

**Report of Committee on Agenda and Program (PROPOSED AGENDA)  
2019 SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD – ELCA ASSEMBLY  
May 30, 31 & June 1, 2019  
Spartanburg Marriott  
299 North Church Street + Spartanburg, SC**

**Joining God in the Neighborhood**

*“Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence – and love your neighbor as well as you do yourself.’” (Luke 10:27)*

2019 is the Thirty Second Assembly of the South Carolina Synod – ELCA and the 194<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Lutheran Church in South Carolina. The 2019 Assembly will include several items of business for our consideration, including the election of a Vice President for Synod Council using the Ecclesiastical process and the presentation of Nominations for other various offices and committees.

At this Assembly we will also look forward to welcoming our Companions from the Japanese Evangelical Lutheran Church as our guests. We plan to share in Worship, Bible Conversations, Mission Moments, and a Keynote Presentation. We will sing together at Beer & Hymns. We will work together at Lunch & Learn when we consider the upcoming ELCA vote on Ordination as the entrance Rite for Deacons, and at Dinner when we will consider the needs of the SC Synod as we approach the election of a new Bishop in 2020.

We have two Special Focus times planned for this Assembly. Friday afternoon everyone will have an opportunity to watch a movie together and join in discussion about being good neighbors. Saturday morning attendees will be able to attend two workshops on Resourcing Congregations.

We have a lot to accomplish in the work of our Lord here in the SC Synod, and we truly enjoy being together to do this. We hope you will join in with us as we seek to join God in the Neighborhood.

<b>Thursday, May 30, 2019</b>
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**10:00 a.m. Registration Desk Opens**  
**10:00 a.m. Displays Set up**

**Please note:** the Registration Desk will be open each day throughout the Assembly with the exception of breaks for meals, worship and times during voting when the staff will need to prepare the Report of Registration. The registration desk will reopen after each ballot is completed.

*Voting members must have checked in at the registration desk and obtained a voting member's name tag and Qwizdom Voting device in order to cast a legal ballot during the plenary sessions. Voting members are required to be seated within the "bar of the synod" during times of voting. The Registration Desk will be closed during posted times of assembly for the purpose of preparing the Registration report and allowing time for balloting. All assembly participants including visitors are asked to refrain from movement within the arena during voting times. No one will be allowed to enter or leave the plenary meeting room until the ballot is closed. Please respect our staff and volunteers who assist with monitoring movement during balloting to give all voting members the opportunity to concentrate.*

**Pre-Assembly Committee Meetings**

11:00 – 12:00 noon Committee of Reference and Counsel (by invitation Dogwood)  
11:00 – 12:00 noon Committee on Conduct of Elections (by invitation: Oak Boardroom)  
**11:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch on your own**  
**12:00 – 12:45 p.m. Orientation for Voting Members (Open to all)**

## FIRST SESSION - Thursday, May 30, 2019 - Heritage Ballroom

**1:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. (Includes Opening Worship in Azalea Ballroom)**  
**(As a courtesy, please leave cell phones off or in silent mode during all sessions.)**

Gathering Songs

Order for Opening of Synod Assembly

Organization of Assembly

Report: Reference and Counsel on Advisory Members & Introduction of Special Guests

Qwizdom Voting System Introduced

Report: Synod Council on procedural matters affecting this Assembly

Ecclesiastical/1<sup>st</sup> Ballot for Vice President

Report: Synod Council: Presentation of the Proposed Budget & Treasurer's Report

Report: Committee on Nominations

**Note:** *Nominations from the floor must include a completed biographical information form. Copies of this form will be available on the Synod webpage prior to assembly and on desk of the Secretary during the Assembly. These forms will need to be turned in by the end of this first session.*

Presentation: LTSS/LRU

Report: The Life and Work of the SC Synod – Bishop Herman Yoos

Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of Ordination

Teaching Moment: Immigration

Greetings: SC Lutheran Men in Mission

Report: Reference and Counsel

Greetings: Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church Guests

Presentation: Lutheran Homes

Announcements & Prayer

**4:45 pm Worship with Holy Communion (Azalea Ballroom 2<sup>nd</sup> Level)**

**Dinner on your own**

**9:00 – 10:30 p.m. Beer & Hymns (MESH in the Marriott)**

***Please Note: Proposed amendments to the budget may be submitted to the secretary of this synod in writing no later than Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 4:30 PM. For details please see Budget Procedure notes from Synod Council at the end of this agenda.***

***Please Note: Any Additional Resolutions may be given to the Committee of Reference and Counsel no later than Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 4:30 PM. For details please see the notes from Synod Council at the end of this agenda.***

***Please note: the results of the Ecclesiastical/1<sup>st</sup> Ballot for Vice President will be posted as soon as possible Thursday evening. Check the Registration area for the printed list. Forms for removal of names will be available at the Secretary's desk. Those who wish to remove their name from the ballot will need to complete and return that form No Later Than 7:30 am Friday, May 31***

**Note: Registration Desk Opens at 8:00 am on Friday morning**

*Voting members must have checked in at the registration desk and obtained a voting member's name tag in order to cast a legal ballot during the plenary sessions. The Registration Desk will be closed during posted times of assembly for the purpose of preparing the Registration report and allowing time for balloting.*

## SECOND SESSION - Friday, May 31, 2019- Heritage Ballroom

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 pm

*(As a courtesy, please leave cell phones off or in silent mode during all sessions.)*

Gathering Songs & Opening Prayer  
Presentation  
Report: Conduct of Elections Committee report on Ecclesiastical/1st Ballot for Vice President  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot for Vice President  
Presentation: Newberry College  
Report: Committee of Reference and Counsel  
Greetings: SC Women of the ELCA  
Presentation: The Life and Work of the ELCA, (The Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock)  
Report: Secretary  
Mission Moment  
Report: Conduct of Elections Committee report on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot for Vice President  
Report of Registration  
First Ballot: General Elections  
Presentation: SC Lutheran Retreat Centers  
Presentation  
Presentation: 7 Candidates for Vice President  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ballot for Vice President  
Announcements & Prayer for Lunch

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

### Lunch & Learn

This will include presentation on the work of SC Synod Deacons and conversation about the upcoming ELCA vote to make Ordination the Entrance Rite for Deacons.

## THIRD SESSION - Friday, May 31, 2019- Heritage Ballroom

1:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (includes Evening Worship in Azalea Ballroom)

Gathering Songs & Opening Prayer  
Report: Conduct of Elections Committee Report on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ballot for Vice President  
Teaching Moment: Celebration & Thanksgiving/Gratitude for Giving Practices  
Report of Registration  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot General Elections  
SC Synod Missions including Synod Mission DVD  
Report: Synod Council  
Presentation: Q&A with 3 Candidates for Vice President  
Special Focus: *The Movie Wheel* (3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)  
**Note:** *Everyone will have the opportunity in their registration to sign up to watch 1 of the 2 movies listed below, and participate in discussion afterward. Popcorn & Soda snacks provided. Register early so you are sure to participate in the movie of your choice. The Movie choices are:*  
1. *“Won’t you be my Neighbor?”* A Mister Rogers Documentary  
2. *“The Hate U Give”* a Blockbuster about community, neighborhood and race.

6:00 – 6:30 pm Reception (Heritage Pre-Function Area)

6:30 – 7:45 p.m. Dinner

This will include working together on the future of the SC Synod and preparations for the election of our next Bishop in 2020

8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Evening Worship (Azalea Ballroom 2<sup>nd</sup> Level)

**FOURTH SESSION - Saturday, June 1, 2019- Heritage Ballroom**

**8:30 a.m. – until closing**

**8:00 a.m. Registration Desk Open**

*(As a courtesy, please leave cell phones off or in silent mode during all sessions.)*

Gathering Songs & Opening Prayer

4<sup>th</sup> Ballot for Vice President

Mission Moment

Greetings: SC Lutheran Church Youth

Institutional Presentation 5: Novus Way

Report: Committee of Reference and Counsel

Report: Synod Council (several votes)

Report: Vice President

Institutional Presentation 6: LS Carolinas

Mission Moment

Report of Registration

5<sup>th</sup> Ballot for Vice President

Special Focus: Resourcing Congregations

In Registration you have the opportunity to choose 2 Workshops. Each Workshop is 30 minutes.

1. Using Compensation Guidelines Effectively
2. E-giving
3. Boundary notes for congregations
4. Congregational Social Media Presence

Report of Registration

Third Ballot: General Elections

Mission Moment

Bible Conversation Wrap-up

Unfinished Business

Report from Committee of Reference and Counsel

Announcements

Closing Worship of Sending with Installation of Synod Council Members

**The Deadline for submitting resolutions to Committee of Reference and Counsel is Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 4:30 PM.**

**The Deadline for submitting proposed amendments to the budget to the secretary is Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 4:30PM.**

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THE COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDS:

1. THAT NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR OF CANDIDATES FOR ANY ELECTIONS HELD AT THIS 2019 ASSEMBLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUESTED BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON THE OFFICIAL FORM PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE;
2. THAT THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECEIVE NO MOTIONS OR RESOLUTIONS AFTER **4:30 PM ON Thursday, May 30.**
3. THAT THE BAR OF THE SYNOD BE DESIGNATED AS THE TABLES AND CHAIRS ON THE FLOOR OF THE PLENARY MEETING ROOM;
4. THAT THE BISHOP, AS PRESIDING OFFICER, BE GIVEN AUTHORITY TO CALL FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA IN THE ORDER DEEMED APPROPRIATE, PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF TIME MANAGEMENT, AND SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARD TO BALLOTING, RESOLUTIONS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS DURING THE ASSEMBLY;
5. THAT PERSONS ON THE THIRD BALLOT FOR VICE PRESIDENT BE GIVEN TWO MINUTES EACH FOR PRESENTATIONS (cf. Synod Council's recommended "Rules of Procedure");
6. THAT PERSONS ON THE FOURTH BALLOT FOR VICE PRESIDENT BE GIVEN FIVE MINUTES EACH TO RESPOND TO TWO PREDETERMINED QUESTIONS. (cf. Synod Council's recommended "Rules of Procedure");
7. THAT THE PROPOSED AGENDA BE A GUIDE FOR THE 2019 ASSEMBLY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Virginia S. Aebischer

THE SYNOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING AS "RULES OF PROCEDURE" FOR THE 2019 SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD ASSEMBLY:

**RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION:**

**Recommends the adoption of the following "Budget Procedures" to guide the adoption of the 2020-2021 budget by the 2019 South Carolina Synod Assembly.**

**Budget Procedures**

1. **Proposed amendments to the budget must be submitted to the secretary of this synod in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 30. Each amendment or resolution to amend must be supported in writing by ten (10) signatures of voting members in this assembly. The secretary shall refer such proposed amendments to the Treasurer and the Finance Committee. During the consideration of the budget by the assembly, the Treasurer or Finance Committee shall report on the implication of each proposed amendment.**
2. **Any amendment to the budget that increases a current program proposal expense, or adds a current program proposal to the budget, must include a corresponding decrease in**

**some other current program proposal of the same amount; or an increase in revenues to offset the proposed expense.**

**Regarding Votes to Appropriate Funds not Approved by Synod Council:  
Chapter S10.04.**

**Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption.**

*Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod*

**Constitutional Provisions and Continuing Resolutions to Guide Procedures and Elections**

*Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions  
South Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
2019 South Carolina Synod Assembly*

*Italics = Continuing Resolutions  
Bold = Constitutional Provisions*

**Chapter 7.  
SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

- S7.01.A11. Resolutions which could not have reasonably been submitted before the 15-day deadline may be submitted to the Committee of Reference and Counsel after the opening of the assembly. A signer of the resolution, preferably its primary author, shall meet with the Committee of Reference and Counsel at the time appointed in the Rules of Procedure adopted for that assembly. Regardless of the recommendation of the Committee of Reference and Counsel, the consideration of such resolutions by the assembly shall require the approval by a two-thirds vote of voting members to place the resolution before the Synod Assembly. If a resolution is received after the deadline of 15 days prior to the formal opening of the assembly, the resolution shall be processed according to the provisions of this continuing resolution.*
- †S7.31. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this synod.**
- S7.32. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the assembly.**
- S7.32.A14. The following rules of procedure shall be in force at meetings of the Synod Assembly:*
- a. Unless otherwise determined by vote of the assembly, all speeches in general discussion shall be limited to two minutes and no member shall be permitted to speak the second time on the same subject when others desire to speak.*
  - b. A resolution of a general character which is not germane to the pending question or report shall be given by the proposer to a Committee of Reference and Counsel.*
  - c. All reports published in the Bulletin of Reports shall be received as information by the assembly by virtue of that fact without vote.*
  - d. All other reports shall be in writing and in such form as the assembly or the Synod Council may determine.*
  - e. The minutes of each assembly shall be submitted to the Synod Council for approval.*
  - f. The bishop and secretary shall, after making any necessary corrections therein, certify two copies of the printed minutes of each assembly as the official protocol of said assembly, and shall submit the same to the next regular assembly for approval and deposit in the archives.*
  - g. Holy Communion shall be administered at each assembly.*

**Chapter 8.  
OFFICERS**

†S8.01.           **The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.**

**S8.20. Vice president**

†S8.21.           **The vice president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The vice president shall be a layperson. The vice president shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The vice president shall not receive a salary for the performance of the duties of this office.**

**S8.22.           The vice president shall chair the Synod Council.**

**S8.50. General Provisions**

†S8.51.           **The terms of office of the officers of this synod shall be:**  
**a.   The bishop of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected.**  
**b.   The vice president and secretary of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected.**  
**c.   The treasurer of this synod shall be elected to a six year term and may be reelected.**

**S8.52.           The terms of the officers shall begin on the first day of the third month following election or, in special circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.**

†S8.53.           **Each officer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, except that the bishop need not be a member of a congregation of this synod at the time of election.**

**Chapter 9.  
NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

†S9.01.           **The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws. The Synod Assembly shall elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with bylaw 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

*S9.01.A08.           The Synod Council Executive Committee shall provide for background checks for persons nominated for synodical office prior to the Synod Assembly at which the election will take place or as soon as possible after the Synod Assembly for newly elected officers nominated from the floor who were not identified as nominees prior to the assembly. The process shall be as follows:*  
*a.   Prior to the Synod Assembly appropriate notice of the background check requirement and protocol will be provided to voting members, potential nominees, and others as directed by the Synod Council.*  
*b.   Nominees and newly elected officers are required to provide written consent to a background check and all information necessary to complete a background check, which should be completed prior to the Synod Assembly with respect to nominees and prior to installation for newly elected officers, if possible.*  
*c.   The Synod Council's Executive Committee shall designate one Executive Committee or Synod Council member to obtain the background checks.*  
*d.   All background checks for nominees and newly elected officers will entail a criminal background check. A financial background check will be completed for nominees for treasurer. The Executive Committee shall decide whether additional types of background checks are appropriate for each officer position.*  
*e.   The background check results shall be provided to that nominee or elected officer and to the Synod Council's Executive Committee. Further disclosure of the results may be determined by the Executive Committee.*

*f. The Executive Committee may adopt other procedures or protocols as are necessary to provide for background checks for nominees and newly elected synodical officers and shall report such actions to the Synod Council.*

**S9.05. The vice president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot as specified in S9.04.**

**S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.**

*S9.04.A94. An "ecclesiastical ballot" is an election process:*

- a. In which on the first ballot the name of any eligible individual may be submitted for nomination by a voting member of the assembly;*
- b. Through which the possibility of election to office exists on any ballot by achievement of the required number of votes cast by voting members of the assembly applicable to a particular ballot;*
- c. That precludes spoken floor nominations;*
- d. In which the first ballot is the nominating ballot if no election occurs on the first ballot;*
- e. In which the first ballot defines the total slate of nominees for possible election on a subsequent ballot, with no additional nominations permitted;*
- f. That does not preclude, after the reporting of the first ballot, the right of persons nominated to withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot;*
- g. In which any name appearing on the second ballot may not be subsequently withdrawn;*
- h. That does not preclude an assembly's adoption of rules that permit, at a defined point in the election process and for a defined period of time, speeches to the assembly by nominees or their representatives and/or a question-and-answer forum in which the nominees or their representatives participate; and*
- i. In which the number of names that appear on any ballot subsequent to the second ballot shall be determined in accordance with provisions of the governing documents (or, if the governing documents are silent, in accordance with rules adopted by the assembly).*

**S9.08. All elections shall be by ballot. In all elections, other than for the bishop, vice president and the secretary, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled. On any ballot when only two names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.**

**S9.09. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the assembly.**

**†S9.12. Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as synodical officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Synod Council.**