



# Fourth Meeting of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church

The Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) met via Zoom February 7 - 8, 2024. Each meeting opened with conversation, prayer, and holy reflection on our work together.

## February 7:

- The chairs announced that the following multicultural ministry groups had reached out to the CRLC and would be joining us during meetings as resource individuals:
  - African Descent Lutheran Association
  - Latino Ministries Association/Asociación de Ministerios Latinos de la ELCA
  - Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders
  - Association of American Indians and Alaska Natives of the ELCA
  - Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage
  - European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice (now titled the Association of White Lutherans for Racial Justice)
- Shari Seifert introduced herself as the president of the European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice, and discussed how she could support the CRLC as a resource.
- All Ears Committee:
  - Listening Session data entry and status of upcoming Listening Sessions
  - Promoting the individual listening survey
  - Discussed demographic questions of the individual listening survey, and how they will be analyzed from a research methodology perspective.
  - The CRLC voted and passed a motion that in-person Listening Sessions and the online survey would conclude March 15. Commission members can choose to hold information sessions only after March 15. Reports must be entered into the data collection instrument by March 24.
- Why and What Committee:
  - Created a language chart analyzing the language used in the governing documents of the different expressions of the ELCA.
  - Analyzed a very broad purpose of the ELCA, currently working on putting that purpose into the focus of the DEIA language.
  - Holding meetings to discuss ministries within the ELCA not labeled as expressions of the ELCA, for example, outdoor and campus ministries.
- Dismantling Racism Committee:
  - Created a lens of antiracism to guide the committee's work and ensure that all CRLC work is completed through that lens.

- Working to help each member of the CRLC complete the Intercultural Development Inventory, to create a basis for where to begin.
- Creating a guiding framework for discussions. Disagree with arguments, not people.

**February 8:**

- Who Are We Committee:
  - Spent time discussing what is “Evangelical” and what is “Lutheran”, and how the ELCA applies to both descriptions.
  - Discussed the ELCA’s relationships with seminaries, colleges, universities, and overall entities that call themselves Lutheran and that may have legal ties to the ELCA while not being listed as an “expression” of the church.
  - Having a February meeting to dive deeper into Independent Lutheran entities.
- How Are We Governed:
  - Reviewing the organizational structure of the ELCA through the lens of dismantling racism.
- Communications:
  - Drafting and releasing meeting notes after all CRLC meetings.
  - Working on a video with CRLC Chairs Carla Christopher and Leon Schwartz to market the individual survey.
  - Current focus is on encouraging the sharing of the survey on social media.
- Planning and Report Committee:
  - Organizing the CRLC to ensure the committee meets important deadlines for the 2025 Assembly.
  - Created a calendar/timeline for the CRLC’s work and discussing that timeline with all committees.
- The CRLC reviewed and approved all committee charters.
- The CRLC received the decision from the Executive Committee of the Church Council regarding the motion passed by the CRLC during the November/December 2023 Meeting. The Executive Committee decided not to fill the spot on the CRLC vacated by Ms. Loni Taylor, who is no longer able to participate on the CRLC.
  - Original Motion: To request that the Executive Committee of the Church Council appoint a member of the commission to replace Ms. Loni Taylor, who is no longer able to participate on the CRLC, to maintain representation from the Indigenous perspective.