

**SC Women of the ELCA  
South Carolina Synod Assembly  
2022**

As South Carolina Women of the ELCA, we are a community of women called to discipleship in Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, and as a response to God's love and grace, we act boldly on our faith as we engage in ministry and action. We strive to be God's light for those who live in darkness.

The Thirty-Third Annual Convention of the South Carolina Women of the ELCA was held virtually on September 26, 2021 with the assistance of SCAV, Inc.

Our theme of Just Love was carried out throughout the day by the Rev. Kathy Harris from Faith Lutheran in Pickens, SC. She based her devotions on I Corinthians; **Let all that you do be done in love.** Pastor Kathy compared our community of faith to a spider's web. As we are woven together as humans together and in our faith. God cannot or will not be stopped or defeated. We were all reminded that the convention is about more than administration it is adding ministry to what we do as a group of women focused on supporting one another in our callings and making a difference in the lives of others and the world.

**Video Greeting**

Bishop Virginia "Ginny" Aebischer provided a video message welcoming us to our convention and thanking us for all we do.

**Report of the Committee on Credentials**

President Koch called on Suzanne Heusinger, Chair of the Committee on Credential, who gave the First Report on Credentials as follows:

Voting Members 49 Visitors 0  
Officers 4 Young Women Guests 0  
Board Members 8 First Timer Guests 0  
**Voting Strength 61 Other 4**

**Total Attendance 65**

**Video Greetings**

- Dr. Cathy Milejczak provided greetings from Tanzania
- Jimmy Smith from Lutheran Men in Mission provided a video message with greetings and information about their current status.
- Lutheran Services, Carolinas presented greetings and information about their services.
- The Rev. Danial Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response

**Address of the Churchwide Women of the ELCA Representative – Barbara Thistle**

Becky asked Amanda Boatwright to introduce our churchwide representative, Barbara Thistle. She talked about her history with becoming a Lutheran and her participation in WELCA. She explained what happened at this year's churchwide convention and introduced the current officers and Board using photographs. She reviewed Constitutional changes and the organizations and programs they are supporting. She discussed churchwide finances. The current budget is 30% lower than previously and has caused staff reorganization. She thanked all participating women for their service and financial support.

**Keynote Speaker: Thomas Knapp, Executive Director of the SC network of Children's Advocacy Centers**

Vice President Amanda Boatwright introduced our keynote speaker. He previously served in law enforcement and investigated crimes on children. This led him to his current position. He thanked SC WELCA for their support. Then Thomas explained more about how they assist children and families in crisis.

### **Mission Action Report on Convention Projects**

Board member Rae Davis reported on the results of our SC WELCA that we collected **\$4686.00** for **South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (SCNCAC)** and **\$2431** for **Lutheran Disaster Response**. She also thanked everyone who sewed the over 1000 masks for the children.

### **Report of Offering**

Rachel reported that the convention offerings received as of the convention date were **\$2,825**. The donations to the projects, including one half of the convention offerings, are **\$4,686** for SCNCAC and **\$2,440** for LDR.

### **Committee on Ref. and Counsel**

Linda Griffith of Transfiguration Lutheran in West Columbia/Cayce presented resolution on health and our Christian response to the Corona virus. "Whereas, the COVID virus has been an ongoing health issue since 2019; and whereas, SC DHEC's recommendation has been to vaccinate eligible individuals to help reduce the spread of the virus in South Carolina, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the South Carolina Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America encourage prayerful and informed decision-making by individuals in consultation with medical experts as appropriate within the units." MOTION CARRIED

### **Election Results**

President: Risse Snelgrove

Treasurer: Virginia Herlong

Board Member: Dee Bostic (who has been replaced by Karen Freeman since convention)

Board Member: Amanda Sease-Baker

Board Member: Joy Derrick

Board Member: Latynia Taylor

Board Member: Christie Gardner

### **Closing Devotions and Installation of Officers and Board Members**

Pastor Kathy used verses from Ecclesiastes to thank everyone for their patience and sticking around through the online convention process. She blessed the gifts we gave by bringing in a short video. She shared words of thanks to everyone for the gifts of remembrance we sent to all the South Carolina ordained female ministers in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination of Women. She thanked and outgoing Board members: Becky Koch, Rae Davis, Amanda Cruse West, Rachel Quesada. She installed the newly elected Board: Risse Snelgrove, Virginia Herlong, Christie Gardner, Dee Bostick, LaTynia Taylor, Joy Derick, and Amanda Sease-Baker.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women Ordained in Ministry Celebration**

Female Pastors in the South Carolina ELCA were honored on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination of women in ministry. Each Pastor receive a beautiful cross necklace from the SC Women of the ELCA board.

### **Invitation to the 2022 SC WELCA Convention**

Next year's convention is being planned to be in person again. Becky read the invitation from Pastor Matthew Titus from The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Newberry, SC. The dates are June 24 & 25, 2022.

Respectably Submitted by

Risse Snelgrove

President of the SC Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA

**South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission**  
**South Carolina Synod Assembly**  
**2022**

It is hard to believe that it has been a year already since I took over as Executive Director for SCLMM. The time has flown by and I have enjoyed it all. It has not been without some challenges though but none of them we can not handle.

Thanks to SCLMM, the mission congregations under development in our synod continue to grow. South Carolina is one of the very few synods that has not had to close mission congregations due to Covid 19. SCLMM has continued to maintain support of the mission congregations but due to the downfall in Committee of 100 contributions our monetary support is not where we are normally at. With that being said though we have built some new and what we think fruitful relationships that will build some new and vibrant congregations.

For instance, this past year some of our Executive Board made a trip to North Charleston and teamed up with Christ community and delivered lunch to a retired veterans apartment complex. In another instance, the Executive Board delivered dinner to the young adults that are a part of the campus ministry at the University of SC.

We are trying to build new relationships around the state and also trying to rekindle old ones. The opportunities for SCLMM to assist all of these congregations in their individual needs is exciting and also challenging.

The challenges that we have faced these last two years have been like no other. The biggest has been the Units in the conferences have not had many meetings in person. So there is the lack of getting together and reinforcing the community. Some have managed to get together and others have been meeting via zoom which is better than nothing and I applaud those who have toughed it out.

Our President Jimmy Smith had a theme for last year and it was from Joshua 1:9 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. This has been so true these last two years but we have always known that God will always be with us no matter what.

Thanks to all the hard working men and the support you give to SCLMM. I am excited about our Board of Directors for 2022. They will work hard for Jesus Christ to carry out His work through you.

AMEN for Lutheran Men

Tom Ramsey, Executive Director Cell 864-304-5107