

Report of Committee on Agenda and Program
(PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE AGENDA)
2020 SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD – ELCA ASSEMBLY
July 25, 2020

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
119 North Church Street + Lexington, SC

Listen, God is Calling!

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” (Matthew 7:7)

2020 is the Thirty-Third Assembly of the South Carolina Synod – ELCA and the 195th meeting of the Lutheran Church in South Carolina. The 2020 Assembly will include several items of business for our consideration, including the election of a Bishop using the Ecclesiastical Ballot and the presentation of Nominations for other various offices and committees. We plan to share together in Worship, Bible Conversations, and a Keynote Presentation.

This spring the Covid19 virus pandemic brought many changes to our lives and the way we do ministry, including the plans we had for our assembly to be held in May. When we gather we will celebrate the presence and the hope we have in Jesus, and we will rejoice that, once again, we are able to be with one another.

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility with this agenda plan. We recognize that it is a packed agenda with lots of work to do together in a short time. This agenda includes the items required by our constitution, as well as a few of our traditional agenda items which will happen while our Elections Committee is counting ballots. We will not be able to celebrate Bishop Yoos' Retirement at this Assembly, but we are planning to hold that celebration later in the fall.

In preparation for this Assembly we ask each of you to review the Orientation PowerPoint that is on our Synod Website so that you are familiar with the voting processes and especially the election of Bishop. We are asking that each person plan for very limited access to internet and prepare in advance. If you choose to use the Guidebook App, please download the app and all of the documents in their entirety before you arrive at assembly. Everyone will have the opportunity when registering online to request a paper packet and we are happy to provide those for you when you arrive at assembly.

We look forward to gathering, listening for the Spirit of God and doing the work of ministry together.

Please Register by July 13 online. There will NOT be any registration opportunities on the day of Assembly. Registration fee is \$65 per person. Registrations for the May assembly dates have been cancelled and everyone needs to register again for July.

Saturday, July 25, 2020

8:00 a.m.	Name Badges Available (Packets & Qwizdom Voting Device pick up opens)
8:00 a.m.	Displays Set up

Please note: The Registration Desk will be open 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

8:30 – 9:30 am Committee of Reference and Counsel (by invitation) AS NEEDED
 8:30 – 9:30 am Committee on Conduct of Elections (by invitation) AS NEEDED
9:15 – 9:45 am Welcome Snacks & Coffee (In the Social Hall)
9:45 – 10:00 am Gathering Songs (In the Gym)

Saturday, July 25, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 8:15 p.m.

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

10:00 am Order for Opening of Synod Assembly
 Organization of Assembly
 Report: Reference & Counsel Introduction of Special Guests
 Report of Synod Council (Part 1) Procedural matters affecting this Assembly
 Report of Registration
 Prayer
 Ecclesiastical/1st Ballot for Bishop
 (Standard Procedure to Allow 2 hours for Ballot Counting)

11:00 am Worship

12:00 noon Lunch & Celebration of those Ordained for 50 years.

12:45 pm Report of Synod Council (Part 2) Proposed Budget & Treasurer's Report
 Greetings: Youth Gathering Coordinator
 Greetings: SC Women of the ELCA

1:00 pm COE Report: Results of the Ecclesiastical Ballot
 (Allowing 30 minutes to complete Biographical Form or Withdrawal Form)
 (Allowing 30 minutes for Preparations of 2nd Ballot for Bishop)
 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 2:00 pm*

 Report: The Life and Work of the SC Synod – Bishop Herman Yoos
 Report: Reference and Counsel AS NEEDED
 Greetings: SC LMM
 Institution Video: SC Lutheran Retreat Centers
 Greetings SC LCY

 Bible Conversations 1
 Report: Conduct of Elections Committee nominees for 2nd Ballot for Bishop
 Report of Registration
 Prayer

2:10 pm 2nd Ballot for Bishop
 (Allowing 60 minutes to count ballots)
 Report: Committee of Reference and Counsel (AS NEEDED)
 Institution Video: Lutheran Homes
 Institution Video: Lutheran Services Carolina
 Report: Secretary
 Qwizdom Voting System Introduced
 Report of Registration

2:38 pm Prayer
First Ballot: General Elections
Keynote Video Presentation (Snacks will be at the tables during this time)

3:30 pm Report: Conduct of Elections Results of 2nd Ballot for Bishop

3:40 pm Presentation: 7 Candidates for Bishop Introductions
Report of Registration
Prayer

4:02 pm 3rd Ballot for Bishop
(Allowing 60 minutes to count ballots)
Report of Registration AS NEEDED
Second Ballot: General Elections AS NEEDED
Institution Video: Novus Way
Institution Video: Newberry College
Greetings: Mission Investment Fund
Greetings: SC Campus Ministry Video
Bible Conversations 2
Report: The Work of the ELCA (The Rev. Rafael Malpica)
Report of Synod Council (Part 3) Recommendations on Comp Guidelines

5:10 pm Report: Conduct of Elections Results of 3rd Ballot for Bishop

5:15 pm Presentation: Q&A with 3 Candidates for Bishop
Report of Registration
Prayer

5:46 pm 4th Ballot for Bishop

6:00 – 7:00 pm Dinner, including Introductions of New Leaders to the SC Synod
Video presentations & Greetings which we did not hear earlier
Report of Registration AS NEEDED
Third Ballot: General Elections AS NEEDED
Institution Video: Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
Bible Conversations 3
Report of Synod Council (Part 4) Votes: Compensation Guidelines & Budget
Report: Vice President
Report of Registration
Prayer

7:32 pm 5th Ballot for Bishop
Unfinished Business
Report: Committee of Reference and Counsel
Closing of Assembly with Installation of Synod Council

Please Note: Proposed amendments to the budget may be submitted to the secretary of this synod in writing no later than Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 12:00 noon. 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 Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 12:00 noon. For details please see the notes from Synod Council at the end of this agenda.

****Please note: The results of the Ecclesiastical/1st Ballot for Bishop will be announced and posted as soon as it is available. Our goal is 1:00 pm. Each Pastor who is nominated is asked to complete either a Biographical Form or a Withdrawal Form and turn it in to the Secretary's desk No Later than 1:30 pm, Saturday, July 25, 2020. The blank forms are available from the Desk of the Secretary.***

The Deadline for submitting resolutions to Committee of Reference and Counsel is Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 12:00 noon

The Deadline for submitting proposed amendments to the budget to the secretary is Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 12:00 noon

THE COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDS:

1. THAT NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR OF CANDIDATES FOR ANY ELECTIONS HELD AT THIS 2020 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 **Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 12:00 noon.**
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 BISHOP BE GIVEN TWO MINUTES EACH FOR INTRODUCTIONS (cf. Synod Council's recommended "Rules of Procedure");
6. THAT PERSONS ON THE FOURTH BALLOT FOR BISHOP 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 2020 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 2020 SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD ASSEMBLY:

RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION:

Recommends the adoption of the following "Budget Procedures" to guide the adoption of the 2021-2022 budget by the 2020 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 **Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 12:00 noon.** 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, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions
to Guide Procedures and Elections**

*Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions
South Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
2020 South Carolina Synod Assembly*

Bold = Constitutional Provisions

Lightface type = Bylaws

Italics = Continuing Resolutions

**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.

S8.10. Bishop

†S8.11. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†S8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall:

- a. Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church.
- b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ministers of Word and Sacrament and its ministers of Word and Service.
- c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synod bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).
- d. Ordain (or provide for the ordination of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as deaconesses and consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as ministers of Word and Service.
- e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.
- f. Install (or provide for the installation of) rostered ministers whose calls the bishop has attested.
- g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and in so doing:
 - 1) Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church;
 - 2) Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod;
 - 3) Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod;
 - 4) Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning this synod's life and work; and
 - 5) Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.
- h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
 - 1) Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church;
 - 2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of rostered ministers, and congregations of this synod;
 - 3) Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod;
 - 4) be a member of the Conference of Bishops and consult regularly with other synod bishops;
 - 5) Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;
 - 6) Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and
 - 7) Be ex officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly.
- i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
 - 1) Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of this synod;
 - 2) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive

Committee;

- 3) **Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of this synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of this synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect;**
- 4) **Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers;**
- 5) **Coordinate the work of all synod staff members;**
- 6) **Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;**
- 7) **Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of this synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution;**
- 8) **Provide for preparation and maintenance of synod rosters containing the names and addresses of all rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which their retired or disability status took effect;**
- 9) **Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered ministers on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council;**
- 10) **Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:**
 - a) **additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod;**
 - b) **the issuance of a certificate of transfer for rostered ministers in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod; and**
 - c) **the entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received;**
- 11) **Provide for preparation and maintenance of a roster of the congregations of this synod and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and**
- 12) **Appoint a statistician of this synod, who shall secure the parochial reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.**

S8.12.01. The bishop shall approve the nature of and personnel appointed for general religious services or public meetings sponsored by this synod.

S8.12.A87. *The bishop shall submit a written report, printed in the Bulletin of Reports, to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. In addition to this report concerning this synod's life and work, the bishop shall make an oral report to the Synod Assembly presenting a vision of the mission and ministry of this synod.*

†S8.13. **The synod bishop may appoint an attorney, admitted to the bar within the territory of the synod or the state where the synod is located, to be Synod Attorney. The appointment must be approved by the Synod Council and reported to the Synod Assembly and to the secretary of this church. The appointment continues until resignation or until a successor is appointed. The Synod Attorney provides legal advice and counsel to the synod officers and the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney is expected to be familiar with the governing documents and policies of the synod and, as necessary, to attend meetings of the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney serves without salary but may be retained and compensated for specific legal services requested by the synod.**

S8.14. **The bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.**

S8.14.01. There shall be two assistants to the bishop elected by the Synod Council on nomination by the bishop. The assistants may be recalled or dismissed on proper notice by action of the Synod Council. It shall set the term of office and responsibilities.

†S8.15. **The presiding bishop of this church, or the appointee of the presiding bishop, shall install into office, in accord with the policy and approved rite of this church, each newly elected synod bishop.**

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.**

S8.51.01. The terms of office of the bishop and the vice president shall be arranged so that the terms are staggered and do not expire in the same year.

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.*

S9.02. In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

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.