothing unique to offer.

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HUMAN SEXUALITY

The **2022 Churchwide Assembly (CWA)** overwhelmingly passed two resolutions that called for reconsideration of the 2009 social statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust."

- Reconsideration #1: A review of specific text references that "would consider the import that marriage legally is now a covenant between individuals;" review specific wording "in light of public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender-non-conforming couples;" and "consider references to diversity of family configurations."
- Reconsideration #2: A fresh consideration of the "church's current concept of the four positions of bound conscience."

The **2025 CWA** overwhelmingly approved the first reconsideration, which amounted to no less than a full embrace of every diverse form of sexual orientation and gender identity.

A task force is working on the issue of bound conscience and will have a recommendation for the **2028 CWA**.

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2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

COMMISSION FOR A RENEWED LUTHERAN CHURCH

The **2022 CWA** directed the Church Council "to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church" which would be "particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle

racism” and would “present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention.”

The makeup of the Commission was significantly weighted in favor of LGBTQ+ persons and persons with DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility) responsibilities in their place of employment and/or influence. Therefore, the outcome of its work was certain.

Two recommendations in their final report reveal their radical leftist agenda.

Recommendation 1 - “Immediate Action on Dismantling Racism”

This recommendation shows what the Commission valued the most and felt most urgent about. The Commission recommended that “the ELCA Church Council immediately begin identifying and acting upon mutual accountability measures and compliance incentives across all expressions of the ELCA to ensure the proactive centering of dismantling racism within the denomination.”

The Commission’s position was that “all constitution and bylaw amendments needed for the development and implementation of these accountability measures and compliance incentives must be developed and advanced in time for consideration by the 2028 Churchwide Assembly.” If they are not developed in time, then the ELCA Church Council needs to call for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly to evaluate and enact the necessary constitutional revisions.

Recommendation 7 – “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Related Changes to Governing Documents and Recognition of Historically Underrepresented Groups”

This recommendation contains a number of continuing resolutions which the Commission recommended and the Church Council approved.

These continuing resolutions cement a DEIA value system and Marxist critical theory into the governing documents of the ELCA without requiring any vote by a churchwide assembly. They also make every diverse form of sexual orientation and gender identity a special, privileged group of people.

DEIA AUDIT

The Assembly directed the Church Council to engage an external auditor to conduct a comprehensive audit for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility of the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA and related governance documents and present a report of the findings by the Fall 2023 Church Council meeting.

They also directed the Church Council to direct the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee to use the findings of this audit to recommend changes to the governing documents to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

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2025 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

DEIA

The “Recommended Minimum DEIA Standards for Congregations” that are listed in the DEIA audit which the ELCA Church Council had done of its governing documents are not yet mandatory, but it is obvious that powerful people and forces will not stop until they are.

The wording of Memorial B14 – “Consideration of Recommendation 1 of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church” – was not as strong as the wording that came from the Commission (see above). But still the Memorial, which was overwhelmingly approved, calls for the church “to acknowledge the importance of accountability in addressing racism within all structures of the ELCA . . . and to direct the Church Council to add a timeline to actions taken and to provide progress updates to this church with a final report by fall 2027, including possible constitutional changes.”

FAST TRACK APPROVAL PROCESS

By a very narrow margin an amendment was approved that removed language from the proposed amendment to the Churchwide Constitution 22.11.b., which would have provided a fast-track approval process for constitutional amendments that come from the floor.

Subsequently an amendment was presented which would provide for a provisional ratification of an amendment from the floor by a vote of the church council within twelve months and then a later ratification of the amendment by the next churchwide assembly.

The assembly voted to refer the motion to the Office of the Secretary for further study.

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YOUTH MINISTRY

Even though the 2009 ELCA human sexuality social statement gives a place of dignity and respect also to traditional views, ELCA youth gatherings do nothing to support traditional views and those who hold them.

Instead the organizers of these gatherings are working relentlessly to groom ELCA youth in LGBTQIA+, transgender, and non-binary ideology.

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S13.24

There have been instances when Synod Councils and Synodical Bishops have used S13.24 in the Model Constitution for Synods to take over, close, and/or seize the property of a congregation.