

ELCA Churchwide Assembly 2019 summary

Our denomination, the ELCA, holds a churchwide assembly triennially - to worship, vote on matters of governance and policy, and be church together for the sake of the world. This past week's churchwide assembly was full of important votes and actions, including:

- **Re-elected Rev. Elizabeth Eaton as our Presiding Bishop** for a second six-year term on the first ballot.
- Offered a **declaration of apology to our siblings of African descent**, which was received by the African Descent Lutheran Association with thanks and a call for accountability and living into the words shared.
- Approved a resolution declaring the ELCA to be a **sanctuary church body**, encouraging participation in the ELCA AMMPARO initiative for migrant children, discernment of care for our immigrant neighbors in our context, and the promise of forthcoming resources for this work.
- Approved support for the World Council of Church's **Thursdays in Black**, awareness movement for a world without rape and violence.
- Voted to **commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance**, in honor and remembrance of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9.
- Approved a **Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment**, reaffirming ecumenical and interfaith partnerships.
- Celebrated the completion of the **Campaign for the ELCA: Always Being Made New** and gave thanks for the \$250 million in current and promised gifts to enable ministry in the US and around the global
- Approved the process for a new social statement to articulate our ELCA understanding of the relationship between **Church and Government**
- Approved the recommendations from a strategic taskforce which has been studying how to work toward **authentic diversity in our church**.
- Approved memorials: affirming but not "endorsing" the **Poor People's Campaign**, care for immigrants and refugees, and other statements.
- Adopted a new social statement, **Faith, Sexism, and Justice: a Call to Action**, and its implementing resolutions.
- **Elected Deacon Sue Rothmeyer as Churchwide Secretary**, a full-time position which acts as executive administrator and leader on all constitutional matters and interpretation.
- Approved a constitutional change so that **Deacons (rostered ministers of word and service) will be ordained**, replacing the previous practice of consecration.
- Celebrated the milestones of **50 years of women's ordination, 40 years since the first woman of color was ordained, and 10 years since full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ clergy**.