The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Eaglewood Resort, Itasca, Illinois, March 6-8, 2020. The council centered its work around worship, prayer, and conversation with the Conference of Bishops at this historic first joint meeting of the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops.

The Church Council took action on the following:

- approved non-substantive edits to *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*
- approved non-substantive updates to the *Manual of Policies and Procedures for the Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*  
- repealed “Vision and Expectations,” effective immediately; affirmed that *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* remains the basis for discipline in this church; and directed churchwide units to make necessary updates and changes to relevant documents by June 1, 2020
- directed Domestic Mission unit to update language, effective immediately, in the ELCA Candidacy Manual related to a candidate’s entrance and approval
- directed Portico Benefit Services to take actions necessary to offer at least two plans that have 78-82 percent actuarial value
- approved a Church Council Designated Fund with excess funds from FY2018 and FY2019 to be used for future budget shortfall
- approved Portico’s discontinuation of collection of a surcharge that was being used to fund the Benefits Contribution Trust
- received the response from the Domestic Mission unit to a request from the Conference of Bishops on climate change and approved a timeline for progress reports, with a final report to be given to the Church Council at its April 2022 meeting
- authorized the Executive Committee to elect trustees to fill, until the November 2020 meeting of the Church Council, vacancies in the board of trustees of the ELCA Foundation
- elected persons to the boards of directors of four seminaries
- expressed thanks to the Conference of Bishops for gathering with the Church Council at this meeting and sharing their knowledge, experience, and perspectives

The Church Council received/engaged in the following:

- reports from the officers and its committees
- update on the ELCA Innovation Lab
- conversation with the Conference of Bishops of what it means to be a sanctuary church and potential future guidance for this church
- conversation with presidents and representatives of the Ethnic-Specific Ministry Associations
- update on Mission Support Experiment synods
- conversation on congregational vitality
- conversation on anti-racism and authentic diversity