

**ASSEMBLY
MINUTES
ONLY**

South Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Thirty-sixth Assembly

198th Annual Meeting
of the
Lutheran Church in South Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina
June 8-10, 2023



1003 Richland Street
Columbia, SC 29201

E-Mail: scsynod@scsynod.com

Phone: (803) 765-0590

FAX: (803) 252-5558

www.scsynod.com

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**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
MINUTES
THIRTY-SIXTH ASSEMBLY
June 8-10, 2023
Columbia Marriott
Columbia, South Carolina**

Our theme: I See Jesus

Were not our hearts burning within us? Luke 24:32

**FIRST SESSION
Thursday, June 8, 2023
3:00 p.m.**

ORDER FOR OPENING A SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Thirty-Sixth Annual Assembly of the South Carolina (SC) Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was held June 8-10, 2023, at the Columbia Marriott.

GATHERING MUSIC

The house band played gathering music. The band was made up of members from across the synod: The Rev. Christopher Girardeau, The Rev. Christopher Shealy, The Rev. Jesse Canniff-Kuhn, and Deacon Lexanne Graves.

Bishop Aebischer thanked the band for the gathering music.

ORDER FOR OPENING A SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Bishop Aebischer conducted the Order for Opening a Synod Assembly.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Aebischer welcomed the voting members, visitors, and guests to the assembly.

Bishop Aebischer announced that on February 27, the Synod Council designated the offerings from the 2023 Assembly to the SC Synod Lifeline Fund. The SC Synod Lifeline Fund helps address the economic challenges facing our rostered ministers from student loans taken out to pay for their seminary education. Since 2020, through the SC Synod Lifeline Fund, with matching grants from the Lilly Foundation, the synod has paid \$164,989 to education lenders to eliminate the education debt of nine rostered ministers and a significant portion of debt for two other rostered ministers. In fact, the cumulative reduction in educational debt for our pastors and deacons provided by Lifeline grants is over 85 years of education debt payments eliminated.

Bishop Aebischer called on Secretary Ozzie Herlong to the podium to share announcements.

Secretary Herlong shared the announcements.

1. There are several ways to participate in the offering before, during and after worship.
 - a. Place your offering in the offering basket during worship.
 - b. Mail your offering to the Synod Office at 1003 Richland St, Columbia SC 29201. Please mark your check "Assembly Offering."
 - c. Visit <https://scsynod.com/assembly/> and click "Assembly Offering."
 - d. Give via text. Simply text the word "give" to 864-383-1482. After following the instructions to set up your payment information (you could set this up prior to worship), text the whole dollar amount you wish to give and the word "Offering."
 - e. Scan the QR code on your table.
2. Proposed amendments to the budget may be submitted to the secretary no later than today at 5:30 p.m.
3. Any additional Resolutions that could not have been reasonably submitted before the 15-day deadline may be submitted to the secretary for the Committee of Reference and Counsel for consideration no later than today at 5:30 p.m.
4. Anyone bringing a nomination from the floor is asked to complete the biographical information form and submit it to the secretary no later than 5:30 p.m. today.

INTRODUCTION OF VOTING PROCEDURE

Bishop Aebischer reported on the voting procedure and the use of the voting devices operated by Lumi.

ORGANIZATION OF ASSEMBLY

Adoption of Agenda

Bishop Aebischer called on Ms. Wendy Davidson, Assembly Manager and Chair of the Committee on Agenda and Program.

Ms. Davidson presented the proposed agenda for the 2023 SC Synod Assembly.

Ms. Davidson presented the following recommendations from the Committee on Agenda and Program:

1. That nominations from the floor of candidates for any elections held at this 2023 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 Thursday, June 8, 2023, 5:30 p.m;
3. That the bar of the synod be designated as the registered voting members participating in this online assembly;
4. That the bishop, as presiding officer, be given the 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 the proposed agenda be a guide for the 2023 Assembly of the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Bishop Aebischer called for a vote on the adoption *en bloc* these recommendations.

Assembly

ACTION:

SA23.06.01. To adopt recommendations one through five.

Yes – 281; No - 2

Appointment of Assembly Committees and Parliamentarian

Bishop Aebischer appointed the 2023 assembly committees and the chairs of each committee.

The Rev. Henry M. Moody was appointed Parliamentarian.

Agenda and Program Committee: Wendy Davidson, Assembly Manager and Deacon Sarah Bowers, Creative Assistant

Registration:

Wendy Davidson, Assembly Manager
Deacon Sarah Bowers, Creative Assistant
Neal Fischer, Director of Communications

Katherine Davidson
Kelley Mintz

Worship & Music Leadership Team

Rev. Michael Price, Chaplain
Mr. David Turner, Music Director, Musician

Rev. Joanna Gragg, Necrologist
Rev. Martin Lopez Vega, Spanish Language Translator

House Band

Rev. Chris Girardeau
Rev. Chris Shealy

Rev. Jesse Canniff-Kuhn
Deacon Lexanne Graves

Communications & A/V Technology

Neal Fischer, Director of Communications
Kelley Mintz, Bulletin of Reports
Celie Addy, Editor
Rev. Michele Fischer, Writer
Rev. Christopher Girardeau, Writer
Rev. Lisa Isenhower, Writer
Rev. Greg Brown, Writer

Rev. Jane Mitcham, Writer
George Cartledge, Photographer
Deacon Katie Justice, Photographer
Rev. Matthew Titus, Social Media Coordinator
Lumi Global
Encore

South Carolina Synod Council

Bishop Ginny Aebischer
Deacon Lexanne Graves
Rev. Ozzie Herlong
Mr. Raymond Hendrix
Mary Katherine King
Rev. Rachel Hoffman
Kathy Riggin
Rev. Joanna Gragg
Jeffrey Stringer

Deacon Deborah Poole
LaTynia Taylor
Robert Epting
LaVone Griffin
Cheryl Smith
Cindy Davis
Sheila Caughman
William Newmyer
Daniel Crofts

Rev. Josh Kestner
Becky Koch
Rev. Bobby Morris
Tex Davis
Virginia Herlong
Ben Bernstein
Deacon Katie Justice
Gracie Bellah

Nominating Committee

Kevin Wicker, Chair
Deacon Sandra Holland
Mary Maercklein
Deacon Katie Holland
Rev. Carl Taylor

Ashley Shealy
Rev. Jason Lee
Ken Heckel
Lauren Rawls

Von Metts
Rev. Christopher Girardeau
Robert Epting

Conduct of Elections Committee

Rev. Rachel Hoffman, Chair
Rev. Mike Watson
Jenny Spearen
Charlene Fink
Elsa Hope
Rev. Heather Apel

Rev. Adam Carnell
Zachary Lindler
Ben Bullock
Rev. Megan Lineberger
David Lucas
Karen Lucas

Kai Joergensen
Rev. Larry Hagerty
Earl Wells
Martie Newmyer

Committee of Reference and Counsel

Linda Shealy, Chair
Rev. Hank Moody, Parliamentarian
Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop
Deacon Ashlyn Cox
Rev. Christina Johnson

Rev. Gregg Hoffman
Robert Epting
Rev. Fred Klinker

South Carolina Synod Assembly 525 Players

Janet Boatwright
Jim Boatwright
Dotti Harbaugh
Bill Newmyer
Martie Newmyer
Joanne Shrigley
Judy Urso

Instrumentalists:
Rev. Chris Girardeau
Rev. Michael Price
Rev. Jason Schaffer

Accompanist:
Lois McLeod

Bishop Aebischer called for a vote on the adoption *en bloc* of these committees and the appointment of the Parliamentarian.

Assembly

ACTION:

SA23.06.02.

To adopt the recommendation.

Yes – 277; No - 1

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL ON ADVISORY MEMBERS

Bishop Aebischer called on Mrs. Linda Shealy, Chair of the Committee of Reference and Counsel.

Mrs. Shealy recommended that the assembly note with appreciation the presence of the following persons and make them advisory members and special guests of this assembly with the privilege of voice in the meeting of this assembly:

Judith Roberts, Program Director, Racial Justice Ministries of the ELCA. She serves as the ELCA representative to the 2023 South Carolina Assembly;
Brandon Russell and Kyle Fletcher, from Lumi, who will provide equipment and assistance with voting devices;
Staff from Encore, who will provide equipment and assistance with our audio-visual needs;
Kevin Wicker, chair of the Nominating Committee;

Our keynote speakers: Pastor Mike Shackelford, Pastor Chris Christopher, Pastor Kara Stewart and Pastor James Henricks; and

Those sharing ministry stories from across the synod: Tom Counts, Kristen Williams, Pastor Ruth Ann Sipe, Pastor Ray Sipe, Stephanie Burke, Risse Snelgrove, Joy Derrick, Frank Shepke, Andrew Lindler, Jenna Jake Pilkenton and Ted Goins.

Bishop Aebischer called for the vote.

Assembly

ACTION:

SA23.06.03. To adopt the recommendation.

Yes – 290; No - 1

VIDEO – “What is a synod”

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. Emily Hartmann.

Pr. Hartmann presented the video “What is a Synod?”

Bishop Aebischer thanked Pr. Hartmann.

REPORT OF SYNOD COUNCIL

(Part I of five parts)

Bishop Aebischer called on Deacon Lexanne Graves, Vice President.

Vice President Graves called on Secretary Herlong to present the Report of the Synod Council.

Secretary Herlong presented the Constitutional Provisions, Bylaws & Continuing Resolutions to guide South Carolina Synod Assemblies, *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod*. FDM pages 196-200)

No action was required by the assembly.

Secretary Herlong made the recommendation to adopt “Budget Procedures” to guide the adoption of the 2024-2025 budget. (FDM Pages 201)

Budget Procedures

(1) Proposed amendments to the budget must be submitted to the secretary of this synod in writing no later than 5:30 p.m., Thursday, June 8. 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:

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)

Assembly

ACTION:

SA23.06.04. To adopt the recommendation

Yes – 288; No - 4

Bishop Aebischer thanked Secretary Herlong.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bishop Aebischer reminded the assembly that nominations from the floor must include a completed biographical information form. This form is available at the secretary's desk and should be submitted no later than 5:30 p.m.

Bishop Aebischer called on Mr. Kevin Wicker, chair of the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Wicker presented the Report of the Nominating Committee.

Synod Council - Lay Woman - Eastern Area, Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)

Cindy Davis
Sarah Fitch

Synod Council – Lay Man – Northern Area, Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)

Verne “Ken” Heckel
Jeffrey Stringer

Synod Council – Lay Man – At Large, Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)

Tom Counts
Randy Fellers

Synod Council – Lay Woman – At Large, Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)

Ann Smith
Beth Trump

Synod Council – Lay Woman – Person of Color/Language other than English, Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)

Lisa Parker
Joyce Rose-Harris

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – At Large, Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)

Rev. Rachel Hoffman
Rev. Christina Johnson

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – Central Area, Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)

Rev. Carl Taylor
Deacon Deborah Poole

Synod Council – Youth – At Large, Term Ending 2025 (Elect 1)

Hunter Prest
Kara Burke

Consultation Committee – Rostered Minister, Unexpired Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)

Rev. Greg Van Dyke
Rev. Wayne Kannaday

Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee – Lay Man, Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)

Brent Shealy
Ron Walrath

Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee – Lay Woman, Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)

Melissa Hendrix
Susan McArver

South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers – Lay Woman, Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)

Norma Mackey
Sydnie Taylor

Bishop Aebischer called for any additional nominations from the floor after each position was announced.

Bishop Aebischer declared the nominations closed.

NovusWay Ministries Board Elected/Synod Assembly Ratified 3-year Term (2024) yes/no vote:

Rev. Jason Lee

Bishop Aebischer asked for a motion for the nomination to be closed.

Rev. Beth Costow moved that the nominations be closed.

The motion was seconded.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Mr. Wicker and the Nominating Committee for their work.

Bishop Aebischer called for the vote.

Assembly

ACTION:

SA23.06.05. To close nominations.

Yes – 281; No – 1

JAMES R. CRUMLEY JR. ARCHIVES

Bishop Aebischer called on Neal Fischer to present the video on the James R Crumley Jr. Archives.

The video was presented to the assembly.

Bishop Aebischer expressed thanks for the work of the Archives and their preservation of Lutheran history in the Southeast.

THE 525 PLAYERS – “Jesus is Born”

The musical, Cotton Patch Gospel, was written by Atlanta-based actor Tom Key and stage director Russell Treyz and was based on The Rev. Clarence Jordan's version of the Gospels of Matthew and John.

Rev. Jordan translated many New Testament books into the Cotton Patch versions, colloquial interpretations set in the American South. Rev. Jordan committed his ministry to racial reconciliation and economic justice and was a frequent speaker at progressive religious gatherings across the United States from the 1940s through the 1960s.

Harry Chapin, popular music songwriter, collaborated with Key and Treyz on the adaptation, which they completed in June 1981. Three months later the musical opened off-Broadway and had a successful run; it has since been performed in numerous venues. We are blessed to have members of the South Carolina Synod who created a storytelling team to bring the Cotton Patch Gospel alive for this assembly.

The adaptation delves even further into the southern vernacular than Rev. Jordan’s original; for example, Jesus’ mother, Mary, becomes Mary Hagler and Mary gives birth to Jesus in an abandoned trailer behind Dixie Delite Motor Lodge as she and Joseph travel to Atlanta for an income-tax audit; and Jesus is not crucified but lynched by the Ku Klux Klan and Georgia governor Pilate. Like Jordan’s original, the musical adaptation is intended to offer people a fresh perspective on Jesus’ life and to open our hearts and minds for the Gospel message today. Four scenes from this play will be shared throughout the assembly.

The 525 Players performed the first scene, “Jesus is Born.”

Bishop Aebischer thanked the 525 Players, Redeemer, Columbia.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. Chris Christopher, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenwood.

Pr. Christopher shared his story of seeing Jesus in unexpected places.

John Kinard and Will Stroup, members of Immanuel, Greenwood, shared stories of Jail Ministry.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Pr Christopher and the members of Immanuel.

MINISTRY STORY – South Carolina Lifeline Fund

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. Joanna Gragg, a member of the Lifeline Distribution Team.

Pr. Gragg shared stories about the Lifeline Fund:

“Because of your team’s ministry, I can begin to breathe! I can see a light! It is an elimination of seminary debt that was paralyzing me. Without you, I would not be seeing this light!”

“I have experienced the grace and love of God in a transformational way through the ministry of the Lifeline Fund. The gifts you have given us are hope and a relief.”

“The Lifeline Fund helped to relieve a huge burden for us, allowing us to better care for our family, be a healthier leader in the church, and share the fruit of these gifts with the world.”

This is what leaders from across our synod are saying, because of the work you have done, South Carolina Synod, through our Synod’s Lifeline Fund. This is the impact YOU are making – relieving burdens, sharing grace and love, and letting people breathe. *[breathe]*

The Lifeline Fund, funded by a grant from the Lilly Foundation, is named for its purpose, to provide a Lifeline to rostered ministers who are drowning in educational debt. And it is truly a lifeline!

Through the Lifeline Fund, the South Carolina Synod has paid off over \$164,000 in debt for qualifying pastors and deacons. That’s over 85 years of educational debt payments that have been retired for these church leaders. In addition, a supplemental grant from the Lifeline Fund has supported rostered ministers who have been chronically underpaid during their years of service to the church.

Many have made financial sacrifices to serve, and through the ministry of the Lifeline Fund we hope to share appreciation and a measure of restoration.

The Lifeline Fund is coordinated by the Synod’s Lifeline Distribution Team. This team receives applications, works with rostered ministers who meet the fund’s eligibility requirements, and the team is making plans to sustain and grow the fund. But the best part of the team’s work is contacting leaders to tell them the life-changing gifts they will be receiving. Can you imagine getting that phone call? “Hello this is Pastor Joanna calling from the Lifeline Distribution Team. I just wanted to let you know that the team has reviewed all the information you submitted and prayerfully considered how we can respond. It’s our joy to let you know we will be sending a payment to your education lender for thousands of dollars.”

This joyous work is made possible through the generous gifts you share with the South Carolina Synod and by the individuals and congregations who have given special offerings to the Lifeline Fund. On behalf of all those who are benefiting from these gifts, THANK YOU!

The 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly offering is designated for the Lifeline Fund. One individual has already given a \$5,000 gift. God’s generosity grows and is evident here.

At this year’s Synod Assembly, all of us have the opportunity to support this ministry. You can be sure that your offering, given to the glory of God, will be relieving burdens, sharing grace and love, and letting people breathe.

If you have questions about the Lifeline Fund or want to know how you or a leader you know can participate, I invite you to contact Pr. Ozzie Herlong, Director for Stewardship.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Pr. Gragg.

REPORT OF SYNOD COUNCIL

(Part II of five parts)

Bishop Aebischer called on Mr. Raymond Hendrix, Synod Treasurer, and Mrs. Cindy Davis, chair of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Hendrix gave the Report of the Treasurer. (FDM pages 181-190) Treasurer Hendrix expressed thanks to his wife, Julie, for her support and to Charlene Fink, Synod Accountant.

Mrs. Davis presented the proposed 2024-2025 budget in the amount of \$2,445,000 for the fiscal year February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025, for review by the assembly. (FDM pages 212-213)

Bishop Aebischer thanked Mr. Hendrix and Mrs. Davis.

Bishop Aebischer called on Vice President Lexanne Graves.

Vice President Graves presented the proposed 2024 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers for review by the assembly. (FDM pages 215-244)

Bishop Aebischer thanked Vice President Graves.

MINISTRY STORY – South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers

Bishop Aebischer called on Deacon Dallas Shealy, Executive Director, South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers.

Deacon Shealy addressed the assembly, gave an update on the capital campaign, and presented a video on the ministry of South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Deacon Shealy.

NEW ROSTERED MINISTERS IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD

Bishop Aebischer welcomed all of the new Rostered Ministers to the South Carolina Synod and invited them to come to the stage.

Rev. Wade Apel - St. John, Spartanburg
Rev. Heather Apel - St. John, Spartanburg
Rev. Fred Bartlet - St. James, Lexington
Rev. Sue Johnson - Lutheran Church by the Lake, McCormick
Rev. Scott Landrum - St. James, Sumter
Rev. Jamie Reising - Redeemer, Charleston
Rev. Miho Yasukawa – Fairfax Parish (Trinity and St. Nicholas)

Each pastor shared their name and an unexpected place they've seen God at work in the ministry where they have been called.

Bishop Aebischer recognized via video three new to the synod retired rostered ministers who were not able to join us for the assembly.

Rev. Steven J Gellatly
Rev. Judy McGuire
Rev. Kim Alan Stover

Bishop Aebischer thanked the pastors for their leadership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Aebischer called on Secretary Herlong.

Secretary Herlong made the following announcements.

Daily parking pass instructions for those not registered at the hotel.

The assembly continues with worship at Ebenezer. When you leave the meeting space, please take a travel bag which will have a light snack and drink in it, along with directions and information about parking. We encourage you to carpool to make parking easier. Worship will begin at 6:30 p.m.

There are several ways to participate in the offering before, during and after worship:

Place your offering in the offering basket during worship.

Mail your offering to the Synod Office at 1003 Richland St, Columbia SC 29201. Please mark your check "Assembly Offering."

Visit <https://scsynod.com/assembly/> and click "Assembly Offering."

Give via text. Simply text the word "give" to 864-383-1482. After following the instructions to set up your payment information, text the whole dollar amount you wish to give and the word "Offering."

Scan the QR code on your table.

Dinner will be on your own following worship this evening.

The Young Adult pizza run will be after worship at Mellow Mushroom.

The South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission breakfast begins tomorrow morning, for those who registered, at 7:30 a.m. at St Paul's and ends by 9:00 a.m.

There will be staff members here at the hotel beginning at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Session 2 will begin at 9:15 a.m.

Wear synod assembly T-shirts tomorrow.

Put your voting smart card in your name badge and leave the voting device on the table.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Pr. Herlong.

Bishop Aebischer called on Chaplain Michael Price.

Pr. Price led the assembly in prayer.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Pr. Price.

The first session of the assembly adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
Ebenezer Lutheran Church
June 8, 2023
6:30 p.m.

Proclaimer

Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop of the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA

Presiding Minister

Rev. Joanna Gragg, Ebenezer, Columbia

Assisting Minister

Rev. Paul Aebischer

Musicians

Organist – David Turner

Adult Choir and Handbell Choir – members of Ebenezer and other congregations

Worship Assistants

Crucifer – Susan Peeples

Torch Bearers – Angie Smith and Charlotte Croom

Bible Bearer – Ali Jones

Cantor – Suzanne Amaral

Lectors: Susan Peeples, Karen Hardy

Prayers of Intercession – Deacon Ashley Cox

Communion Assistants: Lisa McClain, Linda Shealy, Gaye Betcher,
Susan Peeples, Karen Hardy, Linda Davis

SECOND SESSION
9:15 a.m.

GATHERING SONG

Gathering songs were led by the house band.

Bishop Aebischer thanked the band for their gathering music.

Bishop Aebischer called on Chaplain Michael Price to lead the Assembly in prayer.

Pr. Price led the assembly in prayer.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Pr. Price.

REPORT OF REGISTRATION

Bishop Aebischer called on Secretary Herlong for the report of registration.

Secretary Herlong reported that on June 9, 2023, at 9:17 a.m. there were 321 registered voting members and 30 visitors.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Secretary Herlong.

MINISTRY STORY – South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission

Bishop Aebischer called on Mr. Tom Counts, President of Lutheran Men in Mission

Mr. Counts addressed the assembly about the work and ministry of South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Mr. Counts and said "Amen, for Lutheran Men."

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Bishop Aebischer called on Ms. Linda Shealy, Chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

Ms. Shealy announced to the Assembly that the Committee of Reference and Counsel has received A *Resolution on Living into the Unity of the Body of Christ*.

Ms. Shealy moved the adoption of A *Resolution on Living into the Unity of the Body of Christ*.

A Resolution on Living into the Unity of the Body of Christ

WHEREAS Scripture witnesses to God's desire to embrace all people who seek to worship their creator, even those led to believe they surely would be separated from God's people;

"[T]hese I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered." (Isaiah 56:7-8); and

WHEREAS the body of Christ is one unified body with a diversity of members bound together by the Holy Spirit through baptism;

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many." (1 Corinthians 12:12-14); and

WHEREAS God has created the body of Christ as a diverse unity for mutual care and up building;

"that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Corinthians 12:25-27); and

WHEREAS Congregations are to teach the scriptures according to the Model Constitution

*C4.02. To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:

- e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.

*C4.03. To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:

- d. Teach the Word of God.; and

WHEREAS the ELCA is one church body organized in three expressions — congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, with each expression having its particular functions but all three together sharing a common mission of doing God's work in the world and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS there is ample space for a wide diversity of viewpoints among the unified members of the body of Christ as embodied in the three expressions of the ELCA; and

WHEREAS the social statements issued by the churchwide organization of the ELCA are non-binding teaching documents shared as such with other members of the body; and

WHEREAS Scripture cautions regarding divisions within the body;

"Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose." (1 Corinthians 1:10; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the people and congregations of the SC Synod ELCA will enter into an intentional one year period of Bible study and discernment upon: (1) the nature of the body of Christ as revealed in Scripture and expressed in the world, (2) the nature of the three expressions of the ELCA, (3) the interrelationship between (1) and (2) for the purpose of doing God's work in the world and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ; and be it further

RESOLVED that the bishop’s office will provide to the conferences and congregations resources to help facilitate this intentional one year study, including opportunities for partnering and individuals to help lead study and discussion; and be it further

RESOLVED that SC Synod conference deans would work closely with the bishop’s office to foster communication, make the aforementioned resources available, and assist congregations with entering into the intentional one-year period; and be it finally

RESOLVED that reflections upon these studies and conversations be shared at the 2024 SC Synod Assembly.

Bishop invited the authors, Rev. Bobby Morris and Rev. Art Hallman, to speak to the resolution.

Bishop invited any other members of the assembly to speak to the resolution.

William Bill Kendig, Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Greenville, moved the previous question.

The motion was seconded.

Bishop Aebischer called on Chaplain Price for prayer before the vote.

Assembly

ACTION:

SA23.06.06. To call for the question.

Yes – 273; No - 30

Bishop Aebischer called for a vote on the recommendation.

Assembly

ACTION:

SA23.06.07. To adopt the recommendation.

Yes – 254; No - 49

Bishop Aebischer announced that the resolution was adopted.

MINISTRY STORY – Campus Ministry

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. Josh Kestner, Campus Pastor at Clemson University.

A video was presented to the assembly on the work of campus ministry.

Pr. Kestner thanked Rev. Jesse Canniff-Kuhn, Campus Pastor at University of South Carolina, for the video and the assembly for their support.

Bishop called on The Rev. Sue Johnson, Pastor, Lutheran Church by the Lake, McCormick.

Pr. Johnson offered a prayer of thanks for South Carolina Synod campus ministries.

THE 525 PLAYERS – “The Good Samaritan”

Bishop Aebischer called on the 525 Players.

The 525 Players performed the second scene, “The Good Samaritan.”

Bishop Aebischer thanked the 525 Players.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. Kara Stewart, Executive Director of Neighbors Together, Charleston.

Pr. Stewart presented Keynote 2 with stories of I see Jesus in unexpected places.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Pr. Stewart.

GLOBAL MISSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Bishop Aebischer explained to the Assembly that Bishop Nguvila of Southwest Diocese of Tanzania and his wife, Lusiana were not able to attend this Assembly due to visa issues. We hope that Bishop Nguvila and Lusiana will be able to be with us sometime in the New Year.

Bishop Aebischer announced that the South Carolina Synod has raised \$33,749.59 for the medical clinic in the Southwest Diocese of Tanzania. She thanked the assembly for this support.

Bishop called on the Rev. Wade Apel to offer a prayer.

Pr. Apel led the assembly in a prayer of thanks for the ministries of Global Mission - Young Adults in Global Mission and our 3 companion synods, Southwest Diocese of Tanzania, Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia.

Bishop Aebischer announced a break.

REPORT OF SYNOD COUNCIL *(Part III of five parts)*

Bishop Aebischer called on Secretary Herlong for a report of the Synod Council.

Secretary Herlong moved the adoption of the recommendation to approve *en bloc* the following amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod*: To amend S8.42.d., by striking “quarterly” and adding “semiannually”; and to amend S8.42.e. by adding “and” before the word “detailed”; striking the words “and duly audited”. (FDM pages 193-194)

Assembly

ACTION:

SA23.06.08. To adopt the recommendation. Yes – 256; No – 3

Secretary Herlong moved the adoption of the recommendation to approve *en bloc* the amendments to recommended provisions, *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod* as approved by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. (FDM pages 194-196)

Assembly

ACTION:

SA23.06.09. To adopt the recommendation. Yes – 278; No – 3

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Bishop Aebischer called on Secretary Herlong.

Secretary Herlong moved the adoption of the recommendation: In accordance with *S7.32.A20.f.* of the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the South Carolina Synod, ELCA*, that two copies of the *Minutes of the 2022 South Carolina Synod Assembly*, which have been certified by the bishop and the secretary as the official protocol of that assembly, be approved and placed in the archives. (FDM page

The motion was seconded.

Assembly

ACTION:

SA23.06.10. To adopt the recommendation. Yes – 289; No – 1

Secretary Herlong expressed thanks for those persons assisting in the preparation of the Minutes of the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly: Carolyn Torrence, Mt. Tabor, Little Mountain and Virginia Herlong, Bethany, Lexington.

REPORT OF REGISTRATION

Bishop Aebischer called on Secretary Herlong to give a report of registration.

Secretary Herlong reported that on June 9, 2023, at 11:01 a.m. there were 323 registered voting members and 30 visitors.

GENERAL ELECTION FIRST BALLOT

Bishop Aebischer called on Chaplain Price.

Pr. Price led the assembly in prayer for the general elections.

Bishop Aebischer called on the Rev. Rachel Hoffman and the Rev. Mike Watson from the Conduct of Elections Committee to lead the election process and thanked them for their work.

Pr. Hoffman and Pr. Watson alternated announcing each position on the first ballot for general elections.

Synod Council - Lay Woman - Eastern Area, Term Ending 2026

Number of Votes Cast..... 265
Number of Votes Declared Illegal 0
Number of Legal Votes Cast..... 265
Number Necessary to Elect..... 133
To Be Elected 1

Cindy Davis 165
Sarah Fitch 100

Bishop Aebischer declared Cindy Davis elected.

Synod Council – Lay Man – Northern Area, Term Ending 2026

Number of Votes Cast..... 304
Number of Votes Declared Illegal 0
Number of Legal Votes Cast..... 304
Number Necessary to Elect..... 153
To Be Elected 1

Jeffrey Stringer 183
Ken Heckel 121

Bishop Aebischer declared Jeffrey Stringer elected.

Synod Council – Lay Man – At Large, Term Ending 2026

Number of Votes Cast..... 302
Number of Votes Declared Illegal 0
Number of Legal Votes Cast..... 302
Number Necessary to Elect..... 152
To Be Elected 1

Randy Fellers 156
Tom Counts 146

Bishop Aebischer declared Randy Fellers elected.

Synod Council – Lay Woman – At Large, Term Ending 2026

Number of Votes Cast..... 302
Number of Votes Declared Illegal 0
Number of Legal Votes Cast..... 302
Number Necessary to Elect..... 152
To Be Elected 1

Beth Trump 173
Ann Smith 129

Bishop Aebischer declared Beth Trump elected.

Synod Council – Lay Woman, At Large – Person of Color/Language Other than English, Term Ending 2026

Number of Votes Cast..... 298
Number of Votes Declared Illegal 0

Number of Legal Votes Cast..... 298
Number Necessary to Elect..... 150
To Be Elected 1

Joyce Rose-Harris 219
Lisa Parker 79

Bishop Aebischer declared Joyce Rose-Harris elected.

Synod Council – Rostered Minister, Term Ending 2026

Number of Votes Cast..... 305
Number of Votes Declared Illegal 0
Number of Legal Votes Cast..... 305
Number Necessary to Elect..... 153
To Be Elected 1

Rev. Rachel Hoffman 195
Rev. Christina Johnson 110

Bishop Aebischer declared Rev. Rachel Hoffman elected.

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – Central Area, Term Ending 2026

Number of Votes Cast..... 302
Number of Votes Declared Illegal 0
Number of Legal Votes Cast..... 302
Number Necessary to Elect..... 152
To Be Elected 1

Rev. Carl Taylor 154
Deacon Deborah Poole 148

Bishop Aebischer declared Rev. Carl Taylor elected.

Synod Council – Youth – At Large, Term Ending 2025

Number of Votes Cast..... 304
Number of Votes Declared Illegal 0
Number of Legal Votes Cast..... 304
Number Necessary to Elect..... 153
To Be Elected 1

Hunter Prest 198
Kara Burke 106

Bishop Aebischer declared Hunter Prest elected.

Consultation Committee – Rostered Minister – Unexpired Term, Term Ending 2026

Number of Votes Cast..... 295
Number of Votes Declared Illegal 0
Number of Legal Votes Cast..... 295
Number Necessary to Elect..... 148
To Be Elected 1

Rev. Wayne Kannaday 234
Rev. Greg Van Dyke..... 61

Bishop Aebischer declared Rev. Wayne Kannaday elected.

Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee – Lay Man, Term Ending 2026

Number of Votes Cast..... 308
Number of Votes Declared Illegal 0
Number of Legal Votes Cast..... 308

Number Necessary to Elect..... 155
To Be Elected 1

Ron Walrath..... 185
Brent Shealy 123

Bishop Aebischer declared Ron Walrath elected.

Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee – Lay Woman, Term Ending 2026

Number of Votes Cast..... 306
Number of Votes Declared Illegal 0
Number of Legal Votes Cast..... 306
Number Necessary to Elect..... 154
To Be Elected 1

Susan McArver..... 174
Melissa Hendrix..... 132

Bishop Aebischer declared Susan McArver elected.

South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers (SCLRC) – Lay Woman, Term Ending 2026

Number of Votes Cast..... 298
Number of Votes Declared Illegal 0
Number of Legal Votes Cast..... 298
Number Necessary to Elect..... 150
To Be Elected 1

Sydney Taylor 189
Norma Mackey 109

Bishop Aebischer declared Sydney Taylor elected.

NovusWay, Board Elected/Synod Assembly Ratified, Term Ending 2026

Number of Votes Cast..... 302
Number of Votes Declared Illegal 0
Number of Legal Votes Cast..... 302
Number Necessary to Elect..... 152
To Be Elected 1

Rev. Jason Lee Yes – 289; No - 13

Bishop Aebischer declared Jason Lee ratified.

Bishop Aebischer declared the elections completed.

MINISTRY STORY – NovusWay Ministries

Bishop called on Ms. Kristen Williams, Financial Development Executive Director.

A video was presented on NovusWay Ministries.

Ms. Williams addressed the assembly.

Ms. Williams introduced The Rev. Nathan Gragg, Development Officer, NovusWay Ministries.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Ms. Williams.

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. Miho Yasukawa, Trinity, Fairfax.

r. Yasukawa offered a prayer of thanks in Japanese for all outdoor ministries with NovusWay Ministries and South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers.

REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Bishop Aebischer invited The Rev. Rick Carter and the Rev. Emily Hartmann, Assistants to the Bishop, and The Rev. James Henricks, Director for Evangelical Mission, to the podium as she presented the Report of the Office of the Bishop. (FDM pages 165-178)

When renovations were made on Lexington Medical Center, they added an interesting feature in the maternity area of the hospital which caught my eye when I made a visit and comes back to mind as I reflect on the theme for this Assembly.

This eye-catching feature is a mural which integrates pictures of 4000 babies that were born at that Medical Center over the course of the year. It's a composite mural that uses the individual pictures of newborns, weaving them together to bring to life a happy, healthy, smiling infant who reminds everyone passing by exactly which floor they are visiting, AND the important work that happens there. The Mosaic also has a tool to allow the families of the babies featured to find their child within the portrait. I can only imagine what fun that will be for those children as they grow up to find their picture in the mosaic and say, "*Here, I see myself in this picture!*"

That delightful Mosaic causes me wonder: What beautiful picture would come to life if we took snapshots of our ministries from across the South Carolina Synod, including the ministries from each of our Congregations and other partnerships, and wove them all together into a Composite Portrait? I pray that the Composite would show the face and the life of Jesus, alive in our midst! That's what I see when I consider the ministries we have done together over the past year.

Our walk together as Christ's Church gives us the unique opportunity to keep Jesus front and center for our communities and the world through our speech, our actions and our relationships with all God's beloved children. Our imaginary SC Synod Mosaic would certainly help those passing by know the important and faithful work that happens among us, and I can just imagine hearing those who might see our Mosaic say, Wow! "*I See Jesus!*" Then as they look deeper, I hope that many would also say, "*Here, I see myself in this picture!*"

Well, we haven't commissioned an artist to create an actual South Carolina Synod Mosaic. And there is no way to share ALL the pictures that make up the ministry from the past year. But I believe we can imagine what it might look like as we meet together throughout this Assembly and hear stories of ministries that we are all part of together as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, South Carolina Synod.

I hope to lift up for you just some of the stories which may stimulate your imagination and help YOU See Jesus in our walk together. More importantly, I hope you will add to our imagination by sharing your own amazing stories of ministry with me and with one another during these days, because together our stories are an important witness and the creative force behind our SC Synod Mosaic of Jesus. And to get us all started on that collective process, I would like to ask you to take a post-it note paper from your table right now and write down just ONE ministry that has been a part of your reflection of the face and life of Jesus in your community over the past year. Just ONE. Hold onto it and at the end of this session please put it on the Prayer Poster Board set up to collect some of our stories. These ministries will be part of my prayers for you as we move into this next year. You can add the name of your Congregation and sign it if you like.

I hope you were able to read the May 24th edition of the SC Synod eNews because Pastor Bruce Kreutzer, who serves at Hope, Vance and is chairperson for the Inclusiveness Network shared a snapshot of the Civil Rights Pilgrimage that several of us joined in on with the Southeastern Synod the last weekend in April. To say that this was a deeply moving educational and spiritual weekend is an understatement. Our bus contained siblings in Christ from Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, SC, Virginia and Pennsylvania. We rode together, we sang together. We prayed and we ate and we worshipped together.

On this Pilgrimage we toured The Civil Rights Museum in Atlanta and had the opportunity to experience what it was like to sit at a segregated lunch counter, we visited Martin Luther King, Jr.'s. grave and memorial, learned things we did not know about the history of slavery in North America at the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, stood in prayer at 16th Street Baptist Church, the site of the infamous bombing where four little girls were killed. We walked arm in arm across the Pettis Bridge in Selma and heard from the local leader of the NAACP about the Race and Reconciliation work that is being done today in Selma. On Sunday we were welcomed for worship and lunch by the people of Shades Valley Lutheran Church, Birmingham. At lunch we met Kim McNair and her catering team who served us a delectable southern fried chicken lunch with all the fixins' and the best mashed potatoes that I have had in a very long time.

Meeting Kim was a delight and personal highlight of this Pilgrimage for me. Kim is the youngest sister of Denise McNair, one of the little girls who died on September 15, 1963 in the church bombing. Kim graciously shared some of her family story indicating that after Denise died her parents wanted more children and though she and her sister Lisa never met Denise, they live their lives working for beauty and peace in our world; Lisa through her advocacy work, and Kim through feeding other people.

We also learned from Pastor Beverly Wallace, who was serving as Interim Pastor, that their father was a member and could be found regularly in the pew worshipping at Shades Valley Lutheran Church. What a humbling experience it was to hear some of Kim's family stories and to pray with her, for her family, her life and ministry today. I recommend that anyone be a part of the civil rights movement.

There is no question that we have much work still to do in our understanding of racism and our quest for reconciliation with one another. Our Synod Inclusiveness Network regularly hosts Book Studies to stimulate our thinking and encourage our growth in understanding one another better. This year we have focused on the book, "The Color of Compromise," by Jemar Tisby. The content is challenging. The conversations are robust, but always respectful and important and life giving.

I know that several congregations in various parts of our Synod have partnered with brothers and sisters in the AME church to support outreach in the community, and that in some areas there are regular Bible Studies shared between our denominations. I pray all this work will grow, and in turn will cause each of us to grow in better understanding and in walking more closely together with all of our sisters and brothers in Christ to make the world more peaceful and a better reflection of Jesus' love. I encourage you to consider joining the Inclusiveness Network and help shape our ministry and response to Racism, or to participate in one of the Bible Studies or activities that our Network sponsors in the next year. If you are involved in partnerships with AME congregations or other diverse ministries in your area, please share those experiences with us in the Synod office.

This year our Synod entered into a time of deep reflection and visioning; wondering what God is calling us toward in these next few years of our life together. I am grateful for the faithful leadership of our Synod Council members and Staff for wholeheartedly supporting this work; to each of you who participated in the various conversations and surveys boldly moving us forward to help us determine the focus for this season of our history, and to Mike Ward, our Consultant from GSB who is guiding us in this process. As we listened to one another across the Synod and prayed over this, it became abundantly clear that our call in this season of time is to work toward resourcing and equipping the congregations and people of the SC Synod to be renewed in the study of God's Word, empowered by our Lutheran identity and challenged to listen to one another across differences so that we can grow in the ability to be strong witnesses and faithful disciples who can have real impact in the name of Jesus on the communities where we live and serve today.

Our SC Synod Mission Statement: Equipping church leaders to develop impactful faith communities and disciples of Jesus.

Our Vision Statement: Every person in South Carolina experiences God's love and grace.

Pr. Carter presented the first Core Values:

1. Living Faith in Jesus as our Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:4-6)

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶For it stands in scripture:

*"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."*

Pr. Hartmann presented the second Core Value:

2. Fostering opportunities for partnership among leaders and communities of faith (Romans 15:5-7)

⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Pr. Henricks presented the third Core Value:

3. Walking together in sacred trust as siblings in Christ (Luke 24:28-32).

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

Bishop Aebischer and staff read the four ministry areas.

Ministry Result Areas (MRA) will help us focus and assess the movement of our Mission

1. Synod Council and Staff become more effective and impactful in their roles.
2. Rostered Ministers are growing in faith, equipped for their ministry contexts, and connected with colleagues.
3. Congregational/lay Leaders are trained for leading the church of today.

4. The Synod is actively collaborating with congregations to raise up new rostered leaders and lay leaders for the church.

We are committed to serve to the best of our abilities to resource and connect the SC Synod Council, Rostered Ministers and Laypeople of all ages in the name of Jesus. Your Synod Staff and Office of the Bishop are excited to walk with you in ministry.

Many of the ways that we live out our faith and foster opportunities for partnership among leaders and communities come to life in the places where we find ourselves collaborating with one another, building up the Body of Christ in our acts of Worship, Learning, Stewardship, Service, and Sharing Fellowship.

Congregations around SC are finding life-giving ways to partner with one another to strengthen and grow leadership and mission. I am impressed by the leap of faith that many of our congregations are taking as they find ways to cooperate and collaborate with one another; maintaining their strong family roots and historical identity but together reaching farther into their communities with the ministry of the gospel for a new future as Christ's church in the world today.

We are blessed by the collaboration of gifted leaders from across the Synod who steward our Candidacy Process and help to form those who seek to be leaders in the church. And by Congregations like St. Thomas, Chapin and St. John, Spartanburg who raised up and identified leaders such as Zach Lindler and Ben Bernstein for ministry. I had the pleasure of sharing the Fund for Leaders Banquet with these two excellent Candidates who were invited to attend the fall meeting of the Conference of Bishops and have received full scholarships for their seminary education.

Our partnerships across the ELCA, in Region 9, with our sister Synods and our church institutions give us many opportunities to work together for the strengthening of our ministers and ministries, and the proclamation of Jesus' love to the world.

Last August your elected voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly from the SC Synod gathered with sisters and brothers across the church in Columbus, Ohio under the theme, "Embody the Word." During our time together we were centered in worship, conducted the business of the church which included electing Pastor Leroy Cannon and Ethan Miller, both in the house today, from the SC Synod to serve on Church Council, as well as a new Vice President, Imran Siddiqui who was previously Vice President of the Southeastern Synod.

We heard presentations, prayed for the Holy Spirit to guide us and worked in prayer to determine how we might best engage in ministry that seeks to serve our neighbors and do God's work both in our local contexts and around the globe.

We look forward to learning more about the work of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church which was established at the request of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly and has 35 members of the Commission from across the ELCA, including two members of the SC Synod, Dr. Susan McArver and Deacon Dallas Shealy. This commission will begin meeting in mid-July and we can look forward to hearing where their work together will lead.

We are blessed by our Global Companions who accompany us on this journey of faith. In SC we celebrate our three Global Companion Partnerships with the Lutheran Churches in Japan, Tanzania and Colombia. Last year we were visited by Pastor Hitoshi and Satako who are serving in Kumamoto, Japan. Their visit allowed them lots of conversations with congregations around the SC Synod who support their work and ministry. Next month our Synod Companion Team which supports the partnership in Tanzania will be visiting the mountain Diocese and bringing gifts from the SC Synod to assist them in getting the equipment and supplies to furnish the Medical Clinic for the Diocese and then hopefully to get a certified doctor on site for the people. We are so grateful to those of you and the congregations that have held fundraisers and have contributed to the Clinic Project. Sometime next year we hope to have Bishop Stephen Nguvula and his wife, Lusiana come for a visit to SC to meet you. They hoped to be with us at this assembly but had challenges getting their visas for travel to the US.

Each of our Institutional partners bless us with opportunities to connect in outreach and life-giving ministries that we could not do alone. This Spring I was invited by Lutheran Services Carolinas to participate in the Dedication of the Refugee Resettlement Office that is now opened in Myrtle Beach and supported by our congregations in that area, and the Dedication of Recovery Manor here in Columbia which seeks to assist congregations of all denominations in learning best practices for working with those in recovery from addictions. These are just two examples of the amazing ministry we are part of because of our partnerships we share across the church.

The Stewardship Retreat for First Call Leaders is just one example of the work we are able to do in Region 9 collaboration. Boundary and Inclusiveness Education for all Rostered Ministers in the Region is another collaborative effort to assist our Deacons, Pastors and Congregations in being the healthiest people and places we can be.

Later in the assembly you will have the opportunity to hear from Pastor Ruth Ann and Pastor Ray Sipe who are newly called Directors for Lutheran Disaster Response in the Carolinas. They serve as part time staff for both South and North Carolina Synods to help us prepare for and respond to natural disasters. I hope you will engage them in conversation and invite them to your congregation to talk together in Disaster Relief Preparations.

Our Annual Leadership Convocation is held at Lutheridge and gives our Pastors and Deacons a holy space for fellowship with one another and for continuing education with speakers like Diana Butler Bass who was with us last year, and Amy Jill Levine who will be our keynote speaker this fall to stimulate our thinking and our ministry with all of you. Another way we seek to strengthen our lay and rostered leaders has been to offer short courses for study that anyone can join in on using Zoom. These courses were offered to give us the opportunity to explore the ways we are caught up in the life-giving and hopeful vision of the way of Jesus.

We may make jokes about change, and we may proclaim that we don't like change, but we have all experienced some of the biggest changes in everyday life over the past couple of years and we have grown from it. This time in study together has guided us into appreciating a certain sense of comfort in recognizing that change is inevitable, and it is what we do with it that is important, and these studies have given us tools for embracing our current situation and navigating the future as we stay steeped in God's Word and wrestle through it with one another as siblings in Christ Jesus. I am grateful to The Rev. Dr. Mark Tidsworth who has been leading *The Great ReEvaluation* this spring for those who are interested in exploring the changes that we are experiencing in the world and how these changes effect the church as we move toward the future; and to The Rev. Dr. Bobby Morris who serves as Pastor at Mt. Pilgrim, Prosperity and Professor of Hebrew Studies at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Dr. Morris offered our Synod both Advent and Lenten Bible Study series. These Studies invite us to dig into God's Word and stretch our minds and hearts to grasp the contexts and the Good News that is there for each of us. In one session of his Lenten Bible Series, Dr. Morris took us on an amazing journey from Ezra and Nehemiah to Ruth and Isaiah and Jeremiah that reveals how deep God's love truly is for each one of us and helped us remember that the church is called through scripture to be a light to all nations.

Youth Ministry and Campus Ministry create leaders for the church and the world. No congregation is truly lacking "young people" if we consider the opportunity we each have as part of the SC Synod to work with and support youth and campus ministries across the State. One of the parts of my Facebook page that I love best are the pictures of the ministries with our Youth and Young Adults. These pictures show smiling faces, usually enjoying some food together and always making a difference in the places where they gather. There are any number of ways to be a part of these important ministries and to support the development of new generations of leaders.

- Converse University and University of South Carolina UPSTATE were brought together for Thanksgiving Feast and regular meals, and they were lucky recipients of Exam Week Goodie Bags created and distributed through the ministry of St. John Spartanburg;
- Gamecock Lutheran fills my Facebook feed with pictures and stories of Bible Studies, Pizza Thursdays, and so many smiling faces of students and congregational members sharing time together;
- Clemson Campus Ministry has experienced a trip together to Germany catching up on all things Luther, as well as a Beach Trip, Regular weekly Supper Club and Tailgates;
- Newberry College Campus Ministry has partnered to establish Wolves Pantry working to end food insecurity in the area. They sponsored an Interfaith Prayer for the World Day using the Prayer loom to weave prayers together for a better world. Campus Pastor, David Coffman, participated in the Stand UP for Children Campaign allowing members of Alpha Xi Delta to duct tape him to the wall to raise funds supporting children who experience homelessness.
- Campus Ministry in Charleston brought leaders from St. Matthews Lutheran, St. Stephens Episcopal and respective Synodical Leaders around the table to explore the possibilities of ecumenical partnership in this Campus ministry.

Each of our Campus Pastors are absolutely AMAZING. They are offering worship, prayer, sacraments and the Word of Hope throughout the year to young adults who are away from home at Colleges and Universities working hard on their personal development. If you want to make a difference and help others *See Jesus*, please take the time to get to know the Pastor and the Campus ministry in your area. Find ways to engage with and support young adults who are away from home and still crave authentic relationships with God, with the Church and with the people of Jesus' way. Would you join me in thanking all of our Campus Pastors and congregations who support Lutheran Campus Ministry!

At this Assembly we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ordination with six retired Pastors and we give thanks for all the amazing ways they have helped generations *See Jesus* through their ministry and their lives. You will hear more about this, and we will celebrate these leaders at lunch.

We are also celebrating significant milestone Anniversaries this year with five of our Synod Congregations. I want to ask members of these congregations to stand and be recognized by the Assembly., including:

- St. Michael, Greenville celebrating 75 years
- Grace, Rock Hill celebrating their 100th Anniversary
- Mt. Hebron, Leesville is celebrating their 125th Anniversary
- St. James, Leesville celebrated their 150th Anniversary in April
- Mt. Olivet, Chapin is also celebrating their 150th Anniversary.

We thank you for helping people in your communities to *See Jesus* in your life and work together. May God bless you with many more years of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus.

Synodical Ministry is vast and varied. Thankfully we do not do this alone. I am sincerely grateful to our Conference Deans, our Interim Pastors, Stated Supply Pastors, all those who Supply from time to time and every member of our Synod Staff. Would those of you serving in these ministries please stand and be recognized by this Assembly. Thank you for being wonderful partners in the gospel and sharing your time, talents and treasures as an extension of the Office of the Bishop.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for your presence and work here in Assembly and your faithful representation of Jesus in the places where you live and worship. I feel blessed that we get to do this ministry together with one another and I am grateful for you. Our *imaginings* allow us to see a collective mosaic of SC Synod ministries that bring to life not only the baby Jesus in the manger, but also the Christ who died for each of us on the cross and the Resurrected Jesus who lives among us and inspired by the Holy Spirit gives us a passion for God's Word and for living that Word in our loving relationships with one another. "I See Jesus," South Carolina Synod. Thank you. God Bless You.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Aebischer called on Secretary Herlong for the announcements.

Secretary Herlong announced the following:

During lunch we will recognize those who celebrated their 50th anniversary of ordination

If you are a commuter, your parking pass is only good for parking and leaving one time. If you leave and return to park, you will then be responsible for that new session of parking expense. If you are lodging at the Marriott, this does not apply to your parking, you may come and go with no cost as parking is included in your stay.

Session 3 will begin at 1:45 p.m.

Bishop Aebischer called on Chaplain Price to offer a blessing for the meal.

Pr. Price offered prayer.

Bishop Aebischer declared a recess for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

CELEBRATION: 50th ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

(Recognized during the lunch break)

Bishop Aebischer gave thanks for the five pastors who are celebrating their 50th Anniversary of Ordination in 2022.

The following pastors were presented to the assembly and given a framed certificate of recognition.

Craig A. Boehlke, ordained July 1973, Georgia, retired.

D. Rodney Gunter, ordained May 1973, Dell, retired.

Ralph D. Stilwell, ordained May 1973, Barbara, retired.

Richard E. Webber, ordained June 1973, Jeannie, retired.

The following pastors were unable to be present and will be given a framed certificate of recognition.

Glenn L. London, Jr, ordained June 1973, Anne, retired.

Kyuzo Miyaishi "Frankie San", ordained June 1973, retired.

THIRD SESSION

1:45 p.m.

Gathering songs were led by the house band.

Bishop Aebischer thanked the band.

Bishop Aebischer called on Chaplain Price.

Chaplain Price opened the third session with prayer.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Bishop Aebischer introduced the video, Celebration for 50th Anniversary of Ordination.

MINISTRY STORY – Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Bishop Aebischer introduced a video presentation from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary where the newly called Rector and Dean of the seminary, the Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer, brought greetings.

MINISTRY STORY – Lutheran Disaster Response Coordinators

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. Ruth Ann Sipe and The Rev. Ray Sipe, Lutheran Disaster Response Coordinators for the South Carolina and North Carolina Synods.

Pr. Ruth Ann and Pr. Ray Sipe addressed the Assembly.

Bishop Aebischer thanked the pastors for their partnership in ministry.

MINISTRY STORY – Postpartum Support Charleston

Bishop Aebischer introduced a video featuring The Rev. Tom Cassem and the ministry, “Postpartum Support Charleston.” Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. Jamie Reising.

Pr. Reising offered a prayer of thanks for this ministry in the Charleston area.

MINISTRY STORY – ELCA Foundation

Bishop Aebischer called on Ms. Stephanie Burke, Regional Gift Planner for the Carolinas, ELCA Foundation.

Ms. Burke addressed the assembly and presented the ELCA Foundation video. Go to www.foundation.ELCA.org for more information.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Ms. Burke.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Bishop Aebischer called on Deacon Lexanne Graves for the report of the Vice President.

Deacon Graves presented the Report of the Vice President (FDM page 179).

Bishop Aebischer thanked Deacon Graves.

MINISTRY STORY – Newberry College

Bishop Aebischer introduced a video presentation from Newberry College featuring The Rev. David Coffman, Campus Pastor.

Bishop Aebischer called on Ms. Laura Beth Shealy, Director of Annual Giving, Newberry College.

Ms. Shealy addressed the assembly.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Ms. Shealy.

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. Fred Bartelt.

Pr. Bartelt offered a prayer of thanks for our educational partners of Newberry College and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

REPORT FROM OUR ELCA REPRESENTATIVE

Bishop Aebischer called on Ms. Judith Roberts, Senior Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion within the ELCA Churchwide Office and welcomed her as ELCA representative.

Ms. Roberts addressed the assembly, presented a PowerPoint, and a video featuring Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Ms. Roberts.

BREAK

Bishop Aebischer announced a snack break.

MINISTRY STORY – South Carolina Women of the ELCA

Bishop Aebischer called on Ms. Risse Snelgrove, President, and Ms. Joy Derrick, Chair of the Mission Growth Committee, of the South Carolina Women of the ELCA.

Ms. Snelgrove and Ms. Derrick addressed the assembly.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Ms. Snelgrove and Ms. Derrick.

Bishop Aebischer called on Pastor Scott Landrum.

Pr. Landrum offered a prayer of thanks for the ministries of Lutheran Men in Mission and South Carolina Women of the ELCA.

THE 525 PLAYERS – “Jesus in the Temple”

Bishop Aebischer invited the 525 Players.

The 525 Players presented the third scene – “Jesus in the Temple.”

Bishop Aebischer thanked the players.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. James Henricks, Director of Evangelical Mission for the South Carolina Synod.

Pr. Henricks presented the third keynote.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Pr. Henricks.

MINISTRY STORY – Lutheran Homes

Bishop Aebischer called on Mr. Frank Shepke, President and CEO of Lutheran Homes.

Mr. Shepke addressed the assembly and presented a video.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Mr. Shepke.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Aebischer called on Secretary Herlong for announcements.

Secretary Herlong announced the following:

Dinner will be from 5:00-6:30 in the Capital ballroom.

Following dinner, we will return to the Carolina Ballroom for worship.

After worship you are invited to join us for a dessert bar and Beer and Hymns in the Atrium.

Tomorrow’s session begins at 8:30 AM

Bishop Aebischer called on Chaplain Michael Price.

Pr. Price offered the prayer before the evening meal.

DINNER

5:00 – 6:30 pm

WORSHIP

6:45 pm

CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT

Rev. Michael Price, Assembly Chaplain
Rev. Joanna Gragg, Necrologist

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

Report of the Necrologist

Dottie M. Lyerly, born June 27, 1942, age 80, died July 22, 2022
Wife of The Rev. Gary Lyerly

Rev. Eddie C. Miller, Jr., born December 5, 1947, age 74, died August 8, 2022

June O. Moore Fulmer, born November 9, 1935, age 86, died August 12, 2022
Wife of The Rev. G. Alvin Fulmer

Rev. Steven D. Jackson, born February 16, 1957, age 65, died October 8, 2022

Rev. Robert G. Coon, born August 28, 1946, age 76, died November 18, 2022

Rev. Larry S. Long, born May 20, 1940, age 82, died November 24, 2022

Rev. James H. Nichols, born February 9, 1935, age 87, died January 2, 2023

Rev. Dr. J. Harry Crout, born September 23, 1936, age 86, died January 9, 2023

Rev. Everette L. Lineberger, born February 16, 1929, age 93, died February 11, 2023

Rev. Dr. Martin F. Saarinen, born July 6, 1929, age 93, died April 1, 2023

Reflection Poem

Deacon Sarah Bowers

Reflection Questions

Rev. Megan Lineberger
Rev. Andrew Isenhower
Rev. Larry Hagerty

Guitarist

Rev. Christopher Girardeau

Cantors

Deacon Lexanne Graves
Neal Fischer

FOURTH SESSION

8:30 a.m.

Gathering songs were led by the house band.

Bishop Aebischer thanked the assembly house band.

Bishop Aebischer called on Chaplain Michael Price.

Pr. Price thanked the worship services' team and led the assembly in prayer.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Pr. Price.

MINISTRY STORY – Lutheran Church Youth

Bishop Aebischer called on Andrew Lindler, President, and Ms. Jenna Jake Pilkenton, Vice President, of Lutheran Church Youth.

Andrew, a member of St. Thomas, Chapin, and Jenna, a member of St. Luke, Summerville, shared the ministry in and among our Lutheran Church Youth.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Andrew and Jenna.

THE 525 PLAYERS – “The Last Supper and the Arrest”

Bishop Aebischer called on the 525 Players.

The 525 Players presented the fourth scene, “The Last Supper and the Arrest.”

Bishop Aebischer thanked the players for bringing the gospel to life for us.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. Mike Shackelford, Interim Pastor, St. Matthew, Pomaria.

Pr. Shackelford presented the fourth keynote.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Pr. Shackelford.

VIDEO – “The Art of Neighboring”

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. James Henricks, Director for Evangelical Mission, South Carolina Synod.

Pr. Henricks presented the video, “The art of Neighboring.”

REPORT OF SYNOD COUNCIL

(Part IV of five parts)

Bishop Aebischer presented the report from The Rev. Emily Hartmann, Assistant to the Bishop, on the Task Force and the video addressing the Resolution on A Faithful Approach to the Death Penalty in South Carolina. (FDM pages 208-209)

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. Rick Carter, Assistant to the Bishop.

Pr. Carter presented the report of the Task Force on the Resolution on Faith Formation, Advocacy, and Care in Time of Trauma. (FDM pages 209-210)

Bishop Aebischer applauded the bishop staff for their work on these resolutions.

MINISTRY STORY – Lutheran Services Carolinas

Bishop Aebischer invited Mr. Ted Goins, President and CEO of Lutheran Services Carolinas.

Mr. Goins addressed the assembly and then presented a video on the Lutheran Services Carolinas.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Mr. Goins.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Bishop Aebischer called on Ms. Linda Shealy, Chair of the Committee of Reference and Counsel.

Ms. Shealy shared with the Assembly that the Committee of Reference and Counsel received *A Resolution on Gun Violence in the United States of America*. The Committee of Reference and Counsel, after faithful discernment, did not recommend this resolution to the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly. On June 3, the authors requested that both the original and amended resolutions be removed from the agenda. The committee's belief is that what the authors had in mind is being worked on now by the ELCA and will be presented as a social message at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. She thanked the authors for bringing the concerns related to gun violence and recommended that the authors request Synod Council to create a task force to study this issue and make recommendations to the South Carolina Synod following the study.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Ms. Shealy and the members of the Committee of Reference and Counsel.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF EVANGELICAL MISSION

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. James Henricks.

Pr. Henricks addressed the assembly and presented the Mission Support video.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Pr. Henricks for his report. She thanked Pr. Ozzie Herlong, Neal Fischer, and the congregations featured in the video.

LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGE SERVICES

Bishop Aebischer presented the video on Lutheran Immigration and Refuge Services.

MINISTRY STORY – Candidacy

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. Rick Carter.

Pr. Carter reported on the candidacy process in the South Carolina Synod and presented a video, "The Candidacy Experience." He recognized the chair and members of the candidacy committee.

Bishop Aebischer thanked Pr. Carter.

Bishop called on The Rev. Heather Apel, Pastor, St. John, Spartanburg.

Pr. Apel offered a prayer of thanks for the ministry of accompaniment through the Candidacy Committee as well as prayer for candidates who are discerning a call or who are already in the candidacy process.

REPORT OF REGISTRATION

Bishop Aebischer called on Secretary Herlong.

Secretary Herlong reported that on June 9, 2023, at 1:56 p.m. there were 323 registered voting members and 30 visitors.

REPORT OF SYNOD COUNCIL

(Part V of five parts)

Bishop Aebischer called on Vice President Lexanne Graves.

Vice President Graves moved the adoption of the recommendation to approve the *2024 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers, South Carolina Synod* by the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly. (FDM pages 215-244)

Assembly

ACTION:

SA23.06.09.

To adopt the recommendation.

Yes – 189; No – 31

Bishop Aebischer called on Secretary Herlong.

Secretary Herlong gave notice of the dates and locations of future assemblies.

2024 – June 8, Online

2025 – June 12-14, Columbia SC

2026 – June 11-13, Columbia SC
2027 – June 12, Online

Vice President Graves moved the adoption of the recommendation to approve the budget in the amount of \$2,445,000 for the fiscal year February 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025, by the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly. (FDM pages 212-213)

Assembly

ACTION:

SA23.06.10.

To adopt the recommendation.

Yes – 190; No – 21

VIDEO – “Leading Well”

Bishop Aebischer called on The Rev. Rick Carter.

Pr. Carter presented the video on “Leading Well” by Greg McKeon.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Bishop Aebischer called on Ms. Linda Shealy, Chair of the Committee of Reference and Counsel.

Ms. Shealy moved the adoption of *A Resolution of Thanks*.

A Resolution of Thanks
2023 Synod Assembly

RESOLVED, that this 198th Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Lutheran Synod, gathered in assembly in Columbia, South Carolina, we acknowledge with thanks and gratitude the faithful work of all those whose hard work has made this assembly possible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we give thanks for the many expressions of the church and those who come to share the stories of God’s love and acknowledge the healthy connection that we have to our institutions and organizations that multiply our ministry; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we give thanks to our Lord and Savior, the Crucified and Risen Jesus the Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who has abundantly empowered the important work of this assembly, especially those who answered the call to be nominated for service through the electoral process to do the work of this church, the new synod leaders for their faithful witness and leadership, and all the faithful members of the congregations of this synod; therefore, be it finally

RESOLVED, that we approve this resolution of thanks with applause and giving joyful thanks to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Assembly

ACTION:

SA23.06.11.

To adopt the recommendation.

Bishop thanked Ms. Shealy and the members of the Committee on Reference and Counsel for their faithful work and hours spent.

SYNOD COUNCIL INSTALLATION

Bishop Aebischer called the current and newly elected members of the Synod Council to the front of the assembly.

Bishop Aebischer conducted the Order for Installation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Aebischer called on Secretary Herlong.

Secretary Herlong announced that, at the close of assembly, smart cards should be kept in the devices and left on the table.

ORDER FOR THE CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Bishop Aebischer conducted the Order for the Closing of a Synod Assembly.

Bishop Aebischer declared the thirty-sixth assembly of the South Carolina Synod, ELCA, adjourned.

The assembly adjourned at 10:55 a.m.



The Rev. Dr. W. Osborne Herlong, Jr., Secretary
South Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Mrs. Carolyn Torrence, and Mrs. Virginia Herlong, Assistants with the Minutes of the Assembly

BR = Full Bulletin of Reports
SA = Synod Assembly
23. = Year 2023
06. = Month June
01. = # Action of the Assembly

2023 Synod Assembly Roster
of Voting Members

PARISH	LOCATION	VOTING MEMBER		
All Saints	Mt. Pleasant	Kara	Stewart	Rostered Minister
		Kris	Litman-Koon	Rostered Minister
		Ginger	Litman-Koon	Rostered Minister
		Nancy	Appel	Lay Voting Member
		Paul	Albright	Lay Voting Member
		Linda	Albright	Lay Voting Member
Bethany Evangelical Lutheran	Newberry	Deaconess Laura	Sharp-Waites	Lay Voting Member
Bethel	White Rock	George	Leitzsey	Lay Voting Member
		Megan	Lineberger	Rostered Minister
		Diane	McCartha	Lay Voting Member
Bethlehem	Pomaria	Ron	Heater	Lay Voting Member
		E. Arden	Hallman	Rostered Minister
		Barbara	Ware	Lay Voting Member
Bethlehem	Irmo	Edna Jean	Hallman	Lay Voting Member
		Scott	Holland	Rostered Minister
		Dan	Koon	Lay Voting Member
Bethlehem	Leesville	Cary	White	Lay Voting Member
		David	Edenfield	Rostered Minister
		George	Eargle	Lay Voting Member
Cedar Grove	Leesville	George	Reeder	Lay Voting Member
		Sheree	Caughman	Lay Voting Member
		Joshua	Knutson	Rostered Minister
Christ Community Lutheran	North Charleston	Roseann	Knutson	Lay Voting Member
		Rebecca	Lord-Phillips	Rostered Minister
Christ the King	Greenville	Andrea	Holtzer	Lay Voting Member
		Richard	Moore	Lay Voting Member
		Michael	Price	Rostered Minister
Christus Victor	Columbia	Jean	Sox	Lay Voting Member
		Michele	Fischer	Rostered Minister
Colony Lutheran Church	Newberry	Jorge	Leone	Rostered Minister
		Santiago	Caballero	Lay Voting Member
		Cahin	Gomez	Lay Voting Member
		Fabian	Barwis	Lay Voting Member
Cristo Rey	Lexington	Adela	Aguilar	Lay Voting Member
		Lydia	Avalos	Lay Voting Member
Cristo Rey - Gaston		Danna	Carrera	Lay Voting Member
Cristo Rey - Pelion	Indian Land	Beth	Neubauer	Rostered Minister
		Ron	Noyes	Lay Voting Member
		Cheryle	Noyes	Lay Voting Member
		Paul	Aebischer	Rostered Minister
Ebenezer	Columbia	Linda	Shealy	Lay Voting Member
		Mitchell	Kneece	Lay Voting Member
		Lisa	McClain	Lay Voting Member
		Joyce	Rose-Harris	Lay Voting Member
Ehrhardt	Ehrhardt	Christi	Pursey	Rostered Minister
Emmanuel	West Columbia	Adam	Carnell	Rostered Minister

2023 Synod Assembly Roster
of Voting Members

		Anne	Tidwell	Lay Voting Member
		Marie	Tidwell	Lay Voting Member
		Rick	Kingry	Lay Voting Member
Epiphany	Rock Hill	Kenneth	Gillikin	Rostered Minister
		William	Droz	Lay Voting Member
		Jan	Droz	Lay Voting Member
Fairfax Lutheran Parish	Fairfax	Miho	Yasukawa	Rostered Minister
Faith	West Columbia	Regie	Price	Lay Voting Member
		Brenda	Price	Lay Voting Member
Faith and Martin Luther	John's Island and James Island	Tom	Cassem	Rostered Minister
Faith		John	Ballentine	Lay Voting Member
Faith Evangelical Lutheran	Batesburg-Leesville	Lisa	Isenhower	Rostered Minister
		Debbie	Fox	Lay Voting Member
		Tim	Hall	Lay Voting Member
Good Shepherd	Walterboro	Amy	Rusnak	Lay Voting Member
		Rob	Rusnak	Lay Voting Member
Good Shepherd Lutheran Chu	Columbia	Andrew	Isenhower	Rostered Minister
		Jan	Haigler	Lay Voting Member
		David	Lucas	Lay Voting Member
		Karen	Lucas	Lay Voting Member
Grace	Gilbert	Karen	Hawkins	Rostered Minister
Grace	Prosperity	Jane	Mitcham	Rostered Minister
		Johnny	Merck	Lay Voting Member
		Lynn	Wessinger	Lay Voting Member
		Jessica	Shealy	Lay Voting Member
Grace	Rock Hill	Gregg	Hoffman	Rostered Minister
		Josh	LeClerg	Lay Voting Member
		Theresa	Miller	Lay Voting Member
Holy Communion	Spartanburg	Alan	Kinsey	Rostered Minister
		Nicole	Kinsey	Lay Voting Member
		Blaine	Childress	Lay Voting Member
Holy Spirit	Charleston	Ashlyn	Cox	Rostered Minister
		Jeffrey	Shealy	Rostered Minister
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	Anderson	Chris	Fischer	Rostered Minister
		Beth	Fischer	Lay Voting Member
Hope Lutheran	Vance	Bruce	Kreutzer	Rostered Minister
		David	Hamson	Lay Voting Member
Immanuel	Greenwood	Chris	Christopher	Rostered Minister
		John	Kinard	Lay Voting Member
		Lee	Horan	Lay Voting Member
		Steve	Presley	Lay Voting Member
Incarnation Lutheran Church	Columbia	Susan	McArver	Lay Voting Member
		Randy	Yaussey	Lay Voting Member
		Kimberly	Yerrick	Lay Voting Member
Joy	Moore	Lane	Bembenek	Rostered Minister
		Kathy	Archenhold	Lay Voting Member
		Terry	Archenhold	Lay Voting Member

2023 Synod Assembly Roster
of Voting Members

King of Glory Lutheran Church	North Myrtle Beach	Christina Johnson	Rostered Minister
		Kevin Pope	Lay Voting Member
		David Patterson	Lay Voting Member
Living Springs	Columbia	Eric Fink	Rostered Minister
		Carl Taylor	Rostered Minister
		Doug Danner	Lay Voting Member
		Karen Kranz	Lay Voting Member
		Leslie Bloss	Lay Voting Member
		Lauren Bloss	Lay Voting Member
Lutheran Church By The Lake	McCormick	Sue Johnson	Rostered Minister
		Eileen Hurlbut	Lay Voting Member
		Dick Hurlbut	Lay Voting Member
Lutheran Church of Our Savio	Greenville	Beth Costlow	Rostered Minister
		Donald Costlow	Rostered Minister
		Verne "Ken" Heckel	Lay Voting Member
		William "Bill" Kendig	Lay Voting Member
		Jason Costlow	Lay Voting Member
Lutheran Church of the Ascer	Columbia	Jacqueline Utley	Rostered Minister
Lutheran Church of the Rede	Charleston	Ryan Lyles	Rostered Minister
		Jamie Reising	Rostered Minister
		Katherine Holland	Rostered Minister
Macedonia Lutheran Church	Prosperity	Terry Hundley	Rostered Minister
Messiah	Hanahan	Craig Versprille	Rostered Minister
Messiah Lutheran Church	Mauldin	EP Martin	Rostered Minister
		Robert Freund	Lay Voting Member
		Gloria Stenback	Lay Voting Member
		Anne Force	Lay Voting Member
Mount Calvary	Johnston	Mark Smith	Rostered Minister
		Joe Derrick	Lay Voting Member
		Miriam Derrick	Lay Voting Member
Mount Pleasant Lutheran	Saluda	Emily Mooneyhan	Rostered Minister
Mt. Hebron	Leesville	Christopher Shealy	Rostered Minister
Mt Hermon	West Columbia	Gina Metze	Rostered Minister
		Terry Swygert	Lay Voting Member
		Allison Swygert	Lay Voting Member
Mt Hermon	Peak	Margaret Ariail	Lay Voting Member
		Robert Ariail	Lay Voting Member
Mt. Horeb Lutheran	Chapin	marion frick	Lay Voting Member
		Rosemary frick	Lay Voting Member
		Cameron Prince	Lay Voting Member
		Trina Free	Lay Voting Member
Mt. Olivet Lutheran	Chapin	Albert Amick	Lay Voting Member
		Betty Amick	Lay Voting Member
Mt. Tabor	Little Mountain	Richard Johnston	Rostered Minister
		Margery Johnston	Lay Voting Member
		Carolyn Torrence	Lay Voting Member
Mt. Tabor Lutheran	West Columbia	Mary Davis	Lay Voting Member

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of Voting Members

Orangeburg Lutheran Church	Orangeburg	Emily	Knobeloch	Lay Voting Member
		John	Knobeloch	Lay Voting Member
Pilgrim Lutheran	Lexington	Mary	Anderson	Rostered Minister
Pisgah	Lexington	Stephen	Mims	Rostered Minister
		Micah	Helms	Lay Voting Member
		Judy	Downs	Lay Voting Member
		Kurt	Kuchenbrod	Lay Voting Member
Pomaria Lutheran	Pomaria	Jan	Redden	Lay Voting Member
		Jim	Redden	Lay Voting Member
Providence Lutheran Church	Lexington	Patti Sue	Burton-Pye	Rostered Minister
		Debbie	Kopitskie	Lay Voting Member
		Duane	Hall	Lay Voting Member
Redeemer	Columbia	Gary	Loadholdt	Rostered Minister
		Mike	Parker	Lay Voting Member
		Kai	Jørgensen	Lay Voting Member
		Martie	Newmyer	Lay Voting Member
		Earl	Wells	Lay Voting Member
		Linda	Wells	Lay Voting Member
Reformation Lutheran Church	Lancaster	Christopher	Girardeau	Rostered Minister
		Benjamin	Ardrey	Lay Voting Member
Reformation Lutheran Church	Columbia	Leroy	Cannon	Rostered Minister
		Norma	Mackey	Lay Voting Member
		Ben	Bullock	Lay Voting Member
		Christopher	Clark	Lay Voting Member
Resurrection	Cameron	Eric	Little	Rostered Minister
Sagrada Familia	Columbia	Yuliana	Salinas	Lay Voting Member
		Juana	Anguiano	Lay Voting Member
Saint Luke's	Prosperity	Jason	Schafer	Rostered Minister
		Rusty	Kehl	Rostered Minister
Saint Paul	Columbia	Tony	Metze	Rostered Minister
		Philippe	Cote	Lay Voting Member
Saint Philip Lutheran Church	Newberry	Terry	Amick	Rostered Minister
		Lorie	Amick	Lay Voting Member
		Billy	Bedenbaugh	Lay Voting Member
		Libby	Bedenbaugh	Lay Voting Member
Saint Timothy's Lutheran	Camden	Roy	Butler	Rostered Minister
Sandy Run Lutheran	Swansea	Annie Catherine	Spilde	Lay Voting Member
		Charles	Ott	Lay Voting Member
Shepherd of the Sea	Murrells Inlet	Brad	Bellah	Rostered Minister
		Caroline	Nicholson	Lay Voting Member
		Danielle	Johnson	Lay Voting Member
Springs of Grace	Inman	Hobby	Outten	Rostered Minister
		Diane	Ablett	Lay Voting Member
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church	Columbia	Lawrence	Hagerty	Rostered Minister
		John	Trump	Rostered Minister
		Sandra	Holland	Lay Voting Member
		Beth	Trump	Lay Voting Member

2023 Synod Assembly Roster
of Voting Members

St. David Lutheran Church	West Columbia	Deborah	Slice	Lay Voting Member
		Anna	Berger	Lay Voting Member
		Greg	Brown	Rostered Minister
		Julia	Shreve	Lay Voting Member
St. James Lutheran	Red Bank	Claire	Compton	Lay Voting Member
		Fred	Klinker	Rostered Minister
		Frederick	Bartelt	Rostered Minister
St. James Lutheran Church	Sumter, SC	Nikki	Kyzer	Lay Voting Member
		Xavier	Herriott-White	Lay Voting Member
St. James Lutheran Church	Graniteville	Michael	Burkmier	Lay Voting Member
		T. Scott	Landrum	Rostered Minister
St. Johannes Lutheran Church	Charleston, SC	Caroline	Davis	Lay Voting Member
		Carol	Horsley	Lay Voting Member
		Chuck	Long	Lay Voting Member
St. John Lutheran Church	Pomaria	Michael	Watson	Rostered Minister
		Maria	Hopr	Lay Voting Member
		Cynthia	Mays	Lay Voting Member
St. John's	Spartanburg	Michael	Watson	Rostered Minister
St. John's	Charleston	Heather	Apel	Rostered Minister
St. John's	Beaufort	Mark	Scott	Rostered Minister
		P Shannon	Mullen	Rostered Minister
		Kris	Cianci	Lay Voting Member
		Carol	Ruff	Lay Voting Member
		Susan	Heim	Lay Voting Member
		Anne	McKenzie	Lay Voting Member
		Josh	Ferguson	Lay Voting Member
St. John's Evangelical Luthera	Walhalla	Janice	Samson	Lay Voting Member
		Don	Alcorn	Lay Voting Member
		Greg	Harris	Lay Voting Member
		Cathy	Plowden	Lay Voting Member
St. Johns Lutheran Church	Spartanburg, SC	Janine	Wagner	Lay Voting Member
		Jan	Long	Lay Voting Member
		William	Schrivier	Lay Voting Member
St Luke	Florence	Mary	Finklea	Rostered Minister
		Rachel	Connelly	Rostered Minister
		Dave	Manners	Lay Voting Member
		Judy	Manners	Lay Voting Member
		Gail	Fowler	Lay Voting Member
St Luke Lutheran Church	Columbia	Sally	Davis	Lay Voting Member
		Caren	Hazelwood	Lay Voting Member
St. Luke's Lutheran Church	Summerville	Nathan	Rice	Rostered Minister
		Andrea	Rice	Rostered Minister
		Kali	Kadelbach	Lay Voting Member
		Kathi	Peddicord	Lay Voting Member
		David	McDougall	Lay Voting Member
St. Luke's Lutheran Church	Prosperity	Rusty	Kehl	Rostered Minister
St. Matthew's	Charleston	Michael	Shackelford	Rostered Minister

2023 Synod Assembly Roster
of Voting Members

		John	White	Lay Voting Member
	Charleston	Chad	Martin	Lay Voting Member
St. Matthew	Lexington	Nathan	Rice	Rostered Minister
		John	Derrick	Rostered Minister
St. Matthew	Pomaria	Ann	Smith	Lay Voting Member
		Charles	Norris	Lay Voting Member
St. Matthew	Moore	Connie	Shackelford	Lay Voting Member
St. Matthias	Easley	Wilbur	Floyd	Lay Voting Member
		Chris	Altman	Lay Voting Member
		Sean	Miller	Rostered Minister
		David	Cox	Lay Voting Member
St. Michael	Moncks Corner	Ginger	Cox	Lay Voting Member
		Ethan	Miller	Lay Voting Member
St. Michael Lutheran Church	Greenville	Bonnie	Horne	Lay Voting Member
		Kathy	Varner	Lay Voting Member
		Andrea	Bates	Rostered Minister
		Kyle	Bates	Rostered Minister
		Shelley	Allen	Rostered Minister
St Nicholas	Fairfax	David	Rhyne	Rostered Minister
St Paul	Pomaria	Russell	Long	Lay Voting Member
St. Paul	Aiken	herbert	loadholt	Lay Voting Member
		John	Fulmer	Lay Voting Member
		Jeffrey	Erbskorn	Rostered Minister
		Andrew	Boozer	Lay Voting Member
		Kathleen	Cartledge	Rostered Minister
		Karen	Spoering	Lay Voting Member
		Ingrid	Pearson	Lay Voting Member
St. Paul's Lutheran Church an	Mt. Pleasant and Charleston	Aaron	DeBenedetto	Rostered Minister
St. Peter's Lutheran	Pawleys Island	Greg	Van Dyke	Rostered Minister
St. Philip Lutheran Church	Myrtle Beach	Jason	Lee	Rostered Minister
St. Stephen's	Lexington	Ronald	Redd	Lay Voting Member
		Jason	Antley	Rostered Minister
		Richard	Shealy	Lay Voting Member
		Sharon	Shealy	Lay Voting Member
		Paul	Austin	Lay Voting Member
St. Thomas	Chapin	Myra	Strock	Lay Voting Member
		Zach	Lindler	Lay Voting Member
Summer Memorial	Newberry	Heather	Mentzer	Lay Voting Member
		Dallas	Shealy	Rostered Minister
		Rebecca	Wicker	Rostered Minister
		Norma	Price	Lay Voting Member
		Rebecca	Wicker	Rostered Minister
The Lutheran Church of The F	Newberry, SC	Matthew	Titus	Rostered Minister
The Lutheran Church of the R	Charleston	Emily	Bischoff	Lay Voting Member
		Gayle	Sims	Lay Voting Member
Transfiguration	Cayce	Alex	Twedt	Rostered Minister
		Frances	Skaggs	Lay Voting Member

2023 Synod Assembly Roster
of Voting Members

Trinity	Greenville	Sally	Smyrl	Lay Voting Member
		Amy	Brown	Rostered Minister
		Jim	Parham	Rostered Minister
		Richard	Moose	Lay Voting Member
		Lani	Wise	Lay Voting Member
		Melissa	Looney Kolb	Lay Voting Member
		Angie	McCormack	Lay Voting Member
Trinity Lutheran Church	Georgetown	Patrick	Preacher	Lay Voting Member
		Donna	Dorn	Lay Voting Member
		T-Ann	Dorn	Lay Voting Member
Union University Lutheran	Leesville	Sara	Coffman	Lay Voting Member
	Clemson	Laura	Black	Lay Voting Member
Wittenberg	Batesburg-Leesville	Jon	Heiliger	Rostered Minister
		Keith	Getz	Rostered Minister
		Ross	Cary	Lay Voting Member
		Wendy	Epting	Lay Voting Member
Zion	Lexington	Kimberly	Rauch	Lay Voting Member

Retired Ministers

Ascension	Columbia	Herman	Yoos
Crossroads	Indian Land	Patricia	Covington
Good Shepherd	Columbia	James	Johnson
Goof Shepherd	Swansea	Gary	Lyerly
Living Springs Lutheran Church	Columbia	Wayne	Kannaday
Mt. Horeb	Chapin	Stephanie	Stoudemayer
Mt. Horeb Lutheran	Chapin	Patrick	Riddle
Pisgah LC	Lexington	Gary	Brandenburg
Providence	Lexington	Greg	Moore
Providence Lutheran Church	Lexington	Donna	Florio
Reformation Lutheran Church	Columbia	Deacon Dorothy	Jeffcoat
Sandy Run Lutheran	Swansea	Pamela	Turfa
Silverstreet	Silverstreet	Rev. John	Stoudemayer
St Timothy	Camden	Denise	Seymour
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church	Columbia	Kevin	Ogilvie
St. Barnabas Lutheran Church	Charleston	Carol	Burk
St. John	Lexington	Randall	Derrick
St. John's Lutheran	Irmo	Mark	Buchan
St. Philip	Myrtle Beach	Henry	Moody
Trinity Ev Lutheran Church	Georgetown	Warren	Martin
Trinity Lutheran	Greenville	Christine	Parham
Christus Victor	Columbia	Dermon	Sox
Faith-Interim	West Columbia	Arthur	Turfa
Good Shepherd	Walterboro	Craig	Boehlke

Non-Congregational Called Rostered Ministers

Kathleen	Miko
Maria	Miller

2023 Synod Assembly Roster
of Voting Members

David	Coffman
Joe	Woodward

Synod Council

Virginia	Herlong	Lay Member
Sheila	Caughman	Lay Member
Joanna	Gragg	Rostered Minister
Raymond	Hendrix	Lay Member
Lexanne	Graves	Rostered Minister
LaTynia	Taylor	Lay Member
Kathy	Riggin	Lay Member
Cindy	Davis	Lay Member
Mary Katherine	King	Lay Member
Bobby	Morris	Rostered Minister
Tex	Davis	Lay Member
Deborah	Poole	Rostered Minister
Jeffrey	Stringer	Lay Member
William	Newmyer	Lay Member
Benjamin	Bernstein	Lay Member
Katie	Justice	Rostered Minister
Josh	Kestner	Rostered Minister
Robert	Epting	Lay Member
Rachel	Hoffman	Rostered Minister
Rebecca	Koch	Lay Member

Office and Staff

Ozzie	Herlong	Rostered Minister
Sarah	Bowers	Rostered Minister
Emily	Hartmann	Rostered Minister
Richard	Carter	Rostered Minister
Ginny	Aebischer	Rostered Minister
James	Henricks	Rostered Minister
Wendy	Davidson	
Jenny	Spearen	
Neal	Fischer	
Charlene	Fink	

BULLETIN OF REPORTS

**South Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Thirty-Sixth Assembly**

**198th Annual Meeting
of the
Lutheran Church in South Carolina**

June 8-10, 2023

**Marriott Columbia
1200 Hampton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201**



I See JESUS

Were not our hearts
burning
within us?

LUKE 24:32

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD ASSEMBLY
JUNE 8TH-10TH, 2023**

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“Were not our hearts burning within us?”

Luke 24:32

The 2023 SC Synod Assembly will be held June 8-10, 2023 at the Marriott Columbia.

Our Theme: I See Jesus

Scripture Reference: “Were not our hearts burning within us?” Luke 24:32

I see Jesus in... unexpected places

We worship a God who came to Earth, to be with us, to be among us. We worship a God who could have come as a mighty warrior but instead entered this world just as we did, as a baby. Let us gather together to hear stories of God’s work in this Synod in unexpected places.

I see Jesus in... those that are different from me

Conflict and disagreement are all around us and our congregations are not immune, but yet we worship a God who calls us into community with one another. Let us gather to share tools of how best to work together through conflict.

I see Jesus in... our spaces

Jesus flipped over tables when he saw temples being turned into spaces that were not worshipping and honoring God. Let us gather to hear stories of creative ways congregations are using their space to honor God and serve their communities.

I see Jesus in... community

In worship, in the sacraments in congregational meals, in grief support groups, in small groups, in Bible studies, in youth group – when we gather in community and live out the kind of radical love Jesus modeled for us, we see and experience Christ's love. Let us gather to hear stories of the incredible work of congregations who are radically gathering in community.

I see Jesus...in unexpected places, in those I disagree with, in our buildings, and in community as we gather for worship and the sacraments.

In Luke 24 we read the story of the Road to Emmaus where two disciples are walking with Jesus and yet they don't see him. How often do we go about our daily lives not noticing God's presence around us, in the people, places, and experiences? How often do we look at what is wrong with our congregations and think about what it used to be, rather than what it is and can be?

Working with the overall theme, "I see Jesus," we have identified four subthemes to highlight for where we see Jesus, a scripture passage to go along with them, as well as a story from across our Synod of the work being done in congregations that fits with the subtheme.

We are so excited to be able to gather with one another and not only do the business of the Synod, but to hear the amazing stories of ministry going on across the Synod and learn from each other. We are a Synod gifted with so many incredible and creative leaders and we hope this enables us to celebrate that in a new and creative way.

Report of Committee on Agenda and Program
(Proposed Agenda)
2023 SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD – ELCA ASSEMBLY
June 8-10, 2023

The Committee on Agenda and Program recommends:

1. That nominations from the floor of candidates for any elections held at this 2023 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 ***Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 5:30 pm;***
3. That the Bar of the Synod be designated as the registered voting members participating in this Assembly;
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 the proposed agenda be a guide for the 2023 Assembly of the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Davidson

2023 SC Synod Assembly Committees & Volunteers

Agenda and Program Committee

Wendy Davidson, Assembly Manager
Deacon Sarah Bowers, Creative Assistant

Registration

Wendy Davidson, Assembly Manager
Deacon Sarah Bowers, Creative Assistant
Neal Fischer, Director of Communications
Katherine Davidson
Kelley Mintz

Worship & Music Leadership Team

The Rev. Michael Price, Chaplain
Mr. David Turner, Music Director,
Musician
The Rev. Linda Gragg, Necrologist
The Rev. Martin Lopez Vega, Spanish
Language Translator

Houseband
Pastor Chris Girardeau
Pastor Chris Shealy
Pastor Jesse Canniff-Kuhn
Deacon Lexanne Graves

Communications & A/V Technology

Neal Fischer, Director of
Communications
Kelley Mintz, Bulletin of Reports
Celie Addy, Editor
The Rev. Michele Fischer, Writer
The Rev. Christopher Girardeau, Writer
The Rev. Lisa Isenhower, Writer
The Rev. Greg Brown, Writer

The Rev. Jane Mitcham, Writer
The Rev. Shannon Mullen, Writer
George Cartledge, Photographer
Deacon Katie Justice, Photographer
The Rev. Matthew Titus, Social
Media Coordinator
Lumi Global
Encore

South Carolina Synod Council

Bishop Ginny Aebischer
Deacon Lexanne Graves
The Rev. Ozzie Herlong
Mr. Raymond Hendrix
Mary Katherine King
The Rev. Rachel Hoffman
Kathy Riffin
The Rev. Linda Gragg
Jeffrey Stringer
Deacon Deborah Poole
LaTynia Taylor
Robert Epting
LaVone Griffin

Cheryl Smith
Cindy Davis
Sheila Caughman
William Newmyer
Daniel Crofts
The Rev. Josh Kestner
Becky Koch
The Rev. Bobby Morris
Tex Davis
Virginia Herlong
Ben Bernstein
Deacon Katie Justice
Gracie Bellah

Nominating Committee

Kevin Wicker, Chair
Deacon Sandra Holland
Mary Maercklein
Deacon Katie Holland
The Rev. Carl Taylor

Ashley Shealy
The Rev. Jason Lee
Ken Heckel
Lauren Rawls

Von Metts
The Rev. Christopher
Girardeau
Robert Epting

Conduct of Elections Committee

The Rev. Rachel Hoffman,
Chair The Rev. Mike Watson
Ms. Jenny Spearen
Mrs. Charlene Fink
The Rev. Heather Apel
The Rev. Adam Carnell
Mr. Zachary Lindler
Mr. Ben Bullock

The Rev. Megan Lineberger
Mr. David Lucas
Mrs. Karen Lucas
Mrs. Elsa Hope
Mr. Kai Joergensen
The Rev. Larry Hagerty
Mr. Earl Wells

Committee of Reference and Counsel

Mrs. Linda Shealy, Chair
The Rev. Hank Moody, Parliamentarian
The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop
Deacon Ashlyn Cox

The Rev. Christina Johnson
The Rev. Gregg Hoffman
Mr. Robert Epting
The Rev. Fred Klinker

South Carolina Synod Assembly Cotton Patch Gospel Storytellers

Cast

Mrs. Janet Boatwright
Mr. Jim Boatwright
Ms. Dotti Harbaugh
Mr. Bill Newmyer
Mrs. Martie Newmyer
Ms. Joanne Shrigley
Mrs. Judy Urso

Instrumentalists

The Rev. Chris Girardeau
The Rev. Michael Price
The Rev. Jason Schaffer

Accompanist

Ms. Lois McLeod

We deeply appreciate everyone's assistance to make this Assembly possible. Please forgive us for any names that were inadvertently left off this list.

Thursday, June 8, 2023

Pre-Assembly

8:00 AM Load In

11:00 Staff Meal

Noon Display Table Check In and Set Up

1:00 General Check In Opens

1:00 Light Check with Bishop

1:30 Staff Meeting

2:00-3:00 Committee - Reference and Counsel (by invitation, as needed)
Committee - Conduct of Elections (by invitation)

2:30-3:00 Orientation for Voting Members

Session 1 – 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Gathering Time

Order for Opening of Assembly

Welcome and Announcements

Introduce Voting Procedure

Organization of Assembly

Reference and Counsel Introduction of Advisory Members and Special Guests

Report of Synod Council (Part 1) Procedural Matters Affecting this Assembly

***Nominating Committee Report**

** Nominations from the floor of this Assembly must include a completed biographical information form. This form is available at the Secretary's desk. Please see Secretary Ozzie Herlong. We ask anyone bringing a nomination from the floor complete this form and turn in to Secretary Herlong. He will need to receive this completed form by no later than 5:30 PM at the close of the first session.*

Cotton Patch Gospel Storytelling

Keynote 1 – Rev. Chris Christopher

Report of Synod Council (Part 2) Proposed Budget and Treasurer's Report & 2024 Proposed Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers

Ministry Story – SCLRC

New to Synod Introduction

Ministry Story – Lifeline Fund

Announcements

Prayer
Travel Bags and Dismissal for Worship
Dinner on Your Own
Young Adult Pizza Run following Worship

Session 2 – 9:15 AM *-1:30 PM

**We have a later start to allow for participation in the SCLMM Breakfast at St Paul's*

Gathering Time

Opening Prayer

Ministry Story - SCLMM

Report of Reference and Counsel 1

Ministry Story – Campus Ministry

Prayer of Thanks

Cotton Patch Gospel Storytelling

Keynote 2 – Rev Kara Stewart

Ministry Story – Global Missions (Tanzania)

Prayer of Thanks

Break

Report of Synod Council (Part 3) Proposed Amendments, Proposed Amendments to Recommended Provisions, South Carolina Synod Constitution and Report of the Secretary Approval of 2022 Minutes of the South Carolina Synod Assembly

Report of Registration

Prayer for Election

General Elections Ballot 1 Majority needed to elect

Ministry Story – NovusWay

Prayer of Thanks

Camp Song/Stretch

Report of Bishop

50th Anniversary of Ordination Slides

Announcements

Prayer for Lunch

Lunch with Celebration for 50th Anniversary of Ordination

Gathering Time
Opening Prayer
Ministry Story - LTSS
Lutheran Disaster Response Coordinators
Ministry Story – Tom Cassem
Prayer of Thanks
Report of Registration (if needed)
Prayer for Elections (if needed)
General Elections Ballot 2 (if needed)
Ministry Story – ELCA Foundation
Report from VP
Ministry Story – Newberry
Prayer of Thanks
Report from ELCA Representative
Report of Registration (if needed)
Prayer for Elections (if needed)
General Elections Ballot 3 (if needed)
Break with Snacks
Report of Synod Council (Part 4) Report on Resolutions
Ministry Story – WELCA
Prayer of Thanks
Cotton Patch Gospel Storytelling
Keynote 3 – Rev James Henricks
Ministry Story – Lutheran Homes
Announcements
Prayer
Dinner
Worship with Necrology Report
Social with Dessert Bar and Beer and Hymns

Session 4 – 8:30 AM- Noon

Gathering Time
Opening Prayer
Ministry Story – LCY
Cotton Patch Gospel Storytelling
Keynote 4 – Rev Mike Shackelford
Ministry Story – Lutheran Services Carolinas
Report of Reference and Counsel 2 (if needed)
Report of DEM (and Mission Support Video)
Break
Ministry Story – Candidacy
Prayer of Thanks
Report of Reference and Counsel 3 (if needed)
Report of Synod Council (Part 5) Report of the Secretary, Approval of 2024
Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers, Adoption of 2024-25
Budget
Unfinished Business
Report of Reference and Counsel (Final Resolutions)
Installation of Synod Council
Announcements
Closing of Assembly

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly Elections

2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee

2022-2023 Terms

Mr. Kevin Wicker, Chair
Mrs. Ashley Shealy
Rev. Jason Lee
Mr. Ken Heckel
Mr. Von Metts
Mrs. Lauren McClure

2023-2024 Terms

Deacon Sandra Holland
Deacon Katie Holland
Mrs. Mary Maercklein
Rev. Carl Taylor
Rev. Christopher Girardeau
Mr. Robert Epting

Positions open for election with description summaries of responsibilities:

SYNOD COUNCIL

Terms begin after Synod Assembly. Meetings are generally schedule in June, September, December, February and April. Synod Council members have voice and vote at assemblies and are expected to attend. The Synod Council operates with internal committees. Most committees meet prior to the regular council meetings, but some may also meet at other times.

1. Lay Woman (Eastern Area which includes Amelia, Coastal, and Epiphany Conferences)
2. Lay Man (Northern Area which includes Foothills, Heartland, and Upstate Conferences)
3. Lay Man (At Large)
4. Lay Woman (At Large)
5. Lay Women (POC/LOE)
6. Rostered Minister (Central Area which includes Midlands, Saxe Gotha, and Western Conferences)
7. Rostered Minister (At Large)
8. Young Adult (At Large)

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be rostered ministers and half shall be lay persons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws. The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of 12 persons.

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT COMMITTEE

An Endowment Grant Committee for the South Carolina Synod Mission Endowment Fund shall consist of the Bishop of the South Carolina Synod or his/her appointee, the Treasurer of this Synod, and five members elected by the Synod Assembly. Two of the elected members shall be lay women, two shall be lay men, and one shall be an ordained minister on the roster of this Synod. The term of office for the five persons elected by the Synod Assembly to membership on this committee shall be three years; individuals so chosen may not serve more than two consecutive full terms. (a.) The members of the Endowment Grant Committee shall not receive compensation for their duties. (b.) The Endowment Grnd Committee shall be responsible to the South Carolina Synod through the Synod Council and shall provide annually a report of disbursements to the Synod Assembly. (c.) The Endowment Grant Committee shall meet at least annually and provide the means, dates, and deadlines for grant requests, review such requests, and make recommendations for disbursements to the Synod Council through the synod's Finance Committee.

1. Lay Man
2. Lay Woman

SOUTH CAROLINA LUTHERAN RETREAT CENTERS, INC.

Members of the Board of Trustees elected by the Synod Assembly (9) and by the Board (6) may serve two consecutive three-year terms. The Board generally meets four times a year with one meeting being an overnight meeting. Members of the Board benefit the work of the ministry by being active members of committees. The Board promotes and coordinates the ministries at Kinard Conference Center and Coastal Retreat Center. It establishes goals and objectives; oversees policies; is accountable for fiscal affairs; and employs and supervises the Executive Director. Board members are to be active congregational members, skilled in interpersonal relationships, visionary, able to work cooperatively, and advocates for and financial supporters of this ministry.

1. Lay Woman

SC SYNOD NOMINATING PROCESS

The Synod Council recommends and invites people from across the Synod to serve on the Nominating Committee. Representation is gender and clergy/lay person balanced. Committee members serve for two years. Half the committee rotates off each year. The Synod Council names the committee in September. The Nominating Committee meeting is set for mid-October.

The committee members are asked to bring names of potential nominees for the specific open positions. They are encouraged to call the church leaders in their area to solicit names for nominees.

The positions open for nominations are announced in the Synod ENews which allows us to receive nominations from the general population of our Synod.

At the October meeting, all names that have been received are listed for the various positions which are up for election. The Constitution is followed on how many nominees are presented for each election.

The committee considers gifts and any potential conflicts which might be present for each potential nominee. Example: Sometimes one person is brought for two different positions and the committee has to decide which position to nominate them for; we check that a person is not nominated for a position that their spouse or immediate relative is already serving in; we make sure we are not putting two people up against each other from the same congregation or nominating someone from a congregation that is already represented on that council, board or committee, etc. This conversation and discernment is surrounded in prayer.

The committee prioritizes the nominees into the order they wish to have them contacted. The committee members divide the list and call persons who have been nominated.

Nominees are sent biographical information forms with a deadline to return the completed form. The synod office tracks and follows up on nominees with the help of the committee and prepares the slate of nominees for publication in our registration materials. Biographical information is published with registration materials for voting members of Assembly.

The Nominating Committee Chair makes the report of the ballots at Assembly and we accept additional nominations from the floor.

Slate of Positions and Nominees

Biographical Information is included for those nominees who completed the form.

Synod Council – Lay Woman – Eastern Area

Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)

Cindy Davis

Sarah Fitch

Synod Council – Lay Man – Northern Area

Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)

Ken Heckel

Jeffrey Stringer

Full Name: **Verne Kennedy (“Ken”) Heckel, III**

Email Address: vkheckel@AOL.com

Phone: (864) 609-0182 (landline); (864) 419-6877 (mobile)

Mailing Address: 324 Holmes Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Greenville, SC 29609

Congregation: Our Saviour

Congregation City: Greenville

Employment/Profession: Retired attorney (worked for U.S. District Court, 1987-2016).

Age Range: over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Executive Director of SC Lutheran Men in Mission, 2016-2020.
2. SC Synod Committee on Discipline, 2010-2016.
3. President South of SC Lutheran Men in Mission, 2010.
4. Church Council, Lutheran Church of Our Saviour (Greenville), 2002-2004, 2013-2015, 2021-present.
5. Church Council, Lutheran Church of the Incarnation (Columbia), 1999-2000.
6. Office Coordinator, Combined Federal Campaign, 2002-2015.

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community? The development and of success of mission congregations supported by SC Lutheran Men in Mission [E.g., Joy Lutheran Church [Moore], Cristo Rey (West Columbia-Lexington), Parroquia Nuestro Salvador (Greenville), Springs of Grace (Inman).]

- Tell about a time your church was there for you. Both the Lutheran Church of the Incarnation (Columbia) and the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour (Greenville) helped when my wife and I had young grandchildren residing with us.

Full Name: **Jeffrey Stringer**

Email Address: stringerjd@msn.com

Phone: 864-360-3727

Mailing Address: 420 Golden Amber Lane

City, State, Zip Code: Greer, SC 29651

Congregation: Redeemer

Congregation City: Greer

Employment/Profession: Group Pension Plan Consultant

Age Range: 46-60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Synod Council – 2020 - Present
2. USC Lutheran Campus Ministry Board – 2020-2021
3. March of Dimes, Fund the Mission Chair – 2013 Board Member 2013-2016
4. Church Basketball Coach – 1993-Present

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

My most joyous memory was celebrating the 150th anniversary on my home church (First Presbyterian – Greer) in 1991. Learning about past generations of my family's service in the church along with the history of the congregation helped form the person I am today. Embracing and learning our history, from Reformation to present, helps the church grow and evolve.

- Tell about a time your church was there for you.

Over the past 2 years, my father and my mother-in-law both entered the Church Triumphant. Redeemer, Greer loved our family very well through those tough times. And they continue to love us very well today. Also, numerous individuals that we built relationships with in prior congregations (both where Elise served and where we worshipped just as members) reached out, willing to help in any way possible.

Synod Council – Lay Man – At Large
Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)
Tom Counts
Randy Fellers

Full Name: **Thomas R. Counts**

Email Address: counttr@gmail.com

Phone: 803-528-7008

Mailing Address: 121 Wayne McCaw Rd

City, State, Zip Code: Irmo, SC 29063

Congregation: Christus Victor

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: Computer Engineer/Project Manager

Age Range: 46-60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Church council member (multiple times 1996-2022), President (multiple times 1996-2022)
2. SCLMM Secretary (2021), Vice President (2022), President (2023)
3. Local LMM unit President, Vice President and Secretary (multiple times 1979-2020)
4. Columbia Rotary Club (1990-present), Sergeant-at-Arms (1986-present)

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

One of my most joyous memories as part of our faith community was the baptism and confirmation of our two daughters. It was an amazing experience celebrated not only by my family but with our church family joining us in this glorious experience.

- Tell about a time your church was there for you.

When my wife was pregnant with our second child, she had complications and was confined to the bed at 6 months. Our other daughter was about 3 years old, and in daycare, so I had my hands full caring for my wife and daughter along with my job. When our church family found out about our situation, they didn't hesitate to offer help by bringing meals, taking my wife to doctor

appointments and generally checking to make sure we were okay. The love and caring of our church family in a very chaotic and stressful time, provided the assistance needed to help us get through the difficult time and celebrate the birth of a healthy baby girl.

Full Name: **Randall E. Fellers (Randy)**

Email Address: fellersphoto@yahoo.com

Phone: 803-331-9082

Mailing Address: 237 Hall Street

City, State, Zip Code: Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29006

Congregation: Wittenberg

Congregation City: Batesburg-Leesville

Employment/Profession: Retired

Age Range: over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. 1980-1983 Congregational Council (Trinity, Greenville)
2. 1985-1990 Youth Advisor (Trinity, Greenville)
3. 1990-2006 Resident Director Camp Kinard
4. 1992-1995; 2017 Community Arts Council
5. 2011-2014 Congregational Council
6. 2012-present Choir Director

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?
I am grateful for the joy I experienced during my years at Camp Kinard—endless stories of Christ moving among and working within groups of diverse backgrounds, heritage, and abilities. I am privileged to have been able to witness faith in action among them.
- Tell about a time your church was there for you.
There are any number of occasions that would highlight how grateful and fulfilled I am for my relationship with the Church. My life is the same as everyone else's in that there are dips and valleys and the occasional abyss. After the loss of an adult child, and more recently making the decision regarding the continuation of life support for a parent—I could not have hoped for more from the community of faith who supported me through those dark times—surely Christ, alive and present.

Synod Council – Lay Woman – At Large
Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)
Ann Smith
Beth Trump

Full Name: **Ann Watts Smith**

Email Address: corvette65@windstream.net

Phone: 803-206-7363

Mailing Address: 1045 Calks Ferry Road

City, State, Zip Code: Lexington, SC 29072

Congregation: St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Lexington

Employment/Profession: Retired

Age Range: over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. I joined St. Matthew's in 1978 and have served in various capacities including Sunday School teacher; VBS Director; Altar Guild; Lay Assistant; Mutual Ministry Committee; Call Committee, Chair; WELCA member

2. I have served several terms on Congregational Council including serving as President 2011, 2012

3. In 1983 I joined a service and friendship women's sorority, Beta Sigma Phi. We support Mission Lexington along with many other organizations and local people who need a helping hand.

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

I can't pick just one joyful memory. As a church community we have had our share of ups and downs. I am so grateful for the people who always stand by and lift us up as we go through life together. I've seen our congregation come together for those in need, church member or community member, in multiple ways supporting them physically, financially and spiritually.

- Tell about a time your church was there for you.

As a young person and new member, I sometimes felt like an outsider. Our congregation over the years has extended a welcoming hug and hand and has supported me as I grew in my faith and as a Lutheran.

Full Name: **Beth Woolly Trump**

Email Address: btrump6659@gmail.com

Phone: 803-920-3547

Mailing Address: 525 Woodrow Street

City, State, Zip Code: Columbia, SC 29205

Congregation: St. Andrew's Lutheran

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: Retired from Dominion Energy's corporate real estate department. Currently working part-time as a paralegal at the Maynard Nexsen Law Firm.

Age Range: over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Member of St. Andrew's since 1974. Have served as Social Ministry Team Chair since 2013. Currently am an adult Sunday School teacher, choir and ensemble member, and worship assistant. In the past have served as Synod Assembly representative, Vacation Bible School director, children's Sunday School teacher, confirmation mentor, youth group leader, SAL Vision Team member, book club leader, altar guild and bell choir member.

2. Family Promise of the Midlands Board of Directors since 2022. Lowman Home Advisory Board 2016 to 2021. Have or are currently volunteering for many community outreach groups including Senior Resources Meals on Wheels program, Leukemia Lymphoma Society Team in Training, Transitions Homeless Facility, United Way Homeless Consortium, Harvest Hope, Homeless No More and Resurrections Ministries.

3. While our children were in school I served in various capacities including PTO, band boosters treasurer, School Improvement Council, and soccer and basketball coach.

4. I served in various leadership service capacities during my work tenure including Chair of SCANA's Good Neighbor Fund, Personal Leadership counselor, and Consolidated Clubs Board of Directors.

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

As parents we have always placed a high value on mission and outreach in our twin sons' lives. In 2011 our son Samuel and I went on a church-sponsored mission trip to Haiti. We had been on mission trips before, but the extreme levels of poverty and need in that country were like none we have ever experienced. As we toured Port-au-Prince homeless encampments, food banks, earthquake victims' graveyards, and an orphan shelter I was overwhelmed with the level of commitment, bravery and grace shown by God's servants in that impoverished place. Samuel was too, and that experience was integral in motivating him toward a lifetime of service. In medical

school he worked closely with doctors and fellow students serving Nashville's homeless community, providing field vaccinations and health screenings for that underserved population. Now as an internal medicine doctor at the University of Chicago he continues to work in a lower income clinic and for their own homeless outreach program. I am so proud and grateful that that Haitian experience – and others like it – were instrumental in Samuel's faith and personal journey toward serving others.

- Tell about a time your church was there for you.

My dad died in 2009. As an ordained Lutheran minister for 51 years, he developed many relationships in the church and beyond. I was devastated by his death, in part because I was not by his side at the end. The church was there for me and my family. The outpouring of love and support from those who had experienced dad's caring ministry over the years was overwhelming and comforting in our time of grief. But the most inspirational moments came during hymns at the funeral. Hundreds of booming voices rose up in songs of praise, resonating through the church, resounding reminders that God is with us even in our times of sorrow.

Synod Council – Lay Woman – POC/LOE
Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)
Lisa Parker
Joyce Rose-Harris

Full Name: **Joyce M. Rose-Harris**

Email Address: joyceroseharris@gmail.com

Phone: 803-414-7413

Mailing Address: PO Box 7104

City, State, Zip Code: Columbia, SC 29202

Congregation: Ebenezer Lutheran

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: Digital Community Manager at Dream.Org

Age Range: 46-60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Ebenezer Lutheran Communications Team (Social Media Manager): September 2018 - January 2023
2. Ebenezer Lutheran Church Council (Member): January 2019 - December 2021
3. The Watering Hole Poetry Organization Board (Member): December 2017 - Current
4. Columbia Museum of Art (Gala Committees): 2017, 2018, 2019

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?
There are a number of joyous memories but one of my best is related to my women's circle. I am a member of the Ruth Circle at Ebenezer. We meet monthly and each meeting includes a faith centered program but most of all love and laughter. I never ever think that I am different from the women around me. Well let me clarify I don't focus on the fact that I am African American, nor does anyone else. I almost get teary eyed thinking about the love that has been shown to me from the minute I visited Ebenezer to becoming a member. I have formed lasting friendships with my fellow church members that bring my heart joy.
- Tell about a time your church was there for you.
In March 2021, I became a widow after 28 years of marriage. My church family was there even while we were coming out of the COVID pandemic. And they still are checking on me two years later. I get the sweetest cards from a lovely senior couple, invited to dinners, and taken care of by three "church moms". I am truly blessed to have such a loving church family. A testament to Ebenezer is when one of my best friends came for the funeral and said, "I feel better knowing you have such a good church community to look after you." And she was correct!

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – At Large
Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)
Rev. Rachel Hoffman
Rev. Christina Johnson

Full Name: **The Rev. Rachel Lyn Harriz Hoffman**

Email Address: pastorrachel@gracerockhill.com

Phone: 864-230-3816

Mailing Address: 426 Oakland Avenue

City, State, Zip Code: Rock Hill, SC, 29730

Congregation: Grace Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Rock Hill

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: 30-45

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. SC Synod Elections Co-Chair, 2021 and 2022
2. Served on SC Synod Council 2020-2023, Executive Committee Member 2021-2022
3. Chair, then member of, Winthrop Episcopal (now Ecumenical) Lutheran Campus Ministry Advisory Board

(Dec 2018-June 2021)

4. Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Rock Hill, SC (December 2018 to present)

Areas of Emphasis: Children, Youth, Christian Education, Outreach, Stewardship, Endowment

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

My most joyous memory in my faith community is the collective memory of the Baptisms in which I've taken part. Baptisms are my favorite part of liturgy and life together in the church. From infants to adults, I have been blessed time and again to be present in the moment when a person receives new life in Christ, joins the family of faith, and is welcomed into the mission we share. For me, these are moments when God feels incredibly close, and the joy of new life overflows!

- Tell about a time your church was there for you.

COVID-19 changed the world for all of us, and pastoring took on new dimensions. As we figured out how to 'do church' in new ways, I was so grateful for the support from our congregation, Grace. Words of thanks and encouragement lifted my spirits when things were more difficult than anticipated. Many members took time to learn how to record themselves speaking and even singing, to contribute to our recorded services. Some took on delivering Sunday School materials door-to-door. Others joined teams focused discerning faithful ways to be together and keep each other safe. As things have evolved over time, people continue to step forward, adapting and learning, to support the congregation. Throughout the last 3 years, I have been continually thankful that we have not been alone in leading – we have been church together, finding new paths and even exciting opportunities to share God's love with one another and with the world.

Full Name: **The Rev. Christina Johnson**

Email Address: pastorchristina024@icloud.net

Phone: 847-212-4211

Mailing Address: 4486 Mandi Ave.

City, State, Zip Code: Little River, SC 29566

Congregation: King of Glory Lutheran church

Congregation City: North Myrtle Beach

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: 46-60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. King of Glory Lutheran Church 2021-Present
2. ELCA – Churchwide offices 2008-2021
3. St. Mark Lutheran Church 2019-2021
4. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 2017-2019
5. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 2015-2017

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

I am honored to be considered for the rostered minister liaison to South Carolina synod council.

Firstly, I must profess my love for Jesus Christ and feel the Holy Spirit led me to South Carolina, which is my home, and to King of Glory Lutheran Church. I have faith in the people of the church, a love for the fellowship of the people who enter the doors, and a commitment to share God's love through supporting others. My prayer is for the continued growth of the church and for the social ministries we provide to our community. Additionally, I pray for the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to provide me with the spiritual gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and faith according to God's will for my life (1 Corinthians).

I am a cradle Lutheran I have the unique experience of growing up in the Lutheran and Jewish faiths.

Amidst my earlier faith journey, I studied the bible for ten years, with 200 women at the local suburban ecumenical Community Church. The bible study consisted of weekly lectures, and homework questions that we discussed at length. I found it very interesting to hear the different perspectives of women from other faiths. Some were more open to being free in Christ than the other guilt ridden, have to pay the way to heaven thinkers. The faith community of CBS and St. Paul Lutheran church has supported me through my then nine-year-old son Jacob when he was hit by a car. They provided prayer, food, babysitting my other three children, and emotional support while Jacob went through physical therapy and healing. I would not have made it through that chapter of life without them in our lives.

This biblical study opened my heart to a passion of Experiential Worship; otherwise known as Post Modern Christianity. I was one of five on a team of experiential free-spirited people who, with our pastor, helped to start from scratch, to support and plan an inclusive Experiential/Post Modern worship service called "Kindred". We were creative in our outreach and included the community with door-to-door personal invitations. Among many other activities a Halloween Fall Festival and musical concerts were open and free to the community to help build relationships.

We did not discriminate, for many people of various ages, gender and religions attended our weekly Kindred services. Kindred included the sacrament, dancing, healing oil, prayer stations and contemporary music. With the focus of we're all connected and threaded together, I learned that in serving others I have to be open to the Spirit of God and free myself from my own inner agenda.

While working for the ELCA Churchwide offices I had an opportunity to take classes and events at the Lutheran Center, such as Mentoring, Inner Strength, and Leadership, mission developer

training, grief coaching certification, coaching 1 and 2 certification, boundary training, behavioral interview training, innovation, and design thinking training, and much more accumulating to over 100+ hours of training outside of 7 ½ yrs. of seminary at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. I have been trained and educated in the 21 Century way of ministry which is relationship focused and theologically sound in the latest teachings. The inner community of the congregation and the surrounding community is my priority and desire to build relationships. Theological commentaries and books are my passion, along with people in community to share God's love for each other and the world are my passions.

In one event, on the 11th floor conference room, I met a woman at the well, really it was the coffee counter☺. She and I had a long conversation about my life journey, my ministry, and my involvement in preparation for experiential Kindred worships services. In the conversation she says to me "I think you have a call". To my amazement I couldn't figure out how she could hear my cell phone ringing in my purse halfway across the room. No, she says, "Not a call from your cell phone, but from Jesus". Thus started the search at my synod office with conversations with the bishop for what path could be right for me and my call.

I always want to be a pastor from a very young age and my faith community, Trinity Lutheran church provided the lifelong learnings and tool kit for me to attend seminary. I grew up as a cradle Lutheran in the Lutheran church with a very large youth group, Sunday school and Awana. My mother was Swedish Lutheran, and my dad was a German Jew. My five siblings and I grew up next door to my Jewish grandmother and learned very early on the ecumenical values of ethnicity, religious denominations and the importance of community acceptance and building trust.

My faith community supports me in my extroverted personality, I love to be around good people that love each other well and love Jesus the most. Mark 10:43 teaches me that "Let the one who would be great among you be your servant. The education I have received has prepared me for the role of pastor, but the call to serve comes from God. Again, thank you for your consideration as rostered minister for the South Carolina synod council. Pastor Christina Johnson

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – Central Area
Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)
Rev. Carl Taylor
Deacon Deborah Poole

Full Name: **Carl Taylor**

Email Address: pastorcarl@livingspringscolumbis.org

Phone: 803-414-8597

Mailing Address: 4224 Hardscrabble Rd

City, State, Zip Code: Columbia, SC. 29223

Congregation: Living Springs

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: 46-60

Service in the synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include the dates served.

1. Mission Developer – New Life Ministries of the ELCA – Prison Ministry 2016-2020
2. Student Body President at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary – 2019-2020
3. Congregational Vitality Team – 2021 - Present
4. Co-Pastor – Living Springs – 2021 - present

In the past, we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?
The most joyous memory for me was when I was doing my seminary teaching parish assignment at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, where I could participate in the Holy Baptism of both of my daughters, Sydnie and McKenzie Taylor. It worked out to be on April 16, 2018, just three days before my birthday on 4/19. The joy does not end there. During that time as a seminarian and while on internship, I was able to teach both of my daughters in their confirmation classes and be a part of their Confirmations. The joy continues for me as I am able to be in the world blessed by God, meeting people where they are in life and sharing Jesus with them every day.
- Tell about a time your church was there for you.
Since being called to pastor at Living Spring, I have had several bouts with low back pain. I have suffered severely and sometimes unable to walk. I can say in the response that not a day has gone by that the people of my congregation have not been there for me in thought, word and deeds. I am truly blessed to have so many people pray, care for, and help me continue the ministry.

Full Name: **Deborah Poole**

Email Address: deborah@pisgahlutheran.org

Phone: 803-404-9099

Mailing Address: 155 Sherwood Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Lexington, SC 29073

Congregation: Pisgah
Lexington

Congregation City:

Employment/Profession: Deacon

Age Range: over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Synod Council - Current

2. Chair – Synod Faith Formation Task Force - Current

3. Synod Nomination Committee

4. Synod Mission Endowment Fund Committee

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?
I've been in ministry for almost 30 years, so there are countless memories. Most involve the children and youth I have worked with over the years. Youth Gatherings, camp, mission trips, teaching, Kids Club, Sippy Cup Set, the look on their faces when they "get it," the joy on their faces when serving others and in the church.
- Tell about a time your church was there for you.
When my father died after a short illness. The care, comfort and encouragement they shared after his surgery, throughout his treatment and following his death, not just immediately afterward, but for weeks and months.

Synod Council – Youth – At Large
Term Ending 2025 (Elect 1)
Hunter Prest
Kara Burke

Full Name: **Hunter Lazarian Prest**

Email Address: hunteralyssa07@gmail.com

Phone: 704-961-2958

Mailing Address: 108 Hanlon Dr.

City, State, Zip Code: Elgin, SC 29045

Congregation: Living Springs Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: Student

Age Range: Under 30

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. GraceWorks Planning team: 2020-Present
2. Church Council: 2023
3. Faithful innovations guiding team: 2020
4. Scouts BSA: 2018-Present

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community? A favorite memory of mine is when our church participated in a Martin Luther King Day community worship service at Rehoboth Baptist church. I heard wonderful music from multiple churches and a sermon that really moved me. I love meeting people from other congregations and learning how others worship the Lord!
- Tell about a time your church was there for you. I remember back in 2020 my pastor was talking about a GraceWorks planning meeting coming up soon. I had never been to GraceWorks before, but they needed youth on the planning team. So, I joined the Zoom meeting and agreed to help plan worship. I've been planning and participating in GraceWorks for a few years now and it has changed my life! I've made great friends and experienced so much! None of this could have happened if not for all the ways my church supports GraceWorks and other youth ministries.

Consultation Committee – Rostered Minister
Unexpired Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)
Rev. Greg Van Dyke
Rev. Wayne Kannaday

Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee – Lay Man
Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)
Brent Shealy
Ron Walrath

Full Name: **Brent R. Shealy**

Email Address: bshealy@sc.rr.com

Phone: 803-429-5198

Mailing Address: PO Box 3547

City, State, Zip Code: Leesville, SC 29070

Congregation: Wittenberg Lutheran Church
Employment/Profession: Retail Management

Congregation City: Leesville

Age Range: Over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Wittenberg Treasurer 10+ years
2. Council Member/President – Past many years
3. Sunday School Teacher/Choir

4. Many community activities, boards and youth sports

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?
- Tell about a time your church was there for you.

I believe we are called to serve. We are given various gifts to be leveraged to follow God's calling to serve. It is our Christian duty and blessing of opportunity to use our gifts to serve God, our fellow humanity and our world as our faith response.

Full Name: **Ronald J Walrath**

Email Address: ronwalrath@gmail.com

Phone: 803.553.4991

Mailing Address: 117 Hunters Blind Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Columbia, SC 29212

Congregation: St. Andrew's Lutheran

Congregation City: Columbia, SC

Employment/Profession: Financial Planner

Age Range: over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Board Member, Stewardship of Life Institute, Gettysburg, PA 2014-present (Includes about six years of grant evaluation and award process experience)
2. Synod Audit Committee 2020-present
3. Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir Rhyne University, Ex. Dir. of Development 2012-2014 - (Includes grant writing experience)
4. Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, VP for Development 2007-2012 (Includes grant writing experience)

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

When St. Andrew's completed fundraising for a complete water project in Tanzania. It gave me hope that stewardship was alive and well in the Church and an understanding that telling a truthful and compelling story is the most powerful way to unlock the generosity that resides within my brothers and sisters in the pews.

- Tell about a time your church was there for you.

When my mother died. Our relationship was not the greatest at the time and trusted friends in the church helped me work through issues that were bothering me.

Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee – Lay Woman
Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)
Melissa Hendrix
Susan McArver

Full Name: **Melissa Hendrix**

Email Address: dachbowl@yahoo.com

Phone: (803) 727-0040

Mailing Address: 159 Palmetto Hall Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Lexington, SC 29072

Congregation: Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Lexington

Employment/Profession: Certified Internal Auditor currently working as Research Program Coordinator at USC

Age Range: 30-45

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Council member for Pilgrim (2023-). Previously, Finance Chair 2016-2022, Mutual Ministry Chair 2021-2022; Member of various ministry teams at Pilgrim since 2005: Stewardship, Worship and Music, Finance, Handbell, Choir, Praise Band.

2. Part of Leadership Team for Women on a Mission, previously Women's One Year to Live; Served as Co-Platform Leader for 5 retreats (2018-present).

3. Part of small group family (2015-2018) where we shared and supported each other's daily lives, Bible study and committed to community outreach once a quarter (e.g. clothing and/or food drives, volunteering at Mission Lexington, formerly Lexington Interfaith Community Services)

4. Served on White Knoll (Vice President 2017-2019) and New Providence (2019-2021) Elementary PTAs organizing boosterthon fun runs and volunteering with other fundraisers. In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

January 8, 2012, on a day we remembered our Lord's baptism, we celebrated our son, Caleb's, baptism. We had so many friends and family join along our Pilgrim family to celebrate. I can remember many moments from that day - the 2 older children that were baptized that day waiting with nervous anticipation; the pastor presenting Caleb to his new brothers and sisters in Christ and being welcomed into our faith community; and having a special song sung for the baptized ("Remember Me"). Just as we transition from Christmas to Epiphany every year celebrating Christ the baby to Christ the divine, we also get to share with Caleb whose he is and how he is growing in his faith.

- Tell about a time your church was there for you.

I have been part of Pilgrim community since 2005. It was a time when I had moved back to the area. I visited a few churches but when I worshipped with Pilgrim, I felt the Spirit calling me home. There has not been a time when I haven't known that I could turn to them for prayer requests, words of encouragement, or whatever help I may need - the prayer shawl made and given to me when my son was born; the laying of hands and prayer before I had surgery; the meals brought to us when we were sick; the email that says thank you. I love my Pilgrim family and thankful for the ways they reflect God's love to others.

Full Name: **Susan Wilds McArver**

Email Address: susan.mcarver@lr.edu

Phone: (803) 546-6121

Mailing Address: 620 Hampton Trace Lane

City, State, Zip Code: Columbia, SC 29209

Congregation: Incarnation Lutheran

Congregation City: Columbia, SC

Employment/Profession: Professor, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Age Range: over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Presenter on southern Lutheran history to multiple congregations in SC Synod and Region 9 (1998-present)
2. Member, ELCA Church Council (2009-2015) and Chair of its Program and Services Committee (2011-2015)
3. Member, ELCA Word and Service Task Force (2013-2015) and Entrance Rite Discernment Group (2013-2019)
4. President, James R. Crumley Jr Archives Board for Region 9 (2018- present)

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?
I could name so many joyous memories from over the years, because the church has been a constant in my life since my baptism as an infant. One of the most recent was being able to come back to worship after the pandemic. My congregation, like so many others, worked very hard to provide worship online during the darkest days of 2020 and 2021. Their efforts provided desperately needed comfort and reassurance that none of us was alone during that time of

isolation and uncertainty. Still, being able to come back to in-person worship for the first time, to be physically surrounded by the communion of saints with their hymn-singing and the joyful exclamation: “The Lord be with you. And also with you!” was deeply moving and poignant. It reminded me once again of the importance of community – and how sometimes we can take that for granted, until it is gone.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

My church has always been there for me, in all its many facets. I grew up in congregation that took its youth seriously and mentored us conscientiously. Those sainted Sunday School teachers, confirmation instructors, youth advisors, and campus pastors formed my faith, but more importantly, they did so by giving me the grace and freedom to ask questions.

“My church” also surrounded me beyond my own local congregation. Lutheridge showed me what an “intentional Christian community” could look like, first as a camper, and later as a counselor, in ways that last to this day. Decades ago, the South Carolina Synod provided the financial support that enabled me to go to Seminary as a very young student, which might not have been possible otherwise. Pastors like Frankie San inspired me with their example of Christian service and discipleship. Even the ELCA itself provided Youth Gatherings, World Hunger Appeals, Disaster Response, and more, giving me a vision of what “my church” could do and be when it was open and connected beyond its own doors. I am grateful beyond words for all of the times Christ’s church has been present for ministry in the world, and grateful that it has always “been there” for me.

South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers – Lay Woman
Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)
Norma Mackey
Sydney Taylor

Full Name: **Norma Jean Corley Mackey**

Email Address: normamackey@bellsouth.net

Phone: (803)348-6093

Mailing Address: 140 Pleasant Springs Court

City, State, Zip Code: Columbia, SC 29212

Congregation: Reformation Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Columbia, SC

Employment/Profession: Retired Social Worker

Age Range: over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Council Chair @ Christ Mission (2018-2022)
2. Community Liaison <to include the Denny Terrace Community and the NAACP> (2018-2022)
3. Choir President (2018-2022)
4. Youth Sunday School Teacher (2018-2022)

- 5. Camp Passion Co-Coordinator (2015-2020)
- 6. Board of Trustee Member @ S.C. Lutheran Retreat Centers (2020-Present)

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?
If I had to pick one memory, it would be the Synod trip to Selma. That trip invoked a sense of togetherness as we shared experiences from our past that have had a great impact on our future.

- Tell about a time your church was there for you.
I felt that my church family and the entire S.C. Synod was there for me and my family in the untimely passing of my dear Sister-in-Love, Patricia Pollock Corley on 12/8/2022. The overwhelming support and love shown from all levels revealed God was at work in the hearts of ALL. In essence, I felt the truth in action of the old saying that when one hurts we ALL hurt.

Full Name: **Sydney Chyann Taylor**

Email Address: sydnietaylor03@gmail.com

Phone: (803)-354-7339

Mailing Address: 56 Roundtree Rd

City, State, Zip Code: Blythewood S.C 29016

Congregation: Living Springs Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: Full Time University Student

Age Range: Under 30

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. LCY (Lutheran Church Youth)- 6th-7th grade Representative (2016-2017)
2. LCY (Lutheran Church Youth)- African American Representative (2018-2021)
3. LCY (Lutheran Church Youth)- President (2021-2022)
4. Living Springs Board- Fill-In Youth Representative (November 2021- December 2021)

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

- What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?
One of my most treasured memories from my involvement in my faith community was an absolutely delightful occasion. It was the day my father was installed as a leader at Living

Springs Lutheran Church. To commemorate this extraordinary event, I had the privilege of writing and performing a heartfelt poem in honor of my dad. As I crafted the poem, I was filled with emotions of love and gratitude for my father's contributions to our family's spiritual journey within the Lutheran community. The experience allowed me to reflect on the significant milestones we had achieved and the progress we had made as a family. Being able to pay tribute to my dad, who paved the way for us to feel embraced and valued in a community that cherishes service and our connection to Christ. The experience was absolutely joyful, and I will always cherish it as one of my fondest memories.

- Tell about a time your church was there for you.

My first semester of college was an absolute blast, and I owe a considerable amount of gratitude to my faith community for their support. They came through for me in a big way by helping me cover some of the expenses necessary to pay for essential things like books and meal plans. My church established a scholarship fund to assist high school seniors with college expenses to take their generosity a step further. And wouldn't you know it, the fund and my hard work paid off in the form of receiving a scholarship alongside another brilliant young lady in my graduating year! This scholarship helped me tremendously and allowed me to pursue higher education in ways I could have only imagined. More than financial support, my church also offered me a haven where I felt loved, cared for, understood, and accepted by Christ. It's an invaluable feeling to have a community of like-minded individuals who will always have your back, no matter what.

NovusWay
Board Elected, Assembly Ratified
Term Ending 2026
Rev. Jason Lee

Full Name: **Jason Lee**

Email Address: pastorjlee@gmail.com or prjlee@aol.com

Phone: 843-274-8725

Mailing Address: 6200 N Kings Hwy

City, State, Zip Code: Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

Congregation: St. Philip Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Myrtle Beach

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: 30-45

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. SC Synod Cabinet of Deans (since 2017)
2. SC Synod Congregational Vitality Team (since 2019)
3. Chaplain/Worship Leader for SC Synod Assemblies in 2018 (in-person) and 2021 (virtual)

4. Assist with numerous ministries local and regional – Lutheran Services Carolinas, Meals on Wheels, Helping Hand, etc.

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

Like many pastors, working at camp was where I first felt a sense of calling to be a pastor. It was a place where I could be myself. At camp, I learned I enjoyed leadership, hands-on ministry, and working with others in an intentionally Christian community. I discovered gifts and was able to put them to use. Particularly influential moments at camp include the staff worship services: gathering with others around bread and wine, singing praises, and supporting each other. Those worshipful moments had a significant impact on me.

More recently, another joyous memory is also a time the church was supportive. During some of our strategic planning at St. Philip several years ago, we knew we would have to make hard decisions if we were going to move mission and ministry forward. Through our discerning and discussions, we had plans, steps, and hoped-for outcomes. But simply naming these things would not be enough. The congregation would have to walk through a period of wilderness for an unknown length of time. And to the credit of the people at St. Philip, Myrtle Beach, they stepped up not only in support but in action. Our wilderness time was short-lived. Ministry happened, giving increased, and new people were welcomed. Through this, I felt supported and affirmed, not only as a pastor, but as someone who wants a congregation to grow, welcome, and share the love of Christ. A strategic plan is nothing without the support and help of the congregation, and our congregation rose to the occasion. We now have many groups and ministries both in and out of the church building. And it is all because the people of God stepped up to move forward in faith, making a difference in the lives of people now and in the future.

Report of the Bishop 2022-2023
2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly
“I See Jesus”

Our theme for this 2023 Annual SC Synod Assembly, *“I See Jesus,”* gives us the opportunity to lift up places across the Synod where we have seen and experienced Jesus in our work and ministry over the past year, *and* to intentionally focus our attention on how we will reflect and represent Jesus as his faithful disciples to the world around us in our walk and life throughout the year to come. This Assembly will highlight stories of mission which we hope will serve as an inspiration to take back to our local communities as a resource. We don't expect that everyone will duplicate these ministries in their own hometowns, but we do hope that these stories will inspire us to consider the various ways we, too, can help others see Jesus.

In the four plenary session themes I recognize the beauty and relationship of the ministries we get to do together throughout the year as Christ's church. It is impossible to share all of them, but here is just a small sampling of where I have seen Jesus in the South Carolina Synod. *I See Jesus in...unexpected places* like Boundary Training Events, Congregational Vitality Workshops and Longest Night Worship Services that challenge us to be authentic and healthy in our relationships with one another. *I See Jesus in... those who are different than me* like all that we learn from our Global Companion partners in Japan, Tanzania and Colombia; like young adults in Campus Ministry and youth in Lutheran Church Youth events who in the midst of formation as faithful adults in a changing world display an eager and inspired love for God and for the people of God, and a deep desire to live in a fully inclusive way that recognizes the gifts in all our siblings. *I See Jesus in...our Spaces* like Lutheran Services Carolinas Refugee Services Office in Myrtle Beach and Trinity Recovery House in Columbia where God's people from a variety of backgrounds learn that there is a place for them in Christ's church; and like Anniversaries and Homecomings where congregations celebrate their history and also look forward to their future; like Call Process and Installations which focus on and celebrate leadership and new relationships within congregations. *I See Jesus in...community* whenever I visit our congregations for worship or special events; in Outreach Ministries that connect people to their communities; in Region 9 Leadership Training like Stewardship Retreats for all First Call Deacons and Pastors; in North Carolina and South Carolina sharing a position for Lutheran Disaster Coordinators to help prepare our Synods in the cases of natural disasters; in the Partnerships that are forming between congregations for mission and transformation as we seek to be the church in this Post-Covid season of life.

I have seen Jesus in the time we have spent together in study of “The Great ReEvaluation,” as well as our Inclusiveness Book Study and Advent and Lenten Bible Studies. People from different settings of the Synod meeting by Zoom, working and talking together about being the church today and faithfully moving together into the future. We are a people who appreciate life-long learning. We have received a heritage from Luther himself to continue our growth as disciples and open God's Word together throughout life. We never stop learning and growing in our understanding of God's Word and in faith. These courses that were offered give us the opportunity to explore the ways we are caught up in the life-giving and hopeful vision of the way of Jesus. We may make jokes about change, and we may proclaim that we don't like change, but we have all experienced some of the biggest changes in everyday life over the past couple of years and we have grown from it. This time in study together has guided us into appreciating a certain sense of comfort in recognizing that change is inevitable and it is what we do with it that is important, and these studies have given us tools for embracing our current situation and navigating the future as we stay steeped in God's Word

and wrestle through it with one another as siblings in Christ Jesus. In many ways the studies have reminded us of the work of the early church where mission included gathering in small groups to study, worship and encourage one another in faithful living. I pray our life together as a Synod and as church will inspire us to have a fervor for opening God's Word together.

We have been blessed over the past year to have the support and encouragement of the Synod Council and the guidance from Mike Ward, GSB Consultant to enter into a time of reflection and Synod visioning. Mike walked with us beginning in the fall of 2022 to listen to Rostered Ministers as well as lay leaders from across the SC Synod and to develop a new Mission Statement and Vision for the Synod from those conversations. As we listened and prayed over this process we began to see more and more clearly that our call in this season is to work toward resourcing and equipping the congregations and the people of the SC Synod to be able to be faithful disciples who have an impact in the name of Jesus on the communities where we live and serve. The Office of the Bishop and the Synod Council continue this work and are excited to walk with you as we live into our Mission and Vision for this season of our history together. We are grateful to those who participated in the surveys, conversations and work on Mission and Vision and we hope that our work together will bless the life of this Synod, our Congregations and Communities. We know that there is a lot of work to do in many areas and we are committed to doing this work together with you.

SC Synod Mission Statement: Equipping church leaders to develop impactful faith communities and disciples of Jesus.

Vision Statement: Every person in South Carolina experiences God's love and grace.

Core Values:

1. Living Faith in Jesus as our Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:4-6)
2. Fostering opportunities for partnership among leaders and communities of faith (Romans 15:5-7)
3. Walking together in sacred trust as siblings in Christ (Luke 24:28-32).

Ministry Result Areas (MRA)

1. Synod Council and Staff become more effective and impactful in their roles.
2. Rostered Ministers are growing in faith, equipped for their ministry contexts, and connected with colleagues.
3. Congregational/lay Leaders are trained for leading the church of today.
4. The Synod is actively collaborating with congregations to raise up new rostered leaders and lay leaders for the church.

We will serve to the best of our abilities to resource and connect the SC Synod Council, Rostered Ministers and Laypeople of all ages in the name and ministry of Jesus.

Finally, I am always grateful for the partnership we share in the Office of the Bishop as your Synod Staff and with the Synod Council leadership. Each member of the Staff and Council are faithful servants of God who seek to assist in fostering the gospel of Jesus in this corner of the earth and helping the people of God in any ways we can. I am also thankful for each of you and for the ways you live and move and represent Jesus in the communities where you serve. May we *See Jesus* in one another and may others *See Jesus* in us.

Together in Ministry,

+Bishop Ginny Aebischer

Office of the Bishop Official Acts April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

Annual Assembly

April 5, 2022 – Assembly Planning and Walk-through
April 19, 2022 – Conduct of Elections (COE) Pre-Assembly Meeting with Lumi
May 23, 2022 – COE Pre-Assembly Meeting
May 31, 2022 – Assembly Preparation Run-through
May 31, 2022 – Reference & Counsel Committee Meeting
June 1, 2022 – COE Pre-Assembly Meeting with Lumi
June 12-14, 2022 – Annual Assembly
June 29, 2022 – Staff Assembly Debrief and Development
July 7, 2022 – Assembly Potential Location Site Walk through and planning
November 2022 – Nominating Committee Meeting

Calls Accepted

April 19, 2022 – The Rev. Ricki Mason, Orangeburg, Orangeburg
May 1, 2022 – The Rev. John C. Derrick, St. Matthew, Lexington
May 16, 2022 – The Rev. Keith Getz, Wittenberg, Leesville
June 1, 2022 – The Rev. E.P. Martin, Messiah, Mauldin
July 18, 2022 – The Rev. Fred Bartelt, St. James, Lexington
July 25, 2022 – The Rev. Joe Woodward, US Army Chaplain
August 1, 2022 – The Rev. Ralph Hill, St. Stephen's, Lexington
August 1, 2022 – The Rev. Mark Scott, Interim Ministry, SC Synod
August 15, 2022 – The Rev. Joanna Gragg, Ebenezer, Columbia
August 16, 2022 – The Rev. Doug Graul, Interim Ministry, SC Synod
August 28, 2022 – The Rev. Miho Yasukawa, Fairfax Parish
September 11, 2022 – The Rev. Jamie Reising, Redeemer, Charleston
December 7, 2022 – The Rev. Heather Apel, St. John, Spartanburg
December 7, 2022 – The Rev. Wade Apel, St. John, Spartanburg
December 11, 2022 – The Rev. John Woods, Rice Estate, Lutheran Homes of SC
March 17, 2023 – The Rev. Mike Shackelford, Interim Ministry, SC Synod
March 19, 2023 – The Rev. Scott Landrum, St. James, Sumter
March 26, 2023 – The Rev. Sue Johnson, Lutheran Church by the Lake, McCormick

Candidacy

April 26-27, 2022 – Candidacy Committee Meeting, Entrance Decisions
October 4-5, 2022 – Candidacy Committee Meeting, Endorsement Decisions
December 6-7, 2022 – Candidacy Committee Meeting

Closing of Congregation

October 16, 2022 – Christ Mission, Columbia

Communications

Facilitated Zoom Meetings, Neal Fischer, Director of Communications
April 2022 - 14 Zoom Meeting Sessions
May 2022 - 15 Zoom Meeting Sessions
June 2022 - 4 Zoom Meeting Sessions
July 2022 - 18 Zoom Meeting Sessions
August 2022 - 13 Zoom Meeting Sessions
September 2022 - 11 Zoom Meeting Sessions

October 2022 - 11 Zoom Meeting Sessions
November 2022 - 13 Zoom Meeting Sessions
December 2022 - 17 Zoom Meeting Sessions
January 2023 - Zoom Meeting Sessions
February 2023 - 12 Zoom Meeting Sessions
March 2023 - 14 Zoom Meeting Sessions

Produced Online Worship Services, Neal Fischer, Director of Communications

April 2022 - 9 Online Worship Services
May 2022 - 5 Online Worship Services
June 2022 - 14 Online Worship Services
July 2022 - 5 Online Worship Services
September 2022 - 4 Online Worship Services
October 2022 - 6 Online Worship Services
November 2022 - 4 Online Worship Services
December 2022 - 6 Online Worship Services
January 2023 - 6 Online Worship Services
February 2023 - 5 Online Worship Services
March 2023 - 4 Online Worship Services

Lutheran Living in South Carolina Video Magazine, Neal Fischer, Director of Communications
and Deacon Sarah Bowers, Creative Director

September 2022 - Recorded, Produced, and Published
November 2022 - Recorded, Produced, and Published
January 2023 - Recorded, Produced, and Published
March 2023 - Recorded, Produced, and Published

eNews, Neal Fischer, Director of Communications

April 2022 - 4 weekly editions, 2 Assembly editions, and 4 special editions
May 2022 - 4 weekly editions, 2 Assembly editions, and 6 special editions
June 2022 - 5 weekly editions, 1 Assembly edition, and 6 special editions
July 2022 - 4 weekly editions and 2 special editions
August 2022 - 5 weekly editions and 3 special editions
September 2022 - 4 weekly editions and 3 special editions
October 2022 - 4 weekly editions and 2 special editions
November 2022 - 5 weekly editions and 3 special editions
December 2022 - 3 weekly editions and 2 special editions
January 2023 - 4 weekly editions, 1 Assembly edition, and 2 special editions
February 2023 - 4 weekly editions, 2 Assembly editions, and 3 special editions
March 2023 - 5 weekly editions, 2 Assembly editions, and 1 special edition

Lutheran FAQ videos, Neal Fischer, Director of Communications and The Rev. Emily Hartmann,
Assistant to the Bishop

April 2022 - 4 Recorded, Produced, and Published
June 2022 - 1 Recorded, Produced, and Published
September 2022 - 4 Recorded, Produced, and Published
October 2022 - 3 Recorded, Produced, and Published
January 2023 - 1 Recorded, Produced, and Published
February 2023 - 1 Recorded, Produced, and Published

Produced Videos (other), Neal Fischer, Director of Communications
April 2022 - Recorded, Produced, and Published Bishop's Easter Message
May 2022 - Recorded, Produced, and Published Promotional Video for LCY Convocation
December 2022 - Recorded, Produced, and Published Bishop's Christmas Message
June 2022 - Streamed and produced Synod Assembly Live including 18 hours of video
June 2022 - Produced and Published 35 Synod Assembly videos for eNews and posting
September 2022 - Helped Facilitate Regional Training Event for Synod Staffs
October 2022 - Helped Facilitate Regional Training Event for Synod Staffs
January 2023 - Recorded and Produced video invitation to Synod Assembly with Deacon
Lexanne Graves, Synod Vice President
January 2023 - Recorded and Streamed the Region 9 / LTSS Stewardship Symposium

Community Outreach

April 30, 2022 – Family Promise of the Midlands Gala, Columbia
January 6, 2023—SCEA Meeting
March 13, 2023—Recovery Center Dedication, Columbia

Conference of Bishops

April 3, 2022 ELCA Assembly Orientation for SC Synod Voting Members
April 7, 2022 COB Meeting (Zoom)
April 19, 2022 COB Meeting (Zoom)
April 21, 2022 COB Meeting (Zoom)
May 18, 2022 COB Meeting (Zoom)
May 20, 2022 ELCA Good Samaritan Committee Meeting (ZOOM)
June 3, 2022 COB Meeting (Zoom)
June 21, 2022 COB Meeting (Zoom)
July 7, 2022 ELCA Assembly Bible Study (Zoom)
July 10, 2022 ELCA Assembly Bible Study (Zoom)
July 17, 2022 ELCA Assembly Bible Study (Zoom)
July 31, 2022 ELCA Assembly Bible Study (Zoom)
August 1, 2022 ELCA Assembly Prep meeting (Zoom)
August 2, 2022 ELCA Assembly Hearing (Zoom)
August 3, 2022 ELCA Assembly Hearing (Zoom)
August 4, 2022 ELCA Assembly Hearing (Zoom)
August 4, 2022 COB Meeting
August 6-11, 2022 ELCA Assembly
August 13, 2022 ELCA Assembly final Session review
August 28, 2022 SC Synod Voting Members to ELCA Assembly debrief
September 26, 2022 ELCA Roster Committee Meeting (Zoom)
September 28-October 1, 2022 Fall COB Meeting (including Fund for Leaders Dinner)
October 27, 2022 COB Meeting (Zoom)
November 15, 2022 COB Meeting (Zoom)
February 16, 2023 COB Meeting (Zoom)
February 16, 2023 ELCA Roster Committee Meeting (Zoom)
February 28 – March 4, 2023 Spring COB Meeting
March 28-31 – Bishops Seminary Visit to Wartburg Seminary

Conference of Deans/Conference Meetings

November 30, 2022 – Conference of Deans Meeting
February 14, 2023 – Heartland Conference Rostered Ministers

February 26, 2023 – Midlands Conference Meeting March 14, 2023 – Western Conference Rostered Ministers

Congregations that have voted to leave the ELCA & Synod Council Action

St. Paul, Pomaria – First Vote – October 16, 2022, Second Vote – January 29, 2023, Synod Council voted no to Disaffiliation February 27, 2023

Conversations/ Pastoral Visits with Pastors/Deacons/Council Leaders – General and Call Process Individual Meetings

359 (estimate)

Council Meetings, Call Committee Meetings & Congregational Events

April 3, 2022 – Congregational Event, Faith, West Columbia
April 10, 2022 – Call Committee Meeting, Ebenezer, Columbia
April 24, 2022 – Worship and Joint Council Meeting, Ehrhardt Parish, Ehrhardt
April 24, 2022 – Council Meeting, The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Charleston
May 1, 2022 – Congregational Event, St. John, Spartanburg
May 1, 2022 – Worship and Congregational Meeting with potential new leader, Cristo Rey, West Columbia
May 4, 2022 – Call Committee Meeting, St. James, Lexington
May 9, 2022 – Call Committee Meeting, St. Paul, Gilbert
May 9, 2022 – Council Meeting, St. Paul, Aiken
May 16, 2022 – Council Meeting, Lutheran Church by the Lake, McCormick
May 17, 2022 – Council Meeting, St. Paul, Pomaria
May 22, 2022 – Congregational Event, St. Mark and Corinth, Leesville
May 22, 2022 – Congregational Event, Summer Memorial, Newberry
May 23, 2022 – Council Meeting, St. James, Sumter
June 6, 2022 – Council Leadership Meeting, St. James, Summit
June 10, 2022 – Call Committee Meeting, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Charleston
June 19, 2022 – Call Committee Meeting, Summer Memorial, Newberry
June 21, 2022 – Council Meeting, Sandy Run, Swansea
June 22, 2022 – Council Meeting, Reformation, Columbia & Christ Mission, Columbia
June 27, 2022 – Call Committee, St. John, Spartanburg
July 5, 2022 – Council Meeting, Christ Mission, Columbia
July 20, 2022 – Call Committee, St. John
July 24, 2022 – Congregational Event, Lutheran Church by the Lake, McCormick
August 2, 2022 – Council Leadership Team, Lord of Life, Bluffton
August 14, 2022 – Council/Call Committee Meeting, Bethany, Newberry
August 23, 2022 – Council Meeting, Grace, Prosperity
August 24, 2022 – Council Leaders Meeting, Pomaria, Pomaria
August 24, 2022 – Council Leaders Meeting, Pilgrim, Lexington
August 24, 2022 – Call Committee Meeting, Lutheran Church by the Lake, McCormick
September 19, 2022 – Council and Call Committee Leadership Meeting, Joy, Moore
September 19, 2022 – Council Meeting, St. John, Lexington
September 20, 2022 – Council Meeting, Cedar Grove, Leesville
September 26, 2022 – Call Committee Meeting, St. Paul, Gilbert
October 9, 2022 – Council Meeting, St. Matthew, Pomaria
October 9, 2022 – Congregational Event, Union, Leesville
October 16, 2022 – Congregational Meeting (First vote on Disaffiliation), St. Paul, Pomaria
October 18, 2022 – Congregational Event, St. James, Sumter
October 23, 2022 – Council Meeting, Reformation, Columbia

October 30, 2022 – Joint Council Meeting, Crossroads, Indian Land and Amazing Grace, Waxhaw
 November 2, 2022 – Council Leader Meeting, St. Matthew, Pomaria
 November 20, 2022 – Council Meeting, St. John, Irmo
 November 21, 2022 – Council Leaders Meeting, Pilgrim, Lexington
 November 27, 2022 – Council Meeting, Good Shepherd, Walterboro and Ehrhardt Parish
 November 30, 2022 – Council Meeting, Union, Leesville and St. John, Lexington
 December 4, 2022 – Council Meeting, St. John, Irmo and Pomaria, Pomaria
 December 5, 2022 – Council/Vestry Meeting, St. John, Charleston
 December 7, 2022 – Council Meeting, Ascension, Columbia
 December 4, 2022 – Call Committee/Council Meeting, St. John, Irmo and Pomaria, Pomaria
 December 12, 2022 – Council Leaders Meeting, Faith, West Columbia
 December 18, 2022 – Council Meeting, Faith, Pickens
 December 19, 2022 – Call Committee Meeting, St. James, Sumter
 January 8, 2023 – Council Meeting, Mt. Horeb, Chapin
 January 8, 2023 – Joint Council Meeting, Mt. Olivet, Chapin and Mt. Hermon, Peak
 January 9, 2023 – Congregational Consultation (Disaffiliation), St. Paul, Pomaria
 January 10, 2023 – Council Leaders Meeting, Grace, Gilbert
 January 10, 2023 – Executive Council Meeting, St. Matthias, Easley
 January 11, 2023 – Council Partner Conversations, Faith, West Columbia and Sandy Run, Swansea
 January 12, 2023 – Councils meeting, St. John, Irmo and Pomaria, Pomaria
 January 15, 2023 – Council Meeting, St. Matthias, Easley
 January 22, 2022 – Council Meeting, Reformation, Columbia
 January 29, 2023 - Congregational Meeting (2nd vote on Disaffiliation), St. Paul, Pomaria
 January 30, 2023 – Council and Call Committee Meetings, Joy, Moore
 February 15, 2023 – Call Committee Meeting, Union, Leesville
 February 15, 2023 – Call Committee Meeting, Corinth and St. Mark, Leesville
 March 14, 2023 – Council Leaders Meeting, St. John, Irmo and Pomaria, Pomaria
 March 20, 2023 – Council and Call Committee Meeting, St. Paul, Gilbert
 March 26, 2023 – Congregational Event, Mt. Horeb, Chapin
 March 26, 2023 – Leadership Team Meeting, Grace, Prosperity

Deaths

April 15, 2022 – The Rev. Charles B. Dawkins
 April 17, 2022 – The Rev. J. Pierce Evans, Jr.
 April 29, 2022 – The Rev. James Connelly
 March 9, 2022 – The Rev. Dr. James H. Milligan
 May 23, 2022 – The Rev. Dr. Robert N. Bacher
 May 27, 2022 – The Rev. Charles W. Easley
 June 22, 2022 – Mrs. Dorothea M. Lyerly, Wife of the Rev. Gary R. Lyerly
 August 8, 2022 – The Rev. Eddie C. Miller, Jr.
 August 12, 2022 – Mrs. June Moore Fulmer, Widow of the Rev. G. Allen Fulmer
 October 8, 2022 – The Rev. Steven D. Jackson
 November 18, 2022 – The Rev. Robert G. Coon
 November 24, 2022 – The Rev. Larry Long
 January 2, 2023 – The Rev. James H. Nichols
 January 9, 2023 – The Rev. J. Harry Crout
 February 11, 2023 – The Rev. Everette Lineberger

Finance

October 27, 2022 – Finance Committee Meeting
January 30, 2023 – Finance Committee Meeting
March 20, 2023 – Finance Committee Meeting

Global Network

July 18, 2022 – Welcome Pastor Hitoshi and Satoko from JELC
July 29, 2022 – Global Mission Coordinators Meeting
March 21, 2022 – Welcome Pastor Toky and Pastor Ogilvie, from Madagascar

Inclusiveness Network

April 4, 2022 – MORE Justice Nehemiah Action Gathering, Columbia
June 28, 2022—Inclusiveness Network Meeting
July 28, 2022—Inclusiveness Network Meeting
September 8, 2022—Inclusiveness Network Meeting
October 13, 2022—Inclusiveness Network Meeting
February 9, 2023—Inclusiveness Network Meeting

Indigenous Peoples Accompaniment Network

March 5, 2023—Meeting at Providence, Lexington

Installations

May 4, 2022 – The Rev. David Coffman, Newberry College. Installed by Bishop Virginia Aebischer at Wiles Chapel.
May 15, 2022 – The Rev. Aaron DeBenedetto, St. Paul's, Mt. Pleasant. Installed by the Rev. Nathan Rice.
May 22, 2022 – The Rev. Rick Mason, Orangeburg. Installed by the Rev. Eric Little.
June 12, 2022 – The Rev. John C. Derrick, St. Matthew's, Lexington. Installed by the Rev. Wade Roof.
June 26, 2022 – The Rev. Keith Getz, Wittenberg, Leesville. Installed by the Rev. Lisa Isenhower.
August 7, 2022 – The Rev. Ralph Hill, St. Stephen's, Lexington. Installed by the Rev. Wade Roof.
August 14, 2022 – The Rev. E.P. Martin, Messiah, Mauldin. Installed by the Rev. Maria Miller.
September 18, 2022 – The Rev. Fred Bartelt, St. James, Lexington. Installed by the Rev. Wade Roof.
September 25, 2022 – The Rev. Miho Yasukawa, Fairfax Parish. Installed by the Rev. Eric Little.
September 25, 2022 – The Rev. Joanna Gragg, Ebenezer, Columbia. Installed by the Rev. Andrew Isenhower.
October 16, 2022 – The Rev. Aaron DeBenedetto, St. Johannes, Charleston. Installed by the Rev. Nathan Rice.
January 22, 2023 – The Rev. Heather and The Rev. Wade Apel, St. John, Spartanburg. Installed by the Rev. Gregg Hoffman.

Institutional & Auxiliary Partnerships

April 7, 2022 – SCLRC Board Meeting
May 5, 2022 – LTSS Baccalaureate Service
May 5, 2022 – NovusWay Board Meeting
May 18, 2022 – NovusWay Board Meeting
May 25, 2022 – NovusWay Board Meeting

June 24, 2022 – SC Women of the ELCA Convention
 June 26, 2022 – SC Lutheran Men in Mission Executive Committee Meeting
 September 20, 2022 – SC Lutheran Men in Mission Saxe Gotha Committee of 100 Dinner
 September 29, 2022—Newberry College Food Pantry Dedication
 October 4, 2022 – Lutheran Services Carolinas Shepherd Society Lunch
 October 16, 2022 – SC Lutheran Men in Mission Executive Committee Meeting
 October 20, 2022 – SC Lutheran Retreat Centers Board Meeting
 November 16, 2022 – Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Worship and Lunch Sending for Rev. Dr. Mary Shore
 November 21, 2022—Participated in Class Panel for Dr. McArver
 January 14, 2023 – SC Lutheran Retreat Centers Board Meeting
 January 18, 2023 – NovusWay Board Meeting
 February 17-18, 2023 – SC Lutheran Men in Mission Past President’s Dinner and Convention at Messiah, Mauldin
 March 9-11, 2023 – NovusWay Board Meeting at Luther Ranch Tallapoosa, Georgia
 March 12, 2023 – Lutheran Services Carolinas Dedication of Refugee Resettlement Office, Myrtle Beach
 March 13, 2023 – Lutheran Services Carolinas Dedication of Recovery Manor, Columbia.

Interim Pastors

The Rev. Dr. Mary Anderson, Wittenberg, Leesville; Pilgrim, Lexington
 The Rev. Mike Shackelford, St. Matthew, Pomaria
 The Rev. Beth Neubauer, Crossroads, Indian Land & Amazing Grace, Waxaw
 The Rev. Mark Scott, St. John’s, Charleston
 The Rev. Christi Pursey, St. James, Lexington; Ehrhardt Parish, Ehrhardt
 The Rev. Kevin Ogilvie, St. Mark/Corinth, Leesville
 The Rev. Matthew Lash, St. Paul, Gilbert
 The Rev. Jane Mitcham, Grace, Prosperity
 The Rev. Linda Anderson, Mt. Olivet, Chapin & Mt. Hermon, Peak
 The Rev. Steve Counts, Nazareth, Lexington
 The Rev. Craig Boehlke, Good Shepherd, Walterboro
 The Rev. Art Turfa, Faith, West Columbia
 The Rev. Bill Ebener, Union, Leesville
 The Rev. Mark Buchan, St. John, Irmo
 The Rev. Pat Riddle, Mt. Horeb, Chapin
 The Rev. Leroy Cannon, Resurrection, Columbia
 The Rev. Wayne Young, Lutheran Church by the Lake, McCormick
 The Rev. Karen Hawkins, Summer Memorial, Newberry
 The Rev. Christine Parham, St. James, Sumter
 The Rev. Gary Brandenburg, St. Paul, Pomaria
 The Rev. Bruce Booher, St. John, Spartanburg
 The Rev. Mark Bredholt, Cedar Grove, Leesville
 The Rev. Fred Suhr, St. David, West Columbia
 The Rev. Jim Glander, St. James, Summit

Leadership Events

April 6, 2022 – Staff Development
 April 20, 2022 – Clemson LCM Program, University Clemson
 April 25, 2022 – Interim Gathering (Zoom)
 April 28-29, 2022 – Host Latino Leader, Cristo Rey, West Columbia
 May 11, 2022 – Staff Development Day

May 24, 2022 – Interim Gathering (Zoom)
 June 21, 2022 – Interim Leaders
 July 6, 2022 – Interim Leaders
 July 14, 2022 – Interim Leaders Team
 July 19-20, 2022 – Staff Mid-year Reviews
 July 27, 2022 – Executive Staff Visioning
 August 17, 2022 – Staff ELCA Assembly Review
 August 23, 2022 – Beloved Leader Meeting
 August 23, 2022 – Interim Leaders
 September 19-20, 2022 – Legal Consult
 September 21, 2022 – Staff Development Day
 October 6, 2022 – Interim Leaders
 October 20, 2022 – Interim Gathering
 November 14, 2022 – Partnership Retreat, Camp Kinard, Leesville
 November 9, 2022 – Campus Ministry, St. Matthew’s, Charleston
 November 15, 2022 - Inclusiveness Book Study, “The Color of Compromise”
 November 29, 2022 – Inclusiveness Book Study, “The Color of Compromise”
 December 1, 2022 – Advent Bible Study, The Rev. Dr. Bobby Morris (Zoom)
 December 1, 2022 – Interim Gathering
 December 1 & 7, 2022 – Staff Annual Reviews
 December 5, 2022 – Interim Leaders
 December 8, 2022 – Staff Retreat Day
 December 8, 2022 – Advent Bible Study, The Rev. Dr. Bobby Morris (Zoom)
 December 13, 2022- Inclusiveness Book Study, “The Color of Compromise”
 December 15, 2022 - Advent Bible Study, The Rev. Dr. Bobby Morris (Zoom)
 December 22, 2022 - Advent Bible Study, The Rev. Dr. Bobby Morris (Zoom)
 January 10, 2023 – Inclusiveness Book Study, “The Color of Compromise”
 January 23, 2023 – Interim Gathering
 January 24, 2023 – Inclusiveness Book Study, “The Color of Compromise”
 January 24, 2023 – Consultation and Strategic Planning Work
 February 7, 2023 - Inclusiveness Book Study, “The Color of Compromise”
 February 13, 2023 – The Great ReEvaluation Course Kick Off Event, The Rev. Dr. Mark Tidsworth, Mt. Hermon, West Columbia
 February 19, 2023 - The Great ReEvaluation Course Kick Off Event, The Rev. Dr. Mark Tidsworth, St. Luke, Summerville
 February 20, 2023 – Congregational Leadership Meetings
 February 26, 2023 - The Great ReEvaluation Course Kick Off Event, The Rev. Dr. Mark Tidsworth, Holy Communion, Spartanburg
 February 27, 2023 – Lent Bible Study, The Rev. Dr. Bobby Morris (Zoom)
 March 3, 2023 – Lent Bible Study, The Rev. Dr. Bobby Morris (Zoom)
 March 6, 2023 - The Great ReEvaluation Course (Zoom), The Rev. Dr. Mark Tidsworth
 March 13, 2023 – Lent Bible Study, The Rev. Dr. Bobby Morris (Zoom)
 March 24-25, 2023 – Strategic Planning Meetings
 March 27, 2023 - The Great ReEvaluation Course (Zoom), The Rev. Dr. Mark Tidsworth
 March 27, 2023 – Lent Bible Study, The Rev. Dr. Bobby Morris (Zoom)

Ordinations/Consecrations

April 9, 2022 – Laura Sharpe-Waites, Consecration as Deaconess at Lowman Home Chapel
 June 18, 2022 – E.P. Martin, held at Joy, Moore

Region 9

April 14, 2022 – Region 9 Council
May 3, 2022 – Region 9 Council
May 12, 2022 – Region 9 Council
June 9, 2022 – Region 9 Consultation
July 11-13, 2022 – Region 9 Bishop's Retreat
July 15, 2022 – NC & SC Synods LDR Planning
July 21, 2022 – Region 9 Lutheran Disaster Relief Proposal Finalized
July 29, 2022 – Region 9 Bishops
August 17, 2022 – Region 9 Lutheran Disaster Relief
September 27, 2022 – Region 9 Lutheran Disaster Relief
October 6, 2022 – Region 9 Consultation
October 15, 2022 – Region 9 Boundary Training for Rostered Ministers
October 24, 2022 – Region 9 Bishops
October 27, 2022 – Region 9 Boundary Training for Rostered Ministers
November 11, 2022 – Region 9 Bishops
November 15, 2022—Region 9 Assistants to the Bishops meeting
November 17, 2022 – Region 9 Council
December 8, 2022 – Region 9 Bishops
December 13, 2022 – NC & SC Synods Interviews for LDR Directors Position
January 12, 2023 – Region 9 Bishops
January 26, 2023 – Region 9 Consultation
March 9-11, 2023 – Region 9 Assistants to Bishops/Bishops Boundary Planning & Evaluation

Removed from the Roster (by Synod Council vote)

April 4, 2022 – The Rev. Lester Cutter
December 31, 2022 – The Rev. Judson Merrell
February 8, 2023 – The Rev. Emil Klatt

Resignations

April 17, 2022 – The Rev. Ricki Mason, Ehrhardt Parish
April 30, 2022- The Rev. John C. Derrick, St. John, Irmo
May 1, 2022 – Deacon Mandi Whitley, Trinity, Greenville
May 8, 2022 – The Rev. Keith Getz, St. James, Sumter
July 15, 2022 – The Rev. Ralph Hill, Mt. Horeb Chapin
July 24, 2022 – The Rev. Joe Woodward, Cedar Grove, Leesville
July 25, 2022 – The Rev. Tim Bupp, Reformation, Columbia
July 31, 2022 – The Rev. Mark Scott, Pomaria, Pomaria
August 14, 2022 – The Rev. Joanna Gragg, Mt. Horeb, Chapin
August 15, 2022 – Deacon Shelley Allen, Joy, Moore
October 1, 2022 – The Rev. Thulie Beresford, MUSC
December 10, 2022 – The Rev. John Woods, Pilgrim, Lexington

Retirement

May 27, 2022 – The Rev. Patrick Appleget
July 1, 2022 – The Rev. Leroy Cannon
July 12, 2022 – Deacon Harry Prim
September 1, 2022 – The Rev. David Butler
December 1, 2022 – The Rev. Kathy Harris

Stated Supply Pastors

The Rev. Reggie Cruse, St. Peter, Batesburg-Leesville
The Rev. Rus Stilwell, St. Andrew, Blythewood
The Rev. Colin Kerr, Ecumenical Partner, St. Barnabas, Charleston
The Rev. Paul Williams, St. John, Clinton
The Rev. Paul Williams, St. Timothy, Whitmire
The Rev. Greg Martin, Trinity, Georgetown
The Rev. Jann Boyd, Enon, Leesville
Deaconess Laura Sharpe-Waites, Bethany, Newberry
The Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Bethany, Lexington
The Rev. Carroll Robinson, Holy Trinity, Pelion
The Rev. Art Hallman, Bethlehem, Pomaria
The Rev. Floyd Sides, Bachman Chapel, Prosperity
The Rev. Maria Miller, Augsburg, Union
The Rev. John Stoudemayer, Silverstreet
The Rev. Pam Turfa, Sandy Run, Swansea

Synod Council

April 4, 2022 – Synod Council Meeting
April 21, 2022 – Lifeline Distribution Team Meeting
May 9, 2022 – Lifeline Distribution Team Research
May 11, 2022 – Lifeline Distribution Team Meeting
May 16, 2022 – Executive Council Meeting
May 25, 2022 – Lifeline Distribution Team Meeting
July 21, 2022 – Synod Treasurer and Accountant Meeting
July 26, 2022 – Lifeline Distribution Team Meeting
August 2, 2022 – Executive Council Meeting
August 27, 2022 – Synod Council Meeting
September 20, 2022 – Consultation with Mike Ward, GSB (Strategic Visioning Process)
October 3, 2022 – Lifeline Distribution Team Meeting
October 4, 2022 – Executive Council Meeting
October 18, 2022 – Synod Treasurer & Accountant Meeting
October 19, 2022 - Consultation with Mike Ward, GSB (Strategic Visioning Process)
October 31, 2022 – Executive Council Meeting
November 8, 2022 - Consultation with Mike Ward, GSB (Strategic Visioning Process)
November 14, 2022 – Synod Council Meeting
November 16, 2022 - Consultation with Mike Ward, GSB (Strategic Visioning Process)
November 21, 2022 - Consultation with Mike Ward, GSB (Strategic Visioning Process)
December 12, 2022 – Lifeline Distribution Team Meeting
December 14, 2022 - Consultation with Mike Ward, GSB (Strategic Visioning Process)
December 18, 2022 – Synod Council Meeting
January 10, 2023 – Executive Council Meeting
January 18, 2023 – Consult with Synod Lawyer
January 31, 2023 – Leadership Team Meeting (Compensation Guidelines updates)
January 31, 2022 – Consult with Synod Lawyer
February 13, 2023 – Executive Council Meeting
February 21, 2023 - Consultation with Mike Ward, GSB (Strategic Visioning Process)
February 27, 2023 – Consult with Synod Lawyer/Executive Council
February 27, 2023 – Synod Council Meeting
March 7, 2023 – Consult with Synod Lawyer/Executive Council
March 16, 2023 – Consult with Synod Lawyer/Executive Council/Retain Attorney

Stewardship

January 27, 2023—Stewardship Symposium

Transfers

July 25, 2022 – The Rev. Tim Bupp, Transfer to Metropolitan New York Synod

Transfers Received

May 26, 2022 – The Rev. Carol Brighton, Transfer from New Jersey Synod

May 27, 2022 – The Rev. Judy McGuire, Transfer from Indiana-Kentucky Synod

July 18, 2022 – The Rev. Fred Bartelt, South Dakota Synod

August 1, 2022 – The Rev. Miho Yasukawa, Transfer from Northern Illinois Synod

August 17, 2022 – The Rev. Kim Stover, Transfer from Southeastern Synod

September 11, 2022 – The Rev. Jamie Reising, Transfer from Southeastern Iowa Synod

November 1, 2022 – The Rev. Steve Gellatly, Transfer from Southern Ohio Synod

December 7, 2022 – The Rev. Heather Apel, Transfer from Indiana-Kentucky Synod

December 7, 2022 – The Rev. Wade Apel, Transfer from Indiana-Kentucky Synod

Worship Celebrations and Special Events

April 4, 2022 – Cristo Rey Worship, West Columbia, SC

May 15, 2022 – 50th Anniversary, Redeemer, Greer

May 23, 2022 – Service of the Word record for Synod Worship

May 29, 2022 – Worship and 50th Anniversary Presentation, The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Charleston

May 29, 2022 – 90th Birthday Celebration, Pastor Alvin Haigler

June 1, 2022 – History Book Celebration Luncheon

June 17, 2022 – Emmanuel 9 Remembrance Worship, Mother Emmanuel AME, Charleston

June 26, 2022 – 110th Anniversary, Ascension, Columbia

July 31, 2022 – Sending Service for Pastor Peter Morey, St. James, Summit

August 28, 2022 – Retirement Service and Celebration for Pastor David Butler, St. John, Charleston

September 18, 2022 – Homecoming, Mt. Olivet, Chapin

October 7, 2022 – Oktoberfest blessing, Incarnation, Columbia

October 23, 2022 – Holy Communion Worship and receiving new members, Reformation, Columbia

October 24-26, 2022 – SC Synod Convocation, Lutheridge, Arden, NC

November 6, 2022 – Celebration of New Building, St. Luke, Summerville

November 27, 2022 – Dedication, Community, North Charleston

November 30, 2022 – Hutto Funeral, Mt. Tabor, West Columbia

December 21, 2022 – Longest Night Service, St. Matthew's, Pomaria

December 24, 2022 – Christmas Eve Worship, Faith, Pickens

January 22, 2022 – Martin Luther King Remembrance Worship, Ascension, Columbia

Youth

May 6-8, 2022—Spring Into Action, May 6-8, 2022

May 29, 2022—GraceWorks Planning Meetings

June 6, 20, 22, 29, 2022—GraceWorks Columbia Planning Meetings

June 26-July 1, 2022—Camp HUGG

July 11-14, 2022—GraceWorks Columbia

September 24, 2022—Newberry College Youth Day

October 21-23, 2022—Hand in Hand Service Event

January 11, 2023—Staff meetings for January Retreat

January 13-15, 2023—9th and 10th Grade Retreat
March 12, 2023—GraceWorks Columbia Planning Meeting
March 17-19, 2023—SCLCY Middle School Retreat

Campus Ministry

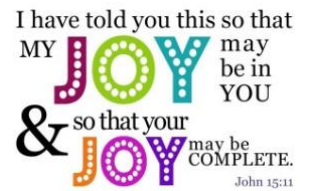
September 18, 2022—Provided Meal for Gamecock Lutherans
October 19, 2022—Campus Ministry Task Force Meeting
November 9, 2022—Met with College of Charleston Lutheran Campus Ministry
February 13, 2023—Led Small Catechism Study with Gamecock Lutherans
March 28, 2023—Worshiped with Winthrop Ecumenical Lutheran Campus Ministry

Report of the Vice President

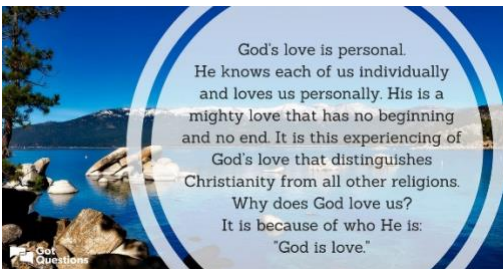
Deacon Lexanne Graves
South Carolina Synod Assembly 2023



Your South Carolina Synod Council gathered in August 2022 over Zoom under the theme, ***“ABC’s of Gratitude”***. Our scripture texts that guided our conversations were from John 15:11, ***“I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”*** and Nehemiah 8:10 ***“Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”*** For the purposes of our intentional sharing time,



the letters in the word **J.O.Y**, were to stand for **J**esus, **O**thers, and **Y**OU. With that framework in mind we then shared about our gratefulness for who and whose we are as children of God and how grateful we were for others on the “screen” who represent different contexts, different styles of leadership, different backgrounds, different skillsets, different years of serving on Council, different gifts, etc, etc. My hope was that we might SEE one another as Jesus sees us so that we might serve better together with synod business and spiritual matters. This intentional sharing time helped set the mindset for the coming months.



We are blessed with Synod Council leaders who were elected to serve for this year. The Holy Spirit really knew what she was doing when the members who have served this year were fully present for such a times as these. This year in particular, we are grateful for lay members who were bold enough to speak up for 1 John 4:8- “God is LOVE.”, grateful for executive committee members who have profound knowledge of finances, legal matters, and constitutional matters, grateful for members who engage in bible study and reconciliation conversations, and grateful for the ability to adapt to a new mission and vision plan so that every SC person can know

the love and grace of Jesus. You may wonder what types of persons are needed to lead the SC Synod into this next year and beyond, seek out persons who open to being educated, open to stepping outside of their comfort zones, open to SEEING Jesus in every person they meet and having a willingness to serve them in word and deed. THIS is how we lean into the vision of the church God intended.

God continues to speak through your 22 elected Synod Council members and its four officers throughout the year. It is a **JOY** to serve alongside these Synod disciple leaders who carry out faithfully the business matters of our Synod and seek ways to journey alongside each of our congregations through our missional priorities: equipping disciples for community engagement, deepening discipleship, addressing public education needs, and tackling poverty.

Here is a list highlighting some of the amazing work our SC Synod is doing with and alongside our 130+ congregations. We are truly blessed to be a blessing!

- + Gave financial freedom to Rostered Ministers through our SC Lifeline Distribution Fund who have been saddled with large educational and seminary debts;
- + Engaged in fruitful conversations on racial reconciliation each time we gather as a synod council;
- + Seen the fruits of the labors in our Restoration Chapel ministries in Greenwood and the Midlands;
- + Maintained the Rosters of both Ministers of Word and Service (Deacons) and Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastors) who are active, retired, as interim and on leave from call;
- + Improved Compensation Guidelines for rostered ministers, designed to promote healthy conversations about defined compensation;
- + Inspired each congregation to partner with a local agencies to address food scarcity and homelessness; and
- + Encouraged congregations to tell God’s Amazing story of what the Spirit is doing in our congregations!

The Spirit continues to amaze me in the provision of gifts needed among our Synod Staff & Synod Council who serve on your behalf. I am grateful to the fellow disciples who serve on our Synod’s Networks & Task Forces by being God’s hands and feet out in your community. It is the Lord’s wisdom I seek daily to fulfill this role and I am constantly returning to the Lord for strength as Nehemiah teaches. Thank you for our partnership together!

Report of the Secretary 2022-2023

It is an honor to serve as secretary of the South Carolina (SC) Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). In this role I see how this synod is walking together in Christ with congregations, lay persons, rostered ministers, and the Churchwide Organization for the sake of the world. Being thankful for one another and for our relationship as church together is important right now.

Bishop Virginia Aebischer; The Rev. Richard Carter and The Rev. Emily Hartmann, Assistants to the Bishop; The Rev. James Henricks, Director for Evangelical Mission; Deacon Lexanne Graves, Vice-President; and Raymond Hendrix, Treasurer give us able and faithful leadership as the South Carolina Synod moves forward in God's mission. This office is assisted by a dedicated support staff that carries out many details: Neal Fischer, Charlene Fink, Wendy Davidson, Deacon Sarah Bowers, and Jenny Spearen. Wendy Davidson, Administrative Assistant, and Kelley Mintz have ably prepared the *Directory and Minutes of the South Carolina Synod 2022* and the *Bulletin of Reports* for voting members of this assembly, respectively. I extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to these persons for all their good work. The duties of this office include the recording of the minutes of the Synod Council meetings and the Synod Assemblies. Other duties of this office include correspondence on Synod Council actions, providing for the archives and communication with the Churchwide organization. I am also serving as Chair, Constitution Committee.

In order to better preserve the history and heritage of the SC Synod, congregations are encouraged to use the James R. Crumley Jr., Archives, a Region 9 Southeast and Caribbean ELCA Ministry dedicated to the preservation of Lutheran History, located in the Lineberger Memorial Library at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia. Congregations are encouraged to collect records and publish historical information. As secretary, assisted by synod staff and volunteers, I am responsible for the continuing assessment, retention and transfer of archival materials. The archive is a good site for older and original parish registers; micro-film copies of current parish registers or older parish registers; copies of congregational histories and anniversary booklets (especially in 25-year increments); and photographs of church buildings. Preserving historic records is about preserving stories of God's people. Go to <https://www.crumleyarchives.com/> for assistance.

Each year, the statistics of the congregations of this synod are collected and compiled by the Office of the Secretary, ELCA. This data provides a detailed picture of statistical trends for each congregation and for this synod. There were 105 congregations out of 145 congregations that filed reports at the end of December 31, 2021. The baptized membership decreased by 1,335 persons from 40,105 to 38,770 at the end of 2021 (*the latest year that statistics were available at the time this report was written*). The average size of a congregation in this synod is 269 baptized members. Regular giving by members in congregations increased by \$377,512 from \$32,833,135 to \$33,210,647. Average giving per confirmed member increased in 2021 by \$56.28 from \$1,200.21 to \$1,256.49. The average weekly worship attendance per congregation (on-site) was 65 persons and the average weekly worship attendance per congregation (on-line) was 92 persons. Source: *Summary of Congregational Statistics* are available on the synod website. Go to <https://scsynod.com/about/> and download the 2022 *Directory and Minutes*.

In accordance with S7.32.A20.f. of the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the South Carolina Synod, ELCA, I recommend that two copies of the *Minutes of the 2022 South Carolina Synod Assembly*, which have been certified by the bishop and the secretary as the official protocol of that assembly, be approved and deposited in the archives.

Rev. W. Osborne Herlong Jr., Secretary
South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Year Ended January 31, 2023

Referred to as 2022-23

I consider it a privilege and honor to serve as treasurer of the SC Synod. Many thanks to Charlene Fink, Synod Accountant, and the other staff members for making my job such a joy.

Mission Support

Below is a summary of mission support from our congregations for the year 2022-23 as compared to 2021-22:

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2021-22</u>
Mission Support Budgeted	\$2,470,000	\$2,472,645
Mission Support Received	\$2,318,729	\$2,438,086

Unfortunately 2022-23 received less mission support than the prior year. We are hopeful giving will increase in 2023-24. Thanks to all of you for your contributions. They are greatly appreciated. In addition to mission support, the Synod received \$466,124 in 2022-23 for other funds (ministries) such as World Hunger, World Relief, Domestic and International Disaster Relief, Missionary Support, etc. Mission support from the 149 congregations is presented in the schedule on the following pages.

Expenditures

Below is a summary of expenditures for the year 2022-23 as compared to 2021-22:

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2021-22</u>
Mission Benevolence	\$ 940,434	\$1,044,708
Institutions	\$ 183,000	\$ 183,550
Deepening Discipleship Table	\$ 166,484	\$ 163,083
Community Engagement Table	\$ 182,637	\$ 178,049
Communication/Technology Table	\$ 239,312	\$ 67,815
Operating Expenses	\$ 877,597	\$ 819,334
Total Expenditures	<u>\$2,589,464</u>	<u>\$2,456,539</u>

The ELCA support for 2022-23 was 43.25% of unrestricted mission support for February – September and then 35% for October - January. For a comparison of expenditures with the budget, see the following financial statements.

Budget

The budget approved by the Synod Assembly for 2023-24 is \$2,563,554 with support for the ELCA at 35%. The budget approved by the Synod Council to be recommended to the 2023 Synod Assembly for 2024-25 is \$2,445,000 with support for the ELCA at 30%.

To fund these budgets, the Synod is asking each congregation to give a minimum of 10% of their offering annually. As congregations depend on some members to give more than others, the Synod also depends on some congregations to give more than other congregations. Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this" says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will be not be room enough to store it."

Investment Income

Due to the decline in the stock market, the Synod is showing an investment loss in the amount of \$74,663 for the year ending January 31, 2023. This is compared to Investment income of \$80,673 for the prior year.

Other Items

The SC Synod acquired the Our Shepherd (Hartsville) property following the closing of that congregation. The upkeep of this property is under the property committee.

The Christ Mission (Columbia) property sold on April 18, 2022. The Christ the King (Columbia) property sold on April 27, 2022.

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS."

We are all members of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA and as members we worship in our individual congregations, support local ministries, and support joint ministries through the SC Synod and the ELCA. I believe that the work we do together is a great benefit to God's people.

South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Mission Support, SC Synod Support & Other Funds

February 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023

	Organization	Mission Support	SC Synod Support	Other Funds	Total
1	All Saints 07396, Mt. Pleasant	\$45,249.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45,249.97
2	Ascension 05596, Columbia	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	Atonement 05658, Laurens	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Augsburg 05648, Union	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$1,350.00
5	Bachman Chapel 05640, Prosperity	\$7,200.00	\$0.00	\$365.00	\$7,565.00
6	Beth Eden 05628, Newberry	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
7	Bethany 05627, Newberry	\$7,887.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,887.00
8	Bethany 05721, Lexington	\$2,962.00	\$0.00	\$535.00	\$3,497.00
9	Bethel 05620, White Rock	\$12,375.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,375.00
10	Bethlehem 05608, Irmo	\$20,327.58	\$0.00	\$1,155.00	\$21,482.58
11	Bethlehem 05637, Pomaria	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$10,900.00
12	Bethlehem 05703, Leesville	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
13	Cedar Grove 05705, Leesville	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
14	Christ 07329, Hilton Head	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
15	Christ Community 31261, N. Charleston	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$20,004.00	\$24,804.00
16	# Christ Mission 31117, Columbia	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
17	Christ the King 16415, Greenville	\$1,440.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,440.00
18	Christus Victor 07571, Columbia	\$27,514.58	\$0.00	\$505.00	\$28,019.58
19	Colony 05630, Newberry	\$9,323.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,323.45
20	Corinth 05724, Saluda	\$0.00	\$7,100.00	\$21,615.00	\$28,715.00
21	Cristo Rey 30851, West Columbia	\$1,612.48	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,612.48
22	Cross and Crown 07503, Florence	\$11,411.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$12,611.00
23	Crossroads 30706, Fort Mill	\$13,260.00	\$0.00	\$527.00	\$13,787.00
24	Ebenezer 05598, Columbia	\$36,550.00	\$0.00	\$3,552.00	\$40,102.00
25	Ehrhardt Memorial 05677, Ehrhardt	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
26	Emmanuel 05614, West Columbia	\$23,374.85	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$23,574.85
27	Enon 05704, Leesville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
28	Epiphany 30081, Rock Hill	\$8,300.00	\$0.00	\$1,150.00	\$9,450.00
29	Faith 05615, West Columbia	\$14,499.96	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$15,699.96
30	Faith 05631, Newberry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
31	Faith 05683, Johns Island	\$6,042.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$6,192.00
32	Faith 05696, Batesburg-Leesville	\$2,928.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,928.00
33	Faith Lutheran Chapel 30683, Pickens	\$3,125.00	\$0.00	\$1,370.56	\$4,495.56
34	Good Hope 05727, Ward	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$310.00	\$310.00
35	Good Shepherd 05600, Columbia	\$45,399.96	\$0.00	\$1,201.00	\$46,600.96
36	Good Shepherd 05612, Swansea	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
37	Good Shepherd 05692, Walterboro	\$10,230.00	\$0.00	\$3,753.00	\$13,983.00
38	Grace 05611, Rock Hill	\$70,358.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70,358.37
39	Grace 05643, Prosperity	\$12,402.93	\$0.00	\$10,043.21	\$22,446.14
40	Grace 05698, Gilbert	\$13,000.67	\$0.00	\$2,100.00	\$15,100.67
41	Holy Communion 05659, Spartanburg	\$1,960.00	\$0.00	\$2,177.00	\$4,137.00
42	Holy Spirit 30725, Charleston	\$20,972.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,972.29
43	Holy Trinity 05651, Anderson	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,295.00	\$21,295.00
44	Holy Trinity 05722, Pelion	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$6,133.00	\$7,383.00
45	Hope 30080, Vance	\$3,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,800.00
46	Immanuel 05657, Greenwood	\$38,860.00	\$0.00	\$6,751.20	\$45,611.20
47	Incarnation 05601, Columbia	\$10,250.04	\$0.00	\$1,680.00	\$11,930.04
48	Joy 30418, Moore	\$50,268.83	\$0.00	\$3,086.00	\$53,354.83
49	King of Glory 07449, North Myrtle Beach	\$11,571.60	\$0.00	\$396.33	\$11,967.93
50	Living Springs 07829, Columbia	\$50,533.33	\$0.00	\$10,301.27	\$60,834.60
51	Lord of Life 30351, Bluffton	\$29,580.00	\$0.00	\$283.98	\$29,863.98

South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Mission Support, SC Synod Support & Other Funds

February 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023

	Organization	Mission Support	SC Synod Support	Other Funds	Total
52	Lutheran Church by the Lake 30369, McCormick	\$17,250.35	\$0.00	\$5,933.42	\$23,183.77
53	Macedonia 05644, Prosperity	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$16,182.00	\$31,182.00
54	Martin Luther 05668, Charleston	\$12,279.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,279.15
55	Messiah 05663, Mauldin	\$22,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,305.00	\$24,305.00
56	Messiah 05687, Hanahan	\$11,982.85	\$0.00	\$4,313.00	\$16,295.85
57	Mt. Calvary 05701, Johnston	\$8,625.00	\$0.00	\$1,804.16	\$10,429.16
58	Mt. Hebron 05706, Leesville	\$13,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,332.79	\$17,332.79
59	Mt. Hermon 05616, West Columbia	\$13,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,600.00
60	Mt. Hermon 05636, Peak	\$10,035.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$11,235.00
61	Mt. Horeb 05589, Chapin	\$52,941.63	\$0.00	\$13,253.75	\$66,195.38
62	Mt. Olivet 05650, Chapin	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$210.00	\$10,210.00
63	Mt. Pilgrim 05625, Prosperity	\$535.00	\$0.00	\$1,081.00	\$1,616.00
64	Mt. Pleasant 05678, Ehrhardt	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$752.00	\$6,752.00
65	Mt. Pleasant 05729, Saluda	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
66	Mt. Tabor 05617, West Columbia	\$53,030.83	\$0.00	\$2,398.00	\$55,428.83
67	Mt. Tabor 05626, Little Mountain	\$25,752.17	\$0.00	\$4,175.00	\$29,927.17
68	Nazareth 05710, Lexington	\$840.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$840.00
69	Nuestro Salvador 31098, Greenville	\$2,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00	\$4,400.00
70	Orangeburg 05688, Orangeburg	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$5,000.00
71	Our Saviour 05618, West Columbia	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
72	Our Saviour 05654, Greenville	\$24,104.00	\$0.00	\$5,509.00	\$29,613.00
73	# Our Shepherd 07234, Hartsville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,157.04	\$10,157.04
74	Parroquia el Mesias, 31362, Mauldin	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
75	Pilgrim 05712, Lexington	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$85.00	\$85.00
76	Pine Grove 05684, Lone Star	\$5,200.00	\$0.00	\$470.00	\$5,670.00
77	Pisgah 05713, Lexington	\$32,082.93	\$0.00	\$22,146.01	\$54,228.94
78	Pomaria 05638, Pomaria	\$5,374.97	\$0.00	\$975.00	\$6,349.97
79	Providence 05711, Lexington	\$16,147.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,147.13
80	Redeemer 05623, Columbia	\$57,900.33	\$0.00	\$1,760.00	\$59,660.33
81	Redeemer 05633, Newberry	\$8,827.37	\$0.00	\$7,375.00	\$16,202.37
82	Redeemer 05669, Charleston	\$24,600.00	\$0.00	\$6,607.38	\$31,207.38
83	Redeemer 05730, Greer	\$7,260.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,260.00
84	Reformation 05602, Columbia	\$20,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,343.68	\$21,743.68
85	Reformation 05610, Lancaster	\$8,866.34	\$0.00	\$789.45	\$9,655.79
86	Restoration Chapel 31394, Greenwood	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
87	Resurrection 05665, Cameron	\$24,520.85	\$0.00	\$1,468.15	\$25,989.00
88	Sagrada Familia 31073, Columbia	\$680.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$680.52
89	Sandy Run 05613, Swansea	\$7,560.00	\$0.00	\$6,499.00	\$14,059.00
90	Shepherd of the Sea 07420, Garden City	\$33,888.88	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$33,988.88
91	Silverstreet 05647, Silverstreet	\$2,583.00	\$0.00	\$30,131.00	\$32,714.00
92	Springs of Grace 30443, Inman	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00
93	St. Andrew 05585, Blythewood	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
94	St. Andrew's 05604, Columbia	\$47,549.00	\$0.00	\$6,523.00	\$54,072.00
95	St. Barnabas 05671, Charleston	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
96	St. David 05619, West Columbia	\$47,141.17	\$0.00	\$8,874.31	\$56,015.48
97	St. James 05590, Sumter	\$1,947.00	\$9,608.25	\$11,111.00	\$22,666.25
98	St. James 05629, Newberry	\$1,925.00	\$0.00	\$1,080.00	\$3,005.00
99	St. James 05700, Graniteville	\$17,499.96	\$0.00	\$6,413.70	\$23,913.66
100	St. James 05708, Summit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
101	St. James 05715, Lexington	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00	\$16,600.00
102	St. Johannes 05672, Charleston	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00

South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Mission Support, SC Synod Support & Other Funds

February 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023

	Organization	Mission Support	SC Synod Support	Other Funds	Total
103	St. John 05609, Irmo	\$9,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,500.00
104	St. John 05642, Pomaria	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$530.00	\$1,030.00
105	St. John 05653, Clinton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
106	St. John 05661, Spartanburg	\$64,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,776.90	\$66,576.90
107	St. John 05662, Walhalla	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,138.00	\$32,138.00
108	St. John 05702, Johnston	\$3,546.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,546.80
109	St. John 05714, Lexington	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
110	St. John's 05664, Beaufort	\$42,500.00	\$0.00	\$510.00	\$43,010.00
111	St. John's 05673, Charleston	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,778.00	\$12,778.00
112	St. Luke 05605, Columbia	\$3,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,750.00
113	St. Luke 05622, Florence	\$29,600.00	\$0.00	\$10,058.90	\$39,658.90
114	St. Luke 05646, Prosperity	\$20,240.00	\$4,048.00	\$16,987.57	\$41,275.57
115	St. Luke 05691, Summerville	\$41,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,250.00
116	St. Mark 05725, Batesburg-Leesville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,741.00	\$9,741.00
117	St. Mark's 05690, Isle of Palms	\$9,415.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,415.00
118	St. Matthew 05639, Pomaria	\$11,125.00	\$0.00	\$403.00	\$11,528.00
119	St. Matthew 05666, Cameron	\$2,640.00	\$0.00	\$525.00	\$3,165.00
120	St. Matthew 05716, Lexington	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
121	St. Matthew's 05674, Charleston	\$56,666.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56,666.64
122	St. Matthias 07330, Easley	\$1,775.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,775.00
123	St. Michael 05606, Columbia	\$7,200.00	\$0.00	\$3,505.00	\$10,705.00
124	St. Michael 05655, Greenville	\$36,600.00	\$0.00	\$1,413.00	\$38,013.00
125	St. Michael 05694, Moncks Corner	\$2,420.00	\$0.00	\$18,337.00	\$20,757.00
126	St. Nicholas 05680, Fairfax	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
127	St. Paul 05641, Pomaria	\$17,199.96	\$0.00	\$3,240.00	\$20,439.96
128	St. Paul 05695, Aiken	\$54,700.23	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$54,950.23
129	St. Paul 05699, Gilbert	\$16,370.00	\$0.00	\$1,820.00	\$18,190.00
130	St. Paul's 05607, Columbia	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	\$49,000.00
131	St. Paul's 05685, Mt. Pleasant	\$5,187.00	\$0.00	\$2,560.00	\$7,747.00
132	St. Peter 05697, Batesburg-Leesville	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,500.00
133	St. Peter's 07693, Pawleys Island	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
134	St. Philip 05634, Newberry	\$0.00	\$17,902.00	\$3,525.00	\$21,427.00
135	St. Philip 05686, Myrtle Beach	\$7,800.00	\$0.00	\$3,414.74	\$11,214.74
136	St. Stephen's 05718, Lexington	\$63,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,677.56	\$68,677.56
137	St. Thomas 05593, Chapin	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
138	St. Timothy 05587, Camden	\$6,251.00	\$0.00	\$1,141.15	\$7,392.15
139	St. Timothy 05649, Whitmire	\$2,430.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,430.00
140	Summer Memorial 05635, Newberry	\$16,500.00	\$0.00	\$5,045.51	\$21,545.51
141	Transfiguration 05588, Cayce	\$30,044.00	\$0.00	\$1,640.00	\$31,684.00
142	Trinity 05656, Greenville	\$84,000.00	\$0.00	\$36,960.73	\$120,960.73
143	Trinity 05679, Elloree	\$1,087.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,087.00
144	Trinity 05681, Fairfax	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$7,308.00	\$8,308.00
145	Trinity 05682, Georgetown	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
146	Union 05707, Leesville	\$7,220.00	\$4,350.00	\$750.00	\$12,320.00
147	University 05652, Clemson	\$46,327.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$46,327.50
148	Wittenberg 05709, Leesville	\$27,199.56	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,199.56
149	Zion 05719, Lexington	\$40,974.96	\$0.00	\$2,240.10	\$43,215.06
	Grand Total:	\$2,250,220.97	\$60,508.25	\$466,123.55	\$2,776,852.77
Note: The Synod and congregational figures may differ due to the closing of the Synod year and the congregational year.					
	# Deactivated Contributors at FYE				



South Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The South Carolina Synod Treasurer's Letter

March 10, 2023

To the Synod Council
South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America
Columbia, South Carolina

The accompanying unaudited financial statements of the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the Synod) have been prepared by the Treasurer's office of the Synod for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2023. These statements are being distributed for your information.

The Synod is in the process of having an audit on the financial statements, and the Auditor's letter will be issued at a later date. We do not expect any material differences in these unaudited financial statements and the audited financial statements.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Raymond L. Hendrix, Jr.".

Raymond L. Hendrix, Jr., Treasurer

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

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FOR SYNOD COUNCIL DESIGNATED AND FOR DONOR RESTRICTED

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MISSION APPEAL AND SAFE WATER FOR TANZANIA

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
January 31, 2023**

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,943,223.59
Investments	2,445,276.83
Prepaid Expenses	2,675.00
Property Available For Sale	786,250.00
Land, Building & Equipment, Net of Depreciation	1,465,876.16
Building Under Construction	<u>1,120,902.98</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>7,764,204.56</u></u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	161,863.90
Deferred Income	10,760.00
Notes Payable, Secured by Property	147,000.00
Discount on Notes Payable	<u>(33,057.00)</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>286,566.90</u>
Net Assets	
Donor Restricted	2,174,315.63
Undesignated	
Council Designated	2,029,378.02
Unrestricted - Operating	<u>3,273,944.01</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>7,477,637.66</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>7,764,204.56</u></u>

Unaudited - See Synod Treasurer's Letter

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN OPERATING NET ASSETS - BUDGET VS ACTUAL
January 31, 2023**

	Budget	Actual
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Congregational Mission Support	2,400,000	2,258,221
Congregational SC Synod Support	70,000	60,508
Assembly Fees	62,000	44,860
Youth Ministry Income	0	6,800
SC Lutheran Subscription Income	13,500	0
Rental Revenue	0	12,000
Investment Income	40,000	(85,350)
Trust Fees	10,000	10,687
Miscellaneous Income	21,000	4,387
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2,616,500	2,312,113
	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENSES		
Support Programs		
ELCA Support	1,038,000	911,774
Joint Ministries of Region 9 Support	11,000	11,000
Archives Support	6,000	5,920
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	3,000	1,739
Regional Gift Planner - ELCA	10,000	10,000
Institutions	183,000	183,000
Total Support Programs	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,251,000	1,123,434
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Synod Programs		
Deepening Discipleship Table	178,950	166,484
Community Engagement Table	197,691	182,637
Communication/Technology Table	168,050	239,312
Total Synod Programs	<hr/>	<hr/>
	544,691	588,433
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Administration and Operating Expenses	820,809	812,553
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,616,500	2,524,419
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase in Net Assets Before Transfers and Other Changes	0	(212,306)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Transfers and Other Changes in Net Assets		
Gain on Sale of Property		109,246
Transfers to Council Designated		(1,076,755)
Non Cash Donation		786,250
Discount On Notes Payable		3,795
Increase (Decrease) in Transfers and Other Changes		<hr/>
		(177,464)
		<hr/>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets		(389,770)
		<hr/>
Net Assets Beginning Balance		3,663,714
		<hr/>
Net Assets Ending Balance		<u><u>3,273,944</u></u>

Unaudited - See Synod Treasurer's Letter

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN SYNOD COUNCIL DESIGNATED NET ASSETS
YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023**

Accounts	Net Asset Balance 2/1/2022	Income	Transfers	Net Investment Income	Net Assets Released from Restrictions Transfers/ Expenditures	Net Asset Balance at 1/31/23
Campus Ministry - Principal	160,000.00					160,000.00
Capital Improvements Reserve	170,614.42			(32,328.08)		138,286.34
Synod Endowment Fund	466,442.51			(49,590.72)	19,520.00	397,331.79
Computers Upgrade	6,456.64					6,456.64
Cristo Rey - Building Donation	367,091.10					367,091.10
Synod Vitality Endowment			699,138.35			699,138.35
Holy Closure Legacy			110,229.70		110,229.70	0.00
SC Synod Ministries Support		4,032.79	54,306.54			58,339.33
Synod Staff Salaries	25,000.00					25,000.00
COVID-19 Congregation Grants	49,000.00					49,000.00
Discipleship/Stewardship	26,000.00					26,000.00
Other Properties' Maintenance	3,656.07		115,324.73		16,246.33	102,734.47
Total Council Designated Net Assets	1,274,260.74	4,032.79	978,999.32	(81,918.80)	145,996.03	2,029,378.02

Unaudited - See Synod Treasurer's Letter

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN DONOR RESTRICTED NET ASSETS
YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023**

Accounts	Net Asset Balance 2/1/2022	Transfers/ Offerings/ Receipts	Net Investment Income	Net Assets Restrictions Transfers/ Expenditures	Net Asset Balance at 1/31/23
Trust Accounts	212,574.72	3,085.39		5,032.14	210,627.97
Growing in God's Mission Appeal	373,144.07			111,903.38	261,240.69
Safe Water for Tanzania	123,608.78	9,812.65			133,421.43
Mission Congregations Accounts	802,992.12	305,767.19		276,043.45	832,715.86
Special Contributions - Received & Remitted Hunger, Disaster, Institutions, etc.		469,403.21		469,403.21	0.00
Youth Ministry Accounts	29,961.38	5,697.12		2,187.92	33,470.58
Stewardship	13,608.94	30,770.00		37,596.50	6,782.44
Mission Director	25,585.77	11,100.00		6,311.35	30,374.42
Global Missions Accounts	13,338.89	51,769.96		25,888.90	39,219.95
Trust Income Accounts	371,618.70	32,395.35	(48,105.20)	5,074.93	350,833.92
Campus Ministry	30,637.22	5,744.89		15,650.00	20,732.11
Candidacy Scholarship Support	55,281.38	1,177.97		427.97	56,031.38
Resurrection SC Youth Fund	88,331.99			8,222.15	80,109.84
Resurrection Seminarian Debt Reduction	30,000.00				30,000.00
Discounted Notes Payable	36,852.00			3,795.00	33,057.00
Others Accounts (18 accounts)	65,949.16	45,575.00		55,826.42	55,697.74
Total Donor Restricted Net Assets	2,273,485.12	972,298.73	(48,105.20)	1,023,363.32	2,174,315.33

Unaudited - See Synod Treasurer's Letter
FULL DIRECTORY AND MINUTES - PAGE 189

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD - ELCA
GROWING IN GOD'S MISSION APPEAL AND SAFE WATER FOR TANZANIA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES
FOR THE PERIODS FEBRUARY 1, 2011 - JANUARY 31, 2023**

Goal of the GGM Appeal	1,750,000.00
Revenue	
From GGM Appeal	1,811,569.10
Proceeds from St Matthews	36,453.68
Investments Income	81,178.35
Total Revenue	1,929,201.13

Revenue and Expenses by Line Items	Goals	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
Administration Expenses	262,500.00	294,346.00	294,346.00	0.00
Deepening Discipleship				
#1A Evangelism	170,000.00	56,970.60	40,315.51	16,655.09
#1B Stewardship	170,000.00	163,338.36	139,020.04	24,318.32
#1C Renewing Congregations	127,500.00	189,974.63	150,140.71	39,833.92
Planting and Sustaining Mission Cong				
#2A Missions Under Development	160,000.00	358,823.09	276,333.70	82,489.39
#2A(MUD - Donor Designated	95,000.00	95,000.00	95,000.00	0.00
#2B Planting and Sustaining	212,500.00	133,190.24	48,299.18	84,891.06
Equipping Congregations				
#3 Equipping Congregations	255,000.00	255,008.49	242,073.82	12,934.67
Discipleship Training				
#4 Discipleship Training	85,000.00	137,056.87	137,056.87	0.00
Increasing Education for Tanzania				
#5 Ed-Ops for Tanzania	212,500.00	245,492.84	245,374.60	118.24
Totals GGM Appeal	1,750,000.00	1,929,201.12	1,667,960.43	261,240.69
TANZANIA				
Safe Water		347,630.43	214,209.00	133,421.43
Totals GGM & Tanzania		2,276,831.55	1,882,169.43	394,662.12

Note a: Allocated unrestricted revenue using goals percentage, then add restricted revenue.

Note b: The original goals of the appeal did not allow any funds for administration expenses, therefore, the goals for the various line items were adjusted to include administration expense of 15%.

FOR MANAGEMENT USE ONLY

REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL
Bulletin of Reports
South Carolina Synod, 2022-2023

Preface: Meeting Dates and Organization of Synod Council Committees

- I. Appointments
- II. Proposed 2024 Compensation Guidelines*
- III. Congregations
- IV. Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions*
- V. Financial Matters*
- VI. Personnel
- VII. Institutions and Agencies
- VIII. Synod-Authorized Worshiping Communities
- IX. Synod Assembly
- X. Synod Council
- XI. Synod Office Holiday Schedule
- XII. Proposed Budget South Carolina Synod 2024-2025*

NOTE: Items marked with an asterisk (*) require action by the SC Synod Assembly. All other items are reported as information. † Provisions are common to all synods of the ELCA.

PREFACE

Since the 2022 South Carolina (SC) Synod Assembly, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Synod Council has met on the following dates: August 27, 2022; November 14, 2022; December 18, 2022; February 27, 2023; and April 24, 2023. The Synod Council organized itself into the following committees:

- Executive:** The officers of this synod and two members of the Synod Council: Mr. Tex Davis (at large) and Mrs. Cindy Davis (at large).
- Constitution:** Rev. W. Osborne Herlong Jr., chair; Ms. Gail Buchaman, Ms. Becky Koch, Mr. Jeffrey Stringer; Mr. Daniel Crofts; Rev. Gregg Hoffman; and Rev. Henry M. Moody, Jr., advisory.
- Finance:** Mrs. Cindy Davis, chair; Mrs. LaTynia Taylor; Mr. Raymond L. Hendrix Jr.; Rev. W. Osborne Herlong Jr.; Mrs. Charlene Fink, Synod Accountant; Mrs. Donna Poulnot; Mr. Blake Dowd, and Ms. Jessica Maxheimer.
- Personnel:** Rev. Rachel Hoffman, chair; Mrs. Kathy Hendrix; Mrs. Sheila Caughman; Rev. Joshua (Josh) Kestner; and Mr. LaVone Griffin.
- Property:** Mr. Robert Epting, Chair; Mr. Larry Rathe, Property Manager; Mr. Al Estee and Rev. Rusty Kehl.

I. APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointed conveners of tables in accord with S10.07.05. *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

Deepening Discipleship Table: Rev. Megan Lineberger, Convener

Communications and Technology Table: Rev. Matthew B. Titus, Convener

Community Engagement Table: Rev. Emily Hartmann, Interim Convener

2. Appointed the following persons as Synod Council liaisons to tables in accord with *S10.07.B14*.
 Deepening Discipleship Table: Deacon Deborah Poole, Liaison
 Community Engagement Table: Mrs. Kathy Riggan, Liaison
 Communication and Technology Table: Deacon Katie Justice, Liaison
3. Appointed the Mr. Tex Davis, as judicatory representative to the Board of Directors, South Carolina Christian Action Council.
4. The Executive Committee appointed the following people to the Mutual Ministry Committee: Ms. Cheryl Smith, Chair, Synod Council; Rev. Wayne C. Kannaday; and Ms. Gayle Sims.
5. Appointed the following persons to the South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee for a term of two-years, 2023-2024: Rev. Carl Taylor, Living Springs Columbia, Midlands Conference; Rev. Christopher Girardeau, Reformation, Lancaster, Upstate Conference; Mr. Robert Epting, Wittenberg, Leesville, Synod Council, Western Conference; Deacon Katie Holland, Redeemer, Charleston, Eastern Area; Ms. Mary Maercklein, Redeemer, Newberry, Northern Area; and Deacon Sandra Holland, St. Andrew, Columbia, Central Area.

 Those persons serving 2022-2023 terms include: Mr. Kevin Wicker, Good Shepherd, Walterboro, Amelia Conference; Mrs. Ashley Shealy, Holy Spirit, Charleston, Coastal Conference; Rev. Jason Lee, St. Philip, Myrtle Beach, Epiphany Conference; Mr. Ken Heckel, Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Greenville, Foothills Conference; Von Metts, Summer Memorial, Newberry, Heartland Conference; and Ms. Lauren McClure, Transfiguration, Cayce, Saxe Gotha Conference.
6. Appointed Mr. Kevin Wicker as chair, 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee.
7. Appointed Mr. Henry Fulmer and Mr. Edward M. Woodward Jr. to the Board of Trustees, James R. Crumley Jr. Archives, Region 9 ELCA, for the calendar year 2023.
8. Appointed Mrs. Virginia Herlong, Synod Council, to the Audit Committee.
9. Appointed Ms. Debbie Shurr to the Audit Committee for a three-year term expiring 2025.
10. Appointed Rev. Pattie Sue Burton-Pye, as chair of the Audit Committee for the calendar year 2023.
11. Appointed a South Carolina Synod Lifeline Distribution Team for family education debt re-payment for rostered ministers and stewardship education to include the officers of the South Carolina Synod, one lay person from the Synod Council and one rostered minister; and to appoint Ms. Cheryl Smith and the Rev. Joanna Gragg, respectively.
12. Authorized the Executive Committee to make the appointment of a person to the Audit Committee, South Carolina Synod, to a three-year term expiring 2025.
13. Appointed Ms. Cindy Davis as Chair of the Finance Committee.

II. PROPOSED 2024 COMPENSATION GUIDELINES

***RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION ON 2024 COMPENSATION GUIDELINES**

Recommends the 2024 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers, South Carolina Synod, for adoption by the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

The *2024 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers* will be found on the documents page of the South Carolina Synod Assembly Web site under Recommendations and Notices. All documents to be used at assembly will be live at <https://scsynod.com/assembly/documents/>

The *2024 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers* will be moved, upon approval by the 2022 South Carolina Synod Assembly, to the Call Process and Compensation page of the South Carolina Synod Web site. After adoption by the assembly the document will be live at <https://scsynod.com/call-process/>

III. CONGREGATIONS

1. Denied the request of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pomaria, to terminate its membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, pursuant to 9.62.h. of the ELCA Constitution.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, February 27, 2023

2. Entered into an agreement with Vicar Natalie Cook and Pomaria, Pomaria that Vicar Cook, serving as interim minister, is eligible to be considered for a call to Pomaria, Pomaria, during the time of transition, if the congregation extends a regular call as pastor.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 14, 2022

3. Under the authority of †S13.24. of the Synod Constitution, appointed the following Officers of the South Carolina Synod as trustees to take charge and control of the property of Atonement, Laurens:

Bishop Virginia S. Aebischer;
Deacon Lexanne Graves, Vice President;
Pr. W. Osborne Herlong, Secretary;
Mr. Raymond Hendrix Jr., Treasurer, and

To communicate to the congregation the need to finalize the Holy Closure process, and

Authorized Pr. James Henricks, Director for Evangelical Mission, South Carolina Synod, to move toward Holy Closure in consultation with the Synod Council -appointed trustees. This action is appropriate because the congregation at Atonement, Laurens, has disbanded, ceased to worship, and has demonstrated an inability to provide the required governance.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, April 24, 2023

IV. CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

***RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION ON AMENDMENTS, SYNOD CONSTITUTION**

1. Proposed Amendments, South Carolina Synod Constitution

(To amend in accord with the amendment process described in †S18.13.b. by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the Synod Assembly)

- †S18.13. Other amendments to this constitution may be adopted by this synod through either of the following procedures:
- a. Introduced with the support of at least 12 voting members and having been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, an amendment may be adopted unchanged by a two-thirds vote at the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
 - b. The Synod Council may propose an amendment, with notice to be sent to the congregations of this synod at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Such an amendment shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

All such amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the Churchwide Assembly or by the Church Council.

To approve *en bloc* the following amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod*:

To amend S8.42.d. by striking “quarterly” and adding “semiannually”;

To amend S8.42.e. by adding “and” before the word “detailed”; striking the words “and duly audited”.

Additions are underscored

Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the previous text.

S8.40. Treasurer

S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

(previous text)

d. Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of this synod and informing the congregation, at least ~~quarterly~~semiannually, of the status of this account.

(Rationale: To align our policy with what we have found to be the most reasonable practice)

e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full, and detailed, ~~and duly audited~~ report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of this synod for the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, for record and publication in the minutes, of the contributions from the congregations.

(Rationale: We do not receive the external auditors duly audited report until after the synod assembly. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod to the congregations of this synod when the audited annual financial report is completed in accord with †S15.31.)

[End of Amendments to Synod Constitution.]

***RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION ON 2022 CHURCHWIDE RECOMMENDED PROVISIONS**

2. Proposed Amendments to Recommended Provisions, Constitution for Synods, as approved by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly

(To amend under †S18.12. Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod by a majority vote without presentation at a prior assembly)

To approve *en bloc* the following amendments to recommended provisions, Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod as approved by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly:

Additions are underscored

Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the previous text

Chapter 7. SYNOD ASSEMBLY

S7.24. Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until the opening of the next regular synod assembly, or unless

replaced by the election of new members for a special synod assembly, or until they have been disqualified by termination of congregation membership. ~~Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.~~

- S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit lay representatives of authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with†S7.21.
- S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly ~~of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America~~ the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.

Chapter 8. OFFICERS

S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

- c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church as well as any funds to support restricted programs of this church.
- ~~f. Giving of corporate surety in the amount determined by the Synod Council, which shall be in the custody of the secretary, and the premium therefore shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement. Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.~~

Chapter 11. TABLES, NETWORKS, TASK FORCE AND COMMITTEES

~~S11.10. General Provisions~~

Chapter 14. ROSTERED MINISTERS

- S14.13. The pastor (a) shall keep accurate ~~parochial~~ records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- S14.15. Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of ~~his or her~~ ministry to the bishop of this synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

S14.34. Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

3. Amended S12.01.C21. by striking ~~Columbia, The Journey~~ and adding Columbia, Restoration Chapel.

(To amend in accord with †S18.31. Synod Constitution by a two-thirds vote of the Synod Council)

Addition is underscored.

Deletion is ~~struck through~~ in the previous text.

Chapter 12.

CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS, COALITIONS, OR OTHER AREA SUBDIVISIONS

†S12.01. **This synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, area subdivisions and networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and entities, as specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships for missional purposes among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other affiliates.**

S12.01.C2123. The congregations and authorized worshiping communities of this synod shall be organized into the following conferences and geographic areas in accord with S12.01.20., S12.01.21., and S12.01.22.

CENTRAL AREA

Midlands

Synod-authorized Worshiping Community

Columbia, Sagrada Familia (Holy Family)

~~*Columbia, The Journey*~~

Columbia, Restoration Chapel

4. 2023 Assembly Procedures and Elections, Synod Constitution

The *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* provides the following constitutional provisions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions to guide the procedures and elections in the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly:

Bold = Constitutional Provisions

Lightface type = Bylaws

Italics = Continuing Resolutions

Chapter 7.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

†S7.01. **This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority. The powers of the Synod Assembly are limited only by the provisions in the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, the assembly's own resolutions, and the constitutions and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

- S7.01.01. The following committees shall be appointed by the bishop from the voting members of the Synod Assembly at least 30 days prior to the meeting of the assembly:
- a. Committee of Reference and Counsel. The duties of the Committee of Reference and Counsel shall be to report to the assembly with its recommendations all resolutions submitted to it. Resolutions of a general character which are not germane to pending questions or reports shall be submitted on no more than one page of 8 ½ x 11- inch paper to the synodical secretary no later than 15 days prior to the formal opening of the assembly. The committee shall provide copies of all resolutions to the voting members of the assembly. Other duties of the committee shall be to recommend special orders for the hearing of representatives, to grant or deny permission to distribute printed matter not issuing from the office of the secretary, and to give such assistance to the bishop as the bishop may desire in the course of the assembly.
 - b. Committee on Conduct of Elections. The duties of the Committee on Conduct of Elections shall be to distribute and collect at the direction of the bishop ballots for all elections, to supervise the tellers in the counting of ballots, to report the results of all elections to the assembly, and to give such assistance to the bishop as the bishop may desire in the course of the 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.*
- †S7.11. **A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least triennially.**
- S7.11.01. The Synod Assembly shall meet annually. The time and place shall be fixed by the assembly before adjournment or by the Synod Council.
- S7.11.02. Voting members shall attend meetings of the assembly.
- S7.11.03. The secretary shall distribute the *Bulletin of Reports* for the Synod Assembly to the voting members at least 15 days before each regular assembly.
- S7.11.04. At the regular annual meeting, the Synod Assembly shall approve a budget for the following fiscal year.
- S7.12. **Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the voting members of the Synod Assembly.**
- a. **The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held. The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the subject matter(s) described in the notice.**
 - b. **If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is required for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**
- S7.13. **Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod.**

- S7.14.** One-half of the voting members registered for the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
- †S7.21.** The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:
- a. All ministers of Word and Sacrament under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
 - b. All ministers of Word and Service, under call, on the roster of this synod shall be voting members in the Synod Assembly.
 - c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and at least 45 percent shall be men.
 - d. Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.
- †S7.21.01.** Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until voting members are seated at the next regular Synod Assembly.
- †S7.21.02.** If a special Synod Assembly is called and voting members at the previous assembly are unable to serve as voting members, where permitted by state law, the congregation through the Congregation Council may elect new members who shall continue to serve until the next regular Synod Assembly.
- S7.21.A21.** *Each congregation of this synod shall be entitled to at least two lay voting members. Each congregation having 300 to 649 baptized members shall be entitled to one additional lay voting member. Each congregation having 650 to 999 baptized members shall be entitled to two additional lay voting members. Each congregation having 1000 or more baptized members shall be entitled to three additional lay voting members. Baptized members shall be based on the annual congregational report of each congregation for the year preceding the assembly. Each congregation of this synod shall be entitled to one additional lay voting member who is under the age of thirty at the time of the assembly. Each congregation of this synod shall be entitled to one additional lay voting member who is a person of color or whose primary language is other than English.*
- S7.22.** This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.22.01.** All retired ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service on the rosters of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
- S7.22.02.** All ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service granted disability status on the rosters of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
- †S7.23.** The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of the churchwide organization as may be designated by the presiding bishop, shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod

Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

- S7.23.01. All ministers of Word and Sacrament on leave from call and all ministers of Word and Service on leave from call, who are on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
- S7.24. Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly as long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Retired ministers of Word and Sacrament and retired Ministers of Word and Service in accord with requirements of S14.15 and S14.34 respectively, shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.**
- †S7.25. **Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* each voting member of the Synod Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.**
- S7.26. **This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.**
- S7.26.A20. *Each authorized worshiping community of this synod shall be entitled to two lay voting members, one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman.*
- S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.**
- S7.27.01. A minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in attendance at the Synod Assembly who has complied with the provisions of S14.15. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the synod assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this synod. The bishop shall certify to the secretary at least 30 days before assembly those ministers of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, serving in an ELCA congregation of this synod who are eligible to be voting members.
- S7.28. Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly under †S7.21. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly.**
- †S7.31. **Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of the Synod Assembly.**

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.A20. *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 with the exception of assemblies held online or in regard for the safety of voting members.*

S7.33. "Ex-officio" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.

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.

S9.08. 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.

†S9.10. When notified by the secretary of this church, on behalf of the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly, the Synod Assembly shall nominate two persons in the specified categories for possible election by the Churchwide Assembly to the Church Council.

5. The Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America met in August 2022 and approved required provisions for the Constitution for Synods. Sections of the Constitution for Synods marked by a dagger [†] are required provisions. In accordance with provision †S18.11., amendments are automatically incorporated into the constitutions of individual synods upon formal certification by the secretary of this church. The required amendments have been duly incorporated into the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod.*

V. FINANCIAL MATTERS

*RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION

1. Recommends the following “Budget Procedures” to guide the adoption of the 2024-2025 budget for adoption by the 2023 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 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 8. 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:

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

2. Resolution on Establishing an Endowment Fund

Background

Holy Closures of congregations in the South Carolina Synod include Christ the King, Columbia, November 21, 2021, and Our Shepherd, Hartsville, January 30, 2022. The property of Christ the King, Columbia has been sold. The property of Our Shepherd, Hartsville, has not yet been sold.

Other Holy Closures are anticipated. While Holy Closure of Christ Mission, Columbia, is anticipated in the summer of 2022, the property was sold on April 18, 2022.

The following *Resolution on Establishing an Endowment Fund* was proposed to establish an endowment with the funds received through Holy Closures, in line with the synod’s current Holy Closure policies, to support stewardship, innovation, new mission starts, and congregational vitality in the South Carolina synod.

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Synod is receiving funds through Holy Closures, and a strategy is needed to ensure these gifts are best stewarded to the furtherance of the gospel throughout the synod; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council authorize the work of Rev. Rick Carter, Assistant to the Bishop, and Rev. James Henricks, Director for Evangelical Mission, to establish an endowment with the funds received through Holy Closures, in line with the synod’s current Holy Closure policies, to support stewardship, innovation, new mission starts, and congregational vitality in the South Carolina synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod council authorize Pr. Carter and Pr. Henricks to work with Thrivent Financial to establish investment strategy, bylaws, and other needed details and arrangements; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that Pr. Carter and Pr. Henricks report back to the Synod Council with all information for final approval to establish the fund upon completion of their work.

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3. Voted to install light commercial grade fencing and gates to enclose the synod property at 1003 Richland Street, Columbia; to enter a contract with Seegars Fence Company, 4611 Hardscrabble Road, Columbia 29229, at a cost not to exceed \$42,000; to authorize \$8,000 for the cleaning of the property and to make any improvement to the property as a result of the fencing; and to make payment from the Capital Improvement Reserve, Account #4810346-3.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 27, 2022

4. To lay the motion on the Gift and Bequest Policy on the table until the meeting of the Synod Council on November 14, 2022.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 27, 2022

5. Fifth Gospel Foundation: Referred the offer of a gift to be used to establish an endowment with the ELCA Foundation for funding Holy Land travel for seminarians and rostered ministers to the Finance Committee; Requested that the committee review the draft of the endowment bylaws provided by the ELCA Foundation; and finally Requested that the committee report back to the Synod Council in the meeting scheduled to be held on November 14, 2022.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 27, 2022

6. Disaster Response Staff Person: Authorized \$5,000 for each year of the next three years to extend a term call to a staff person to serve in conjunction with the North Carolina Synod to aid in disaster response; and to fund this position from undesignated non-budgeted operational expenses.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 27, 2022

7. Reallocated \$4,500 of the \$9,555.52 in the South Carolina Disaster Response account #3020363-1 and designate for flood relief in the state of Kentucky; and sent the gift to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod (6-C), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting August 27, 2022

8. Referred to the Finance Committee the following recommendations, Minutes of the Audit Committee, July 14, 2022:

1. All charges included on the expense report be supported not only by an invoice but a brief explanation of the charge to ensure that the charge was incurred in the normal course of Synod work;
2. That a procedure be written for credit card charges to include an expense line item for each individual charge;
3. That a document be developed and approved in Synod Council minutes for cell phone reimbursements; and
4. To request that the Finance Committee report back to the Synod Council in the meeting, November 14, 2022.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 27, 2022

9. Reallocated \$6,750 in the Rich Learning Camp-Allendale, Account #3020326-1 of \$3,607.56 and the Gifts of Hope, Account 3020343-1 of \$4,353.69 to be added to the \$20,000 Lilly Foundation Supplemental Grant for rostered ministers in South Carolina Synod experiencing economic inequality; designated the amount of \$6,750 for the Lifeline Fund Account #3020384-1; and closed the inactive accounts and designate the balance into miscellaneous income.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 27, 2022

10. Entered an initial Moderate Conservative investment policy between Thrivent Financial and the South Carolina Synod with initial funds totaling \$699,138.35 which are the net proceeds from two 2022 Holy Closures congregations; Directed the investment objectives to support new starts, innovations, stewardship, and congregational vitality within the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA; Refined the

agreement to establish an endowment fund named, Synod Vitality Endowment; and Continued to fund the endowment with additional contributions from Holy Closures of congregations.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 14, 2022

11. Amended Gifts and Bequest Policy, adopted November 18, 2013.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 14, 2022

12. Reported to the Synod Council the review of The 5th Gospel Endowment Scholarship Agreement; Entered into the agreement with ELCA Foundation with the incorporation of the revisions; Added on the first page in the third paragraph, line three the words, "Subsequent gifts are to be sent directly to the ELCA Foundation (not the SC Synod) noting the designation to the 5th Gospel Endowment Scholarship Agreement on the check."; and Added on the second page above the signatures and in the last line the words, "sending their gift directly to the ELCA Foundation".

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 14, 2022

13. Approved Cell Phone Reimbursement Plan:

WHEREAS, the Audit Committee, meeting on July 14, 2022, requested "that a document be developed and approved in Synod Council minutes for cellphone reimbursements"; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council voted to refer the recommendation to the Finance Committee and requested that the Finance Committee report back to the Synod Council, November 14, 2022;

WHEREAS, the Synod requires that the Bishop and Assistants to the Bishop have a cell phone that is available to be used for Synod matters, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Synod will reimburse these employees for their monthly personal cell phone bills not to exceed \$75 per month, upon presentation of the bill as proof of the cost; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the cellphone reimbursement plan be entered into the Personnel Manual, VI. Compensation, item G., page 8, South Carolina Synod.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 14, 2022

14. RESOLVED, that the following amounts are hereby designated as housing allowances for the Rostered Ministers serving on the synod staff of the South Carolina Synod and the Rostered Ministers serving as mission developers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the designation of housing allowances shall apply to calendar year 2023.

Rev. Virginia S. Aebischer	\$13,000
Rev. Richard T. Carter	\$40,000
Rev. Emily Edenfield	\$23,000
Rev. Jorge A. Leone	\$20,000
Rev. Joshua R. Knutson	\$22,000
Rev. Martin Lopez-Vega	\$15,585

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 14, 2022

15. Authorized the Executive Committee and the Bishop to send disaster relief funds, as made available, to other synods.

16. Approved the following recommendation on Congregation Vitality Crisis Funding:

WHEREAS, there is an immediate need for funding for Congregation Vitality Crises; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, to reduce ELCA Mission Support to 35% for the last four months of the fiscal year; and

to utilize the difference between the 43.25% to ELCA Mission Support and 35% to ELCA Mission Support to support congregational vitality crises needs; and to take the funding from non-budgeted operating expense.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 14, 2022

17. Approved, in principle, Model #2 in the 2023 Assembly Budget Proposal; Continued the current registration fee of \$150 for assembly in 2023; and Discontinued payment of registration fees by the synod for Persons of Color or Language Other Than English and Persons Under 30 Years of Age.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 14, 2022

18. Approved the recommendations of the South Carolina Synod Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee to award grants in 2022 in the amount of \$19,520 to:

St. Luke Lutheran Church, Summerville	\$2,000
Outreach to Immobilized	
All Saints Lutheran Church, Mt. Pleasant	\$2,000
Play Area for Children and Adult with Auditory and Vibrating Stimulation	
Matthew 2540.....	\$2,000
Guatemala Land and Facility for School, Daycare and Vocational Studies	
South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers.....	\$4,000
Service Projects at Camp Kinard and Bed Coverings in Lodge Rooms	
SC Synod	\$3,000
CAGA (Anchor) Storytelling for Congregations	
James R. Crumley Jr. Archives.....	\$3,000
Feature Length Documentary Film: Life and Ministry of Frankie San	
Faith Lutheran Chapel, Pickens.....	\$1,520
Fellowship Meals in the Latino Tradition	
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Pawley's Island.....	\$3,000
Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training	

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 14, 2022

19. Approved the over expenditures in the Treasurer's Report, September 30, 2022.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 14, 2022

20. Amended the budget for the fiscal year February 1, 2023- January 31, 2024, by lowering the projected congregational mission support to be more in line with what we have received in the fiscal year just ended; and Reduced ELCA Mission Support to 35%; and Utilized the difference of 8.25% between the 43.25% to Mission Support and 35% to Mission Support, as a split to South Carolina Synod Ministries (formerly congregational vitality crises needs) and synod assembly expenses (to align that budget item to reflect more accurately expected expenses).

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, February 27, 2023

21. Closed the funding for the Growing in God's Mission (GGM) Appeal and to deposit any GGM receipts received after January 31, 2023, to account #5140000-1, Contributions.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, February 27, 2023

22. Affirmed the Strategic Plan Mission and Vision, South Carolina Synod; and entered a contract with GSB in the amount of \$4,295 for synod staff development; and to pay this amount from Growing in God's Mission Appeal, Account #1C, Discipleship-Renewing Congregations; and to continue negotiations with GSB to explore entering a contract with GSB for Synod Council development and executive coaching with Bishop Virginia Aebischer; and to pay the cost from Growing in God's Mission Appeal, Account #1C, Discipleship-Renewing Congregations.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, April 24, 2023

VI. PERSONNEL

1. Granted on-leave-from-call status for The Rev. Thulisiwe N. Beresford beginning October 1, 2022; and for The Rev. Dan Kirkpatrick beginning September 2, 2022.
2. Voted to continue on-leave-from-call for the second year for the following rostered ministers:
3. Voted to continue on-leave-from-call for the third year.
4. Requested the Conference of Bishops, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, extend on-leave-from-call status beyond five-years for The Rev. Steven B. Counts. The Conference of Bishops approved, as provided in bylaw 7.31.07.d. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, extension of on-leave-from-call status, renewable by the Synod Council on an annual basis up to a maximum of two years, for the following: *The Rev. Steven B. Counts*, ELCA Conference of Bishops, Actions Regarding Rosters, October 1, 2022
5. Continued to list on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church the following persons who retired in 2020-2021:
 - Rev. Patrick R. Appleget, May 27, 2022
 - Rev. Leroy Cannon, July 1, 2022.
 - Rev. Kathy E. Harris, December 1, 2022
6. Continued to list Deacon Harry Prim on the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church as retired July 12, 2022.
7. Changed on-leave-from-call status to Study Leave for The Rev. Sherry P. Teves; and to leave the original date the leave began, October 2, 2020, thus allowing a maximum leave of six years.
8. Granted Family Leave for Deacon Mandi Whitley beginning May 2, 2022.
9. Granted Family Leave status to Deacon Shelley M. Allen beginning August 15, 2022.
10. Continued Family Leave status for Deacon Lexanne Graves for the fifth year.
11. Granted disability status to The Rev. Mikki Corley Gay, and to continue to list Pr. Gay on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacraments of this church, in accord with 7.41.08., *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* beginning August 27, 2022.
12. Renewed a Call to Interim Ministry, South Carolina Synod, to The Rev. Douglas E. Graul beginning August 16, 2022, for a term of two years, in accord with 7.41.01.c. *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*.
13. Renewed the Call to Interim Ministry, South Carolina Synod, to The Rev. Karen Hawkins beginning December 1, 2022, for a term of two years, in accord with 7.41.01.c. *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*.
14. Extended a Call to Interim Ministry, South Carolina Synod, to The Rev. Mark A. Scott beginning August 1, 2022, for a term of two years, in accord with 7.41.01.c. *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*.
15. Extended a Call to Non-Congregational Service to the Rev. John M. Woods as Chaplain, Rice Estate, West Columbia, Lutheran Homes of South Carolina, beginning December 11, 2022.

16. Extended a Call to Interim Ministry, South Carolina Synod, to Pr. Michael T. Shackelford beginning March 17, 2023, for a term of two years, in accord with 7.41.01.c. *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*
17. Extended a Call to Interim Ministry, South Carolina Synod, to Pr. Kathleen Miko beginning April 14, 2023, for two years, in accord with 7.41.01.c. *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*
18. Granted Family Leave for Pr. Kristoffer K. Cox retroactively to November 1, 2018, in accord with 7.31.07.c. ELCA Constitution.
19. Extended a Call to Non-Congregational Service to Pr. H. Daniel Kirkpatrick as Director of Grief Resources and Education at Thomas McAfee Funeral Homes, Greenville, South Carolina, beginning April 5, 2023.
20. Extended a Call to Non-Congregational Service to Pr. Nathan T. Gragg as Development Officer, NovusWay Ministries Inc. beginning May 23, 2023.
21. Bishop Virginia S. Aebischer received a letter on February 8, 2023, from Pastor H. Klatt III regarding his ordination into the priesthood of the Anglican Church on February 9, 2023. By virtue of being ordained in the Anglican Church Pastor Klatt is removed from the Roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Pr. Klatt has been removed from the ELCA roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament and offered our prayers for this next chapter in his journey. As required when a rostered minister is removed from the roster, the files and records of Pr. Klatt have been sent to the Office of the Secretary, ELCA.
22. Affirmed the extension of calls by the North Carolina Synod to The Rev. Ruth Ann Sipe and The Rev. Ray Sipe as Lutheran Disaster Response Coordinators in the Carolinas beginning February 2023; and affirmed that these are term calls for three-years and a full-time call divided between the pastors.
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, December 18, 2022.

VII. INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

1. Ratified the action of the Boards of Lutheran Services for the Aging and Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, on May 19, 2022, electing David Turner to each of their respective Boards of Trustees, to a term beginning September 2022 and ending September 2025.
2. Designated April 30, 2023, as Newberry College Sunday and invited the congregations of the South Carolina Synod to participate.
3. Designated September 17, 2023, as Lutheran Services Carolinas Sunday in the South Carolina Synod and to invite congregations to participate.
4. Ratified the bylaws of NovusWay Ministries, Inc. adopted by the Board of Trustees, August 2022.

VIII. SYNOD-AUTHORIZED WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

1. Approved the following Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities on the territory of the South Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for the calendar year 2023.

Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities
Columbia, Sagrada Familia (Holy Family)
Gaston, Cristo Rey

Greenville, Nuestro Salvador (Our Saviour)
Mauldin, Parroquia El Meslas (Church of the Messiah)
North Charleston, Christ Community
Pelion, Cristo Rey
West Columbia, Cristo Rey (Christ the King)
Greenwood, Restoration Chapel

2. Designated Restoration Chapel, Columbia, as a Synod-Authorized Worshiping Community Exploration; and designated Pr. Amanda Burke as Exploration Leader.

IX. SYNOD ASSEMBLY

1. Received the annual review of Synod Assembly elected committees by the Executive Committee on August 2, 2022, and reported that the persons on the synod assembly elected committees are available and current; and accepted the review of the Executive Committee as satisfying the annual review required by the Synod Council.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 27, 2022

2. Received the *Resolution on a Faithful Approach to the Death Penalty in South Carolina* referred to the Synod Council by the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 12-14, 2022; and commended the process outlined by The Rev. Emily Edenfield, Assistant to the Bishop, to work with the Criminal Justice Task Force and other interested persons to lead the synod in studying criminal justice in general, and the death penalty, thereby equipping and mobilizing congregations to address the issues of criminal justice, in reference to the death penalty; and requested that the task group give a progress report in each of the meetings of the Synod Council scheduled on November 14, 2022, February 27, 2023, and April 24, 2023, with the goal of bringing a report to the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8-10, 2023, with recommendations for ways the South Carolina Synod can faithfully and effectively engage state legislators.

Minutes of the Synod Council, August 27, 2022

3. Received the referral of the *Resolution on Faith Formation, Advocacy, and Care in Times of Trauma* from the Committee of Reference and Counsel, South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 12-14, 2022, to the Synod Council; and directed The Rev. Richard Carter, Assistant to the Bishop, identify persons to serve on a task force to curate or create resources to be used in times of traumatic events that rostered ministers, congregations and synod entities can draw upon; and requested that the task force give a progress report to the Synod Council beginning November 14, 2022.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 27, 2022

4. Approved the *Minutes of the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 12-14, 2022*, in principle, and allow Secretary Herlong and Bishop Virginia S. Aebischer to make editorial changes for publication in the *2022 Directory and Minutes of the South Carolina Synod, ELCA*.

5. Voted to hold the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly at Marriott Columbia, 1200 Hampton Street.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 27, 2022

The Synod Council, meeting in regular session on April 4, 2022, fixed the time and place for Synod Assemblies, in accord with S7.11.01., *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod*:

2023 – June 8-10 (Thursday through Saturday), Columbia SC
2024 – June 8 (Saturday), Online
2025 – June 12-14 (Thursday through Saturday), Columbia SC
2026 – June 11-13 (Thursday through Saturday), Columbia SC
2027 – June 12 (Saturday), Online

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, April 4, 2022

6. Designated the offerings received at the worship services of the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly to The Lifeline Fund to provide family education-debt repayments for rostered ministers.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, February 27, 2023

7. Voted to provide ministry display spaces at the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8-10, 2023, for the following Synod sponsored Ministries, Institutions, Organizations, Synod related ELCA Ministries and Task Forces:

- SC Women of the ELCA
- South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers
- Southern Mutual Church Insurance Company
- Steward Leader's Network
- ELCA Foundation
- Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas
- Newberry College
- ASIST Suicide Intervention Training Partnership
- James R Crumley Jr Archives
- Countybanc Insurance Services, Inc.
- NovusWay Ministries
- South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission
- Thrivent
- Lutheran Homes of SC

and authorized the Executive Committee to approve requests for Ministry Displays received after the Synod Council meeting on April 24, 2023.

8. Received the Report of the Task Force on *Resolution on a Faithful Approach to the Death Penalty in South Carolina* with thanks and requested that Pr. Emily Hartmann, Assistant to the Bishop, present the report to the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

Resolution on a Faithful Approach to the Death Penalty in South Carolina

Report to Synod Council/Synod Assembly

At Synod Assembly in 2022, the Assembly passed the "Resolution on a Faithful Approach to the Death Penalty in South Carolina." The resolution is attached to this report. Its resolutions tasked Synod Council and the Criminal Justice Task Force with "lead[ing] our synod in studying criminal justice in general and the death penalty in particular, thereby equipping and mobilizing our synod congregations to address the issues of criminal justice in reference to the death penalty." It also resolved "that the efforts of this group be reported back to the 2023 Synod Assembly with recommendations for ways our entire South Carolina Synod can faithfully and effectively engage our State Legislators."

On August 27, 2022, Synod Council referred this matter to the Criminal Justice Task Force.

At its beginning, the Criminal Justice Task Force included Pr. Reggie Cruse (chair), Pr. Fred Klinker, Dr. Dennis Lambries of Newberry College, Mr. Bill Kendig, Pr. Don Costlow, Pr. Beth Costlow, and Pr. Emily Hartmann. Pr. Michael Price was invited to attend on behalf of Reference and Counsel and decided to become part of the task force.

The Task Force had several spirited conversations over the next few months about the facts related to the death penalty, the central questions of the conversation, and how this material could be most effectively communicated with and considered by South Carolina Lutherans.

At the end of October and beginning of November, Mr. Kendig and both Pastors Costlow resigned from the task force. Pr. Jason Schafer joined the work of the task force in November.

Currently, the task force includes Pr. Cruse, Pr. Klinker, Pr. Price, Pr. Schafer, and Pr. Hartmann. Neal Fischer has been an invaluable consultant and coworker with us on this project as well.

In late November, Pr. Hillary Taylor reached out to us. She is the Executive Director of South Carolinians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (SCADP) and a United Methodist Minister. She has actively participated in meetings and work since that time.

Our work, over the course of this year, has included reviewing the ELCA Social Statement “The Death Penalty: An Issue for Moral Deliberation” and its study guide, which was published for use before the statement’s adoption in 1991. We considered the facts and impacts of capital punishment over the last 30 years. Dr. Lambries and Pr. Taylor were particularly helpful in this regard.

We also talked at length about how to present this material, with ideas ranging from a simple recommendation to read the social statement to workshops held in locations across the synod. After consulting with the synod’s Director of Communications, we noted that videos with discussion guides seem to be well received both in congregations and for individuals interested in various topics. Ultimately, the task force decided to put together a video addressing the main points of the discussion and assemble a resource guide for those who wish to learn more or engage with state legislators.

The video produced is approximately 20 minutes at full length. At the suggestion of Neal Fischer, we also made it available in two 10-minute halves and made a shorter version that can be shown at Synod Assembly or serve as a “teaser” to get people interested in watching the full video.

Full video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJLdirldbM>

Teaser video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKuvWayDqAE>

At the time of this report, Neal is continuing to work on polishing up the video edits. We are also continuing work on the resource sheet, which will include:

- A link to SCADP.org, where people can learn more, join in conversation with inmates and others, and connect with their lawmakers about specific bills (scadp.org/advocate)
- A link to the 1991 Social Statement and Study Guide (<https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Death-Penalty>)
- A note that Lutherans who are interested in how our faith leads us into public witness can participate in the current social writing project, a Social Statement on Civics and Faith (<https://elca.org/civicsandfaith>).
- The Journal of Lutheran Ethics has a selection of articles and book reviews on Criminal Justice: <https://learn.elca.org/jle/category/criminal-justice/>

It is the hope of the task force that this video and these resources might be made available to the synod through the e-news and website soon after Synod Council, so that all Lutherans and especially voting members of the Synod Assembly can engage with them soon.

Pr. Emily Hartmann, Assistant to the Bishop, April 24, 2023

9. Received the Report of the Task Force on *Resolution on Faith Formation, Advocacy, and Care in Time of Trauma* with thanks and requested that Pr. Richard Carter, Assistant to the Bishop, present the report to the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

Resolution on Faith Formation, Advocacy, and Care in Time of Trauma Report to the Synod Council/Synod Assembly

A *Resolution on Faith Formation, Advocacy, and Care in Times of Trauma* was received at the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 12-14, 2022, from the Committee of Reference and Council and referred to the South Carolina (SC) Synod Council.

The council, meeting in regular session on August 27, 2022, directed Pr. Richard T. Carter, Assistant to the Bishop, to identify persons to serve on a Task Force to curate and create resources that can be drawn upon by rostered ministers, congregations, and other entities during times of trauma and crisis.

Pr. Carter identified people to serve on the Task Force: Pr. Christina Johnson, Deacon Katie Justice, and Pr. Carl Taylor. The task force carried out its charge, working with offices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), e.g., Lutheran Disaster Response, Advocacy, Worship, and Augsburg Fortress Publishers, and reviewed current/relevant resources available through these entities. They also interviewed specialists and professionals within South Carolina, therapists, and emergency management personnel for resources.

The Task Force researched and addressed the following two resolves:

- 1) To review current and available Faith Formation resources that support rostered ministers in their work to address social issues, i.e., resources that will equip rostered ministers in their work for peace, justice, and advocacy within their contexts. To curate identified resources and provide points of access.

- 2) To develop a crisis response team that will create and curate immediate resources to congregations in the event of unforeseen emergencies or crisis. To include liturgies, social media posts and communication material for all ages.

After extensive review of current available resources, various vendors, publishers and interviews of professional therapist, emergency management personnel and resources within our own church body, ELCA, it was concluded that each of the two resolves are addressed, and resources are available on a current basis through the churchwide office of the ELCA.

In addition, the North Carolina Synod and South Carolina Synod, through a grant from our churchwide office of Lutheran Disaster Response, have partnered together to Call, Pr. Ray and Pr. Ruth Ann Sipe, as Disaster Coordinators and Network Builders, to be a resource to congregations.

Therefore, it is recommended that no further action is necessary by the South Carolina Synod to curate or create additional resources. Through our efforts as a church together and our Mission Support dollars, materials and resources are readily available and timely when disaster and trauma occur. Examples of resources and materials available can be found, <https://ldrcarolinas.org/> and <https://elca.org/resources/>

Pr. Richard Carter, Assistant to the Bishop, April 24, 2023

10. Consultation Committee Rostered Minister, Term Ending 2026 Vacancy

The Rev. James H. Nichols died January 2, 2023. While his death was foremost a great loss to his family, friends, and this synod, his death also created a vacancy on the Consultation Committee. Pr. Nichols was elected in 2020 to a six-year term ending 2026. The runner up in the election at the 2020 assembly was Rev. N. Gregory “Greg” VanDyke. Since the ballot requires two names for vote by assembly, the name of Rev. Wayne C. Kannaday is also offered as a rostered minister who is eligible for this position. Pr. Kannaday was the runner up in the election for this category at the 2022 assembly. Both names have, therefore, appeared on the ballot for this position in 2020 and 2022 and both were runners up in the elections. The proposed ballot was reported to Mr. Kevin Wicker, Chair, 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee to request that the 2023 Assembly Nominating Committee place this category and these two names on the ballot at the 2023 assembly. The Nominating Committee will place the names of Pr. VanDyke and Pr. Kannaday on the ballot for election at the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

Consultation Committee Rostered Minister, Term Ending 2026

Rev. N. Gregory “Greg” VanDyke

Rev. Wayne C. Kannaday

This proposal is in accord with the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod*.

S10.03. The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:

- f. Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this synod and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of this synod.

X. SYNOD COUNCIL

Approved the following meeting dates and times of the Synod Council 2023-2024:

August 26, 2023.....10:00 a.m. Synod Council Retreat In-Person
 November 13, 20233:00 p.m. Online
 February 26, 20243:00 p.m. Online
 April 22, 2024.....12 Noon In-Person

XI. SYNOD OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Approved the synod office holiday schedule for 2023-2024:

January 2.....New Year’s Day

January 16.....Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 April 6Good Friday (Thursday is taken off)
 May 29.....Memorial Day
 June 12-13*Post-Synod Assembly Compensation Days
 July 4Independence Day
 September 4.....Labor Day
 November 22-23.....Thanksgiving Day (the preceding Wednesday is taken)
 December 21-January 1...Christmas Eve (Thursday is taken off) through New Year's Day

*The Synod Office is closed on the two days following Synod Assemblies. All staff members receive one additional Synod assembly day off to be taken by July 31.

XII. PROPOSED BUDGET SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD 2023-2024

***RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION**

Recommends the following budget in the amount of \$2,445,000 for the fiscal year February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025, for adoption by the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

See attached 2024-2025 Proposed Budget and Pie Chart Documents



Rev. W. Osborne Herlong, Secretary
 South Carolina Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**South Carolina Synod, ELCA
Proposed Budget 2024-2025**

	Approved Amended Budget <u>2023-2024</u>	Proposed Budget <u>2024-2025</u>
Mission Support and Other Revenue		
Congregational Support Synod-Churchwide (1)	2,380,000	2,360,000
Fees-Assembly	55,000	13,000
Investment Income	60,000	50,000
Other Income	32,500	22,000
Carryover/Constitution Provision S15.14. (2)	36,054	0
Total Revenue	2,563,554	2,445,000
Benevolence and Expenditures		
Mission Benevolence		
ELCA Support (1)	805,000	690,000
SC Synod Ministries Support	28,138	115,000
Joint Ministries Region 9 Support	11,000	11,000
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	5,000	5,000
Archives	6,000	6,000
ELCA Regional Gift Planner	10,000	10,000
Southern Seminary	77,000	77,000
SC Lutheran Retreat Centers	54,000	54,000
NovusWay	12,800	12,800
Newberry College	12,800	12,800
Lutheran Homes	12,800	12,800
Lutheran Services Carolinas	12,800	12,800
Totals	1,047,338	1,019,200
Ministries		
Category 1-Rostered Ministry	20,150	26,050
Category 2-Congregations & Lay Leaders	109,700	109,000
Category 3-New Leader Development	268,816	270,641
Category 4-Connections & Resources for Ministry (3)	287,150	135,474
Totals	685,816	541,165
Operating Expenses		
Salaries, Benefits and Related (4)	745,000	793,000
Operating Expenses	85,400	91,635
Totals	830,400	884,635
Total Benevolence and Expenditures	2,563,554	2,445,000

Note #1 ELCA support for 2023/24 is 35% of unrestricted congregational support.
ELCA support for 2024/25 is 30% of unrestricted congregational support.

Note #2 S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16% of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synod causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.

Note #3 The 2023/24 and 2024/25 budgets for the annual assembly of \$205,000 (in person) and \$52,000 (online) [respectively] are included in Category 4 - Connections & Resources for Ministry.

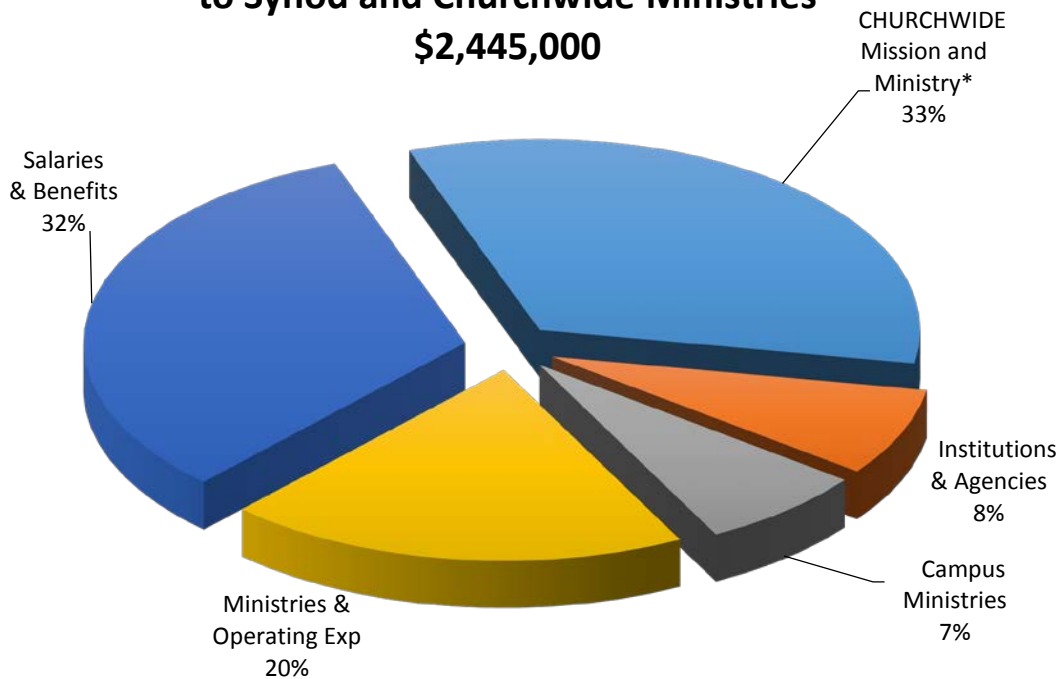
Note #4 The 2024/25 budget for salaries includes a 5% cost of living increase for the synod staff.

South Carolina Synod, ELCA 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

\$816,000	Churchwide Mission and Ministry
\$182,200	Institutions & Agencies
\$173,441	Campus Ministries
\$480,359	Ministries & Operating Expenses
\$793,000	Salaries & Benefits

\$2,445,000	

Mission Support from Congregations to Synod and Churchwide Ministries \$2,445,000



Ministries & Operating Expenses

Category One

Rostered Ministry

Category Two

Congregations & Lay Leaders

Category Three

New Leader Development

Category Four

Connections & Resources for Ministry

Discretionary Fund/Archives/ELCA Gift Planner

Operating Expenses

Campus Ministries

The Citadel

Clemson University

College of Charleston

Converse College

Lander University

Medical University of South Carolina

University of South Carolina - Spartanburg

University of South Carolina - Columbia

Winthrop University

Wofford College

Institutions & Agencies

SC Lutheran Retreat Centers

Lutheran Homes of SC

NovusWay Ministries

Newberry College

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Lutheran Services Carolinas

*ELCA Support for 2024-2025 is 30% of unrestricted congregational support

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD
2024 COMPENSATION GUIDELINES
FOR ROSTERED MINISTERS**

*“...the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel
should get their living by the gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:14)*

South Carolina Synod, ELCA
1003 Richland Street
Columbia SC 29201
(803) 765-0590
(803) 252-5558 (FAX)
Ginny@scsynod.com (E-mail)

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INTRODUCTION

The South Carolina Synod compensation guidelines were studied, reviewed and updated by a Synod Council appointed Task Force at the request of the 2013 Synod Assembly. These compensation guidelines are designed to be a tool for fostering conversations between rostered ministers and congregations. This tool is intended to guide these conversations and to give insight into what is fair and reasonable for trained, approved and called ministers of our church. We recognize that for some congregations there will be a need to grow toward these compensation recommendations, and we pray that this document fosters ongoing and open communication between rostered ministers and their congregations for the purpose of fair compensation.

It may also be helpful to watch these two YouTube videos. The first gives an overview of the guidelines and the second walks through how to fill out the excel spreadsheet. Here are the links for your convenience:

SC Synod Compensation Guideline Youtube Video One – Guideline Overview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyLTWrymX6s>

SC Synod Compensation Guideline Youtube Video Two – Filling out an excel spreadsheet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gzer4nVakS8>

The ELCA and South Carolina Synod recognize two categories for Rostered Ministers. Each rostered person has been fully approved by their Candidacy Committee and called to serve in their respective ministry fields.

1. Ministers of Word and Sacrament have received theological and practical training for the ministry of Word and Sacrament that is carried out in a variety of settings in congregations and institutions of the ELCA. They have a four year Masters of Divinity degree and are ordained by the ELCA. Ministers of Word and Sacrament may also be called Pastors, which will be how they are referenced within this document.
2. Ministers of Word and Service are men and women who go through the candidacy process of the ELCA before they are ordained for public ministry. They may be called by a congregation, a synod or the churchwide expression. They serve within congregations as well as outside of congregations in schools, agencies and institutions. They strive to be witnesses to this church and the world. They represent the church in settings and positions other than the traditional role of pastor. Ministers of Word and Service may also be referred to as Deacons, which will be how they are referenced within this document.

COMPENSATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The South Carolina Synod recommends that in 2024 congregations follow the suggested salary guidelines for rostered ministers reflecting years of active service and education as indicated in the **Compensation Matrixes (Appendix A)**. Additional factors may be considered in determining the compensation for a rostered minister:

- special life or work experience, training, credentials, skills, the complexity of the ministry context;
- significant seminary education debt;
- the size of the congregation, effectiveness in meeting the challenges of ministry and in accomplishing goals jointly set by the rostered person(s);
- whether the pastor will be serving as a “solo” or “senior” pastor or as an associate pastor, and;
- the Congregational Council/Finance Committee/Mutual Ministry Team commitment to continuing education and growth in excellence in ministry, the cost of living in the area relative to other parts of the synod, provision of a parsonage for a pastor, etc.

Salaries for those being called to a new setting are set in partnership between the rostered minister, the congregation, and the synod. It is recommended that the Finance Committee, Mutual Ministry Team, and the Congregation Council work together to review salary annually and that the congregation annually make appropriate salary adjustments. After a compensation agreement is reached between the rostered minister and the congregation, the written agreement should be signed by all parties involved, filed at the church, and a copy sent to the SC Synod Office.

South Carolina cost of living averages vary largely across the state. Churches should take this into account when setting salaries. The median cost of a home in South Carolina is \$301,659. Specific cost of living information for your county/town is available at <https://www.zillow.com/sc/home-values>.

Confident that God calls rostered ministers to lead, challenge, and equip people for ministry in daily life, congregations and institutions are encouraged to utilize a Mutual Ministry Team, whose primary focus would be tending to the relationship among the people of God, including the rostered minister. In that regard, procedures may be set up to provide for an annual evaluation of mutual ministry within the congregation. **Appendix B** is provided as a suggested tool for the rostered minister(s) and the congregation to use in the evaluation process.

Taxes

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has determined that pastors are both employees (Income tax purposes) and self-employed (for Social Security and Medicare purposes). A congregation withholds no taxes from a pastor’s salary. He or she can elect to have Federal Taxes withheld to help cover expected total tax liabilities. For Social Security and Medicare purposes (SECA tax), a pastor is considered self-employed and pays these taxes, as well as ordinary income tax when the Federal Form 1040, is filed (the church pays no matching contribution).

Deacons are employees of a congregation and are taxed the same as any other employee.

Since the pastors are employees, the church must issue a W-2 form to each pastor and file a copy with the Social Security Administration at year end. Furthermore, each church should file a form 941 and

form 1065 (SC) each Quarter showing quarterly wages and taxes withheld. These reports include wages for pastors and deacons. A1099-Miscellaneous is no longer acceptable for a church to file for a pastor. For more information on filing forms with the IRS, please see a certified public accountant or tax consultant.

For a pastor to take advantage of all the benefits afforded to him or her, the congregation must designate the pastor's salary into parts, such as cash compensation, housing, pension, and insurance.

Housing Allowance

For Pastors, the housing allowance (at least 30% of base salary) is not subject to income taxes if the amount is actually spent on the cost of housing. The housing allowance is subject to SECA tax. It may be to the pastor's advantage to reduce her/his base salary and increase the housing allowance to cover all housing expenses, which is a legal option. The pastor is strongly urged to consult one or more tax planning guides or see a qualified Certified Public Accountant to take full advantage of this provision in the tax code. The housing allowance should be evaluated on an annual basis and the designated amount should be provided by the pastor. Setting the housing allowance to cover actual expenses incurs no additional cost to the congregation. To meet IRS requirements, the Congregation Council must specify the annual amount prior to the beginning of the calendar year in its recorded minutes.

When a parsonage is provided, it is recommended that congregations consider the following:

Furnishings Allowance. This is a negotiable allowance between the pastor and the congregation based upon the need to furnish a parsonage and to provide renter's insurance.

Equity allowance. When pastors live in a parsonage most of their career, it can be difficult to buy a house upon retirement. The equity allowance is to help a pastor accumulate a sum of money (equity) for future use in providing housing. The agreed upon dollar amount would be held for investment purposes at the pastor's discretion. Please note that money not properly sheltered is taxable income. A rate of 3% of base salary is suggested as a reasonable equity allowance.

For Deacons

The South Carolina Synod follows the ELCA's conservative financial approach that the housing allowance for Deacons is not authorized. Each situation may be different and individual congregations and Deacons should consult with a certified public accountant for their best personal options and any other tax ramifications.

Social Security Allowance

Pastors are required to compute and pay self-employment Social Security Tax. The SECA rate is 15.3% on salary and housing or, if a parsonage is provided, on salary plus the fair rental value of the parsonage. It is recommended that congregations include a Social Security Allowance. If a congregation includes a Social Security Allowance in the pastor's compensation, that must be declared as income and is taxable. Therefore, to defray the entire cost of Social Security, the allowance would be 16.459% of salary and housing.

Deacons

Federal Tax Code requires congregations to pay the employer's portion of Social Security and Medicare (7.65%) for Deacons. A congregation may choose to pay the employee's and the employer's portions

together for a total of 15.3%. If not, a congregation can include a Social Security Allowance for the employee's portion in the Deacon's compensation package, the allowance must be declared as income and is taxable. Therefore, to defray the employee's cost of Social Security and Medicare in this way, the allowance would be 8.23%.

Pension and Benefits

It is the expectation of the South Carolina Synod that all congregations provide a Pension and Benefits program for their rostered ministers. If Portico Benefit Services is used as the provider, it is recommended that the congregation provide for their rostered minister(s) at the Gold level. The cost for the ELCA Pension, Survivor Benefits, Administrative cost, Medical, Dental, and Disability Insurance is calculated as a percentage of a rostered minister's compensation. Spouses and children should be included in coverage, and that the medical, dental, and insurance benefits be outlined in the Call documents. An employed or insured spouse may waive coverage if he or she has other employer-provided group coverage but the waiver cannot be retroactive. If the rostered minister is covered by their spouse's plan or a plan other than the ELCA Portico Benefit Services, then the congregation should pay the rostered minister the amount equal to the cost of that medical, dental, and insurance plan. Please note that these alternatives can serve to save the congregation some money, but will have tax implications for the rostered minister. Rostered ministers are strongly encouraged to consult one or more tax planning guides or see a qualified Certified Public Accountant.

The ELCA Portico Benefit Services Rate Schedule A for the year 2024 is sent by the Board to congregations and all rostered ministers or you may reference it at www.porticobenefits.org.

The South Carolina Synod supports the resolution of the 1991 ELCA Churchwide Assembly encouraging all congregations and agencies to contribute to the Pension Plan at the 12% rate.

403b and Your Retirement

A 403b retirement savings plan is for employees of colleges, hospitals, school districts, and nonprofit organizations. The plan, which is similar to the 401k plan offered to many corporate employees, is funded by employees with contributions that are deducted from pretax pay.

The 403b offers three distinct advantages:

1. Your church treasurer remits the funds from your check before you receive it thus it is pre-tax. The advantage is you don't pay taxes up front and it lowers your current tax liability.
2. It builds interest tax free.
3. When you retire from service you receive your funds and pay taxes at your then current income level.

For more information on this please visit the IRS website at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p571.pdf>.

Medical Expense Reimbursement

A congregation may elect to reimburse medical deductible and co-payment expenses or dependent care expenses (often referred to as a Flexible Spending Account). This provision could be funded by a voluntary salary reduction or provided as a benefit in lieu of salary increase. The amount reimbursed (for each type of expense, medical or dependent care) would not be subject to Income or SECA taxes up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year. The proper steps must be followed in establishing an accountable plan in keeping with the IRS codes. Consult one or more tax planning guides or see a qualified Certified

Public Accountant. The ELCA Portico Benefit Services administers such a salary deferral plan. Visit website for information. <https://myportico.porticobenefits.org/>

Sick Leave

Sick leave of up to two months with full salary, housing and benefits should be provided for the rostered minister. (The ELCA Disability Plan provides for 2/3 of defined compensation, including Social Security benefits, to be paid beginning in the third month.)

Maternity and Parenting Leave

A specific Maternity and Parenting Leave Plan should be carefully drawn up in open consultation with your rostered minister.

Maternity leave is directed towards the birth or adoption of a child. Such leave should include up to six weeks full salary, housing and benefits. The number of weeks of leave before or after the birth or adoption of a child should be negotiated and specified in advance. At least two weeks of Paternity Leave is recommended, but additional weeks may be negotiated between the rostered minister and the Congregation Council to meet the particular family's need.

Parenting leave is directed towards illness or other special needs. Such leave should include up to two weeks full salary and benefits. Any other specific conditions should be clearly defined in writing and negotiated between the rostered minister and the Congregation Council.

Vacation

The South Carolina Synod guideline regarding vacation for full-time and part-time rostered ministers is four full weeks, a total of 28 days including four Sundays.

Vacation shall normally be taken during the fiscal year in which that vacation is budgeted. With the prior approval of the congregation or congregation council, vacation time may be carried over into the following year thus allowing for an extended vacation time in that year. Without prior approval by the congregation or congregation council, unused vacation time of a previous year is lost.

Upon the ending of call or employment, compensation or provision for accrued vacation time for the present fiscal year is to be provided to the rostered minister.

Automobile Expense Reimbursement

The congregation should reimburse miles traveled in carrying out duties as a rostered minister at the rate allowed by the IRS. Check IRS guidelines (<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-issues-standard-mileage-rates-for-2023-business-use-increases-3-cents-per-mile>). The rostered minister should submit a signed report each pay period or no less than monthly to the responsible financial officer of the congregation. Please note that Automobile Reimbursement may also occur through a reasonable auto allowance that is provided within the compensation package. No matter the case, you must have proper documentation.

Continuing Education

It is the expectation of the ELCA and the South Carolina Synod that every rostered minister will engage in at least 50 hours of continuing education per year. This continuing education is intended to benefit

both the rostered minister and the congregation through ongoing development of biblical/theological understanding and ministry skills.

To assist the rostered minister in meeting this expectation, \$1,100 is suggested (with expenditures verified by receipts), and two weeks (a total of 14 days including two Sundays) will be provided by the congregation for every rostered minister, accruable for up to three years.

Professional Expenses

In addition to classes, retreats, and annual Convocation, congregations may include allowances for the purchase of books or subscriptions to media resources that enable the rostered minister to keep abreast of developments in the ministerial profession. This allowance may be lumped into the Continuing Education allowance or may be divided between Continuing Education and Professional Expenses.

First Call Theological Education

Persons within their first three years in ministry are expected to commit their continuing education time and congregational continuing education allowance to, at a minimum, fulfilling the expectations of First Call Theological Education.

Day Off/Time Management

It is recommended that a full-time rostered minister take at least one full day off per week. In managing time at work and time off it might be helpful to consider each day as having three segments: morning, afternoon, and evening. Each week contains twenty-one such segments. Working fourteen or fifteen of those segments, equaling approximately 45 hours, is suggested as the norm. During the Christmas and Easter seasons, more may be required. Correspondingly, some seasons of the church year may require less. It is recommended that rostered ministers take two consecutive days off at least once a month in order to compensate for on-call time and other special events.

Severance

The SC Synod Bishop should be consulted whenever the termination of a call is being considered. In situations where a call is terminated by the rostered minister, Congregation Council, or appointing institution, without another call or other employment being in place, the congregation is encouraged to consider a severance package of three to six months. Unless covered by another employer, medical and pension benefits are to be included as well. Excluded would be any other allowances, e.g. auto, book, education.

Since the church understands itself as a Christ-centered community and not simply as a business, it is important for severance policy to reflect concern for the person.

Part-time Rostered Ministers

A part-time Call for a rostered minister in the SC Synod is generally defined as someone serving for at least 20 hours per week. Part Time Calls need to be negotiated with the Office of the Bishop. If this part-time position is generated out of what used to be a full time call, then a new letter of call should be issued. Please contact the Bishop to work with you on this new call. A part-time call should be described in writing so that within the letter of call there is clarity for the minister, the congregation, and the Bishop on how "part-time" is defined in that location. Congregations arranging for a part-time rostered minister call should understand that the minister has the right to find gainful employment

elsewhere to reach full-time earning capacity. **Therefore, congregations calling ministers to part-time hours need to plan for flexibility and realistic expectations for the time their rostered minister can serve. We recommend and expect that rostered ministers and their congregations will have open and ongoing communication related to the best ways to navigate a part-time call.**

Part-time Called rostered ministers shall receive proportionate compensation based on the work week for full-time rostered ministers. We recommend that the congregation begin their calculations using the appropriate base salary indicated in the **Appendix A** and divide by the percentage of time that the called position is requiring. When you insert the part-time base salary into the compensation worksheet, all other benefits will be calculated accordingly. Note that rostered ministers who are called to serve part-time are still granted four weeks of vacation (a total of 28 days including 4 Sundays) and two weeks (a total of 14 days) of continuing education as indicated in prior sections. Additional vacation or continuing education weeks may be negotiated in lieu of cash benefits, but please be sure to put this in writing.

Interim Pastors

The South Carolina Synod Bishop has the discretion to appoint an Interim whenever there is a pastoral vacancy and will often work with Congregation Councils to determine who would best serve in that position. An Interim Pastor should receive a signed copy of the Interim Covenant which is Resource H in the SC Synod Transition Packet of Resources. This Covenant indicates expectations and responsibilities which have been negotiated in advance of starting this position. They will also need to receive a copy of the Compensation Worksheet which is done using our Excel worksheet. Most often, Interim Pastors are contracted to serve part time. Determining Compensation for your Interim Pastor should follow the same steps as we suggest for Part Time Called Pastors (See above). In some situations, Interims are contracted to serve full time and compensation would be calculated as with any other full time pastoral position according to their years of experience and what was paid to your most recent pastor. Occasionally Interim pastors can be issued a term call, but this must be done in consultation with the SC Synod Bishop and SC Synod Council.

We ask that Compensation Guidelines be used and compensation be pro-rated for part time given the pastor or deacon's years of experience. Either a parsonage or housing allowance is to be provided, as well as pension and medical benefits, if applicable, mileage reimbursement for performing congregational responsibilities at the current IRS rate (<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-issues-standard-mileage-rates-for-2023-business-use-increases-3-cents-per-mile>) and reimbursement for any other ministry related costs incurred (e.g. telephone, postage, meals, etc.).

An Interim pastor serving for less than full time shall receive:

- Compensation provided in proportion to the percentage of hours requested. For example: if you are asking your Interim Pastor to work $\frac{1}{2}$ time use the Guidelines for their years of experience and divide the base salary in half. If $\frac{3}{4}$ time is the arrangement divide the base salary into $\frac{3}{4}$ of Guidelines.
- Mileage reimbursement for performing congregational responsibilities at the current IRS rate (<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-issues-standard-mileage-rates-for-2023-business-use-increases-3-cents-per-mile>),
- Housing allowance and social security allowance calculated on the part-time base salary,
- Health and Retirement benefits as needed for actual expense,

- Reimbursements for congregational expenses (e.g. continuing education, synod assembly, telephone, postage, meals, hotel, etc.), is expected as you would for any Pastoral position.
- Interim ministers who are called to serve part-time are granted four weeks of vacation (a total of 28 days including 4 Sundays) and two weeks (a total of 14 days) of continuing education the same as any other ministers under call. Additional vacation or continuing education weeks may be negotiated in lieu of cash benefits, but please be sure to put this in writing.

Note: Contracting for hourly work is for Supply Pastors, not for Interims.

Stated Supply Pastors

A Stated Supply serves the same congregation under a covenant created between the Congregational Council, the Pastor, and the Office of the Bishop. The Stated Supply leads Sunday worship and perhaps 1-5 hours per week for visits or other pastoral responsibilities.

Supply Pastors

A Supply Pastor is one who fills in one Sunday at a time (e.g. while the pastor is on vacation). The Supply Pastor should be compensated on the day of service.

A Supply Pastor shall receive:

1. Preaching:
 - One worship service (regardless of the day or type of service) -- \$200 minimum
 - Each additional service -- \$50
2. Mileage shall be reimbursed at the current IRS (<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-issues-standard-mileage-rates-for-2023-business-use-increases-3-cents-per-mile>) rate per mile
3. All reasonable hotel and meal costs shall be reimbursed.
4. Visitation or other responsibilities beyond the contracted/agreed time -- \$50 per hour

Sabbaticals

What is ‘Sabbatical’?

“Sabbatical” is a significant amount of time away from ministry responsibilities and is to be used for both professional growth and personal renewal. The intent of sabbatical is to sharpen the recipient’s skills and to refresh both the spiritual life and a sense of calling. We recommend reviewing ELCA Portico Benefit Services and ELCA websites for more sabbatical resource information.

Scriptural background:

The word “sabbatical” is rooted in the word “Sabbath.” The Sabbath is about time. When the work of creation was finished, God rested and reserved the seventh day as time to rest and reflect on the goodness of creation. In the third commandment, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy,” God protects the gift of time from insatiable demands of work. The Bible also speaks of a “Sabbath” for the land to lay fallow and replenish itself. The promised “Jubilee Year” was a Sabbath for debtors to occur every seventy years. The year of jubilee envisioned a time when all accumulated debts would be erased. In the New Testament, Jesus insisted that “the Sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the Sabbath.” (Mark 2:27) As the Son of Man and Lord over the Sabbath, Jesus reclaimed the Sabbath to serve human physical and spiritual needs as God the Creator intended. In so doing, Jesus set the needs for renewal and restoration above the burdensome labor of religious obligations. In these brief examples

from Scripture, a picture of the Sabbath emerges. The Sabbath recognizes the physical and spiritual strain of routine toil; it also hallows the time that will be given to God for renewal.

What's done on Sabbatical?

The time may be used for a) further academic study; b) enhancement of professional skills; c) purposeful creative expression relating to ministry; and d) purposeful travel in connection with an area of study.

Is there a need?

The sabbatical is one of the most effective ways for a rostered person and congregation to develop and maintain a long-term relationship. In that sense, both the rostered person as well as the congregation benefit from the rostered person's sabbatical. As a particular ministry unfolds over time, the cumulative weight of sharing crises, nurturing new programs and striving to meet ever-changing demands and expectations eventually affects the rostered person's performance and attitudes, and may lead to burn out. Many rostered persons work six days a week and are on call all the time. Over the course of a year, that equates to an additional 52 days a year or 7 ½ weeks per year as opposed to someone with a 5-day work week. With these things in mind, an effective use of properly planned sabbaticals will refresh the rostered ministers' mind and spirit, bring new ideas and enthusiasm, and will ultimately benefit the ministry with the congregation.

What a Sabbatical isn't?

A Sabbatical is not additional vacation. Sabbaticals, unlike vacations, assume that the congregational council and the synod play a significant role with the rostered minister in the planning, execution and evaluation in shaping the outcome. Before granting a Sabbatical, the congregational council should review and accept the rostered minister's Sabbatical plan and a copy of the plan should be forwarded to the SC Synod Bishop. Following the Sabbatical, the rostered minister should give a written report to their Congregation Council and again a copy of this report should be forwarded to the SC Synod Bishop.

In addition, a Sabbatical is not an opportunity to do similar work (i.e. supply preaching) in a different setting, and it is not simply annual continuing education. Continuing education is taken annually and usually not for more than an accumulated one or two weeks of time. Sabbatical time is at least three months and is granted not more than once every seven years.

Eligibility and Length

1. Rostered persons shall not be eligible for a sabbatical until they have served in their present call for at least five years.
2. Recipients of sabbatical opportunities are expected to return to their existing ministries for at least a year after the sabbatical. Exceptions to this policy because of unusual circumstances must be discussed by the rostered minister with the Congregation Council and the SC Synod Bishop.
3. A typical sabbatical will be three months, not including vacation and continuing education time. It is not recommended that pastors "save" annual continuing education time for their sabbatical, but rather use their continuing education time on an annual basis. Any exceptions are to be approved by both the Congregation Council and the SC Synod Bishop.

Goal Setting Guidelines

1. The SC Synod recommends that the sabbatical option should be included in the Letter of Call or appointment for Pastors and Deacons.

2. At least six months before the sabbatical is to begin, the applicant shall submit a written plan to the Congregation Council for study (and renewal) including its proposed dates. The proposal must be approved by both the rostered person and the Congregational Council. The proposal is then submitted to the SC Synod Bishop for comment, clarification and endorsement. Such a plan needs to include:
 - a. Filling out sabbatical forms available from the SC Synod. (see appendix B)
 - b. Providing the congregational council and SC Synod Bishop a statement of expected educational and spiritual benefits.
 - c. Written plans about how the parish duties and existing programs will be covered. Major decisions should be made prior to the sabbatical, or, if they cannot be made, they should be delayed until the rostered person has had time to become reoriented into the ministry.
 - d. A plan for re-entry into the ministry once the sabbatical is complete, since both the congregation and rostered person will have undergone changes and a loss of immediacy. A re-entry plan might include:
 1. selecting a person to keep a diary of parish happenings to share at the return;
 2. staggering committee meetings to facilitate a gradual re-entry into the ministry;
 3. renewing ties by visiting;
 4. publicly affirming the ministry done during the absence; and
 5. determining a date to give the congregation a sabbatical report.
3. Rostered ministers on sabbatical are not expected to return to their calling body for pastoral or other responsibilities that others can assume (i.e. baptisms, weddings, funerals, youth retreats, council or board meetings, etc).
4. An excellent resource for sabbatical planning is *Pastor Renewal: The Alban Guide to Sabbatical Planning*, by A. Richard Bullock and Richard J. Bruesehoff.

Costs During Sabbatical

1. During the sabbatical, the rostered minister shall remain at full salary and benefits, excluding automobile allowance.
2. The rostered minister will bear the cost of sabbatical activity. However, congregations may choose to assist in these costs by designating the current year's continuing education stipend to the sabbatical. Rostered Ministers and congregations need to check current tax laws and pension rules about pre-designating a portion of the rostered person's salary as an "education offset" during the sabbatical year.
3. Other expenses to the congregation might include the salary and related ministry expense to secure a supply that can assist with regular rostered minister responsibilities during a sabbatical leave. After mobilizing lay ministers and faithful volunteers most congregations discover that their needs require only part time coverage during a sabbatical leave. For part-time pastoral coverage refer to the Interim and Supply section of these compensation guidelines for a determination of costs. Full-time pastoral coverage will often include salary, housing and a full benefit package. In the case of sabbatical leave for deacon positions, Congregation Council/Institution should confer with the SC Bishop's office.
4. Independent Grants to support a sabbatical leave may be available and it is recommended that rostered ministers do research online to discover options.
5. If you have any questions or need clarification you are invited to contact the SC Synod Bishop or one of the Bishop's Assistants.

Evangelical Mission

The South Carolina Synod recommends that the Director of Evangelical Mission follow these guidelines as he/she establishes compensation for pastor-developer.

APPENDIX A

Suggested Base Salary Guidelines for Rostered Pastors of SC Synod

(Excel Compensation Worksheets are online at <https://scsynod.com/call-process/> and instructions are found on pg. 22.)

*Beyond 40 years of service a 2.5% (average cost of living increase over the last 30 years) or negotiated cost of living increase is recommended.

Housing Allowance is at least 30% of the base salary. **Some locations may necessitate more housing based upon market values in that area. See bold paragraph on pg. 4 for more information.

***Social Security Allowance is 16.459% of Base Salary & Housing (if paid directly to the pastor).

****These suggested guidelines may not properly address multiple rostered minister staff situations. We encourage conversations about what would be fair and just compensation for each minister.

Years of Service	Defined Compensation	=	Base Salary	+	Housing	+	SS Allowance	Total Cash Outlay = Defined Compensation + Health Coverage + Pension + Other Benefits + Mileage + Continuing Education + various other expense as laid out in the excel spreadsheet.
Entry	\$52,989	=	\$35,000	+	\$10,500	+	\$7,489	
1	\$54,314	=	\$35,875	+	\$10,763	+	\$7,676	
2	\$55,672	=	\$36,772	+	\$11,032	+	\$7,868	
3	\$57,063	=	\$37,691	+	\$11,307	+	\$8,065	
4	\$58,489	=	\$38,633	+	\$11,590	+	\$8,266	
5	\$59,952	=	\$39,599	+	\$11,880	+	\$8,473	
6	\$61,450	=	\$40,589	+	\$12,177	+	\$8,685	
7	\$62,987	=	\$41,604	+	\$12,481	+	\$8,902	
8	\$64,562	=	\$42,644	+	\$12,793	+	\$9,124	
9	\$66,175	=	\$43,710	+	\$13,113	+	\$9,352	
10	\$67,830	=	\$44,803	+	\$13,441	+	\$9,586	
11	\$69,526	=	\$45,923	+	\$13,777	+	\$9,826	
12	\$71,264	=	\$47,071	+	\$14,121	+	\$10,072	
13	\$73,046	=	\$48,248	+	\$14,474	+	\$10,323	
14	\$74,872	=	\$49,454	+	\$14,836	+	\$10,582	
15	\$76,743	=	\$50,690	+	\$15,207	+	\$10,846	
16	\$78,663	=	\$51,958	+	\$15,587	+	\$11,117	
17	\$80,629	=	\$53,257	+	\$15,977	+	\$11,395	
18	\$82,644	=	\$54,588	+	\$16,376	+	\$11,680	
19	\$84,711	=	\$55,953	+	\$16,786	+	\$11,972	
20	\$86,829	=	\$57,352	+	\$17,206	+	\$12,271	
21	\$88,999	=	\$58,785	+	\$17,636	+	\$12,578	
22	\$91,224	=	\$60,255	+	\$18,077	+	\$12,893	
23	\$93,504	=	\$61,761	+	\$18,528	+	\$13,215	
24	\$95,842	=	\$63,305	+	\$18,992	+	\$13,545	
25	\$98,238	=	\$64,888	+	\$19,466	+	\$13,884	
26	\$100,694	=	\$66,510	+	\$19,953	+	\$14,231	
27	\$103,212	=	\$68,173	+	\$20,452	+	\$14,587	
28	\$105,791	=	\$69,877	+	\$20,963	+	\$14,951	
29	\$108,436	=	\$71,624	+	\$21,487	+	\$15,325	
30	\$111,148	=	\$73,415	+	\$22,025	+	\$15,708	
31	\$113,927	=	\$75,250	+	\$22,575	+	\$16,101	
32	\$116,775	=	\$77,132	+	\$23,139	+	\$16,504	
33	\$119,694	=	\$79,060	+	\$23,718	+	\$16,916	
34	\$122,686	=	\$81,036	+	\$24,311	+	\$17,339	
35	\$125,754	=	\$83,062	+	\$24,919	+	\$17,773	
36	\$128,897	=	\$85,139	+	\$25,542	+	\$18,217	
37	\$132,120	=	\$87,267	+	\$26,180	+	\$18,672	
38	\$135,423	=	\$89,449	+	\$26,835	+	\$19,139	
39	\$138,808	=	\$91,685	+	\$27,506	+	\$19,618	
40	\$142,278	=	\$93,977	+	\$28,193	+	\$20,108	

Suggested Base Salary Guidelines for Rostered Deacons of SC Synod Masters Degree

(Excel Compensation Worksheets are online at <https://scsynod.com/call-process/> and instructions are found on pg. 24.)

*Beyond 40 years of service a 2.5% (average cost of living increase over the last 30 years) or negotiated cost of living increase is recommended.

**The South Carolina Synod follows the ELCA's conservative financial approach that the housing allowance for deacons is not authorized. Each situation may be different and individual congregations and deacons should consult with a certified public accountant.

Years of Service	Defined Compensation	=	Base Salary	+	SS Allowance
Entry	\$43,292	=	\$40,000	+	\$3,292
1	\$44,374	=	\$41,000	+	\$3,374
2	\$45,484	=	\$42,025	+	\$3,459
3	\$46,621	=	\$43,076	+	\$3,545
4	\$47,786	=	\$44,153	+	\$3,634
5	\$48,981	=	\$45,256	+	\$3,725
6	\$50,205	=	\$46,388	+	\$3,818
7	\$51,461	=	\$47,547	+	\$3,913
8	\$52,747	=	\$48,736	+	\$4,011
9	\$54,066	=	\$49,955	+	\$4,111
10	\$55,417	=	\$51,203	+	\$4,214
11	\$56,803	=	\$52,483	+	\$4,319
12	\$58,223	=	\$53,796	+	\$4,427
13	\$59,679	=	\$55,140	+	\$4,538
14	\$61,170	=	\$56,519	+	\$4,652
15	\$62,700	=	\$57,932	+	\$4,768
16	\$64,267	=	\$59,380	+	\$4,887
17	\$65,874	=	\$60,865	+	\$5,009
18	\$67,521	=	\$62,386	+	\$5,134
19	\$69,209	=	\$63,946	+	\$5,263
20	\$70,939	=	\$65,545	+	\$5,394
21	\$72,712	=	\$67,183	+	\$5,529
22	\$74,530	=	\$68,863	+	\$5,667
23	\$76,394	=	\$70,584	+	\$5,809
24	\$78,303	=	\$72,349	+	\$5,954
25	\$80,261	=	\$74,158	+	\$6,103
26	\$82,267	=	\$76,012	+	\$6,256
27	\$84,324	=	\$77,912	+	\$6,412
28	\$86,432	=	\$79,860	+	\$6,572
29	\$88,593	=	\$81,856	+	\$6,737
30	\$90,808	=	\$83,903	+	\$6,905
31	\$93,078	=	\$86,000	+	\$7,078
32	\$95,405	=	\$88,150	+	\$7,255
33	\$97,790	=	\$90,354	+	\$7,436
34	\$100,235	=	\$92,613	+	\$7,622
35	\$102,741	=	\$94,928	+	\$7,813
36	\$105,309	=	\$97,301	+	\$8,008
37	\$107,942	=	\$99,734	+	\$8,208
38	\$110,641	=	\$102,227	+	\$8,413
39	\$113,407	=	\$104,783	+	\$8,624
40	\$116,242	=	\$107,403	+	\$8,839

Total Cash
Outlay
=
Defined
Compens-
ation
+
Health
Coverage
+
Pension
+
Other
Benefits
+
Mileage
+
Continuin
g
Education
+
various
other
expense as
laid out in
the excel
spread-
sheet.

Suggested Base Salary Guidelines for Rostered Deacons of SC Synod B.A. Degree or Equivalent

(Excel Compensation Worksheets are online at <https://scsynod.com/call-process/> and instructions are found on pg. 24.)

*Beyond 40 years of service a 2.5% (average cost of living increase over the last 30 years) or negotiated cost of living increase is recommended.

**The South Carolina Synod follows the ELCA's conservative financial approach that the housing allowance for deacons is not authorized. Each situation may be different and individual congregations and deacons should consult with a certified public accountant.

Years of Service	Defined Compensation	=	Base Salary	+	SS Allowance	Total Cash Outlay = Defined Compensation + Health Coverage + Pension + Other Benefits + Mileage + Continuing Education + various other expense as laid out in the excel spreadsheet.
Entry	\$37,881	=	\$35,000	+	\$2,881	
1	\$38,828	=	\$35,875	+	\$2,953	
2	\$39,798	=	\$36,772	+	\$3,026	
3	\$40,793	=	\$37,691	+	\$3,102	
4	\$41,813	=	\$38,633	+	\$3,180	
5	\$42,858	=	\$39,599	+	\$3,259	
6	\$43,930	=	\$40,589	+	\$3,340	
7	\$45,028	=	\$41,604	+	\$3,424	
8	\$46,154	=	\$42,644	+	\$3,510	
9	\$47,308	=	\$43,710	+	\$3,597	
10	\$48,490	=	\$44,803	+	\$3,687	
11	\$49,702	=	\$45,923	+	\$3,779	
12	\$50,945	=	\$47,071	+	\$3,874	
13	\$52,219	=	\$48,248	+	\$3,971	
14	\$53,524	=	\$49,454	+	\$4,070	
15	\$54,862	=	\$50,690	+	\$4,172	
16	\$56,234	=	\$51,958	+	\$4,276	
17	\$57,640	=	\$53,257	+	\$4,383	
18	\$59,081	=	\$54,588	+	\$4,493	
19	\$60,558	=	\$55,953	+	\$4,605	
20	\$62,072	=	\$57,352	+	\$4,720	
21	\$63,623	=	\$58,785	+	\$4,838	
22	\$65,214	=	\$60,255	+	\$4,959	
23	\$66,844	=	\$61,761	+	\$5,083	
24	\$68,515	=	\$63,305	+	\$5,210	
25	\$70,228	=	\$64,888	+	\$5,340	
26	\$71,984	=	\$66,510	+	\$5,474	
27	\$73,784	=	\$68,173	+	\$5,611	
28	\$75,628	=	\$69,877	+	\$5,751	
29	\$77,519	=	\$71,624	+	\$5,895	
30	\$79,457	=	\$73,415	+	\$6,042	
31	\$81,443	=	\$75,250	+	\$6,193	
32	\$83,479	=	\$77,131	+	\$6,348	
33	\$85,566	=	\$79,060	+	\$6,507	
34	\$87,706	=	\$81,036	+	\$6,669	
35	\$89,898	=	\$83,062	+	\$6,836	
36	\$92,146	=	\$85,139	+	\$7,007	
37	\$94,449	=	\$87,267	+	\$7,182	
38	\$96,811	=	\$89,449	+	\$7,362	
39	\$99,231	=	\$91,685	+	\$7,546	
40	\$101,712	=	\$93,977	+	\$7,734	

APPENDIX B

MUTUAL MINISTRY EVALUATION PROCESS

We recognize that effective ministry is the result of an interaction between the rostered minister and the congregation, and that it's always important to stay in touch with shared goals and expectations.

The following document is provided as a means to review the mutual ministry of the rostered minister(s) and the congregation.

The goals of the review are:

- a. To identify and affirm the accomplishments, faithfulness and competencies of the rostered minister and the congregation;
- b. To help rostered ministers sharpen personal goals and to define areas of needed or desired professional, spiritual, and personal growth; and,
- c. To help rostered ministers and laity clarify expectations of one another and to improve the effectiveness of their shared ministries.

The model constitution for congregations says: A Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed jointly by the President (or Vice President) and the pastor. It is recommended that this committee consist of six persons. The term of office shall be for two years, with three members to be appointed each successive year. The Mutual Ministry Committee shall oversee the evaluation process of the rostered minister(s). The Mutual Ministry Committee may be asked by the Finance Committee for guidance on compensation.

The Mutual Ministry Committee members should complete the appropriate Congregational Review form for their rostered minister(s). It is suggested that additional members of the congregation be asked to provide evaluative feedback to supplement the committee's evaluation process. A combined summary report should be formulated and shared between the Mutual Ministry Committee members and the rostered minister(s). This gathering should start and end in prayer. For example:

- Thanking God for our rostered minister(s) spiritual leadership, teaching of God's Gospel, and interfacing with our human needs,
- Stating how the congregation is "grateful for his/her _____ (giving appropriate examples such as Sunday morning sermons, leading Bible Classes, and conducting baptisms, confirmations, weddings, counseling, funerals, etc.), and
- Asking for God's guidance and direction as we reverently review this congregation's ministry of the recent past, and as we set goals for coming months/years.

After discussion and consensus is reached on the content of the summary report, it should be shared with the Congregation Council. A review process should never be conducted during the budgeting process of a congregation/ministry, nor should it be part of the process used to set church staff salaries. Reviews should be conducted at a different time of the year from budgeting processes, and then the reports may be considered as part of the material gathered to form goals and budgets for a ministry.

A helpful resource is Pastor and People: Making Mutual Ministry Work, Congregational Leader Service, Augsburg Fortress.

CONGREGATIONAL REVIEW OF PASTORAL MINISTRY

The Mutual Ministry Committee is asked to assist in the review process of our rostered minister(s). Please indicate your rating and make written comments where you have knowledge. Leave blank any categories where you don't feel you have knowledge to make a meaningful review. This information will be shared with our rostered minister(s) to help guide personal growth in ministry and continuing education.

In each category the rating system will be a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being low and 5 being high.

PREACHING –

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the pastor doing well in this area?
- b. What does the pastor need to improve?

TEACHING –

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the pastor doing well in this area?
- b. What does the pastor need to improve?

LEADING WORSHIP –

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the pastor doing well in this area?
- b. What does the pastor need to improve?

PASTORAL CARE –

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the pastor doing well in this area?
- b. What does the pastor need to improve?

LEADERSHIP & PLANNING (ADMINISTRATION) –

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the pastor doing well in this area?
- b. What does the pastor need to improve?

COMMUNITY MINISTRY & LARGER CHURCH LEADERSHIP –

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the pastor doing well in this area?
- b. What does the pastor need to improve?

PROPHETIC MINISTRY –

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the pastor doing well in this area?
- b. What does the pastor need to improve?

PEOPLE SKILLS –

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the pastor doing well in this area?
- b. What does the pastor need to improve?

CONTINUING EDUCATION –

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the pastor doing well in this area?
- b. What does the pastor need to improve?

PERSONAL LIFE –

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the pastor doing well in this area?
- b. What does the pastor need to improve?

YOUTH MINISTRY –

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the pastor doing well in this area?
- b. What does the pastor need to improve?

WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS –

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the pastor doing well in this area?
- b. What does the pastor need to improve?

CONGREGATIONAL REVIEW OF DEACON MINISTRY
(These are suggested questions and are not all applicable to everyone.)

1. Do you feel your job is an important part of the overall ministry of the church?
2. What are some of the specific joys/successes for you in this past year?
3. Are you given enough lead time to get your work done without being hurried or stressed?
4. What has caused you frustration or great concern?
5. Do you feel you are given proper equipment and materials to do the job required of you?
6. What do you wish would improve? (Please offer specific actions that you think could bring about improvement.)
7. How do you feel the Pastoral ministry staff supplements and supports your work?
8. How do you feel congregation members supplement and support your work?
9. How do you feel the youth supplement and support your work?
10. Do you feel you are fairly and adequately compensated for the work you do? (Include salary, mileage, pension, health/dental insurance, continuing education.)
11. Are you a part of regular weekly planning (staff meetings)? Do you feel enough time is given for staff reporting and sharing with each other?
12. When deadlines are necessary, do you feel others respect and comply to enable you to get the job done?

ROSTERED MINISTER(S) MINISTRY REVIEW OF THE CONGREGATION

In each category the rating system will be a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being low and 5 being high.

Are members willing to participate?

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the congregation doing well in this area?
- b. What does the congregation need to improve?

Is there positive interaction between members?

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the congregation doing well in this area?
- b. What does the congregation need to improve?

Is there a feeling of Christian community?

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the congregation doing well in this area?
- b. What does the congregation need to improve?

Do the members of the congregation support the work of the church in a financially responsible manner?

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the congregation doing well in this area?
- b. What does the congregation need to improve?

Does the congregation serve the needs of the community?

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the congregation doing well in this area?
- b. What does the congregation need to improve?

Is there willingness for outreach on the local level?

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the congregation doing well in this area?
- b. What does the congregation need to improve?

Is there willingness to support our ministry through the synod and the ELCA?

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the congregation doing well in this area?
- b. What does the congregation need to improve?

Is there willingness for outreach to the world?

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- a. What is the congregation doing well in this area?
- b. What does the congregation need to improve?

APPENDIX C

APPLICATION FOR SABBATICAL

Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

In existing ministry since:

Proposed period of sabbatical from: _____ to _____.

Congregation approved sabbatical

By Call By Resolution.

Date Approved: _____

Brief preliminary explanation of proposal:

Preliminary statement of Intended Benefits:

Site of Study/Experience:

Approximate costs to the Rostered Minister:

\$ _____ Tuition & housing \$ _____ Transportation

\$ _____ Food and incidentals

Available Continuing Education funds are: _____

I am working with a local committee or council and have set the following goals:

- a. Responsibility for existing ministry (date) _____
- b. Approval of final proposal (date) _____
- c. Approval of "re-entry" plan (date) _____
- d. Date to report on sabbatical (date) _____

Pastor/Deacon

Council President

APPENDIX D

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONLINE EXCEL COMPENSATION WORKSHEETS

(Excel Compensation Worksheets available online at <https://scsynod.com/call-process/>)

Compensation Worksheet Instructions for Rostered Pastors – Housing Allowance

The excel compensation worksheet that has been created contains equations in some of the dollar amount boxes, therefore you don't have to fill in every box. These instructions will guide you through the process and hopefully make it much easier as you try to calculate your Pastor's compensation package.

1. For the base salary number you should review the Rostered Pastors compensation matrix (**Appendix A**) and find the appropriate amount that reflects your Pastor's years of active service. When this amount is found you should manually input this number into the excel spreadsheet in box C4.
2. If your Pastor has additional education merits, skills, etc. it is appropriate to add an additional amount to the Pastors base salary in box C5.
3. The housing allowance should be equal to at least 30% of the base salary (the sum of boxes C4 & C5). When this number is determined please input it into box C6.
4. You should see additional boxes making calculations at this point. Your Social Security Allowance (composed at the rate of 16.459%), Cash Salary, and Defined Compensation have all been calculated for you, therefore you may proceed to letter K on your worksheet.
5. Letter K calculates Health and Pension plan benefits. You will see that most of the calculations have already been made, with two exceptions in boxes C 24 and C 25. Box C 25 asks for the cost value of your Pastor's healthcare benefits. To calculate this cost value you must use the Portico Benefit Services Cost Benefit Calculator found here:

<https://employerlink.porticobenefits.org/Home/Resources/Calculators.aspx>

When you click on this link (or enter it into your web browser) you will be taken to the calculators page of the Portico Benefit Services website. Choose the 2024 Cost Benefit Calculator tab. When you do this you will be taken to the next page where you must enter your Pastor's desired benefit option and your synod. After completing these questions click continue. On the next page you must first enter your Pastor's total defined compensation. The next box asks you to choose whether your Pastor is covered under ELCA Health Coverage, Medicare Coverage, or wishes to waive coverage. Next you must enter your Pastor's birthdate. You will then select whether your Pastor has a spouse and children and if so, whether or not they will be covered as well. The special circumstances tab should only be considered if you are employing a Pastor that is married to another Pastor also sponsored under ELCA Coverage and/or if you are a part of a two-point parish where each congregation pays the Pastor separately. Next everyone must enter the Retirement Contribution percentage that they will provide to their Pastor. Remember that the Synod Recommended percentage for Retirement Contributions is 12%. There is also a last box for those who choose to be provided with a House Equity Retirement Contribution. When you have completed all the appropriate boxes please hit continue. The page that opens will give you the cost breakdown of your Pastor's benefits. From this page you must take the number for Health and place it into box C 25. When you do this you will see that box C 24 has now calculated itself.

6. Any additional benefits (i.e. tax sheltered annuity, life insurance, etc.) included in your Pastor's pay package should be entered into box C 31.
7. Under the section "Expenses" you will need to enter the appropriate number values for mileage reimbursement, continuing education/professional expenses, and official meetings into the boxes to the right in the C column.
8. This should complete your calculations of the Pastor's compensation package. You may continue to the next section entitled "Other Benefits".

Compensation Worksheet Instructions for Rostered Pastors – Parsonage

The excel compensation worksheet that has been created contains equations in some of the dollar amount boxes, therefore you don't have to fill in every box. These instructions will guide you through the process and hopefully make it much easier as you try to calculate your Pastor's compensation package.

1. For the base salary number you should review the Rostered Pastors compensation matrix (**Appendix A**) and find the appropriate amount that reflects your Pastor's years of active service. When this amount is found you should manually input this number into the excel spreadsheet in box C4.
2. If your Pastor has additional education merits, skills, etc. it is appropriate to add an additional amount to the Pastors base salary in box C5.
3. The Fair Rental Value of the Parsonage is calculated in this worksheet at 30% of the base salary (Box C 6). If the FRV of the parsonage is different than the number calculated then please input the appropriate number into box C 7.
4. If your Pastor is going to receive a utilities allowance and/or a furnishings allowance, you should input the appropriate figure into its respective C column box to the right. Remember that utilities allowances and furnishings allowances paid directly to the pastor are taxable. For tax recommendations please confer with a tax guide or a qualified CPA.
5. If your Pastor will receive a Housing Equity Allowance directly then input this number into box C 14. If the Housing Equity Allowance will be received through a tax sheltered account with the ELCA or otherwise, then input this number into box C 43. Remember that if the Pastor receives this allowance directly then this is also a taxable amount.
6. You should see additional boxes making calculations at this point. Your Social Security Allowance (composed at the rate of 16.459%), Cash Salary, and Defined Compensation have all been calculated for you, therefore you may proceed to letter R on your worksheet.
7. Letter R calculates Health and Pension plan benefits. You will see that most of the calculations have already been made, with two exceptions in boxes C 35 and C 36. Box C 36 asks for the cost value of your Pastor's healthcare benefits. To calculate this cost value you must use the Portico Benefit Services Cost Benefit Calculator found here: <https://employerlink.porticobenefits.org/Home/Resources/Calculators.aspx>
When you click on this link (or enter it into your web browser) you will be taken to the calculators page of the Portico Benefit Services website. Choose the 2024 Cost Benefit Calculator tab. When you do this you will be taken to the next page where you must enter your Pastor's desired benefit option and your synod. After completing these questions click continue. On the next page you must first enter your Pastor's total defined compensation. The next box asks you to choose whether your Pastor is covered under ELCA Health Coverage, Medicare Coverage, or wishes to waive coverage. Next you must enter your Pastor's birthdate. You will

then select whether your Pastor has a spouse and children and if so, whether or not they will be covered as well. The special circumstances tab should only be considered if you are employing a Pastor that is married to another Pastor also sponsored under ELCA Coverage and/or if you are a part of a two-point parish where each congregation pays the Pastor separately. Next everyone must enter the Retirement Contribution percentage that they will provide to their Pastor. Remember that the Synod Recommended percentage for Retirement Contributions is 12%. There is also a last box for those who choose to be provided with a House Equity Retirement Contribution. When you have completed all the appropriate boxes please hit continue. The page that opens will give you the cost breakdown of your Pastor's benefits. From this page you must take the number for Health and place it into box C 36. When you do this you will see that box C 35 has now calculated itself.

8. Any additional benefits (i.e. tax sheltered annuity, life insurance, etc.) included in your Pastor's pay package should be entered into box C 42.
9. Again, for those receiving their Housing Equity Allowance through a tax sheltered account with the ELCA or otherwise, this number should be input into box C 43.
10. Under the section "Expenses" you will need to enter the appropriate number values for mileage reimbursement, continuing education/professional expenses, and official meetings into the boxes to the right in the C column.
11. This should complete your calculations of the Pastor's compensation package. You may continue to the next section entitled "Other Benefits".

Compensation Worksheet Instructions for Rostered Deacons

The excel compensation worksheet that has been created contains equations in some of the dollar amount boxes, therefore you don't have to fill in every box. These instructions will guide you through the process and hopefully make it much easier as you try to calculate your rostered minister's compensation package.

1. For the base salary number you should review the Rostered Deacons compensation matrix (**Appendix A**) for either Bachelor's Degree and Equivalents or for Masters Degree candidates and find the appropriate amount that reflects your Deacon's years of active service. When this amount is found you should manually input this number into the excel spreadsheet in box C4. Remember that housing is reflected in the amounts found in the compensation matrix for Rostered Deacons.
2. If your Deacon has additional education merits, skills, etc. it is appropriate to add an additional amount to the Deacons base salary in box C6.
3. You should see additional boxes making calculations at this point. Your Social Security Allowance (composed at the rate of 8.23%), Cash Salary, and Defined Compensation have all been calculated for you, therefore you may proceed to letter I on your worksheet.
4. Letter I calculates Health and Pension plan benefits. You will see that most of the calculations have already been made, with two exceptions in boxes C 19 and C 20. Box C 20 asks for the cost value of your Deacon's healthcare benefits. To calculate this cost value you must use the Portico Benefit Services Cost Benefit Calculator found here:
<https://employerlink.porticobenefits.org/Home/Resources/Calculators.aspx>
When you click on this link (or enter it into your web browser) you will be taken to the calculators page of the Portico Benefit Services website. Choose the 2024 Cost Benefit Calculator tab. When you do this you will be taken to the next page where you must enter your

Deacon's desired benefit option and your synod. After completing these questions click continue. On the next page you must first enter your Deacon's total defined compensation. The next box asks you to choose whether your Deacon is covered under ELCA Health Coverage, Medicare Coverage, or wishes to waive coverage. Next you must enter your Deacon's birthdate. You will then select whether your Deacon has a spouse and children and if so, whether or not they will be covered as well. The special circumstances tab should only be considered if you are employing a Deacon that is married to another Deacon also sponsored under ELCA Coverage and/or if you are a part of a two-point parish where each congregation pays the Deacon separately. Next everyone must enter the Retirement Contribution percentage that they will provide to their Deacon. Remember that the Synod Recommended percentage for Retirement Contributions is 12%. There is also a last box for those who choose to be provided with a House Equity Retirement Contribution. When you have completed all the appropriate boxes please hit continue. The page that opens will give you the cost breakdown of your Deacon's benefits. From this page you must take the number for Health and place it in box C 20. When you do this you will see that box C 19 has now calculated itself.

5. Any additional benefits (i.e. tax sheltered annuity, life insurance, etc.) included in your Deacon's pay package should be entered into box C 26.
6. Under the section "Expenses" you will need to enter the appropriate number values for mileage reimbursement, continuing education/professional expenses, and official meetings into the boxes to the right in the C column.
7. This should complete your calculations of the Deacon's compensation package. You may continue to the next section entitled "Other Benefits".

APPENDIX E

COMPENSATION WORKSHEETS IN MICROSOFT WORD

(*For the easiest means of calculating compensation, we highly recommend that congregations use the Excel Compensation Worksheet available online at <https://scsynod.com/call-process/>. However, we are providing compensation worksheets in a Word document format for those who cannot use Excel.)

2024 COMPENSATION WORKSHEET Rostered Pastor with Housing Allowance

I. COMPENSATION

- A. Base Salary (Number from Appendix A reflecting years of active service) \$ _____
- B. Additional Compensation for merit, skills, higher cost of living expenses, and/or experience \$ _____
- C. Housing Allowance (including furnishings, utility, etc., if paid directly to pastor; Synod Recommends at least 30% of base salary for housing) \$ _____*
- D. Total of A, B and C \$ _____
- E. Social Security Allowance (Line D x .16459) \$ _____
Because Pastors are considered self-employed by the IRS for Social Security computations only, the Synod Council recommends that congregations contribute total self-employed social security tax.
- F. Cash Salary (Total of lines D & E) \$ _____ (1)

II. RETIREMENT & OTHER BENEFITS (For Retirement only, the Synod Council strongly recommends 12%)

PORTICO BENEFIT SERVICES CALCULATION – Defined Compensation

- | | | |
|----|--|----------|
| G. | Annual base salary (before reductions for tax-sheltered annuities or reimbursement accounts) – Lines A & B above | \$ _____ |
| H. | Pastor’s Social Security tax allowance (if paid directly to pastor)
Line E above | \$ _____ |
| I. | Housing Allowance (including any household furnishings and utilities allowances if paid directly to pastor) | \$ _____ |
| J. | Total Defined Compensation (Total of Lines G, H, & I) | \$ _____ |

- K. ELCA Health & Pension Plan (Total of Lines K-1, K-2, K-3, K-4, and K-5) \$ _____**
Percentages and rates vary. See current rate schedule online at www.porticobenefits.org

- K-1. Health Benefit*** \$ _____
- K-2. Retirement (applicable rate**** x Line J) \$ _____
- K-3. Disability (applicable rate**** x Line J) \$ _____

K-4. Basic Group Life (applicable rate**** x Line J) \$ _____

K-5. Retiree Support (applicable rate**** x Line J) \$ _____

L. Additional Benefits (i.e., tax sheltered annuity, life insurance, etc.) \$ _____

M. Total of lines K & L \$ _____ (2)

III. EXPENSES

N. Transportation Mileage reimbursement (Check the IRS rate.) \$ _____

O. Continuing Education/Professional Expenses (Synod recommended is \$1,100) \$ _____

P. Official Meetings (includes synod assembly, etc.) \$ _____

Q. Total of lines N, O, & P \$ _____ (3)

TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL CASH OUTLAY (1) + (2) + (3) \$ _____

IV. OTHER BENEFITS

Vacation _____ weeks, including _____ Sundays

Sick/Parental Leave _____ weeks

Continuing Education _____ weeks and sabbatical _____ weeks.

NOTES:

* Housing allowance shall be approved by and recorded in congregational council minutes prior to effective date in order to be considered tax exempt by IRS.

** At least equal full family, dental, and insurance coverage should be provided even if the pastor utilized plans other than the ELCA (formerly Board of Pensions) Plan.

*** Cost Value for this category can be found by using the Portico Benefit Services Benefits Costs Calculator at: <https://employerlink.porticobenefits.org/Home/Resources/Calculators.aspx>

**** Furnished by ELCA Portico Benefit Services annually online at www.porticobenefits.org .

2024 Compensation Worksheet Rostered Pastor Living in Parsonage

I. COMPENSATION

- A. Base Salary (Number from Appendix A reflecting years of active service) \$ _____
- B. Additional Compensation for merit, skills, higher cost of living expenses, etc. \$ _____
- C. Total of A and B \$ _____
- D. Fair rental value of parsonage or Line C x 30% \$ _____
- If pastor receives a utilities and/or furnishing allowance:**
- E. Utilities Allowance (Include only if the Pastor pays the utilities with a cash allowance provided by the congregation. If the congregational treasurer pays the parsonage utilities directly to utility company, no figure should be included here.) \$ _____ *
- F. Furnishings Allowance (Part of compensation for Social Security but if expended not taxable for state or federal) \$ _____
- G. Housing Equity Allowance (If paid directly to rostered person) \$ _____ **
- H. Total of C, D, E, F and G \$ _____
- I. Social Security Allowance (line H x .16459)
(Because Pastors are considered self-employed by the IRS for Social Security computations only, the Synod Council recommends that congregations contribute total self-employed social security tax.) \$ _____
- J. CASH SALARY (Total of lines H & I) \$ _____ (1)

II. RETIREMENT & OTHER BENEFITS (For Pension only, the Synod Council strongly recommends 12%)

PORTICO BENEFIT SERVICES CALCULATION – Defined Compensation		
K.	Annual base salary (before reductions for tax-sheltered annuities or reimbursement accounts) – Lines A & B above	\$ _____
L.	Pastor’s Social Security tax allowance (if paid directly to pastor) Line I above	\$ _____
M.	Total of K & L	\$ _____
For Parsonage		
N.	30% of Line M (used to determine housing when living in parsonage)	\$ _____
O.	Household furnishings and utilities allowances (if paid directly to the pastor)	\$ _____
P.	Housing Equity Allowance (if paid directly to pastor)	\$ _____
Q.	Total Defined Compensation (Total of Lines M, N, O, & P)	\$ _____

R. ELCA Health & Retirement Plan (Total of Lines R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, & R-5) \$ _____ ***
Percentages and rates vary. See current rate schedule online at www.porticobenefits.org

R-1. Health**** \$ _____

R-2. Retirement (Line Q x applicable rate)***** \$ _____

R-3. Disability (Line Q x applicable rate)***** \$ _____

R-4. Basic Group Life (Line Q x applicable rate)***** \$ _____

R-5. Retiree Support (Line Q x applicable rate)***** \$ _____

S. Additional Benefits (i.e., tax sheltered annuity, life insurance, etc.) \$ _____

T. Housing Equity Allowance (If tax sheltered) \$ _____ **

U. Total of lines R, S, & T \$ _____ (2)

III. EXPENSES

V. Transportation mileage reimbursement (Check with the IRS for rate.) \$ _____

W. Continuing Education/Professional Expenses (Synod recommended is \$1,100/year) \$ _____

X. Official Meetings (includes Synod Assembly, etc.) \$ _____

Y. Total of lines V, W, & X \$ _____ (3)

TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL CASH OUTLAY (1) + (2) + (3) – (D) \$ _____

IV. OTHER BENEFITS

Vacation _____ weeks, including _____ Sundays

Sick/Parental Leave _____ weeks

Continuing Education _____ weeks and sabbatical _____ weeks

NOTES:

* It is preferable for the congregation to directly pay the utilities' costs. If money is given to the pastor for covering the cost of parsonage/utilities, this amount becomes a tax liability for the pastor.

** Housing equity allowance (as a benefit) requires prior approval by and entered in congregational council minutes to be considered tax exempt by IRS. If paid directly to the rostered minister, the housing equity allowance is considered part of defined compensation and is taxable. (Housing equity allowance can be tax deferred by contribution made directly to ELCA Portico Benefit Services Optional Pension Plan or other qualified plan.)

*** At least equal full family, dental, and insurance coverage should be provided even if the pastor utilizes plans other than the ELCA Portico Benefit Services Plans.

**** Cost Value for this category can be found by using the Portico Benefit Services Benefits Costs Calculator at:

<https://employerlink.porticobenefits.org/Home/Resources/Calculators.aspx>

***** Furnished by ELCA Portico Benefit Services annually online at www.porticobenefits.org.

2024 COMPENSATION WORKSHEET
Rostered Deacon

I. COMPENSATION

- A. Base Salary (Number from Appendix A reflecting years of active service) (includes housing) \$ _____
- B. Additional compensation for merit, skills, higher cost of living expenses, etc. \$ _____
- C. Total of Lines A & B \$ _____ (1)
- D. Social Security Tax Allowance (line C x .0823) \$ _____
 (Synod Council recommends that the congregation contribute total social security tax.)
- E. Total of Lines C & D \$ _____

II. RETIREMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS (For pension only, the Synod Council strongly recommends 12%)

PORTICO BENEFIT SERVICES CALCULATION – Defined Compensation	
F.	Annual base salary (before reductions for tax-sheltered annuities or reimbursement accounts) – Lines A & B above \$ _____
G.	Deacon’s Social Security tax allowance (if paid directly to the Deacon) (Line D above) \$ _____
H.	Total Defined Compensation (Lines F & G) \$ _____

- I. ELCA Health & Retirement Plan (Total of Lines I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4, & I-5) \$ _____ *
- Percentages and rates vary. See current rate schedule online at www.porticobenefits.org
- I-1. Health** \$ _____
- I-2. Retirement (Line H x applicable rate)*** \$ _____
- I-3. Disability (Line H x applicable rate)*** \$ _____
- I-4. Basic Group Life (Line H x applicable rate)*** \$ _____
- I-5. Retiree Support (Line H x applicable rate)*** \$ _____
- J. Additional Benefits (i.e., tax sheltered annuity, life insurance, etc.) \$ _____
- K. Total of lines I & J \$ _____ (2)

III. EXPENSES

- L. Transportation mileage reimbursement (Check the IRS rate.) \$ _____
- M. Continuing Education/Professional Expenses (Synod recommended is \$1,100/year) \$ _____
- N. Official meetings (includes Synod Assembly, etc.) \$ _____
- O. Total of lines L, M, & N \$ _____ (3)

TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL CASH OUTLAY (1) + (2) + (3)

\$ _____

IV. OTHER BENEFITS

L. Vacation _____ weeks, including _____ Sundays

M. Sick/Parental Leave _____ weeks

N. Continuing Education _____ weeks and sabbatical _____ weeks

NOTE:

*At least equal full family dental and insurance coverage should be provided even if the deacon utilizes plans other than the ELCA Portico Benefit Services Plan.

** Cost Value for this category can be found by using the Portico Benefit Services Benefits Costs Calculator at:

<https://employerlink.porticobenefits.org/Home/Resources/Calculators.aspx>

*** Furnished by ELCA Portico Benefit Services annually online at www.porticobenefits.org .

Deepening Discipleship Table

South Carolina Synod Assembly

2023

Rostered Ministers Network

-Congregational Vitality meets monthly and are offering ways to support rostered ministers and congregations. This includes short workshops to brainstorm and share helpful resources for faithful ministry.

-Interim Ministry Task Force continues to meet with all interim pastors in the synod.

-Convocation Planning Team (Pastors Shannon Mullen & Christi Pursey, co-chairs) have scheduled fall convocation for October 23-25. They have included many rostered leaders in the discussions and planning to help shape this year's event.

Stewardship Leaders Network (Rev. Angela Jennings)

-The synod is beginning another round of Stewardship for All Seasons with Mike Ward. Five congregations within the synod are participating. Many congregations are coming back for several years in a row.

-The synod is also continuing Building a Culture of Generosity with Mike Ward. Four congregations participated, some sharing their results of increases in giving and generosity.

-There are numerous opportunities for financial learning for congregations and for financial support for our rostered ministers. Stewardship Leaders Network continues to connect congregations and ministers with the resources needed to be good stewards and financially healthy.

Lifelong Faith Formation Network (Deacon Deborah Poole)

-The Christian Education team has two Facebook groups: Lifelong Faith Formation Network - SC Synod and SC Synod VBS Exchange. They continue to offer resources.

-The Worship Task Force is working with the team tasked with planning worship during this year's Synod Assembly.

LUTHERAN SERVICES CAROLINAS

South Carolina Synod Assembly

2023

Dear Friends,

The year of 2022 continued to be a challenging one for Lutheran Services Carolinas, your health and human services social ministry of the South and North Carolina Synods of the ELCA. Ongoing pressures with the COVID pandemic and unprecedented worker shortage were stressful, but our teammates rose to the occasion with grace and compassion.

Last year, more than 2,200 LSC teammates, along with 2,940 donors, 4,733 advocates, and more than 1,200 volunteers, improved the lives of more than 6,300 Carolinians. Chief among those volunteers are Bishop Aebischer and her designee, Pastor Mary Finklea, and 19 other dedicated board members who lead this ministry. In South Carolina, LSC improved lives through:

- Dedicated foster parents and case workers served 152 children.
- Refugee and Immigrant Services assisted 1082 people on their path to new lives in the U.S., including 935 new arrivals.
- the Transitional Foster Care for Unaccompanied Children program helped 84 children.
- The Strengthening Families program helped 130 people develop more cohesive family units.
- Recovery housing programs assisted 31 people and serviced 756 throughout the community.
- LSC provided residential living options to 60 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in host homes and in nine group homes.

LSC expanded its Columbia refugee services, now called the New Americans Program, to new offices in Greenville and Charleston in 2021, and recently expanded to Myrtle Beach. The new programs serve legal refugees from around the world including Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders from Afghanistan, the allies who supported U.S. troops. In collaboration with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), LSC has a long history of supporting refugees on their journey to self-sufficiency in this country, including welcome at the airport upon arrival, food and shelter, transportation, medical care, school enrollment, employment services, and cultural assimilation.

Officially opened in 2022, WeCo Cottage is a new addiction recovery program for college students in Columbia. The development of WeCo Cottage continued through the collaborative efforts of LSC, Gamecock Recovery, Columbia College, and The Courage Center.

Also established in 2022, Trinity Recovery is a faith-based Recovery Community Organization that serves Greenwood, Lexington, Newberry and Richland counties in South Carolina. Staff provides training to other faith providers to become "recovery-friendly congregations" and reach out to individuals, who may be unhoused, and who are seeking services to provide referrals and assistance.

Despite COVID and inadequate government funding, LSC child and family services loses money on its services but ended the year stronger thanks to your contributions of \$944,763. Because LSC's overall financial health remains strong, we can continue to serve in challenging times with your prayers and support.

We are the church together. When many Lutheran organizations are taking Lutheran out of their name and taking Christ out of their mission statement, LSC has passionately lifted up our Lutheran Christian name and roots, actively seeking collaborations and closer partnerships with the Synod and congregations. Thank you to the South Carolina Synod and to the congregations for ministry together.

Yours in Christ,



Ted W. Goins, Jr.
LSC President



MISSION

Believing in the presence of God, the value of human life and the dignity of the individual, the mission of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina, as a ministry of the church, is to promote the well-being of older adults by providing residential, healthcare and hospice services.

- All LHSC campuses and programs were in good standing during the year from a regulatory standpoint and continue to recover operationally from the effects and challenges of the COVID virus.
- Lutheran Homes of South Carolina provided employment for 1,000 full or part-time TeamMates to fulfill our Mission serving our older adult resident, patient and client Priorities.
- Residential and healthcare services were provided for 2,804 independent, assisted living, memory support, skilled nursing long-term residents and short-term rehabilitation patients across our five continuing care retirement communities:
 - Franke at Seaside, Mount Pleasant
 - the Heritage at Lowman, White Rock
 - Rice Estate, Columbia
 - RoseCrest, Inman
 - Trinity on Laurens, Aiken
- LHSC's annual satisfaction survey received very high marks from our residential and healthcare resident and patient Priorities and family members about their perception of aspects that affect life at their residence such as direct care and services, staff, meals, life enrichment activities, buildings and grounds. 90.5% of survey respondents would recommend LHSC to others.

The Heritage at Lowman initiated Phase 2 of the 18 unit expansion of the Courtyard pocket neighborhood apartments in the fall of 2022. Development plans are also underway for the addition of 18 new Courtyard apartments at RoseCrest to be built concurrently with a multi-purpose wellness center and dining expansion which also will include dedicated chapel space. Rice Estate completed renovations for both assisted and independent living dining rooms.

- Rice Estate and the Heritage at Lowman Rehabilitation and Health Care Center received High Performing short-term care ratings as recognized as the Best Nursing Homes from US World & News Report. RoseCrest Rehabilitation and Healthcare maintained a Five Star Rating from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services throughout the year.
- Lutheran Hospice supported 559 patients and over 1,667 family caregivers during their end-of-life journey. The program ranked higher than the national averages for all quality measures and 90% of patients and families were willing to recommend Lutheran Hospice to others.
- Across the state, BeWell Home Services caregivers helped 151 clients remain at home with non-medical, supportive services through its Midlands/Aiken, Lowcountry, and Upstate offices.
- BeWell@Home provided continuing care at home wellness programs for 111 members.
- Due to the generosity of 1,791 donors in 2022, the Lutheran Homes of SC Foundation:
 - Provided \$431,186 to help subsidize the care of residents, clients and hospice patients served in our ministries of care.
 - Funded \$980,825 in capital improvements to enhance and expand facilities, and \$665,153 to support community programs and services.

As always, we remain most grateful for your partnership in ministry,

Mr. Jack Balling
Chair of the Board

Mr. Frank T. Shepke
President and CEO



2023 Report to the Synod Assemblies of Region 9

Greetings from Seminary Ridge, in the name of the Holy Trinity!

I am grateful for the call to serve as Rector and Dean at this time in our seminary's story. After serving across the global Lutheran communion, it is a joy to join our mission to "teach, form and nurture" leaders for public ministry. Theological education has always been a driver of the Lutheran tradition. LTSS continues to cultivate new fruit as our vibrant faculty and staff implement the revised curriculum according to our strategic plan.

New MACM track for ELCA Deacons

In Fall 2023, we will launch a new MACM track designed particularly for ELCA Word and Service candidates. Students will complete a 22-hour core, followed by a 27-hour track for Lutheran formation, contextual education, and ministry specialization. We are pleased to introduce this path to Word and Service ministry.

New "Explore" Program

Beginning in Fall 2023, LTSS will offer innovative one-hour elective course opportunities. Explore courses will invite students to explore interesting topics and gain valuable ministry experience not otherwise covered in the curriculum. This program will be open to LTSS alumni for continuing education credit, creating opportunities for intergenerational learning between current students and alumni, and may expand in the future. Please watch for announcements about this program, so that you can share the opportunity within your networks.

New Concentrations and Cognates

LTSS will offer concentrations that recognize a student's academic achievement in a particular area of study, such as Biblical Studies, Theology, and Faith Formation. Seminarians will be able to take specialized courses (cognates) through the LRU graduate faculty in the areas of Leadership, Counseling, and Sustainability. A student who completes nine credit hours in one of these designated areas will graduate with a concentration.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

LTSS continues its theological, pedagogical and practical commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion across the curriculum. Lifelong Learning opportunities embed our students and the wider LTSS community in dynamic partnerships with local partners such as Koinonia and the International African American Museum, and engaging events such as Dr Willie Jennings' lecture "Overcoming Racial Faith". These innovations equip our church for critical, constructive, courageous, creative theological engagement across cultures and contexts.

Cultivating a Christ-Centered Community of Education and Formation in an Age of Hybrid Learning

Seminaries are seedbeds. LTSS cultivates a Christ centered community of Columbia and Connect (online) students. We are gathered in First Week Immersions to start each semester, formed in regular rhythms of Word, sacrament, prayer, and spiritual practice, enriched through ecumenical learning (such as Methodism 101), and embodied through relationships of mutual care and conviviality, including a new Hammock Hang Out.

I want to say a special word of gratitude to LTSS colleagues, the Advisory Committee and LR leadership for tending to extra tasks throughout the leadership transition. We are all grateful to our Bishops for their visits and their ministry among us. We are grateful for the financial support of our Synods, faithful congregations and individuals in Region 9 and beyond. And we are grateful to you who encourage the faithful to consider their vocation to public ministry. As we look with faithful imagination to the future of theological education, your prayers and participation sustain our mission and strengthen our capacity to respond to the Spirit's call.

Peace be yours,

Rev. Dr Chad Rimmer
Rector and Dean

NovusWay Ministries
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2023

Mission: The ministries of NovusWay provide experiences for all people in God's creation that inspire faith, build relationships, and transform lives.

Vision: Trusting in God's promises, lives are transformed to love and serve as part of inclusive communities.

We Value: Inclusion, Renewal, Stewardship, Hospitality, Formation, and Discipleship

Throughout 2022, NovusWay Ministries—Lutheridge, Lutherock, Luther Springs and Lutheranch-worked to serve more youth, adults and families after several years of significant financial and operational challenges. We served more than 2400 campers of all ages in our summer camp programs. We visited 26 congregations through our Lutheroad Day Camps. Our facilities were opened over 560 times for guest groups, and we worked alongside 100 college age students who served on our summer staff.

The program, hosted ministry attendance and income increased at all sites, but we were still below the last pre-pandemic year of 2019. Overall, 2022 summer income increased by 20% over 2021, which was a recovery year after the Covid shutdown of 2020.

Operationally, your faithful Board of Trustees continues to refocus the ministry's efforts and provide greater structure and direction through a series of new documents: the Strategic Plan with the Mission, Vision, and Values as quoted above; revised By-Laws; updated Board Policies; and revised Personnel Policies for year-round staff. In all our efforts, the active participation by the four supporting synod Bishops on the Board has been significant and gratefully acknowledged.

A major accomplishment of this past year was the hiring of several executive staff members. In January, new Executive Directors at Lutheranch, Clair Marie Hannon, and Lutheridge, Van Van Horne, joined long-serving Craig Reiger at Lutherock, and Sarah Anderson and Sue Mendenhall at Luther Springs. In March, Richard D. (Dick) Peterson began his service as Intentional Interim CEO. Dick brings many years of experience in outdoor ministry and non-profit program development. In June, Kristen Williams became the Executive Director for Financial Development. In October, LaToya Ellis was named Director of Human Resources, a new and much needed professional position. While our leadership team and year-round staff are strong, staffing summer programs was a challenge in 2022, with some program sections limited or cancelled due to the inadequate staff numbers. Summer staffing remains a major challenge in 2023, which is a problem for most camps around the country.

We continued to improve our program facilities. The Atonement Chapel was dedicated at Luther Springs which provides significant new programming opportunities. Barn renovations and a new mounting ramp that facilitates accessibility were completed at Lutheranch. A new porch was added to Founders Lodge at Lutherock. At Lutheridge, long overdue refreshing projects were completed. Looking ahead, we are working on a variety of short- and long-term facilities repairs and upgrades necessary to continue to make the camps relevant and attractive for campers, conferences, and special events.

Financially, we continue to enjoy wide support. In 2022, we were blessed with 2,778 individual gifts totaling \$1,070,018. These donations came from people in 27 states throughout the United States. Giving Tuesday proceeds brought in \$35,730 to support the ministry. Total synod benevolence support from the four synods totaled \$115,800.57. We are grateful for all this support that allows us to provide valuable programming for youth and families.

The hard reality of the year was that growing inflation hit our budget very hard, with many areas showing significant price increases, especially food and supplies, equestrian costs, utilities, and insurance. Investments in much needed property repairs and staff salary increases to be competitively attractive also increased costs. We also saw that ongoing Covid concerns kept some groups away from camp early in the year, reducing overall attendance and income from what we budgeted. With all these factors, along with the long-term effects of the pandemic that masked some underlying problems that we have worked to resolve these last 18 months, the combined operations of NovusWay incurred a loss of \$1,119,458.67 in 2022 that was covered by internal borrowing that we expect to begin to repay with interest beginning in

2024. This year, we are very focused on improving our financial operations and reporting accountability while increasing attendance in all programs to help increase our revenues while also expanding giving opportunities.

For 2023, our priority remains on providing faith-filled camps, retreats, and hosted ministry opportunities for young and old. We are offering many tried and true, favorite programs such as our music and art, family, equestrian, and adventure camps. We are also providing new programming, including our Southwest Florida Disaster Relief program in cooperation with the Florida-Bahamas Synod and Luther Springs. Groups from throughout the country will come to spend a summer week in service working out of a congregation either in Sarasota or Ft. Myers. Increased summer and year-round programming will extend our reach to more individuals and families throughout the southeastern United States.

We are grateful of our partnership with our four supporting synods, our many donors, and those congregations that allow us to be a part of God's great work of forming and expanding faith for all ages. To learn more about this exciting and growing ministry that you support with your prayers, your financial gifts, and faithful participation, please visit our website: <https://novusway.org>.



Charles R. Bridgers
Intentional Interim CEO



Richard D. Peterson, CCD
President, NovusWay Board of Trustees



How are the Wolves? The Wolves are well! As a college, we approach the concept of an interconnected community. When one hurts, we all hurt. When one wins a conference championship, we all win. We are interconnected as the faculty, staff and coaches, making a difference in the lives of our 1,300 students. We are meeting combatting food insecurity on campus through the Wolves Pantry, and helping Polish Lutherans tend to Ukrainian refugees. We are connecting with students' spiritual journeys with a spring emphasis on prayer life. We sincerely thank our church partners for their continued support, including \$34,476.80 in synodical giving last year. May we continue to see Jesus in each other.

— The Rev. David Coffman '97, campus pastor

Wolves Pantry seeks to relieve food insecurity on campus

Approximately 29% of students at four-year colleges nationwide report experiencing food insecurity. Through a combination of financial insecurity, demanding schedules and lack of transportation, just to name a few, food insecurity and inaccessibility exist on campus. In September, Campus Ministry and Student Affairs partnered to open Wolves Pantry in the College's Weber Campus Ministry House. The pantry served over 60 individuals in its first three months. In March 2023, the pantry gratefully received \$1,100 from the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Newberry, S.C., providing reusable cloth bags and three months of breakfast and snack items. To give directly to Wolves Pantry, scan the QR code or visit newberry.edu/campusministry.



Newberry adds second master's program, new undergraduate majors

Sport management & leadership will become the College's second graduate program. Like the M.S. in organizational development & leadership, the new online program can be completed in as few as 12 months, equipping students to succeed in professional sports, education, recreation and more. The College plans to add master's degrees in criminal justice, education and public administration in coming years. On the undergraduate level, the College will launch majors in nutrition and special education this fall.

Newberry helps Ukrainian refugees find work in Poland

Through financial contributions, members of the Newberry College community have helped the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland's parish in Radom in their refugee relief efforts. The church provides free Polish language classes to Ukrainian refugees to allow them to find work and support their families for as long as they are there. Newberry College sophomore Kornelia Rudkowska calls this parish home. Donations collected and sent through Newberry College have directly allowed the program to add a third class to meet demand.

Nursing program enters two clinical partnerships

Last summer, Newberry College signed partnership agreements with Newberry Hospital and J.F. Hawkins & Springfield Place. The hospital has funded and will operate a 1,200-square-foot urgent care center to adjoin the Darby Nursing & Health Science Center, now under construction. The daytime clinic will serve students, employees and members of the surrounding community, while giving nursing students hands-on experience without leaving campus. The partnership with J.F. Hawkins & Springfield Place will offer students experience in geriatric care settings for the first time and with a community-oriented element.

SCWELCA supports nursing education with scholarship

In July 2022, the South Carolina Women of the ELCA established an endowed scholarship for nursing students at Newberry College. The organization pledged to raise \$10,000 to start the endowed award by last year's convention. When all was said and done, the group had more than doubled its initial goal, now with \$25,285 in the fund. The funds will hopefully alleviate the shortage of qualified nurses in South Carolina, the fourth largest deficiency in the nation.

Students to visit Holy Land in 2024

Next January, Newberry College students will have the opportunity to journey through the Holy Land, touring biblical sites and seeing the work of the Lutheran World Federation. If you would like to lessen the cost for students with scholarships, scan the QR code above or visit newberry.edu/campusministry.

Synodical gifts support Lutheran education

As your Lutheran college, we greatly appreciate the prayers and support of our partner churches, rostered leaders and individual Lutherans. As a tuition-driven institution, the generous financial support of our church family is instrumental in helping Newberry College provide a quality liberal arts education rooted in our Lutheran values. If you would like to make an individual gift, please visit newberry.edu/giving, or contact Whitney Mitchell '09, assistant vice president for institutional advancement, at Whitney.Mitchell@newberry.edu, or at 803.321.5694.

I See Jesus at South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers

South Carolina Synod Assembly

20223

The theme of this year's synod assembly, "I see Jesus," surely reflects the past year in the ministry of South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers. After more than two years of limited guests and mostly empty buildings at our holy spaces, 2022 and 2023 have been times of great rejoicing! We have definitely seen Jesus as our guests and groups have returned to Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat!

This past year has been a time of revitalization for our retreat center ministry as we added new staff and new programs. We welcomed Nevin Rodgers as the new director of Camp Kinard. We were blessed to welcome three new board members: Martie Newmyer, Fred Klinker and Robert Kneece. We added new overnight retreats at Coastal, including "Holy City Spirits," "Coastal Crafting," "Charleston Lights," and "Wholly." We added day events at Camp Kinard, including "The Jesus Way," "In Our Own Backyard, the Story of Isaac Woodard," and "Distilling Faith." Our hearts were warmed, and we felt the presence of Jesus at tea parties at both Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat.

God has been at work changing lives in these holy spaces this year with groups that have been partnering with us for years. Our WELCA, LMM, SCLCY and congregational retreats continue to be our mainstays. Of particular note is Camp HUGG, our LCY-led camp for young people with developmental disabilities. Time and again we hear stories of how this camp has made a real difference in the lives of both the campers and the staff. We rejoice with our long-standing ecumenical partners, especially Roman Catholics, Methodists and Baptists. Our community partners, including *Teen Pact* and *Leadership Lexington*, continue to be blessed and to be a blessing by their presence. We have seen people find solace and comfort at bereavement retreats such as *Camp Hands of Hope* and *Jacoby's Shield*.

We saw Jesus last year at Assembly when we kicked off our **Building+Renewing+Believing: Holy Spaces** Capital Campaign! Jesus was present as we heard stories from guests who heard their call to ministry, who grew in faith through WELCA, who had their first experience camping, who experienced the love of God in a congregational retreat, and many others. We were excited to announce plans to build a brand new, fully accessible swimming pool and bath house for the summer season of 2023. By the time we gather at Assembly in 2023, this pool should be a reality!

We have seen Jesus in special gifts that were made to our retreat centers. Huge thanks to: All Saints, Mt. Pleasant, for a generous grant towards replacing air conditioners; St. Paul's, Columbia, for the gift of six mini fridges for the rooms at Coastal Retreat; the SC Synod Mission Endowment for the funds to replace bedspreads and purchase tools to be used by volunteers; and to Grace, Rock Hill for a grant to purchase kayaks for Camp Kinard.

Christ has been made known through the financial gifts in support of our campaign and our operations from the following congregations:

All Saints, Mt Pleasant
Cedar Grove, Leesville
Faith, Batesburg
Good Shepherd, Columbia

Bethany, Lexington
Corinth, Saluda
Good Hope, Ward
Good Shepherd, Walterboro

Grace, Rock Hill
Holy Trinity, Anderson
Mt. Hermon, West Columbia
Our Savior, West Columbia
Pisgah, Lexington
Redeemer, Newberry
St. David, West Columbia
St. James, Lexington
St. Luke, Prosperity
St. Matthew, Lexington
St. Paul's, Columbia
St. Peter, Batesburg
Summer Memorial, Newberry
Union, Leesville

Macedonia, Prosperity
Orangeburg, Orangeburg
Pilgrim, Lexington
Pomaria, Pomaria
Redeemer, Columbia
St. James, Graniteville
St. Luke, Columbia
St. Mark, Leesville
St. Michael, Greenville
St. Paul, Pomaria
St. Phillip, Myrtle Beach
Transfiguration, West Columbia
Wittenberg, Leesville

It is truly a blessing to have these wonderful ministry partners!

And were not our hearts burning within us as finally the phones started ringing and the emails and text inquiries started coming as congregations and groups and camps returned to making reservations for retreats! Thanks be to God, the reservations at Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat have returned to and will likely surpass pre-Covid numbers! The staff, Board of Trustees, guests and volunteers eagerly look forward to the next steps in our campaign to build a new entry way and a wonderful new Chapel! Thanks to all who are a part of South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers as we provide holy spaces for God to change lives!

In Christ,

Deacon Dallas J. Shealy
Executive Director

Jane G. Holmes, Chair
Board of Trustees

South Carolina Women of the ELCA

South Carolina Synod Assembly 2023

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 grow our relationships with God and grow our relationships with each other so that we are able to be God's voice, hands and feet here on earth.

Last year we held our 2022 annual convention at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Newberry, SC. The theme was *"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"*. As John 3:16 says *God so loved the world that He gave His only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life*. As Christians we are called by God to love all people, take care of those who are in need and be His disciples to spread the "Good News" to those who need to know Christ.

Highlights of our convention were greetings from our Bishop Rev. Ginny Aebischer, electing Vice President Amanda Boatwright, Secretary Shari Donely and board members Cindy McManus, Linda Roland, Diane Wicker and Denise Warren. We elected four women as Triennial Voting Members who will travel to Phoenix this September to represent SC WELCA. Those elected were Laytina Taylor, Ella Shumpert, Pat George and Sarah Cheeseman. We heard from our many partners within the SC Synod who shared their exciting news about their organizations. Our Churchwide Representative Lori Garcia from Southwest Texas, spoke about how our organization today has moved beyond our past stigma of baking cookies and preparing meals for the congregation. Women of the ELCA today are movers and shakers in our communities and world by carrying out many missions, advocating and bringing awareness to social injustices. Our keynote speaker was Dr Jenny Lindler, Director of Nursing at Newberry College. Dr. Lindler shared with us how being a nurse and instructor allows her to share Christ with her patients and students. On Friday evening we hosted the amazing Reggie and Lady Love Smith in concert.

We honored all women and men who so graciously risked their lives to care for those who suffered from Covid19 and all other illnesses in our state. We heard about these nurses, that due to the pandemic, chose to leave the profession resulting in a shortage of nurses in the US. Therefore, we established a \$27,000 Nursing Scholarship Endowment for deserving students at Newberry College in the School of Nursing. Women all over the state supported this endeavor with monetary offerings and excitement. We also supported Churchwide Women of the ELCA's One Million Dollar Katie's Fund Campaign giving \$2400.

Seven out of our nine conferences met this past fall, gathering in fellowship and community, learning and responding to local needs. Women donated over \$2400 at these conferences which was distributed to the charities of their choice.

This year our board has focused on our congregational units who were no longer meeting due to the pandemic. In 2020-2021 there were 63 giving units. I am so happy to report this fiscal year 73 units graciously contributed to SC Women of the ELCA. We thank all who have supported our organization this past year.

In 2022-2023, SC WELCA supported churchwide WELCA through regular offerings of \$13,966. Joy Offerings sent and designated by congregational units totaled \$6,636 for ELCA Good Gifts. Our Life and Memorial Recognition program supports the SC WELCA scholarship Fund for female students who attend The Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University. Last year \$618.68 was sent to support this scholarship. From benevolence funds, we contributed \$1000 to Melanie Jackson, One Year to Live, \$500 to the JR Crumley Archives a donation for archiving WELA records and \$1500 was sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief.

In total, for 2022-2023 fiscal year, SC Women of the ELCA gave over \$56,000 in donations. Thanks be to God!

We invite you to join us at our 2023 Convention to be held at Zion Lutheran in Lexington, SC June 24-25. Our theme is *"Just Love One Another"* based on verse John 3:16 *"God so loved the world that He gave in one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

It is my privilege and honor to be a part of SC Women of the ELCA. The women in our synod are "BOLD" women of Christ. They have loving and giving hearts. They work to grow their relationships with God, grow in relationships with one another, take care of those in need and most of all be disciples for Jesus Christ.

"Let all you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14

Together in Christ,

Risse Snelgrove, President, SC Women of the ELCA

**Director of Communications Report
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2023**

Top 10 Videos from the past year.

1. Lutheran F.A.Q. | Communion: How Do Lutherans Celebrate Communion?
2. Lutheran F.A.Q. | What Does Baptism Mean?
3. Lutheran F.A.Q. | How Do Lutherans Read the Bible?
4. Lutheran F.A.Q. | What Does Communion Mean?
5. Lutheran F.A.Q. | How Do Lutherans Baptize?
6. 2022 South Carolina Synod Assembly - Sessions
7. 2022 South Carolina Synod Assembly - Worship From St. Matthews
8. Lutheran Living in South Carolina | January 2023
9. Lutheran Living in South Carolina | September 2022
10. Lutheran Living in South Carolina | November 2022

A new year but a continuing trend.

The 2022-2023 year saw our YouTube subscriber base grow by 35%, Facebook page "likes" increase by just under 13%, and Instagram followers are up by more than 25%. Twitter growth is slower but still increasing. The increased use of video and a series of social media posts by Deacon Sarah Bowers have contributed to this. Our top five performing videos on YouTube and Facebook come from the series *Lutheran F.A.Q.* which is hosted by The Rev. Emily Hartmann. Rounding out the top ten are the 2022 South Carolina Synod Assembly and our new video magazine. These insights show that resources and live event streams get higher interaction.

Morning Consult, a data-decision intelligence company, recently conducted a survey to learn more about Gen Z's social media usage. The main takeaway? Video is here to stay. This age group's number one social media outlet is YouTube, followed by Instagram.

Much of our growth through social media has come in the younger demographics of 18-24 and 25-40. Therefore, this modern video communication style is critical in growing the next generation of active Lutherans.

Continuing to learn

Late in the Summer of 2022, I completed a certification program in digital marketing from the Digital Marketing Institute and the American Marketing Association. I am doing my best to implement what I've learned. So far, it is showing up in a few tangible ways. For example, I better understand when and why to post our content for maximum impact. This class also affirmed some of my own insights and refined my skills to do those items better.

Equipping Leaders

Our rotating technology replacement plan continues to provide the tools needed to support the synod's work. In addition, this plan allows for a more exact budgeting process. The synod's consistent investment in equipment and technology ensures we have the proper tools for our work together. Please join me in thanking the Bishop, Synod Council, and members of the South Carolina Synod who continue to support the tools necessary to fulfill my calling as a church communicator.

Respectfully submitted,
Neal F. Fischer
Director of Communications

Director for Stewardship **South Carolina Synod Assembly** **2023**

God calls us in Holy Baptism to be disciples. Everyone who goes to the font is called to discipleship. One of the ways we live out our discipleship is stewardship. Stewardship is about all the ways we live out belonging to God. "The goal of our Stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them (us)." (*Ask, Thank, Tell* by Charles R. Lane, page 11)

Stewardship Education for Congregations

South Carolina (SC) Synod stewardship strategies focus on stewardship education, annual response, year-round planning, mission interpretation, missional spending plan and the encouragement to individuals and families to participate in planned giving. Here are a few of the resources available:

- 1) *Rediscover Macedonia* theme materials for education, response and living the mission were launched as a website in July 2012, and are available to all congregations at no cost at www.elca.org/macedonia
- 2) *Stewards of God's Love* is a tool produced by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for doing year-round stewardship ministry in your congregation. Copies of this resource are available at <http://resources.elca.org> or www.ELCA.org/growingstewards.
- 3) *Embracing Stewardship: How to put stewardship at the heart of your congregation's life* by Charles R. Lane and Grace Duddy Pomroy, published in 2016, can be ordered at embracingstewardship.com.
- 4) *Abundance: Creating a Culture of Generosity* by Mike Ward, Fortress Press [2020]
- 5) *Church Finances for Missional Leaders: Best Practices for Faithful Stewardship*, by Bonnie Ives Marden, Wesley's Foundry Books, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, The United Methodist Church [2019]
- 6) *Six Weeks of Money* is an ELCA stewardship resource that helps people grow a healthier relationship with money. It's for people of all ages and situations. <https://start.sixweeksonmoney.com/courses/elca>

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary **Region 9 Council for Stewardship Education**

The Stewardship Symposium was held on January 27, 2023, in-person on the LTSS campus and livestreamed. Bonnie Ives Marden was the presenter on the theme: *Financial Accountability and Empowerment for Missional Leaders*. She is the author of *Church Finances for Missional Leaders: Best Practices for Faithful Stewardship*: a complete guide to church finances and stewardship for congregations of all sizes. Includes guidelines, tools, worksheets, and strategies for pastors, treasurers, trustees, finance, and stewardship chairs and committees as well as reproducible pages with worksheets and sample policies. Wesley's Foundry Books [2019]. There were 58 persons, including rostered ministers and lay persons, attending in person, 38 in person and 20 online. There were 13 seminarians registered. The video link is: <https://scsynod.com/news/what-did-we-learn-at-this-years-stewardship-symposium/>

A Senior Class and Fourth Year Seminarian Symposium was held on February 24-25, 2023, in-person and livestreamed, which offered seminarians first call orientation, an opportunity to learn about the benefits available from Portico Benefit Services and Stewardship Resources available through the Mission Investment Fund. There were twelve seniors and interns participating, eight in person and four online. Pr. Cathy Schibler, Deacon Jerry Johnson and Pr. CeCee Mills served as presenters.

The First Call Theological Education Stewardship Gathering was held at Lutheridge on February 6-8, 2023. The gathering was an opportunity for learning about personal finances, being a steward leader, understanding church finances and preaching and teaching stewardship. There were 73 attendees; including 51 first call rostered ministers; 22 synod staff, leaders, and presenters. There were ten first call rostered ministers from South Carolina Synod present at the gathering. Bishop Pedro Suarez, Florida-Bahamas; Bishop Tim Smith, North Carolina; and Bishop Kevin Strickland, Southeastern provided leadership and gave presentations on stewardship.

It was an honor to serve as Secretary of the LTSS/Region 9 Council for Stewardship Education during the years 2020 to 2022. I continue to serve on the council.

Financial Management Education: New Initiative

Joint Ministries of Region 9 and the LTSS/Region 9 Council for Stewardship Education collaborated to offer two Financial Management Education Workshops, one for Candidates for Rostered Ministry and one for First Call Rostered Ministers in Region 9 led by Kim Miller of LSS Financial Counseling. The workshops are interactive zoom meetings held twice a year for each group and can include up to 50 participants in each workshop. The workshops will not be recorded and confidentially will be preserved. The goal is to help participants feel heard regarding their financial concerns, receive financial tips geared toward their situation and provide an opportunity to share tips and ideas with each other. The cost per workshop is \$400 which was funded by Joint Ministries of Region 9. After each workshop, each participant can engage with a financial counselor for up to six sessions following the workshop at no cost to the participant to help with specific financial questions and concerns.

The first workshop for Candidates for Rostered Ministry was held Wednesday, February 15, 2023 with 26 participants. The registration link was sent to all Region 9 candidates for rostered ministry.

A workshop for First Call Rostered Ministers did not have enough participants. However, Kim Miller, LSS Financial Counseling, offers six sessions of counseling to eligible rostered ministers.

Networking Congregations for Growing Stewards Building a Culture of Generosity

Building a Culture of Generosity (BCG) guided congregations through the fall stewardship appeal with a basic stewardship resource led by GSB consultant, Mike Ward between August, and November 2022. The synod provided a portion of the cost from the budget of the Steward Leader's Network. ELCA also provided \$200 each. The following congregations participated: Bethel, White Rock; Crossroads, Indian Land; Pisgah, Lexington; and Christ, Hilton Head

A 2023 BCG registration flyer and covenant is available to congregations for participation between August and November. BCG will launch in August 2023.

Mission Interpretation

The theme of the 2022 Mission Support Video is: *I Love to Tell the Story*. The scripture text is Joel 1:3: *Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation*. The video features stories on Camp Hugg and Lutheran Church Youth; a Companion Synod story; Restoration Chapel, Greenwood; and the Coffee House Ministry, Messiah, Mauldin.

The video was sent to rostered ministers and Congregation Council presidents and vice presidents along with a Mission Moment devotion. You will find the link to the video and the devotions: Link to devotions - <https://scsynod.com/wp-content/uploads/documents/stewardship/Mission-Moment-Congregation-Council-Devotions-2022.pdf>.

Link to video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTkGYhDRIWU>

Shepherd Callers

Shepherd Callers are a group of persons in the synod who make telephone calls to key congregational leaders to establish caring connections and to deepen relationships. The callers invite the lay chairs of congregations to use the synod video and devotions.

Expand Ways of Giving in Congregations: Moving toward Stewardship in the Digital Age

The goal of *Electronic Giving* is to expand ways of giving in congregations. There are a lot of giving options available. Tithe.ly and Vanco are preferred vendors of the ELCA. The South Carolina Synod uses tithe.ly. Your congregation will receive a significant discount if you use this address and sign up with this Website: <https://get.tithe.ly/elca>

New Consecration Sunday

New Consecration Sunday offers congregations an effective financial response method to build a culture of generosity. This approach to financing the operational ministries of a congregation teaches stewardship from a spiritual perspective. Directed toward raising the level of stewardship rather than toward raising the church budget, *New Consecration Sunday* (NCS) focuses on the question, "What is God calling me to do?" rather than on the question, "What does the church need in order to pay its bills?", *New Consecration Sunday*, Program Book, by Herb Miller. The SC Synod provides significant financial support to congregations who use a Guest Leader and incorporate a catered Celebration Luncheon.

Planned Giving, ELCA Foundation

The South Carolina Synod is in partnership with the ELCA Foundation, Ms. Stephanie Burke, *Regional Gift Planner for the Carolinas*, to strengthen the financial health of our congregations, institutions, and the synod. View the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qE8YZ5uz24k>

Stewardship for All Seasons

The South Carolina Synod offers to partner with congregations in *Stewardship for All Seasons* (SAS). This process is about *Guiding Congregations into Year-round Stewardship Development*. The returning congregations in covenant with the synod during May 2022 to April 2023 included:

Returning Congregations: Fifth Year - St. Matthew, Charleston; Fourth Year - St. John, Beaufort; Third Year - Ebenezer, Columbia and Grace, Rock Hill.

New Congregations in 2022-2023: First Year – Immanuel, Greenwood and St. Michael, Greenville.

New Congregations in 2023-2024: Pisgah, Lexington; Zion, Lexington; and St. John, Walhalla

The Rev. Mike Ward, a partner GSB, is the leader of SAS. The synod provides a portion of the cost for the congregations covenanting to share 10% of their increase with the synod through Mission Support until the congregation reaches 10% of regular giving by members to Mission Support. SAS is a Growing in God's Mission Appeal and Lifeline Fund Initiative. View the video: <https://youtu.be/SvjnUH4ap0c>

Start Date: May 23, 2023, 11:00 a.m. EST

Lutherans Restoring Creation

A part of the strategy of the Stewardship Network includes the *Caring for Creation Task Force*. This task force seeks to foster the concept and application of creation stewardship within our synod. Working with Lutherans Restoring Creation, the team aims to offer resources and generate dialogue from a Lutheran perspective with the SC Synod, its congregations, and individuals. The Rev. Kris Litman-Koon, Pastor, All Saints, Mt. Pleasant, serves as convener for the task force.

Lifeline Fund

Through a “scaling” grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., synods in Region 9 are participating in the *Faith+Finance+Freedom* initiative. This is a part of the *National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders*. The South Carolina Synod entered this partnership in June 2019, appointed a distribution team and agreed to collaborate by raising matching funds. Since 2020, through the Lifeline Fund, with matching grants from the Lilly Foundation, the Lifeline Fund has paid \$164,989 to education lenders to eliminate the education debt of nine rostered ministers and a significant portion of debt for two other rostered ministers. Good news! In fact, the cumulative reduction in educational debt for our pastors and deacons provided by Lifeline grants is over 85 years of education debt payments eliminated.

Grants to rostered ministers for education debt relief, and grants to congregations for stewardship education are now available. The application for Lifeline Fund education debt repayments is found here:

<https://form.jotform.com/200215181602035>

In addition to education debt re-payments, the Lifeline Distribution Team has approved grants in the amount of \$30,290 to ten congregations for participation in stewardship education. Because of the synod’s partnership, the congregation’s fees for participation in Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS) are greatly reduced and more affordable.

The offering received at worship at the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly is designated to the Lifeline Fund. Thank you for blessing this ministry with your good gift.

Anchor Storytelling: New Initiative

The purpose of the Anchor Storytelling Training is to use impact stories to anchor people to God’s mission living out in the context of the congregation. During the Anchor Training, the focus is on “donor first” and telling the story of the impact the work has on the lives of those who are served. The anchor model is designed specifically to increase giving. A grant from Mission Endowment Fund in the amount of \$3,000 funded a portion of the cost. Participating congregations were asked to pay \$400 each or be enrolled in Stewardship for All Seasons. There were four congregations in the SC Synod Cohort: Ebenezer, Columbia; Immanuel, Greenwood; St. Matthew, Charleston; and Living Spring, Columbia. Deacon Mitzie Schafer, GSB, led the storytelling model in February and March 2023.

Thank You

First, we give thanks for those with whom we share faith in Jesus Christ. Second, we give thanks to God for your 2022 Mission Support. Mission Support is the portion of your regular giving by members that your congregation shares with your synod and churchwide ministries. God is making a difference in the lives of our neighbors, congregations, synod ministries and people around the world through your Mission Support dollars.

I am available to congregations to assist in equipping steward leaders in year-round stewardship, conducting an annual response, developing a missional spending plan or meet with pastors to share the best stewardship practices and principles.

For additional stewardship resources, go to the South Carolina Synod website, www.scsynod.com. Select *Deepening Discipleship Table* and choose *Stewardship*.

Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Director for Stewardship
South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ovherlong@aol.com

Report of the Director for Evangelical Mission

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Paul writes in his letters of a collection for the saints in Jerusalem. Scripturally, we know that the church has always been better when we are mutually supportive for our fellow believers whose faces we may never see. Your mission support – in all of its forms – are not just dollars that disappear into a Chicago-shaped hole, or go off to support a church in a far-off place. The work you do and the dollars you give support ministries here in South Carolina that are, in turn, making a difference in our communities.

While we are at our synod assembly this year, I hope you will be able to have conversations with our mission developers so they can tell you the stories of their ministries themselves. All of the stories I have collected this year are too many to fit in this report, so all I want to say: Through your support of leaders and ministries, you are changing people's lives.

You support Pastor Martin Lopez, who is using Parroquia el Mesias' Gospel on Wheels to bring the gospel to a new community that held its first worship service earlier this year. You support his work at Nuestro Salvador which brings the gospel in Spanish to Spanish-speaking Lutherans in the upstate.

You support Pastor Jorge Leone and the congregation of Cristo Rey, who has its occupancy permit for the building you supported building for the congregation. This congregation is one of our youngest in the synod.

You support Pastor Chris Christopher in his work as the developer of Restoration Chapel, and all the work that he has done for the community in recovery, and you support a new iteration of this ministry we hope to open later this year that replicates this ministry to walk in spiritual accompaniment for people in recovery from addiction.

You support Pastor Josh Knutson and the community of Christ Community Lutheran Church of North Charleston – back in their sanctuary for

In support of these ministries, you are following the lead of the saints from Galatia, from Rome, from Corinth, and those earliest of churches who through their generosity grew the church through their support and who laid the foundation for the faith we share today. Your support in all of its forms doesn't simply add to the ministry, but multiplies through your generosity the impact that the Gospel is able to make throughout our synod in transformation of real lives. Thank you, and I hope you continue to be proud of the work you are doing as a synod in Jesus' name.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James Henricks

James R. Crumley Jr Archives
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2023

Administration

Personnel and Hours of Operation

The Archives employs five part-time workers: Shannon Smith, director and archivist; Trudy Bouknight, office manager; Scott Reeves, assistant archivist; Ashley Ragland, archivist aide; and Margaret Mancuso, project specialist.

Accessions

New and reoccurring accessions from Region 9 synods, congregations, and individuals are deposited in the Crumley Archives and are processed by staff.

Special Projects:

“Lutheran Church Visitor”

The LCV was a Lutheran publication that was published 1868-1918. We have had it digitized and are preparing the images for greater dissemination. Margaret Mancuso works on this project, in collaboration with USC.¹

“Historic Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Collection”

Scott Reeves continues to work closely with USC to upload new images. We look forward to this project’s completion by Summer 2023.²

Frankie San Project

Production is complete and the film team is planning a premiere showing, possibly in April, and options for broader distribution. Please follow our Facebook page for more on “Prisoner by Choice: The Frankie San Story”.

Archives Promotional Film

In collaboration with Fisher Films, the Crumley Archives has produced six short segments highlighting the mission of Crumley Archives. They can be viewed on our website and YouTube channel.³

Development

Rev. Dr. Scott Hendrix Scholarship

Applications for this scholarship are due by April 21st, 2023.

Shannon L. Smith

¹ Issues from 1869-1904 can be “browsed” at <https://historicnewspapers.sc.edu/lccn/sn93060372/>

² “Historic Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Collection”: <https://scmemory-search.org/?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=lutheran+theological+southern+seminary>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZB25paG4DHI&list=PLZTWw8PTkt2yEQ1eSj60JYt-nxG0bUNZq>



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Partners in Ministry,

For many of us, 2022 represented a moment of hope. After the darkness and isolation of the pandemic, life has begun to return to normal –offering new opportunities for connection and renewed commitment to serving our neighbor.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has embraced this moment; in the past year, we have grown exponentially in both size and scale, expanding our capacity to welcome immigrants and refugees.

With the help of people of faith and communities like yours, we were able to...

- help **16,690 children** reunify with their families or find safe, loving foster homes
- resettle nearly **12,000 Afghans** forced to flee after Afghanistan fell under Taliban control
- welcome **3,169 refugees** from countries across the world
- assist **18,262 people** seeking safety from Central America and beyond

We continue to expand our slate of innovative programming to move beyond traditional resettlement into an empowered living experience that promotes not just surviving, but thriving.

That work reaches, too, into our media and advocacy footprint. You may have seen LIRS President and CEO Krish O'Mara Vignarajah on national news programs like *PBS Newshour*, *MSNBC*, *NPR*, the *BBC*, and others, advocating on behalf of our immigrant and refugee neighbors from Ukraine to Venezuela.

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

It remains a priority of ours in 2023 to combat the divisive, xenophobic rhetoric surrounding immigration and instead promote kindness, compassion, and inherent human dignity.

We invite you to join us in that work! This year, we will continue to offer opportunities to get involved in the work of welcome, including:

- advocating alongside LIRS and our newest neighbors in celebration of [World Refugee Day](#) on June 20th,
- sharing notes of welcome with children and families impacted by immigration detention through LIRS' [Hope for the Holidays™ program](#) each fall,
- and equipping leaders and faith communities to create more just and welcoming communities through the [LIRS Ambassador Network](#) and [EMMAUS Network for Congregations](#) throughout the year.

Together, we can realize Jesus's ministry of compassion and welcome. We're so grateful for your support and look forward to working alongside you in the coming year.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chelsey Johnson".

Chelsey Johnson, LIRS Mobilization and Faith Relations

National Headquarters: 700 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230 | Phone: 410-983-4000 | Fax: 410-230-2890 | www.lirs.org
Advocacy Office: 110 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 506-507, Washington, DC 20002 | Phone: 202-381-1030 | Fax: 202-330-5807

Helping Members Refill Their Cup with Responsive Benefits

In 2022, Portico invited plan members to use their full range of benefits to care for themselves following the challenges and stress of the last few pandemic years. We continually seek cost-effective and nimble ways to support ELCA leaders, congregations, and organizations with high-quality, innovative, and stable benefits that promote holistic well-being.

- ELCA-Primary health benefits provided both in-person and virtual access to health care and wellness resources.
- Portico's Financial Planners and LSS of Minnesota helped ELCA Retirement Plan members navigate the weight of rising interest rates and market downturns through no- or low-cost financial planning, coaching services, and financial education.

In recent years, we've added several eligible ELCA- and full-communion-partner organizations to the Portico community. Growing the number of members we serve helps us manage costs and offer innovative benefits not typically available to smaller groups, affirming the importance of church together.



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Meeting the Need in 2022

232

Podcast Plays

Of the "Creative Approaches to Innovative Ministry" episode of Being Here last year.

16,002

Total Pounds Lost

Through the Omada prevention program since it launched in 2018, with 2,643 pounds lost in 2022.

591

Retired

With Portico's bundled benefits program — Congratulations to these faithful servants!

1,132

Webinar Views

Of the annual Retirement Readiness Series (live and on-demand).

3,080

Medical Visits via Text Based Care

Through 98point6[®], our virtual primary health care service.

9.75%

Increase in Net Membership

Over the past 5 years.

3,952

Health & Fitness Classes Completed

On Portico's online Bernalong platform.

Over \$2M

Debt Paid Off

By plan members working with LSS of Minnesota financial counseling since the partnership began.

86%

Very Satisfied

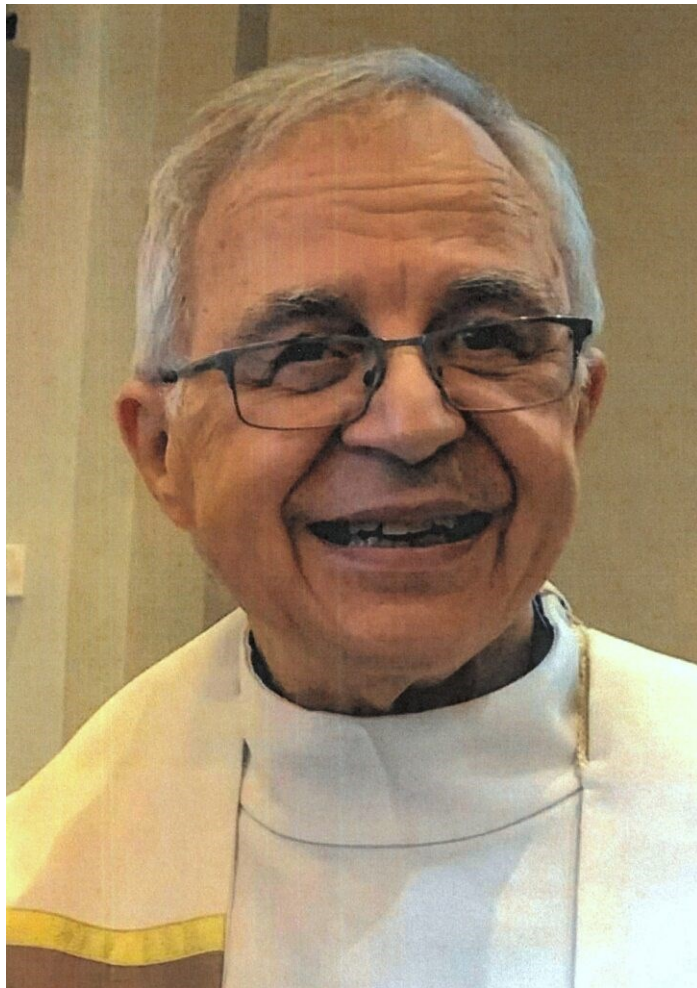
With our Customer Care Center, certified for excellence since 2015.

Report of the Necrologist



Dottie M. Lyerly, 80, of Columbia, South Carolina, passed away on July 22, 2022. She was born on June 27, 1942 in Gastonia, North Carolina.

Dottie was a graduate of Ashley High School in Gastonia, Newberry College and earned a Masters degree in religious education from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. Dottie and her husband, Reverend Gary Lyerly, were married for fifty five years and had one son, Cory.



Reverend Eddie Cloma Miller Jr., 74, passed away on August 8, 2022. He was born on December 5, 1947 in Newberry, South Carolina . Eddie graduated from Newberry High School in 1966 and served in the United States Air Force after high school. He graduated from Newberry College and then earned a Masters of Divinity at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina.

Eddie served as pastor at St. Marks and Corinth Lutheran churches in Saluda, SC, and then as a Chaplain in the US Army at Fort Polk in Leesville, Louisiana. Pastor Ed served St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, Trinity and Saint Nicholas Lutheran Churches in Fairfax South Carolina, St. James-Summit Lutheran Church in Leesville, South Carolina, and Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church, in Saluda, South Carolina. He retired from Mt. Pleasant and then served as Stated Supply Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Newberry, South Carolina. Reverend Eddie Miller and Katheryn Power, who was the love of his life, were married for thirty one years.



June Olivia Moore Fulmer, 86, widow of the Reverend G. Alvin Fulmer, passed away on August 12, 2022.

She was born on November 9, 1935 in Newberry, South Carolina. June and Alvin had three children, Valerie, Steven, and Beth. June especially enjoyed time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Reverend Steven Douglas Jackson, 65, of Newberry, South Carolina, passed away on October 8, 2022.

He was born on February 16, 1957 in Key West, Florida.

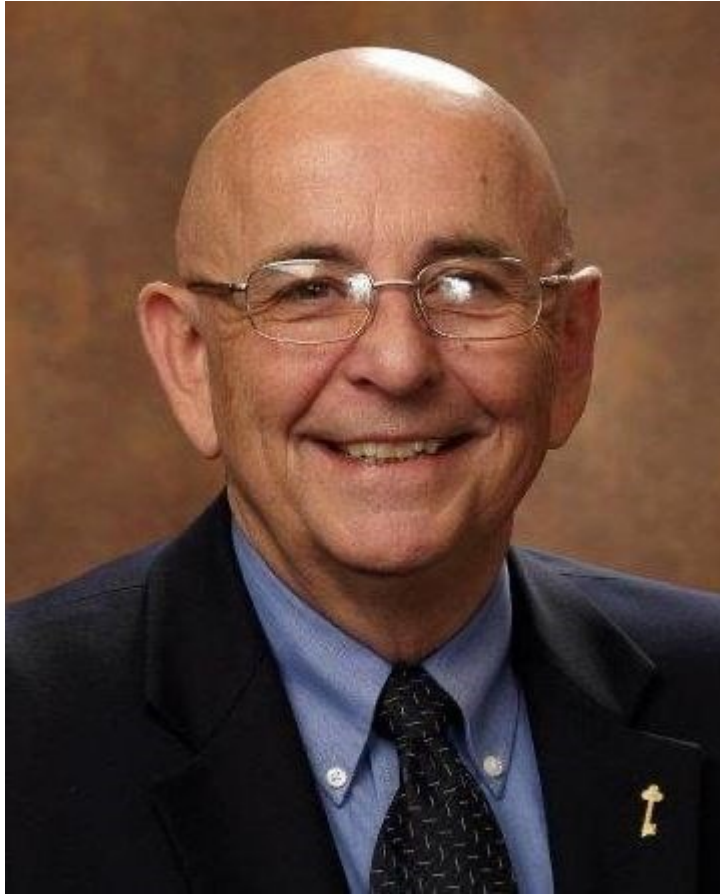
Steven was a graduate of Newberry College and earned his Master of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. He served as pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Pomaria, South Carolina, Silverstreet Lutheran in Silverstreet, South Carolina, and served at St. Matthew's Lutheran in Pomaria, South Carolina.

Steven faithfully served on the Pomaria Rescue Squad, the Pomaria Fire Department, and served as a chaplain and reserve officer with the Newberry County Sheriff's Office.



The Reverend Dr. Larry S. Long, 82, passed away on November 24, 2022. He was born May 20, 1940 in Lexington, South Carolina . He graduated from Lexington High School and Newberry College. Larry received his Master of Divinity at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina and his Doctorate of Ministry from Drew University.

Larry served as pastor at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Columbia, South Carolina, Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Lexington, South Carolina, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in North Augusta, South Carolina, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Columbia, South Carolina and St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Lexington, South Carolina. He served as director of Church Relations/Major Gifts for Lutheran Family Services of the Carolinas. He was married to Bonnie Roof Long for almost sixty years. They have two children, Keith and Kelly, and two grandchildren.

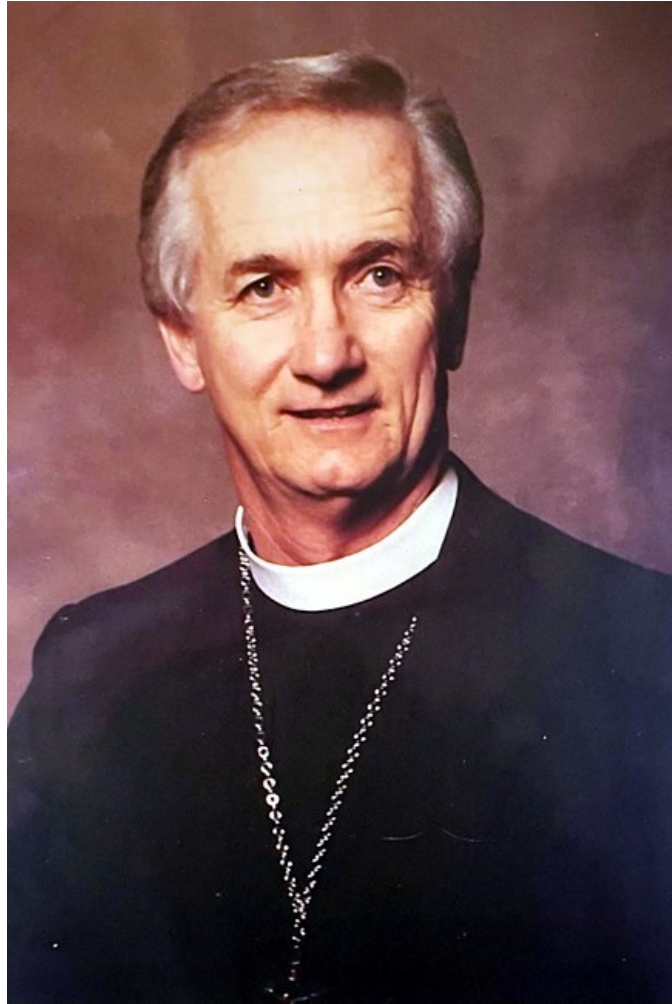


The Reverend Robert G. Coon, 76, passed away on November 18, 2022. Bob was born on August 28, 1946 in Lincolnton, North Carolina . He attended and graduated from West Lincoln High School in Lincoln, North Carolina, Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, North Carolina and earned his Masters of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina.

Bob served as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Greenville, South Carolina for thirty three years. He then served as CEO of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation. He and his wife, Ann Coon, were married for fifty four years and have two children Elizabeth and Bob, as well as eight grandchildren.



Reverend James Heinley Nichols, 87, passed away on Monday, January 2, 2023. He was born on February 9, 1935 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Jim served as pastor at Mount Hope Lutheran in Shiloh, Ohio, Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Seville Ohio, and Reformation Lutheran in Columbia, South Carolina. Jim also served as Assistant to the Bishop of the Ohio Synod Office. He also served as Director and Retreat Leader at Yokefellow Institute in Richmond Indiana and as Executive Director for Central South Carolina Habitat for Humanity in Columbia South Carolina. Jim served as interim pastor for various churches throughout the midlands of South Carolina and continued to supply as he was able until 2022. He especially appreciated serving as supply pastor for St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Jenkinsville, South Carolina.



Reverend Dr. Jacob Harry Crout, 86, passed away on Monday, January 9, 2023. He was born on September 23, 1936.

He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, a Master of Divinity Degree from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina and his Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Newberry College in Newberry, South Carolina. He served as pastor of Ebenezer Lutheran Church Columbia, South Carolina, supply pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, and as interim pastor at Silverstreet Lutheran Church.

He and his wife, Joyce Lord Crout had two sons, David and John and two grandchildren.



Reverend Everette Lewis Lineberger, 93, of Inman passed away on February 11, 2023. He was born on February 16, 1929, near Dallas, North Carolina.

Pastor Lineberger served as pastor of Saint John's Lutheran Church in Spartanburg, South Carolina, at Grace Rock Hill in South Carolina, and Redeemer in Charleston, South Carolina. He was named Pastor Emeritus of Saint John's in 1992.

He and his wife Elizabeth Ann Dry Lineberger were married for sixty five years and had three children, Deborah, Stephen, and John, as well as eight grandchildren.



Reverend Dr. Martin Fredrick Saarinen, 93, of Newberry, South Carolina passed away on April 1, 2023. He was born on July 6, 1929 in Portland, Oregon.

He earned degrees from the University of Minnesota, Suomi Theological Seminary, Wisconsin State University, Hamma School of Theology and Hamilton University. He was ordained into ministry by the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He served as pastor at bilingual Lutheran parishes in Brule, Wisconsin and Ashtabula, Ohio.

He also served as a developer and then as a campus chaplain at Suomi College. After serving as Assistant to the President of the Ohio Synod, Lutheran Church in America, he joined the faculty of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, in Columbia South Carolina. He consulted and served as interim pastor as well. Martin has many beloved family members, including his wife Marilyn and their son Erik.

CONSTITUTION
BYLAWS
AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS
SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
 (as amended November 13, 2023)

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KEY: †Provisions common to all synods of the ELCA.
All constitutional provisions are in bold face type.
 All bylaw material is printed in light face type.
All continuing resolutions are printed in italic type.

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

- †S1.01. The name of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S1.02. For the purposes of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is hereafter designated as "this synod" or "the synod."
- †S1.11. This synod shall be incorporated. Amendments to the articles of incorporation of this synod shall be submitted to the Church Council for ratification before filing.
- †S1.21. The seal of this synod is encircled with a Latin inscription, whose translation is "the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God," Eph. 6:17, and "be wise and harmless," Matt. 10:16. The center of the seal contains a figure of a dove, the symbol of peace. An olive branch is suspended from the mouth of the dove and overlays an open Bible, which carries the word "PAX". Beneath the Bible is the figure of a serpent signifying that the archenemy of God and creation is overcome. Luther's coat of arms, in miniature, completes the symbolism of the seal. The outer edge contains the wording "South Carolina Synod -- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."

Chapter 2.

STATUS

- †S2.01. This synod possesses the powers conferred upon it, and accepts the duties and responsibilities assigned to it, in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, which are recognized as having governing force in the life of this synod.
- †S2.02. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or "this church") as used herein refers in general references to this whole church, including its three expressions—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also the name of the corporation of the churchwide organization to which specific references may be made herein.
- †S2.03. No provision of this constitution shall be inconsistent with the constitution and bylaws of this church.

Chapter 3.

TERRITORY

- †S3.01. The territory of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be the state of South Carolina.
- †S3.02. "Determined by the Churchwide Assembly," as stipulated by †3.01., is understood to include the reported changes in synod relationship made by any congregation in a border area agreed under ELCA bylaws 10.01.01. and 10.01.03.

Chapter 4.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

- †S4.01. This synod confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- †S4.02. This synod confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.
a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose

life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.

- b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

- †S4.03. This synod accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.
- †S4.04. This synod accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this synod.
- †S4.05. This synod accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
- †S4.06. This synod accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.
- †S4.07. This synod confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

Chapter 5. NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- †S5.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this synod are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- †S5.02. This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian Unity throughout the world.
- †S5.03. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. This church, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.
- †S5.04. This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in the Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God's mission in the world.

Chapter 6. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- †S6.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- †S6.02. To participate in God's mission, this synod as a part of the Church shall:
 - a. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
 - b. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as

Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.

- c. **Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing in solidarity with the poor and oppressed and committing itself to their needs.**
- d. **Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.**
- e. **Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.**
- f. **Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.**

†S6.03.

This synod, in cooperation with the churchwide organization, shall bear primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in its territory. In fulfillment of this role and consistent with policies and procedures of this church, the synod shall:

- a. **Provide for pastoral care of congregations and rostered ministers in the synod;**
- b. **Plan for, facilitate, and nurture the mission of this church through congregations;**
- c. **Strengthen interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and foster relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as ecumenical partners.**
- d. **Interpret the work of this church to congregations and to the public on the territory of the synod.**

†S6.03.01.

The responsibilities of the synod include the following:

- a. providing for pastoral care of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service, in the synod, including:
 - 1) approving candidates for rostered ministry in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synod committees;
 - 2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining rostered ministers on behalf of this church; and
 - 3) consulting in the call process for rostered ministers.
- b. providing for leadership recruitment, preparation, and support in accordance with churchwide standards and policies, including:
 - 1) nurturing and supporting congregations and lay leaders;
 - 2) seeking and recruiting qualified candidates for the rostered ministries of this church;
 - 3) making provision for pastoral care, call review, and guidance;
 - 4) encouraging and supporting persons on the rosters of this church in stewardship of their abilities, care of self, and pursuit of continuing education to undergird their effectiveness of service; and
 - 5) supporting recruitment of leaders for this church's colleges, universities, seminaries, and social ministry organizations.
- c. providing for discipline of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service; as well as for termination of call, appointment, adjudication, and appeals consistent with Chapter 20 of this church's constitution.
- d. providing for archives in conjunction with other synods.

†S6.03.02.

In planning for, facilitating, and nurturing the mission of this church through congregations, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:

- a. developing of new ministries, redevelopment of existing ministries, and support and assistance in the conclusion, if necessary, of a particular ministry;
- b. leading and encouraging of congregations in their evangelism efforts;
- c. assisting members of its congregations in carrying out their ministries in the world;
- d. encouraging congregations to respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society;
- e. providing resources for congregational life;
- f. grouping congregations in conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions for mission purposes.

†S6.03.03.

In strengthening interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and in fostering relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as with ecumenical partners, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:

- a. promoting interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and entering into relationships with other synods in the region;

- b. fostering organizations for youth, women, and men, and organizations for language or ethnic communities;
- c. developing relationships with social ministry organizations and ministries, participating in their mission planning, and providing supportive funding;
- d. supporting relationships with and providing supportive funding on behalf of colleges, universities, and campus ministries;
- e. maintaining relationships with and providing supportive funding on behalf of seminaries and continuing education centers;
- f. fostering supporting relationships with camps and other outdoor ministries;
- g. fostering supporting relationships with preschools, elementary schools, and secondary schools operated by congregations of the synod;
- h. fostering relationships with ecumenical and global companions;
- i. cooperating with other synods and the churchwide organization in creating, using, and supporting regions to carry out those functions of the synod which can best be done cooperatively with other synods and the churchwide organization.

†S6.03.04. In interpreting the work of this church on the territory of the synod, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:

- a. encouraging financial support for the work of this church by individuals and congregations;
- b. participating in churchwide programs;
- c. interpreting social statements in a manner consistent with the interpretation given by the churchwide unit or office which assisted in the development of the statement, and suggestion of social study issues;
- d. providing ecumenical guidance and encouragement.

S6.03.10. Agencies and Institutions

S6.03.11. This synod has a relationship with the institutions listed below. In harmony with their charters, the Synod Assembly shall elect or the Synod Council shall ratify members of Boards of Trustees, according to the plans set forth in the constitutions and bylaws of the respective institutions.

- a. South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers, Inc., Batesburg-Leesville, South Carolina
- b. Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, Inc., Salisbury, North Carolina
- c. Lutheran Services for the Aging, Inc., Salisbury, North Carolina
- d. Lutheran Homes of South Carolina, Inc., Columbia, South Carolina
- e. Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenior-Rhyne University, Columbia, South Carolina
- f. NovusWay Ministries, Inc., Arden, North Carolina
- g. Newberry College, Newberry, South Carolina

S6.03.12. The institutions related to this synod shall make an annual report to the assembly.

†S6.04. **Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the Synod Council shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of the synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; and that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men; and that, where possible, the representation of rostered ministers shall include both men and women. This synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.**

†S6.04.01. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

†S6.05. **Each assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body of this synod or any synod units shall be conclusively presumed to have been properly constituted, and neither the method of selection nor the composition of any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body may be challenged in a court of law by any person or be used as the basis of a challenge in a court of law to the validity or effect of any action taken or authorized by any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body.**

†S6.06. **References herein to the nature of the relationship between the three expressions of this church—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—as being interdependent or as being in a partnership relationship describe the mutual responsibility of these expressions in God’s mission and the fulfillment of the purposes of this church as described in this chapter, and do not imply or describe the creation of partnerships, co-ventures, agencies, or other legal relationships recognized in civil law.**

**Chapter 7.
SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

†S7.01. **This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority. The powers of the Synod Assembly are limited only by the provisions in the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, the assembly’s own resolutions, and the constitutions and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

S7.01.01. The following committees shall be appointed by the bishop from the voting members of the Synod Assembly at least 30 days prior to the meeting of the assembly:

- a. Committee of Reference and Counsel. The duties of the Committee of Reference and Counsel shall be to report to the assembly with its recommendations all resolutions submitted to it. Resolutions of a general character which are not germane to pending questions or reports shall be submitted on no more than one page of 8 ½ x 11-inch paper to the synodical secretary no later than 15 days prior to the formal opening of the assembly. The committee shall provide copies of all resolutions to the voting members of the assembly. Other duties of the committee shall be to recommend special orders for the hearing of representatives, to grant or deny permission to distribute printed matter not issuing from the office of the secretary, and to give such assistance to the bishop as the bishop may desire in the course of the assembly.
- b. Committee on Conduct of Elections. The duties of the Committee on Conduct of Elections shall be to distribute and collect at the direction of the bishop ballots for all elections, to supervise the tellers in the counting of ballots, to report the results of all elections to the assembly, and to give such assistance to the bishop as the bishop may desire in the course of the assembly.

S7.01.A23. *In reviewing proposed memorials, resolutions, and main motions, the Committee of Reference and Counsel may edit, prepare an alternative memorial, resolution, or motion, or consolidate into a single proposed action multiple memorials, resolutions, or main motions on the same or similar subjects. Whenever the Committee of Reference and Counsel recommends an edited or alternative memorial, resolution, or motion, the report to the assembly shall also contain the original maker’s text.*

S7.01.B23. *The Committee of Reference and Counsel shall report its recommendations on memorials, resolutions, and main motions to the Synod Assembly. Such recommendations do not require a second. When the Committee of Reference and Counsel recommends approval, the committee’s recommendation shall be the main motion before the assembly. When the Committee of Reference and Counsel recommends the adoption of a substitute or alternative motion, the committee’s recommendation shall be the main motion before the assembly. When the Committee of Reference and Counsel recommends referral, the committee’s recommendation shall become the main motion before the assembly. When the Committee of Reference and Council recommends that the assembly decline a proposed memorial, resolution, or main motion, the recommendation shall be reported to the assembly. If the author or another voting member wishes to bring the declined proposed memorial, resolution, or main motion to the floor, the voting member may move the matter, and it shall become the main motion before the assembly, and the committee’s recommendation shall be received for information.*

S7.01.C11. *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.*

†S7.11. **A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least triennially.**

S7.11.01. The Synod Assembly shall meet annually. The time and place shall be fixed by the assembly before adjournment or by the Synod Council.

- S7.11.02. To the extent permitted by state law, the South Carolina Synod Assembly may meet by means of remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, so long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. Notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.
- S7.11.03. Voting members shall attend meetings of the assembly.
- S7.11.04. The secretary shall distribute the *Bulletin of Reports* for the Synod Assembly to the voting members at least 15 days before each regular assembly.
- S7.11.05. At the regular annual meeting, the Synod Assembly shall approve a budget for the following fiscal year.
- S7.12. Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council, and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the voting members of the Synod Assembly.**
- a. **The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held. The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the subject matter(s) described in the notice.**
 - b. **If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is required for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**
- S7.13. **Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod.**
- S7.14. **One-half of the voting members registered for the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.**
- †S7.21. **The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:**
- a. **All rostered ministers under call on the roster of this synod shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly.**
 - b. **A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men.**
 - c. **Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.**
- S7.21.01. Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until voting members are seated at the next regular Synod Assembly.
- †S7.21.02. If a special Synod Assembly is called and voting members at the previous assembly are unable to serve as voting members, where permitted by state law, the congregation through the Congregation Council may elect new members who shall continue to serve until the next regular Synod Assembly.
- S7.21.03. Each congregation shall certify to the synodical secretary at least 30 days before the assembly the names of the regular and alternate voting members elected by the congregation. Any changes in lay voting members must be certified to the synodical secretary before the beginning of each business session.
- S7.21.A21. Each congregation of this synod shall be entitled to at least two lay voting members. Each congregation having 300 to 649 baptized members shall be entitled to one additional lay voting member. Each congregation having 650 to 999 baptized members shall be entitled to two additional lay voting members. Each congregation having 1000 or more baptized members shall be entitled to three additional lay voting members. Baptized members shall be based on the annual congregational report of each congregation for the year preceding the assembly. Each congregation of this synod shall be entitled to one additional lay voting member who is under the age of thirty at the time of the assembly. Each congregation of this synod shall be entitled to one additional lay voting member who is a person of color or whose primary language is other than English.*

- S7.22.** This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.22.01. All retired ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service on the rosters of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
- S7.22.02. All ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service granted disability status on the rosters of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
- †S7.23.** The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of the churchwide organization as may be designated by the presiding bishop, shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.
- S7.23.01. All ministers of Word and Sacrament on leave from call and all ministers of Word and Service on leave from call, who are on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
- S7.24.** Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly as long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until the opening of the next regular synod assembly, or unless replaced by the election of new members for a special synod assembly, or until they have been disqualified by termination of congregation membership.
- †S7.25.** Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* each voting member of the Synod Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.
- S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit lay representatives of authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.
- S7.26.A20. *Each authorized worshiping community of this synod shall be entitled to two lay voting members, one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman.*
- S7.27.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.
- S7.27.01. A minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in attendance at the Synod Assembly who has complied with the provisions of S14.15. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the synod assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this synod. The bishop shall certify to the secretary at least 30 days before assembly those ministers of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, serving in an ELCA congregation of this synod who are eligible to be voting members.
- S7.28.** Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly under †S7.21. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly.
- †S7.31.** Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of the Synod Assembly.
- 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.A20.

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 with the exception of assemblies held online or in regard for the safety of voting members.*

S7.33.

"Ex-officio" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.

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 ministers of Word and Service of this church.**
- 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) Direct and guide the work of the other officers;
 - 5) Exercise supervision over 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 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 synod 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.**

†S8.16 Conflicts of Interest

†S8.16.01. The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synod bishops:

- a. Whenever a synod bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in †S8.16.01.b. may require the bishop's determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in †S8.16.01.c., the synod bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synod bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.
- b. Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provisions 7.46. and 7.75. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (†S14.18. and †S14.43.), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the synod bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the official rosters of this church.
- c. A related individual is one who, with respect to the synod bishop, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

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.

S8.30. Secretary

†S8.31. The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or a rostered minister.

†S8.32. The secretary shall:

- a. Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct.
- b. Be authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to attest all instruments which require the same, and which are signed and sealed by the bishop.
- c. In consultation with the bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod.
- d. Submit to the secretary of this church at least nine months before each regular Churchwide Assembly a certified list of the voting members elected by the Synod Assembly.

S8.32.01. The secretary shall be responsible for the preparation, printing, and distribution of the *Bulletin of Reports* for the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

S8.40. Treasurer

†S8.41. The treasurer may be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The treasurer may be either a layperson or rostered minister.

S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

- a. Management of the monies and accounts of this synod, its deeds, mortgages, contracts, evidences of claims and revenues, and trust funds, holding the same at all times subject to the order of this synod.
- b. Investment of funds upon the authorization of the Synod Council.
- c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this

synod for the general work of this church as well as any funds to support restricted programs of this church.

- d. Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of this synod and informing the congregation, at least semiannually, of the status of this account.
- e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full and detailed report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of this synod for the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, for record and publication in the minutes, of the contributions from the congregations.

S8.50. General Provisions

†S8.51. The terms of office of the officers of this synod shall be as follows:

- 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. The officer shall serve until a successor takes office.
- c. The treasurer of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected. The treasurer shall serve until a successor takes office.

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.

†S8.54. Should the bishop die, resign, or be unable to serve, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the bishop until an election of a new bishop can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop is able to serve again. Such arrangements may include the appointment by the Synod Council of an interim bishop, who during the vacancy or period of disability shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop. The term of the successor bishop, elected by the next Synod Assembly or a special meeting of the Synod Assembly called for the purpose of election, shall be six years with the subsequent election to take place at the Synod Assembly closest to the expiration of such a term and with the starting date of a successor term to be governed by constitutional provision S8.52.

S8.55. Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be six years.

†S8.56. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall determine whether an officer is unable to serve; the officer may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee by requesting a hearing before the Synod Council. A meeting to determine the ability of an officer to serve shall be called upon the request of at least three members of the Executive Committee and prior written notice of the meeting shall be given to the officer in question at least ten calendar days prior to the meeting.

†S8.57. The recall or dismissal of an officer and the vacating of office may be effected for willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church; for such physical or mental disability as renders the officer incapable of performing the duties of office; or for such conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action as a rostered minister or as a member of a congregation of this church.

- a. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of a synod bishop shall be instituted by written petition by:
 - 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
 - 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting;
 - 3) at least 10 synod bishops; or
 - 4) the presiding bishop of this church.

- b. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of an officer of a synod, other than the synod bishop, shall be instituted by written petition by:
 - 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
 - 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting; or
 - 3) the synod bishop.
- c. The petition shall be filed with the chair of the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631) and shall set forth the specific charge or charges.
- d. Upon the filing of a written petition, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council may temporarily suspend the officer from service in the synod without prejudice, but with continuation of compensation, including benefits, if the officer is a salaried employee of the synod.
- e. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of an officer of the synod, the procedures outlined in †S8.56. shall be followed, and such officer shall comply with the decision of the Synod Council. If such officer fails or refuses to comply, the Synod Council may proceed to petition for recall or dismissal as follows:
 - 1) the Synod Council will submit a written report of their findings and the basis of their decision to the Committee on Appeals.
 - 2) the Committee on Appeals, exclusive of any members who are disqualified, shall review the findings and decision of the Synod Council and by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting may adopt the findings and grant the petition.
- f. If the synod officer is a minister of Word and Sacrament, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.22.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.21. and 20.22. as grounds for discipline. If the officer is a minister of Word and Service, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.23.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.21. and 20.22. as grounds for discipline.
- g. If the officer is a layperson, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.41.01. as grounds for discipline.
- h. If the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action, the following procedures shall apply:
 - 1) the petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals, which shall function as the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the rules provided for in ELCA bylaw 20.22.14. except to the extent that those rules are in conflict with the provisions of this bylaw; and
 - 2) the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, may grant the petition by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting.
- i. Written notice of a decision by the Committee on Appeals that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the affected officer and to the Synod Council, and the office shall be vacated.

†S8.58. If the bishop is to be temporarily absent from the synod for an extended period not to exceed 90 days, the bishop, after consultation with the presiding bishop and with the consent of the Synod Council, may appoint as acting bishop for such period minister of Word and Sacrament of this church. Except as limited by action of the Synod Council, an acting bishop shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop other than authority to ordain or to authorize the ordination of properly approved candidates for ordination.

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.

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of at least seven persons and not more than 12 persons who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee. The size of the Nominating Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's continuing resolutions.

S9.03.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect voting members of the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA on the basis approved by that body. The Nominating Committee of this synod shall nominate twice the number of nominees for the places to be filled. In its nominations the committee shall seek to have equitable representation by the various geographic areas of this synod. After the regular voting members have been elected, rostered ministers, lay women, and lay men nominees receiving the next highest number of votes respectively shall constitute the alternates. If any voting member be unable to attend the assembly, they shall inform the bishop of this synod who shall fill all vacancies from the alternates in the order of the votes received.

S9.03.02. The Nominating Committee shall strive to ensure that all persons nominated for any position possess the necessary competence and experience for the position. The committee shall, insofar as possible, insure that all geographic areas of this synod are represented among the nominees.

S9.03.03. Any nominations from the floor shall meet the same criteria as required for the position for which nominated.

S9.03.04. Terms of service for members of the Synod Council and for persons elected by this synod to boards of trustees of the institutions to which this synod is related shall be limited to two consecutive terms of three years each. Terms of service begin at the conclusion of the Synod Assembly at which they are elected. Terms of service end at the Synod Assembly at which their successors are elected. Should the constitution of any institution or agency specify a term of office for board members other than three years, the constitution of the institution shall take precedence over this bylaw as far as length of term is concerned. In computing eligibility for continued membership on the Synod Council, boards on which the synod is entitled to representation, or other organizational units where applicable, at the conclusion of a full term, service which preceded such term without interruption shall be disregarded if its duration was shorter than half a term.

S9.03.05. Any qualified person shall be eligible for election to and simultaneous service on one board and one committee. No person, except the bishop of synod, shall be eligible to serve simultaneously on two elective boards. No elected member of the Synod Council shall serve simultaneously on any other elective board or committee.

S9.03.06. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a ballot in accord with †S6.04. for Synod Council elections to assure Synod Council membership includes: at least one man and one woman who are persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English; and nine geographic seats in accord with S9.03.02.; S12.01.20.; S12.01.21.; and S12.01.22. with three persons serving from each of the three geographic areas. A rotating basis for the election of lay men, lay women, and rostered ministers from each of the three areas shall be established for the Synod Council members elected from the areas with one lay man, one lay woman and one rostered minister elected each year; and nine at-large seats open to persons from across the territory of the South Carolina Synod, including one lay man, one lay woman, and one rostered minister to be elected each year; and

one youth serving a two-year term.

- S9.03.A06. The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine persons from the conferences and three persons from the geographical areas of this synod as described in S12.01.20., S12.01.21., and S12.01.22. Each of the nine conferences shall have one person on the committee. At least one of the twelve persons shall be a member of the Synod Council. The Synod Council shall appoint the chair of the nominating committee. Members of the nominating committee shall serve two-year terms. In order to have continuity on the committee from year to year, the terms of one-half of the twelve members shall expire each year. The committee's report shall be included in the Bulletin of Reports for the Synod Assembly. It shall nominate two persons for each vacancy to be filled by election except the officers of this synod.*
- 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).*
- S9.05. The vice president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot as specified in S9.04.**
- S9.06. The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot as specified in S9.04.**
- S9.07. If the treasurer is elected, the Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.**
- 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.**
- †S9.10. When notified by the secretary of this church, on behalf of the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly, the Synod Assembly shall nominate two persons in the specified categories for possible election by the Churchwide Assembly to the Church Council.**
- S9.11. The Synod Council shall elect representatives to the steering committee of its region.**

S9.11.01. The Synod Council, in consultation with the other synods in the region, will establish the number of representatives to the steering committee and the length of their respective terms.

†S9.12. **Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as synod 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.**

Chapter 10. SYNOD COUNCIL

†S10.01. **The Synod Council consisting of the four officers of this synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one young adult, shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.**

- a. **Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ministers on a roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.**
- b. **The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be three years.**

†S10.02. **The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of this synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions which are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or which are not precluded by the provisions of this constitution or the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

S10.03. **The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:**

- a. **Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.**
- b. **Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.**
- c. **Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.**
- d. **Provide for the annual review of the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of ministers of Word and Service, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.**
- e. **Issue letters of call to rostered ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
- f. **Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of this synod.**
- g. **Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.**
- h. **Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.**

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.**

S10.05. **No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service.**

S10.06. **If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which she or he was elected, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant.**

S10.06.01. **If a member is absent without excuse from two successive regular meetings of the council, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant.**

S10.07. **The composition of the Synod Council, the number of its members, and the manner of their selection, as well as the organization of the Synod Council, its additional duties and responsibilities, and the number of meetings to be held each year shall be as set forth in the bylaws.**

S10.07.02. **The Synod Council shall consist of the four officers of this synod; 21 members elected to three-year terms,**

including persons from nine geographic seats and nine persons at-large; including at least one man and one woman who are persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English; and at least one young adult. There shall be one youth elected to a two-year term. The terms of one-third of the 21 members, as nearly as possible, shall expire each year.

- S10.07.A94. The youth member of the council shall be in school grades 8-11 at the time of election and shall be eligible for only one two-year term. Should the youth member resign or be unable to serve, the Synod Council may appoint a youth to fill the vacancy until the next regular Synod Assembly. The term of the youth member elected by that Synod Assembly shall be two years. Time served by appointment shall not count as part of the two-year term.*
- S10.07.03. If a person moves from the geographic area in which he or she was elected the person may serve until a replacement is elected at the next Synod Assembly. The vacancy shall be filled subject to the limitations of bylaw S9.03.04.
- S10.07.04. The Synod Council shall appoint the necessary committees for the proper function of its duties.
- S10.07.05. The Synod Council shall appoint annually the convener of each table in accordance with S11.01.03. The convener of each table, in consultation with the Office of the Bishop, shall appoint the convener of each network.
- S10.07.A14. The composition of tables, networks, task forces shall be in accordance with †S6.04.*
- S10.07.B14. The Synod Council shall appoint from its membership a liaison to each of the tables. The duties of the liaisons shall include the following:*
- a. attending the meetings of the table and participation as a full seat at the table with voice and vote;*
 - b. reporting recommendations, activities, plans and needs of the table to the council;*
 - c. submitting a written report to the council in advance of each meeting; and*
 - d. communicating information from the council to the tables.*
- S10.07.06. The Synod Council shall have at least three stated meetings annually. Special meetings may be called by the bishop or the vice president. A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum.
- S10.07.07. The assistants to the bishop shall be accorded the privilege of the floor, without vote, at the meetings of the Synod Council except when it shall declare itself in executive session. Other persons may be accorded the privilege of the floor, without vote, at meetings of the Synod Council except when it shall declare itself in executive session.
- S10.07.08. Other duties and functions of the Synod Council shall be to:
- a. Promote the interests of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
 - b. Supervise and coordinate the work of the several agencies of this synod;
 - c. Elect staff officials, if and when such positions are created by the Synod Assembly and arrange for their proper induction into office;
 - d. Determine, when necessary, the time and place for each meeting of the Synod Assembly;
 - e. Set the salaries of the bishop and staff officials, and other employees of this synod;
 - f. Elect the representatives of this synod who are to serve, in addition to the bishop ex-officio, on the governing bodies of inter-church agencies to which this synod is related;
 - g. Institute and oversee a system of personnel practices applicable to all synodical staff officials and other employees;
 - h. Make an annual examination of all investments and securities held by this synod;
 - i. Supervise and regulate the *South Carolina Lutheran* (or its successor) and other official publications of this synod, including the selection of personnel and terms of office.
 - j. Provide communication and coordination between the region and this synod and its agencies, institutions, and congregations; and
 - k. Arrange the process for all elections and appointments of this synod to assure conformity with established criteria of the ELCA.
- S10.08. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.**
- S10.08.01. To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

- S10.09. The South Carolina Synod shall have an endowment fund that is administered for purposes defined in the bylaws under the authority of the Synod Council.**
- S10.09.01. The South Carolina Synod Mission Endowment Fund, established as provided in S10.09., shall be invested in accord with the "General Statement of South Carolina Synod Investment Policies," as adopted by the Synod Council.
- S10.09.02. An Endowment Grant Committee for the South Carolina Synod Mission Endowment Fund shall consist of the bishop of the South Carolina Synod or his or her appointee, the treasurer of this synod, and five members elected by the Synod Assembly. Two of the elected members shall be lay women, two shall be lay men and one shall be a rostered minister on the roster of this synod. The term of office for the five persons elected by the Synod Assembly to membership on this committee shall be three years; individuals so chosen may not serve more than two consecutive full terms. The ex officio and elected members of the committee shall elect a chairperson from the committee's membership.
- a. The members of the Endowment Grant Committee shall not receive compensation for their duties.
 - b. The Endowment Grant Committee shall be responsible to the South Carolina Synod through the Synod Council and shall provide annually a report of disbursements to the Synod Assembly.
 - c. The Endowment Grant Committee shall meet at least annually and provide the means, dates, and deadlines for grant requests, review such requests, and make recommendations for disbursements to the Synod Council.
- S10.09.03. No more than five percent (5%) of the Mission Endowment Fund may be distributed in any given year and of this amount, up to fifty percent (50%) may be granted for mission development within the South Carolina Synod and up to fifty percent (50%) may be granted for special expressions of God's love in the world. These grants shall not be used to support operational expenses of the synod or any other entity.

**Chapter 11.
TABLES, NETWORKS, TASK FORCE AND COMMITTEES**

- †S11.01. **There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on Discipline, a Mutual Ministry Committee, an Audit Committee, and such other committees as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties and functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created by this synod, and the composition and organizational structure of such units, shall be as set forth in this constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**
- S11.01.01. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of this synod and two members of the Synod Council elected by the council. The members at large shall be elected annually at the first meeting of the council following the Synod Assembly. The Executive Committee shall perform those functions assigned to it by the Synod Council.
- S11.01.02. This synod shall have a structure to initiate, implement, and oversee the programs and priorities of this synod receiving direction and counsel from the Synod Assembly and the Synod Council.
- S11.01.03. This synod shall have the following organizational units:
- a. A Deepening Discipleship Table
 - b. A Community Engagement Table
 - c. A Communication and Technology Table
- S11.01.A21. *The Deepening Discipleship Table*
The Deepening Discipleship Table will support and serve the people of the South Carolina Synod, by equipping current and future disciples for leadership. This table includes the following networks:
- a. *The Equipping Rostered Ministers Network will assist the rostered ministers of the SC Synod as they live their baptismal vocation through self-care, learning, discerning and fellowship.*
 - b. *The Equipping Steward Leaders Network will train leaders who will assist people in understanding the biblical relationship between resources and mission and equip them to live accordingly.*
 - c. *The Lifelong Faith Formation Network will assist congregations by supporting their capacity to develop and to nurture the Christian faith for all ages.*
- S11.01.B21. *Community Engagement Table*

The Community Engagement Table will work to inspire and equip the people of the South Carolina Synod to discern and live out God's justice, peace, and wholeness as they accompany their neighbors in their local communities and beyond. This table includes the following networks:

- a. The Global Mission and Companion Synod Network will assist people to become aware of opportunities to interact with and support brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. This Network promotes a missional view of accompaniment- walking alongside the communities with whom it interacts, learning each community's story and recognizing how God is already at work with their communities.*
- b. The Community Outreach Network will assist people to make Christ known by partnering with neighbors and congregations as they work to address the specific needs of their communities.*
- c. The Inclusiveness Network will assist people in actively inviting and welcoming all persons regardless of race or culture by sharing the grace and love of Jesus Christ.*
- d. The Ecumenical Network will assist people in the activity of ecumenical and interreligious relationships and enhance the public commitments of this synod to Lutheran, ecumenical, and interfaith cooperation, promoting unity among Christ's people.*
- e. The Equipping Youth and Young Adults Network will gather, equip, and inspire youth and young adults, by promoting opportunities for fellowship, service and baptismal vocational engagement.*
- f. The Hunger Relief Network will work to encourage and equip people, communities of faith, and organizations within the South Carolina Synod support sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.*
- g. The Vision of The Indigenous Peoples Accompaniment Network is to learn and educate churches and other groups about the need to seek truth, justice, and reconciliation with all Indigenous Peoples in South Carolina, and practice accompaniment with Indigenous Peoples.*

S11.01.C21. Communication and Technology Table

The Communication and Technology Table will assist the people of the South Carolina Synod to develop communications through digital media, print media, web development and technology. This table includes the following networks:

- a. The Communication Assistance Network will assist congregations in developing the tools necessary to tell their story.*
- b. The Synod Technology Advisory Network will work in consultation with Synod staff and Information Technology professionals to make recommendations regarding hardware and software needs.*
- c. The Assembly Communications Network will provide information leading up to Synod Assembly, real-time updates during the Synod Assembly through social media and the website, along with news and stories following up after Synod Assembly.*

S11.01.D14. The tables, networks and task forces shall function according to the following:

- a. A table is a gathering of disciples from networks that will discern vision and mission priorities.*
- b. A network is a gathering of disciples who will connect people, resources, and ideas for mission.*
- c. A task force is a gathering of disciples who organize themselves and others, turning ideas into action for God's mission.*
- d. The work of the tables, networks and task forces shall be guided by the vision, priorities and guiding principles of the South Carolina Synod.*
 - 1) God's purpose for the people of the South Carolina Synod: Joining Neighbors + Serving Boldly + Loving All + Through Christ.*
 - 2) The Four Missional Priorities of the South Carolina Synod include the following:*
 - a) Equipping people and congregations for community engagement*
 - b) Deepening Discipleship*
 - c) Addressing public educational needs in our schools*
 - d) Tackling poverty in our communities*
 - 3) The Guiding Principles of the South Carolina Synod include the following:*
 - a) Through prayerful discernment, we will trust God to lead us in doing what matters to God.*
 - b) Knowing God's redeeming love is for all, we will embrace change, welcome all, and serve the needs of others.*
 - c) Believing there is one body and one Spirit, we will stay connected while serving in Christ-like ways with generosity and compassion.*
- e. Each table shall meet at least annually.*
- f. Each table shall provide a written report of its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.*
- g. Each table shall propose a budget annually to the Finance Committee.*
- h. Each network may appoint task forces to carry out the work of the network.*

†S11.02. The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12

persons, of whom half shall be rostered ministers and half shall be lay persons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws.

- S11.02.01. The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of 12 persons.
- †S11.03. **The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be rostered ministers and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.**
a. **The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**
b. **The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee of Discipline for any unexpired term.**
- †S11.04. **The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the bishop.**
- S11.04.01. The Mutual Ministry Committee shall consist of one minister of Word and Sacrament and two laypersons. At least one member of the committee shall be a member of the Synod Council. The Executive Committee shall consult with the bishop in making appointments to the committee. This committee shall seek to give encouragement by its concern for the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of the Office of the Bishop of this synod. It will offer support when they are experiencing personal or pastoral stress. It will allow for open communication concerning attitudes and conditions within this synod.
- †S11.05. **The Audit Committee of this synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom is a member of the synod staff. Up to half of the committee members may be Synod Council members. The Audit Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term of three years and be eligible for re-election to a second consecutive three-year term. The terms of the Audit Committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod's accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as provided in †S15.31.**
- S11.05.A18. *The Synod Council shall appoint annually one council member to the Audit Committee who shall report the Audit Committee findings, written reports, and recommendations to the Synod Council for consideration.*
- S11.05.B18. *The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall place on the agenda of each Synod Council meeting the committee's findings, written reports, and recommendations.*
- †S11.11. **This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ministers on the rosters of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.**

Chapter 12.

CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS, COALITIONS, OR OTHER AREA SUBDIVISIONS

- †S12.01. **This synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, area subdivisions and networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and entities, as specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships for missional purposes among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other affiliates.**
- S12.01.10. Conferences
- S12.01.11. The congregations of this synod shall be organized into conferences as identified in S12.01.D06. In addition to fostering interdependent relationships each conference may:
- be a source of inspiration for the members of the congregations of the conference;
 - provide for the exchange of information;

- c. promote fellowship among members of the congregations in the conference through a variety of conference events;
- d. provide for educational events such as workshops, schools of religion, or groups which study scripture, theology, social issues, etc.;
- e. provides for missional networks and events for the benefit of congregations of the conference; and
- f. form associations for rostered leaders within the conference.

S12.01.12. Each conference shall have at least one Conference Assembly per year. Notice of any conference meetings shall be given to all congregations and rostered leaders of the conference not less than 30 days prior to said meeting.

S12.01.13. Each conference shall elect a dean from the list of rostered leaders within the conference. The dean shall be elected for a term of three years and shall serve no more than two terms consecutively. The dean shall be viewed as an extension of the Office of the Bishop assisting the bishop in providing care to the congregations, and rostered leaders within the conference. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the dean, the bishop shall appoint a dean *pro tempore* who shall serve until the next assembly of the conference. The dean shall be reimbursed for expenses from the Office of the Bishop.

S12.01.14. The conference deans and not more than two other rostered leaders appointed by the bishop shall form a Cabinet of Deans who shall serve in an advisory capacity to the bishop.

S12.01.15. Each conference may have a Conference Council chosen as described in S12.01.17. The purpose of the council is to carry out the functions of the conference as described in S12.01.11. The dean shall preside at the annual Conference Assembly, other meetings of the conference, and the Conference Council meetings. Other officers may be chosen from among the members of the council as deemed necessary to maintain records of the conference and council proceedings and to announce the programs/events of the conference.

S12.01.16. Members of the council, the dean, and any other officers chosen shall be elected to three-year terms. They shall be eligible for one re-election.

S12.01.17. A Conference Council may be elected at the annual Conference Assembly.

S12.01.A20. The Office of the Bishop defines the ministry expectations and responsibilities of the conference dean as follows:

- a. the dean will provide pastoral care to rostered ministers and congregations within the conference, normally, but not exclusively, at the request of the Office of the Bishop;*
- b. the dean will serve as a member of the Cabinet of Deans which serves in an advisory capacity to the Office of the Bishop and would be expected to attend two meetings a year;*
- c. the dean would extend a personal welcome to rostered ministers new to the conference, offer a ministry of hospitality, and give support and recognition to rostered ministers leaving the conference;*
- d. the dean may be requested to help congregations with the call process; and*
- e. the dean will serve as disaster response coordinator within the conference.*

S12.01.B13. A Congregation Council may apply to the Cabinet of Deans for transfer to a different conference. The Cabinet of Deans shall recommend the transfer to the Synod Council for approval.

S12.01.C23. The congregations and authorized worshiping communities of this synod shall be organized into the following conferences and geographic areas in accord with S12.01.20., S12.01.21., and S12.01.22.

CENTRAL AREA

Midlands

- Blythewood, St. Andrew*
- Camden, St. Timothy*
- Columbia, Ascension*
- Columbia, Christ the King*
- Columbia, Christ Mission*
- Columbia, Christus Victor*
- Columbia, Ebenezer*
- Columbia, Good Shepherd*
- Columbia, Incarnation*
- Columbia, Living Springs*

Columbia, Redeemer
Columbia, Reformation
Columbia, St. Andrew
Columbia, St. Luke
Columbia, St. Michael
Columbia, St. Paul
Hartsville, Our Shepherd
Irmo, Bethlehem
Sumter, St. James

Synod-authorized Worshiping Community
Columbia, Sagrada Familia (Holy Family)
Columbia, Restoration Chapel

Saxe Gotha

Cayce, Transfiguration
Lexington, Bethany
Lexington, Nazareth
Lexington, Pilgrim
Lexington, Pisgah
Lexington, Providence
Lexington, St. James
Lexington, St. John
Lexington, St. Matthew
Lexington, St. Stephen
Lexington, Zion
Pelion, Holy Trinity
Swansea, Good Shepherd
Swansea, Sandy Run
West Columbia, Emmanuel
West Columbia, Faith
West Columbia, Mt. Hermon
West Columbia, Mt. Tabor
West Columbia, Our Saviour
West Columbia, St. David

Synod-authorized Worshiping Community
Gaston, Cristo Rey
Pelion, Cristo Rey
West Columbia, Cristo Rey

Western

Aiken, St. Paul
Batesburg, Faith
Batesburg, St. Peter
Gilbert, Grace
Gilbert, St. Paul
Graniteville, St. James
Johnston, Mt. Calvary
Johnston, St. John
Leesville, Bethlehem
Leesville, Cedar Grove
Leesville, Enon
Leesville, Mt. Hebron
Leesville, St. James
Leesville, Union
Leesville, Wittenberg
Prosperity, Corinth
Prosperity, St. Mark
Saluda, Good Hope
Saluda, Mt. Pleasant

EASTERN AREA

Amelia

Beaufort, St. John
Bluffton, Lord of Life
Cameron, Resurrection
Cameron, St. Matthew
Ehrhardt, Ehrhardt Memorial
Ehrhardt, Mt. Pleasant
Elloree, Trinity
Fairfax, St. Nicholas
Fairfax, Trinity
Hilton Head Island, Christ
Lone Star, Pine Grove
Orangeburg, Orangeburg
Vance, Hope
Walterboro, Good Shepherd

Coastal

Charleston, Holy Spirit
Charleston, Martin Luther
Charleston, Redeemer
Charleston, St. Barnabas
Charleston, St. Johannes
Charleston, St. John
Charleston, St. Matthew
Hanahan, Messiah
Isle of Palms, St. Mark
Johns Island, Faith
Moncks Corner, St. Michael
Mount Pleasant, All Saints
Mount Pleasant, St. Paul
Summerville, St. Luke

Synod-authorized Worshiping Community
North Charleston, Christ Community

Epiphany

Florence, Cross and Crown
Florence, St. Luke
Garden City, Shepherd of the Sea
Georgetown, Trinity
Myrtle Beach, St. Philip
North Myrtle Beach, King of Glory
Pawleys Island, St. Peter

NORTHERN AREA

Foothills

Anderson, Holy Trinity
Clemson, University
Easley, St. Matthias
Greenville, Christ the King
Greenville, Our Saviour
Greenville, St. Michael
Greenville, Trinity
Greenwood, Immanuel
Greer, Redeemer
Laurens, Atonement
McCormick, Lutheran Church by the Lake
Mauldin, Messiah

*Pickens, Faith
Walhalla, St. John*

Synod-authorized Worshiping Community
*Greenville, Nuestro Salvador
Greenwood, Restoration Chapel
Mauldin, Parroquia El Mesias*

Heartland

*Chapin, Mt. Olivet
Chapin, Mt. Horeb
Chapin, St. Thomas
Clinton, St. John
Irmo, St. John
Little Mountain, Mt. Tabor
Newberry, Beth Eden
Newberry, Bethany
Newberry, Colony
Newberry, Faith
Newberry, Redeemer
Newberry, St. James
Newberry, St. Philip
Newberry, Summer Memorial
Peak, Mt. Hermon
Pomaria, Bethlehem
Pomaria, Pomaria
Pomaria, St. John
Pomaria, St. Matthew
Pomaria, St. Paul
Prosperity, Bachman Chapel
Prosperity, Grace
Prosperity, Macedonia
Prosperity, Mt. Olivet
Prosperity, Mt. Pilgrim
Prosperity, St. Luke
Silverstreet, Silverstreet
White Rock, Bethel
Whitmire, St. Timothy*

Upstate

*Boiling Springs, Springs of Grace
Indian Land, Crossroads
Lancaster, Reformation
Moore, Joy
Rock Hill, Epiphany
Rock Hill, Grace
Spartanburg, Holy Communion
Spartanburg, St. John
Union, Augsburg*

S12.01.20. Geographic areas

S12.01.21. There shall be three geographic areas: Northern Area (Foothills, Upstate, and Heartland Conferences); the Central Area (Midlands, Saxe Gotha, and Western Conferences) and the Eastern Area (Coastal, Amelia, and Epiphany Conferences).

S12.01.22. The geographic areas shall be established for the purpose of Synod Council elections and other appropriate purposes.

Chapter 13.
CONGREGATIONS

- †S13.01. Each congregation, except those certified as congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the uniting churches, prior to being listed in the roster of congregations of this synod, shall adopt the *Model Constitution for Congregations* or one acceptable to this synod, which is not in contradiction to the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- a. New congregations. A congregation newly formed by this church and any congregation seeking recognition and reception by this church shall:
 - 1) Accept the criteria for recognition and reception as a congregation of this church, fulfill the functions of the congregation, and accept the governance provisions as provided in Chapter 9 of the constitution and bylaws of this church.
 - 2) Adopt governing documents that include fully and without alterations the Preamble, Chapter 1, where applicable, and all required provisions of Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 in the *Model Constitution for Congregations* consistent with requirements of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church. Bylaws and continuing resolutions, appropriate for inclusion in these chapters and not in conflict with these required provisions in the *Model Constitution for Congregations*, the constitution of this synod or the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be adopted as described in Chapters 16 and 18 of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.
 - 3) Accept the commitments expected of all congregations of this church as stated in †C6.01., †C6.02., and †C6.03., of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.
 - b. Congregations from another church body. If a congregation is a member of another church body, the leadership of the congregation first should consult with the appropriate authorities of that church body before taking action to leave its current church body. After such consultation, leaders of the congregation should contact the ELCA synod bishop or staff where the congregation is located. The synod bishop or synod staff where the transferring or independent congregation is located shall confer with the congregation to assure its understanding and acceptance of commitment to and affiliation with this church.
 - c. Recognition and reception. Recognition and reception into this church of transferring or independent congregations by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is based on the judgment of this synod and action by this synod through the Synod Council and Synod Assembly. The synod bishop shall provide for prompt reporting of such additions to the secretary of this church for addition to the roster of congregations.
- S13.01.01. Each congregation within this synod shall file an approved constitution based on the Model Constitution for Congregations or one acceptable to this synod and any subsequent changes to its constitution with the synod for review to ascertain that all of its provisions are in agreement with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and with the constitution and bylaws of this synod.
- S13.01.02. All proposed changes in the constitution or incorporation documents of each congregation shall be referred to the Synod Council. The Synod Council shall approve or disapprove of the proposed changes within 120 days of receipt thereof, and shall notify the congregation of its decision. In the absence of a decision, the proposed changes shall be considered approved.
- S13.01.03. Each congregation shall be incorporated.
- †S13.02. It shall be the responsibility of each congregation of this synod to elect from among its voting members laypersons to serve as members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. Normatively, congregations should hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. The number of persons to be elected by each congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by this synod.
- S13.11. When a rostered minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.
- S13.12. A congregation under financial obligation to its former rostered minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.
- †S13.20. A congregation considering a relocation shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is

territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

†S13.21. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

†S13.22. Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America within the territory of this synod, except those which are in partnership with the Slovak Zion Synod, shall establish and maintain a relationship with this synod.

†S13.23. Provision 9.71. of the constitution of this church shall govern the relationship of this synod and a congregation of this synod regarding the property of the congregation. This Synod may transfer or convey property to a congregation of the synod, subject to restrictions accepted by the congregation, including provision that if the Synod Council, in its sole and exclusive discretion, determines (1) that the property is not being used to serve the mission and ministry needs of this church, or (2) that the congregation has transferred, encumbered, mortgaged, or in any way burdened or impaired any right, title, or interest in the property without the prior approval of the Synod Council, than title to the property shall revert to the synod, and the congregation, upon written demand, shall reconvey the property to the synod.

†S13.24. The Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of a congregation of this synod to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of this synod, if any of the following apply:

- a. The congregation has disbanded, ceased to worship, or otherwise ceased to exist as a congregation.
- b. The congregation has abandoned its property.
- c. The remaining members of the congregation decide that it is no longer possible to function as a congregation or that they are unable to provide required governance.
- d. The Synod Council determines that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers that it cannot provide required governance or that it has become impractical for the congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized.
- e. The Synod Council determines that it is necessary for this synod to protect and preserve the congregation's property from waste and deterioration.

The congregation shall have the right to appeal any such decision to the next Synod Assembly.

S13.25. This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence. Such synod administration shall continue only so long as necessary to complete the purposes for which it was requested by the congregation or until the congregation withdraws consent to continued administration.

S13.30. Discipline

†S13.31. Congregations and members of congregations are subject to discipline in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. The synod's involvement in and responsibility for such disciplinary processes shall be as set forth in that chapter.

S13.40. Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities

S13.41. Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

Chapter 14. ROSTERED MINISTERS

†S14.10. Ministers of Word and Sacrament

†S14.11. The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to ministry in this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.

- †S14.12. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
- a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
 - 1) preach the Word;
 - 2) administer the sacraments;
 - 3) conduct public worship;
 - 4) provide pastoral care;
 - 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
 - 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through available channels of effective communication;
 - 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation and abroad; and
 - 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.
 - b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
 - 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
 - 2) relate to all schools and organizations of the congregation;
 - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and
 - 4) with the council, administer discipline;
 - 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of churchwide organization and of this synod; and
 - 6) encourage adherence to covenantal relationship with this church as expressed in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- S14.13. The pastor (a) shall keep accurate records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- S14.14. Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a congregation nearer to their place of residence.
- S14.15. Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of ministry to the bishop of this synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- †S14.16. When a congregation of this church desires to call a pastor or a candidate for ministry of Word and Sacrament of this church:
- a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective pastor.
 - b. For issuance of a letter of call to a pastor or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.41., a two-thirds vote shall be required of voting members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.
 - c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective pastor, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.
- S14.17. No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the president of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- †S14.18. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for any of the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;

- 2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in view of disability or incapacity of the pastor;
 - 5) suspension of the pastor through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
- b. When allegations of disability or incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
- 1) the bishop, who has sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the congregation council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged disability or incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the synod council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament with disability status. Upon resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the pastor and then to the congregation. The recommendation of the bishop's committee must address whether the pastor's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the pastor, if appropriate. If the pastor and the congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent, to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call. .
- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

†S14.19. Ministers of Word and Sacrament shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the pastor, or if there is no duly called pastor, then by the interim pastor in consultation with the Congregation Council.

†S14.21. The records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members transferred or dismissed, members who have become inactive, or members excluded from the congregation shall be kept accurately and permanently. They shall remain the property of each congregation. At the time of the closure of a congregation, such records shall be sent to the regional archives. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in the secretary's hands in good order by a departing pastor before:

- a. installation in another call, or
- b. approval of a request for change in roster status.

- †S14.22. The pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:
- a. installation in another call, or
 - b. approval of a request for change in roster status.
- †S14.23. During service to a congregation, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor. The interim pastor may delegate the same in part to an interim supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of this synod. The interim pastor and any rostered ministers who may assist shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Upon completion of service, the interim pastor shall certify to the bishop of this synod that the congregation records, for the period for which the interim pastor was responsible, are in order.
- †S14.24. With the approval of the synod bishop expressed in writing which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.18., a congregation may call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. At least 60 days prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.18.
- S14.25. All ministers of Word and Sacrament under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.
- †S14.30. Ministers of Word and Service
- †S14.31. The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to ministry in this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.
- †S14.32. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every Minister of Word and Service shall:
- a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
 - b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
 - c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;
 - d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
 - e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
 - f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
 - g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
 - h. Share knowledge of this church and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
 - i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.
- S14.33. The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- S14.34. Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly
- †S14.41. When a congregation of this church desires to call a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Service of this church:
- a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service.
 - b. For issuance of a letter of call to a minister of Word and Service or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.71., a two-thirds vote shall be required of members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.

- c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.

S14.42. No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

†S14.43. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and congregation shall be as follows:

- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the deacon's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for any of the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the minister of Word and Service, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) inability to conduct the office effectively in view of disability or incapacity of the minister of Word and Service;
 - 5) suspension of the minister of Word and Service through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the minister of Word and Service from the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
- b. When allegations of disability or incapacity of the minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the ministry of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - 1) the bishop, who has sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged disability or incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of ministers of Word and Service with disability status. Upon resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the minister of Word and Service and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee address whether the minister of Word and Service's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the minister of Word and Service, if appropriate. If the minister of Word and Service and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the minister of Word and Service's call, the congregation may dismiss the minister of Word and Service only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

- †S14.44. Ministers of Word and Service shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the Congregation Council.
- †S14.45. The minister of Word and Service shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:
- a. installation in another call, or
 - b. approval of a request for change in roster status.
- †S14.46. With the approval of the synod bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.43., a congregation may call a minister of Word and Service for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the minister of Word and Service and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.43.
- S14.47. All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

**Chapter 15.
FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- †S15.01. The fiscal year of this synod shall be February 1 through January 31.
- †S15.11. Since the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization are interdependent expressions that share in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support of the whole church. The gifts and offerings of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are given to support all parts of this church; thus the unity of this church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings. Therefore:
- a. The mission of this church beyond the congregation is to be supported by such a proportionate share of each congregation's annual budget as each congregation determines. This synod shall develop guidelines for determining "proportionate share," and shall consult with congregational leaders to assist each congregation in making its determination.
 - b. This synod shall receive the proportionate share of the mission support from its congregations, and shall transmit that percentage or amount of each congregation's mission support as determined in consultation with the churchwide organization and approved by the Synod Assembly as part of its budget consideration.
 - c. Should the Synod Assembly not approve the proportionate share of mission support determined in consultation with the churchwide organization, a new consultation with the churchwide organization shall take place. The Synod Council is authorized to amend the budget adopted by the Synod Assembly to reflect the results of this consultation.
- S15.11.01. The Synod Council through its Finance Committee shall ask each congregation for a proportionate share to support the mission and ministry of the South Carolina Synod and the churchwide organization.
- S15.11.02. Each congregation which contributes the full amount of its proportionate share may designate the churchwide or synodical programs which would benefit from any additional contributions.
- †S15.12. The annual budget of this synod shall reflect the entire range of its own activities and its commitment to supportive funding with other synods and the churchwide organization.
- S15.13. On the basis of estimated income, the Synod Council shall authorize expenditures within the budget for the fiscal year. Expenditure authorizations shall be subject to revision, in light of changing conditions, by the Synod Council.
- S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16 percent of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synod causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of

making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.

S15.21. No appeal to congregations of this or any other synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the raising of funds shall be conducted by congregations or organizations related to or affiliated with this synod without the consent of the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council.

S15.21.A09. Synodical Appeals

- a. *That the Synod Council be consulted and their recommendation included in proposing plans to the assembly for a synodwide appeal;*
- b. *That each request for a synodwide appeal be considered on its own merit and not necessarily in the order in which it is received;*
- c. *That a one-year interval normally be maintained between appeals;*
- d. *That it be understood that these guidelines do not apply to any appeal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

†S15.31. This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm recommended by the synod Audit Committee and approved by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod.

S15.31.A18. Synod Audit Committee Responsibilities:

- a. *The committee shall semiannually perform spot audits to determine compliance with any part of these internal control policies and procedures.*
- b. *The committee may choose at its discretion, to spot audit all parts or any part of the internal control policies and procedures.*
- c. *The committee shall semiannually issue a written report concerning spot audit findings to the Synod Council.*
- d. *The Synod Council member shall present the semiannual report along with any other written reports, recommendations, and findings by the committee to the Synod Council for consideration at the next regularly scheduled Synod Council meeting.*
- e. *As necessary, the committee shall recommend to Synod Council a certified public accountant firm to annually audit the financial records of synod in accordance with †S15.31 and †S11.05. The committee shall recommend to the Synod Council a contract term not to exceed five years for the certified public accountant firm to annually audit the financial records of the synod. After the recommended certified public accountant firm and the recommended contract term are approved by the Synod Council, the committee, on behalf of the Synod, will contract with the approved firm to conduct the annual audit of the financial records of the synod for the approved contract term.*
- f. *The committee shall rely upon the annual audit of the certified public accountant firm for purposes of determining the synod's compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.*
- g. *The committee shall meet with the approved certified public accountant firm for an exit conference prior to the firm's release of the issuing annual audit report.*
- h. *The committee shall meet as necessary to carry out its duties as stated herein.*

†S15.32. This synod shall maintain adequate, continuous insurance coverage in accordance with standards recommended by the churchwide organization. Insurance programs offered or endorsed by the churchwide organization shall be deemed to fulfill this obligation.

Chapter 16. INDEMNIFICATION

†S16.01. Subject to the limitations and duties imposed by law, each person who is or was made or threatened to be made a party to any proceeding by reason of the present or former capacity of that person as a Synod Council member, officer, employee, or committee member of this synod shall be indemnified against all costs and expenses incurred by that person in connection with the proceeding. Indemnification of any person by reason of that person's capacity as a director, officer, employee, or committee member of any other organization, regardless of its form or relationship to this synod, is subject to the provisions of †S16.02.

- a. **The term "proceeding" means a threatened, pending, or completed lawsuit, whether civil or criminal, an administrative or investigative matter, arbitration, mediation, alternative dispute resolution, or any other similar legal or governmental action. Except as otherwise required by law, the term**

“proceeding” does not include (a) any action by this synod against the individual seeking indemnification, or (b) subject to †16.04., a disciplinary hearing or related process described in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

- b. The term “indemnification” includes reimbursement and advances of costs and expenses for judgments, penalties, fines, settlements, excise taxes, reasonable attorneys’ fees, disbursements, and similar required expenditures.

†S16.02. Whenever a person who, while a Synod Council member, officer, committee member, or employee of this synod, is or was serving at the request of this synod as (or whose duties in that position involve or involved service in the capacity of) a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another organization, is or was made or threatened to be made a party to a proceeding by reason of such capacity, then such person shall be entitled to indemnification only if (a) the Synod Council has established a process for determining whether a person serving in the capacity described in this section shall be entitled to indemnification in any specific case, and (b) that process has been applied in making a specific determination that such person is entitled to indemnification.

†S16.03. This synod may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of itself or any person entitled to indemnification pursuant to this chapter against any liability asserted against and incurred by this synod or by such other person in or arising from a capacity described in †S16.01. or †S16.02.

†S16.04. When written charges against a rostered minister of this church are made in disciplinary proceedings under Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* by the synod bishop or when written charges against a congregation are made in disciplinary proceedings by the Synod Council or the synod bishop, and the discipline hearing committee determines that no discipline shall be imposed, then if such determination is not reversed or set aside on appeal, indemnification shall be made by the synod to the accused for reasonable attorney’s fees and other reasonable expenses related to the defense of the charges. The determination of the reasonableness of such fees and expenses shall be made by the Synod Council.

Chapter 17. CONSULTATION AND ADJUDICATION

†S17.01. The synod bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall be available to give counsel when disputes arise within this synod.

†S17.02. The synod bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall receive expressions of concern from rostered ministers of this church, congregations, and organizations within this synod; provide a forum in which the parties concerned can seek to work out matters causing distress or conflict; and make appropriate recommendations for their resolution. When a concern relates directly to the synod bishop, the synod vice president will lead the Executive Committee’s efforts at resolving the matter. When the matter at issue cannot be resolved in this manner, applicable procedures for investigation, decision, appeal, and adjudication shall be followed. Allegations or charges that could lead to the discipline a rostered minister of this church shall not be addressed by the Executive Committee but shall be resolved through the disciplinary process set forth in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

†S17.03. When there is disagreement between or among congregations of this synod on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, the council of an affected congregation may petition the synod bishop for a consultation after informing the other affected congregation(s) of its intent to do so. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee’s efforts fail to resolve the issue(s), the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the council deems necessary. The decision of the Synod Council shall be final.

†S17.04. When conferences, clusters, coalitions, or area subdivisions of this synod have a disagreement on a substantive issue that they cannot resolve, the aggrieved party or parties may petition the synod bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council requesting a consultation after informing the other affected parties of their intent to do so. In this case the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail, except that, upon the motion of a member of the Synod Council, the decision shall be referred to the Synod Council for final action.

†S17.10. Adjudication in a Congregation

†S17.11. When there is disagreement between or among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of the congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president of the Congregation Council of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in †S14.18.d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

Chapter 18.

AMENDMENTS, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

†S18.10. Amendments to Constitution

†S18.11. Certain sections of this constitution incorporate and record therein required provisions of the constitution and bylaws of this church. If such provisions are amended by the Churchwide Assembly, corresponding amendments shall be introduced at once into this constitution by the secretary of this synod upon receipt of formal certification thereof from the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†S18.12. Whenever the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs the synod that the Churchwide Assembly has amended the *Constitution for Synods*, this constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the Synod Assembly without presentation at a prior Synod Assembly. An amendment that is identical to a provision of the *Constitution for Synods* shall be deemed to have been ratified upon its adoption by this synod. The Church Council, through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of its adoption.

†S18.13. Other amendments to this constitution may be adopted by this synod through either of the following procedures:

- a. Introduced with the support of at least 12 voting members and having been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, an amendment may be adopted unchanged by a two-thirds vote at the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- b. The Synod Council may propose an amendment, with notice to be sent to the congregations of this synod at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Such an amendment shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

All such amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the Churchwide Assembly or by the Church Council.

†S18.20. Amendments to Bylaws

†S18.21. This synod may adopt bylaws not in conflict with this constitution nor with the constitution and bylaws of the churchwide organization. This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. Newly adopted bylaws and amendments to existing bylaws shall be reported to the secretary of this church.

†S18.30. Amendments to Continuing Resolutions

†S18.31. This synod may adopt continuing resolutions not in conflict with this constitution or its bylaws or the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of the churchwide organization. Such continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of the Synod Council. Newly adopted continuing resolutions and amendments to existing continuing resolutions shall be reported to the secretary of this church.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Name and Address Summary Report as of December 31, 2022

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Cong ID	Congregation Name	Lang Codes	Location Address	City, State	Ministers	Year Orgn	Bapt Mbrs	Conf Mbrs	Avg Atnd On-site	Avg Atnd Online	
Conference: 01 Foothills											
05651	Holy Trinity	EN	209 Broad St	Anderson, SC	John C. Fischer	1936	278	243	102	11	
05652	University	EN	111 Sloan St	Clemson, SC	Jon D. Heiliger Christopher S. Heavner Joshua K. Kestner	1951	337	302	80	20	
07330	St Matthias	EN	501 Powdersville Rd	Easley, SC	Sean A. Miller	1974	122	108	45	45	
16415	Christ the King	EN	1925 Pelham Rd	Greenville, SC	Rebecca J. Lord-Phillips	1987	19	17	15	0	
05654	Lutheran Church Of Our Saviour	EN	2600 Wade Hampton Blvd	Greenville, SC	Donald J. Costlow Beth J. Costlow	1956	273	243	51	31	
05655	St Michael	EN	2619 Augusta St	Greenville, SC	Andrea M. Bates Kyle J. Bates David E. Rhyne	1948	439	369	114	160	
05656	Trinity	EN	421 N Main St	Greenville, SC	Susan J. Crowell James C. Parham Amy R. Brown	1909	1,050	948	101	319	
05657	Immanuel	EN	501 Creswell Ave E	Greenwood, SC	Christopher L. Christopher	1902	329	317	89	54	
056730 *	Redeemer	EN	300 Oneal Rd	Greer, SC	Venning E. Stringer	1972	224	145	--	--	
05658 *	Atonement	EN	413 W Farley Ave	Laurens, SC		1945	32	32	--	--	
05663	Messiah	EN	1100 Log Shoals Rd	Mauldin, SC	Michael R. Sherman Ernest P. Martin	1967	545	478	187	101	
10369	Lutheran Church By The Lake	EN	100 Twelve Oaks Dr	Mc Cormick, SC	Sue E. Johnson	1998	236	236	150	160	
05683 *	Faith Lutheran Chapel	EN	729 W Main St	Pickens, SC		2005	83	83	24	25	
05662	St John Evangelical	EN	301 W Main St	Walhalla, SC	Rachel L. Connelly	1853	472	393	115	184	
								Conference Totals:	4,439	3,914	1,110

FULL DIRECTOR AND SYNODS

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Name and Address Summary Report as of December 31, 2022

CD150 Report

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Cong ID	Congregation Name	Lang Codes	Location Address	City, State	Ministers	Year Orgn	Bapt Mbrs	Conf Mbrs	Avg Atnd On-site	Avg Atnd Online	
Conference: 02 Upstate											
30706	Crossroads	EN	8511 Shelley Mullis Rd	Indian Land, SC		2014	106	106	50	10	
30443	Springs of Grace	EN	320 Holden Dr	Inman, SC	Thomas H. Outten	1999	93	89	33	53	
05610	Reformation	EN	508 N French St	Lancaster, SC	Christopher D. Girardeau	1953	113	110	39	5	
30418	Joy	EN	3980 Moore Duncan Hwy	Moore, SC	Lane D. Bembenek Christopher R. St.Clair	2001	482	371	143	58	
30081	Epiphany	EN	2370 Main St W	Rock Hill, SC	Kenneth C. Gillikin	1991	252	216	57	166	
05611	Grace	EN	426 Oakland Ave	Rock Hill, SC	Gregory T. Hoffman Rachel L. Hoffman	1923	510	429	120	37	
05659	Holy Communion	EN	1430 John B White Blvd	Spartanburg, SC	Richard A. Kinsey	1960	94	78	30	0	
05661	St John	EN	415 S Pine St	Spartanburg, SC	Heather K. Apel Wade E. Apel	1902	524	461	157	68	
05648 *	Augsburg	EN	151 Connector Rd	Union, SC		1930	30	30	--	--	
							Conference Totals:	2,204	1,890	629	397
Conference: 03 Epiphany											
05587	St Timothy	EN	1301 Mill St	Camden, SC	Roy M. Butler	1951	152	145	54	0	
05503	Cross and Crown	EN	3123 W Palmetto St	Florence, SC	Steven D. Gallego	1981	80	80	30	3	
05622	St Luke	EN	1201 Cherokee Rd	Florence, SC	Rufus B. Kehl Joyce F. Shaw	1896	309	301	116	5	
05682 *	Trinity	EN	1605 S Fraser St	Georgetown, SC		1945	49	49	--	--	
05420	Shepherd Of The Sea	EN	2637 S Highway 17	Murrells Inlet, SC	Brad E. Bellah	1975	711	711	380	240	
05686	St Philip	EN	6200 N Kings Hwy	Myrtle Beach, SC	Jason M. Lee	1956	232	50	129	427	
05449	King Of Glory	EN	805 11th Ave N	North Myrtle Beach, SC	Christina M. Johnson	1976	303	303	125	86	
07693 *	St Peter	EN	65 Crooked Oak Dr	Pawleys Island, SC	Norris G. Van Dyke	1984	237	212	--	--	
							Conference Totals:	2,073	1,851	834	761

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Name and Address Summary Report as of December 31, 2022

CD150 Report

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Cong ID	Congregation Name	Lang Codes	Location Address	City, State	Ministers	Year Orgn	Bapt Mbrs	Conf Mbrs	Avg Atnd On-site	Avg Atnd Online			
Conference: 04 Amelia													
05664	St John's	EN	157 Ladys Island Dr	Beaufort, SC	Patrick S. Mullen Ashlen K. Justice	1953	727	514	77	15			
30351	Lord Of Life	EN	351 Buckwalter Pkwy	Bluffton, SC	Angela R. Jennings	1998	439	439	110	12			
05665	Resurrection	EN	8160 Old State Rd.	Cameron, SC	Eric S. Little	1844	363	325	85	0			
05666	St Matthew	EN	1628 Old Number Six Hwy.	Cameron, SC	Eric S. Little	1737	21	19	15	0			
05677	Ehrhardt Memorial	EN	2551 Lowcountry Hwy	Ehrhardt, SC		1904	14	13	9	0			
05678	Mount Pleasant	EN	1137 Mt Pleasant Rd.	Ehrhardt, SC		1750	38	31	20	0			
05679 *	Trinity	EN	390 Hampton St.	Elloree, SC	Dewey M. Evans	1849	92	92	--	--			
05680 *	St Nicholas	EN	235 St Nicholas Church Rd	Fairfax, SC		1800	81	60	--	--			
05681	Trinity	EN	Hampton Ave at 4th St	Fairfax, SC	Miho Yasukawa	1906	56	46	17	30			
057329	Christ	EN	829 William Hilton Pkwy	Hilton Head Island, SC	June A. Wilkins	1973	172	172	69	0			
05684 *	Pine Grove	EN	2688 McCords Ferry Rd	Lone Star, SC		1847	98	98	--	--			
05688	Orangeburg	EN	610 Ellis Ave	Orangeburg, SC	Ricki A. Mason	1855	203	203	41	19			
05080 *	Hope	EN	Corner Highways 6 and 310	Vance, SC		1990	65	65	38	10			
05692	Good Shepherd	EN	106 May St	Walterboro, SC		1940	188	127	24	6			
									Conference Totals:	2,557	2,204	505	92

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Name and Address Summary Report as of December 31, 2022

CD150 Report

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Cong ID	Congregation Name	Lang Codes	Location Address	City, State	Ministers	Year Orgn	Bapt Mbrs	Conf Mbrs	Avg Atnd On-site	Avg Atnd Online	
Conference: 05 Heartland											
05589	Mount Horeb	EN	101 E Boundary St	Chapin, SC		1891	640	640	120	70	
05650	Mount Olivet	EN	11733 Broad River Rd	Chapin, SC		1873	68	61	33	23	
05593	St Thomas	EN	215 Saint Thomas Church Rd	Chapin, SC	Lawrence J. Hagerty	1876	311	284	54	40	
05653	* St John	EN	1009 S Broad St	Clinton, SC		1920	30	30	--	--	
05609	St John	EN	1028 Saint Johns Rd	Irmo, SC		1914	133	116	40	5	
05626	Mount Tabor	EN	816 Mount Tabor Rd	Little Mountain, SC	Richard W. Johnston	1880	390	346	122	40	
05628	* Beth Eden	EN	5 Mi NW Highway 81	Newberry, SC	Dennis R. Gunter	1843	41	35	--	--	
05627	Bethany Evangelical Colony	EN	2704 Nance St	Newberry, SC		1936	66	59	28	0	
05630		EN	48 Colony Church Rd	Newberry, SC	Michele C. Fischer	1845	223	166	41	8	
05631	* Faith	EN	1505 Wilson Rd	Newberry, SC		1961	77	77	--	--	
05633	* Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	EN	1515 Boundary St	Newberry, SC	Matthew B. Titus	1853	421	421	40	40	
05629	* St James	EN	228 Jalapa Rd	Newberry, SC	Dennis R. Gunter	1840	269	194	--	--	
05634	St Philip	EN	2461 Saint Phillips Church Rd	Newberry, SC	Terry M. Amick	1881	533	3	152	119	
05635	Summer Memorial	EN	1609 Miligan St	Newberry, SC	Rebecca G. Wicker	1910	268	268	64	0	
05636	Mount Hermon	EN	926 Church St	Peak, SC		1889	32	28	20	0	
05637	Bethlehem	EN	173 New Hope Rd	Pomaria, SC		1816	158	158	56	150	
05638	* Pomaria	EN	210 Folk St.	Pomaria, SC		1910	97	91	31	0	
05642	St John	EN	622 Hope Station Rd	Pomaria, SC	Michael E. Watson	1754	124	100	46	68	
05639	St Matthew	EN	415 St Matthew's Church Rd	Pomaria, SC		1827	143	121	50	0	
05641	* St Paul	EN	2496 Sc Highway 773	Pomaria, SC		1761	330	326	70	30	
05640	Bachman Chapel	EN	3074 Bachman Chapel Rd	Prosperity, SC		1886	273	207	45	0	
05643	Grace	EN	210 Grace St	Prosperity, SC		1859	282	213	59	19	
05644	Macedonia	EN	49 Macedonia Church Rd	Prosperity, SC	Terry E. Hundley	1847	416	294	177	62	
05625	* Mount Pilgrim	EN	2336 Mount Pilgrim Church Rd	Prosperity, SC	Bobby M. Morris	1880	150	127	--	--	
05646	St Luke's	EN	4056 Saint Lukes Church Rd	Prosperity, SC	Jason A. Schafer	1827	361	361	141	38	
05647	* Silverstreet	EN	120 Long St	Silverstreet, SC		1908	117	88	--	--	
05620	Bethel	EN	2081 Dutch Fork Rd	White Rock, SC	Megan E. Lineberger	1762	132	123	48	15	
05649	St Timothy	EN	50 Main St	Whitmore, SC		1939	21	18	8	0	
							Conference Totals:	6,106	4,955	1,445	727

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Name and Address Summary Report as of December 31, 2022

CD150 Report

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Cong ID	Congregation Name	Lang Codes	Location Address	City, State	Ministers	Year Orgn	Bapt Mbrs	Conf Mbrs	Avg Atnd On-site	Avg Atnd Online			
Conference: 06 Midlands													
05585	St Andrew	EN	1729 Blythewood Rd	Blythewood, SC		1878	31	30	10	0			
05596	Ascension	EN	827 Wildwood Ave	Columbia, SC	Jacqueline Utley	1912	186	183	20	5			
07571	Christus Victor	EN	400 Harbison Blvd	Columbia, SC	Michael B. Price	1986	220	206	51	7			
05598	Ebenezer	EN	1301 Richland St	Columbia, SC	Paul E. Aebischer Joanna C. Gragg	1830	655	615	89	73			
05600	Good Shepherd	EN	3909 Forest Dr	Columbia, SC	Andrew W. Isenhower	1950	594	488	93	34			
05601	Incarnation	EN	3005 Devine St	Columbia, SC		1921	303	303	65	11			
07829	Living Springs	EN	4224 Hard Scrabble Rd	Columbia, SC	Eric E. Fink Carl D. Taylor Justin M. Rimbo	1988	329	274	106	125			
05623	Redeemer	EN	525 Saint Andrews Rd	Columbia, SC	Gary A. Loadholdt Amanda M. Burke	1965	650	620	98	94			
05602	Reformation	EN	1118 Union St	Columbia, SC		1926	178	149	42	10			
05604	St Andrew's	EN	1416 Broad River Rd	Columbia, SC	John P. Trump Sandra M. Holland	1835	424	253	73	37			
05605	St Luke	EN	1127 Olympia Ave	Columbia, SC	Phillip A. Coggins	1904	250	250	50	100			
05606	St Michael	EN	400 River Rd	Columbia, SC	Frank W. Anderson	1814	226	226	50	45			
05607	St Paul	EN	1715 Bull St	Columbia, SC	Tony A. Metz	1886	321	277	116	12			
05608	Bethlehem	EN	10000 Broad River Rd	Irmo, SC	Scott L. Holland	1788	145	135	60	10			
05590	St James	EN	1137 Alice Dr	Sumter, SC	Timothy S. Landrum	1890	126	123	57	0			
									Conference Totals:	4,638	4,132	980	563

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Name and Address Summary Report as of December 31, 2022

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Cong ID	Congregation Name	Lang Codes	Location Address	City, State	Ministers	Year Orgn	Bapt Mbrs	Conf Mbrs	Avg Atnd On-site	Avg Atnd Online		
Conference: 07 Conference Seven												
30725	Holy Spirit Evangelical	EN	3075 Bees Ferry Rd	Charleston, SC	Jeffrey W. Shealy Ashlyn S. Cox	2006	95	95	65	7		
05669	Lutheran Church Of The Redeemer	EN	714 Riverdale Dr	Charleston, SC	William R. Lyles Jamie I. Reising Katherine T. Holland	1943	573	436	152	71		
05668	Martin Luther Evangelical	EN	1605 Harbor View Rd	Charleston, SC		1961	240	206	36	68		
05671 *	St Barnabas	EN	45 Moultrie St	Charleston, SC		1912	142	88	--	--		
05672	St Johannes	EN	48 Hasell St	Charleston, SC		1878	164	159	31	37		
05673	St John	EN	5 Clifford St	Charleston, SC	Mark A. Scott	1742	462	324	110	185		
05674	St Matthew	EN	405 King St	Charleston, SC	Eric S. Childers	1840	482	312	240	460		
05687	Messiah	EN	1106 Yeamans Hall Rd	Hanahan, SC	Craig W. Versprille	1955	298	204	52	20		
05690	St Mark	EN	300 Palm Blvd	Isle of Palms, SC		1953	41	41	19	48		
05683	Faith	EN	3374 Maybank Hwy	Johns Island, SC	Thomas A. Cassem	1952	123	122	24	40		
05694	St Michael	EN	321 W Main St	Moncks Corner, SC		1964	348	198	30	26		
057396	All Saints	EN	2107 N Highway 17	Mount Pleasant, SC	Kristopher L. Litman-Koon Virginia L. Litman-Koon	1975	417	364	126	49		
05685	St Paul	EN	604 Pitt St	Mt Pleasant, SC	Aaron P. DeBenedetto	1884	164	136	45	8		
05691	St Luke	EN	206 Central Ave	Summerville, SC	Andrea L. Rice Nathan J. Rice	1892	641	461	215	90		
Conference Totals:									4,190	3,146	1,145	1,109

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Name and Address Summary Report as of December 31, 2022

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Cong ID	Congregation Name	Lang Codes	Location Address	City, State	Ministers	Year Orgn	Bapt Mbrs	Conf Mbrs	Avg Atnd On-site	Avg Atnd Online	
Conference: 08 Saxe Gotha											
05588	Transfiguration	EN	1301 12th St	Cayce, SC	Alexander H. Twedt	1954	352	328	100	10	
05722	Holy Trinity	EN	168 Main St	Columbia, SC		1913	38	28	20	0	
05721	Bethany	EN	720 Bethany Church Rd	Lexington, SC		1871	118	110	30	33	
05710	Nazareth	EN	1800 Nazareth Rd	Lexington, SC		1810	72	66	39	10	
05712	Pilgrim	EN	1430 N Lake Dr	Lexington, SC		1899	190	150	56	0	
05713	Pisgah	EN	1350 Pisgah Church Rd	Lexington, SC	Stephen F. Mims Deborah J. Poole	1879	559	436	121	101	
05711	Providence	EN	840 Old Chapin Rd	Lexington, SC	Patti S. Burton-Pye	1866	123	123	35	38	
05715	St James	EN	1358 S Lake Dr	Lexington, SC	Frederick C. Bartelt	1890	142	128	65	6	
05714 *	St John	EN	213 Saint Johns Church Rd	Lexington, SC		1832	104	92	35	40	
05716	St Matthew's	EN	1273 Calks Ferry Rd	Lexington, SC	John C. Derrick	1890	198	181	55	360	
05718	St Stephen	EN	119 N Church St	Lexington, SC	Jason T. Antley Ralph G. Hill	1830	1,721	1,721	290	185	
05719	Zion	EN	226 Corley Mill Rd	Lexington, SC		1745	369	295	93	22	
05723 *	St John	EN	6 Mi NW	Pelion, SC		1894	5	5	--	--	
05612 *	Good Shepherd	EN	295 W Lady St	Swansea, SC		1912	35	30	--	--	
05613	Sandy Run	EN	1927 Old State Rd	Swansea, SC		1765	68	55	25	0	
05851	C Cristo Rey	SP	132 Saint Davids Church Rd	West Columbia, SC	Jorge A. Leone				120	0	
05614	Emmanuel	EN	2491 Emanuel Church Rd	West Columbia, SC	John D. Derrick William A. Carnell	1853	381	195	78	0	
05615	Faith	EN	1717 Piatt Springs Rd	West Columbia, SC		1941	321	1	35	0	
05616	Mount Hermon	EN	3011 Leaphart Rd	West Columbia, SC	Gina D. Metzke	1910	286	286	95	73	
05617	Mount Tabor	EN	1000 B Ave	West Columbia, SC	Wade T. Roof Emily J. Willhide	1886	889	666	225	150	
05618 *	Our Saviour	EN	1500 Sunset Blvd	West Columbia, SC		1957	218	210	--	--	
05619	St David	EN	132 Saint Davids Church Rd	West Columbia, SC	Gregory S. Brown	1845	856	856	140	250	
Conference Totals:									7,045	5,962	1,657

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Name and Address Summary Report as of December 31, 2022

CD150 Report

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCIA

Cong ID	Congregation Name	Lang Codes	Location Address	City, State	Ministers	Year Orgn	Bapt Mbrs	Conf Mbrs	Avg Atnd On-site	Avg Atnd Online	
Conference: 09 Western											
05695	St Paul	EN	961 Trail Ridge Rd	Aiken, SC	Jeffrey M. Erbskorn Beverly K. Cartledge	1907	437	410	155	148	
05696	Faith Evangelical	EN	113 N Oak St	Batesburg Leesville, SC	Lisa W. Isenhower	1926	245	245	81	18	
05697	* St Peter	EN	7389 Fairview Rd	Batesburg Leesville, SC		1849	16	16	8	0	
05709	Wittenberg	EN	233 N Lee St	Batesburg Leesville, SC	Keith W. Getz	1870	318	267	89	7	
05698	Grace	EN	401 Main at Church	Gilbert, SC		1893	103	84	40	0	
05699	St Paul	EN	246 Saint Pauls Church Rd	Gilbert, SC		1803	424	3	90	0	
05700	St James	EN	200 Laurel Dr	Graniteville, SC	Fredrick P. Klinker	1860	146	128	62	0	
05701	Mount Calvary	EN	1186 Mount Calvary Rd	Johnston, SC	Mark J. Smith	1830	283	276	47	0	
05702	St John	EN	620 Calhoun St	Johnston, SC		1903	25	18	4	0	
05703	Bethlehem	EN	210 Bethlehem Cir	Leesville, SC	David J. Edenfield	1829	103	103	40	0	
05705	* Cedar Grove	EN	1220 Cedar Grove Rd	Leesville, SC		1852	835	685	152	102	
05704	* Enon	EN	4100 Pond Branch Rd	Leesville, SC		1901	48	40	--	--	
05706	Mount Hebron	EN	2347 Summerland Hwy	Leesville, SC	Christopher D. Shealy	1898	177	148	42	2	
05708	St James	EN	308 Church St	Leesville, SC	Peter J. Morey	1873	153	139	53	0	
05725	St Mark	EN	255 St Mark Church Rd	Leesville, SC	William F. Strand	1827	139	118	44	0	
05707	Union	EN	4077 Highway 378	Leesville, SC	Lance M. Henderson	1855	133	122	61	0	
05724	Corinth	EN	638 Corinth Rd	Saluda, SC		1842	145	116	48	0	
05729	* Mount Pleasant	EN	101 N Calhoun St	Saluda, SC		1903	66	63	--	--	
05727	* Good Hope	EN	927 Spann Rd	Ward, SC		1839	44	44	12	0	
Conference Totals:									3,840	1,028	277
Synod Totals:						37,092	31,079	9,296	6,314		

Language Codes:

Amharic [AM]	Cantonese [CH]	French [FR]	Kiswahili [KI]	Mandarin [MA]	Slovak [SL]	Tamil [TM]
Anyuak [AN]	Creole [CL]	German [GE]	Korean [KO]	Norwegian [NO]	Spanish [SP]	Telugu [TE]
Arabic [AB]	Danish [DA]	Hmong [HM]	Lakotah [LK]	Nuer [NU]	Swahili [SA]	Thai [TH]
Batak [BA]	Dinka [DI]	Indonesian [ID]	Lao [LS]	Oromo [OR]	Swedish [SW]	Tigrinya [TG]
Burmese [BU]	English [EN]	Inupiat [IP]	Latvian [LA]	Portuguese [PR]	Tagalog [TA]	Ukrainian [UK]
Cambodian [CA]	Finnish [FI]	Japanese [JA]	Maban [MB]	Sign [SI]	Taiwanese [TI]	Vietnamese [VI]

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Form A - Congregation Finances as of December 31, 2022

Cong ID	Congregation Name and City	Regular Giving	Total Receipts	Total Assets	Total Indebtedness	Current Operating Expenses	Mission Support	Non-Mission Support	Total Disbursements
Conference: 01 Foothills									
05651	Holy Trinity, Anderson	320,728	396,244	3,877,147	0	271,403	18,000	36,855	362,450
05652	University, Clensn	445,135	643,603	1,613,099	0	395,326	46,530	98,150	593,418
07330	St Matthias, Easley	125,829	126,313	558,831	0	128,604	1,600	500	130,704
16415	Christ the King, Greenville	117,954	117,954	0	0	121,375	0	0	121,375
05654	Lutheran Church Of Our Saviour, Greenville	178,040	260,541	1,312,528	4,620	356,916	24,336	30,104	488,662
05655	St Michael, Greenville	497,050	500,126	4,066,206	0	407,064	35,000	0	442,064
05656	Trinity, Greenville	1,002,820	1,259,361	13,892,546	385,375	1,075,637	84,000	115,726	1,365,049
05657	Immanuel, Greenwood	416,334	544,605	7,366,455	0	280,394	38,756	37,206	453,181
05730 *	Redeemer, Greer	180,351	189,671	0	0	134,416	4,335	10,916	172,242
05658 *	Atonement, Laurens	19,653	28,993	0	0	23,413	0	0	32,783
05663	Messiah, Mauldin	475,510	649,350	3,374,126	1,021,000	487,750	24,000	6,500	628,138
30869	Lutheran Church By The Lake, Mc Cormick	274,474	279,766	3,121,109	308,332	226,031	17,358	8,092	296,457
30883 *	Faith Lutheran Chapel, Pickens	66,560	71,560	483,297	272,000	87,483	3,913	5,026	107,222
05662	St John Evangelical, Walhalla	376,028	481,144	2,182,676	31,609	371,290	30,000	21,556	437,358
Conference Totals		\$4,496,466	\$5,549,231	\$41,848,020	\$2,022,936	\$4,367,102	\$327,828	\$370,631	\$5,631,103
Conference: 02 Upstate									
30906	Crossroads, Indian Land	177,060	194,299	1,067,726	303,317	108,363	12,994	6,676	156,809
30943	Springs of Grace, Inman	134,177	173,712	813,638	116,772	148,137	1,500	4,452	176,815
05610	Reformation, Lancaster	119,233	130,278	314,263	0	150,038	8,866	3,216	162,120
30918	Joy, Moore	480,103	534,820	9,478,540	113,573	480,103	49,921	14,347	573,236
30981	Epiphany, Rock Hill	218,085	434,683	2,043,897	0	197,759	8,300	11,625	217,684
05611	Grace, Rock Hill	608,522	766,674	535,784	0	573,926	69,482	0	795,287
05659	Holy Communion, Spartanburg	210,916	303,223	5,932,713	329,606	189,470	1,960	7,063	299,621
05661	St John, Spartanburg	600,331	675,745	12,174,650	0	524,865	64,800	58,644	648,309
05648 *	Augsburg, Union	23,756	31,067	0	0	29,782	1,200	150	31,132
Conference Totals		\$2,572,183	\$3,244,501	\$32,361,211	\$863,268	\$2,402,443	\$219,023	\$106,173	\$3,061,013
Conference: 03 Epiphany									
05587	St Timothy, Camden	199,216	211,291	1,993,110	0	227,035	10,716	7,200	255,451
07503	Cross and Crown, Florence	115,201	142,483	475,693	0	103,116	12,000	8,682	124,043
05622	St Luke, Florence	438,704	447,109	7,579,416	0	418,385	29,600	137,151	585,136
05682 *	Trinity, Georgetown	43,786	76,078	0	0	45,007	2,450	3,000	63,457
07420	Shepherd Of The Sea, Murrells Inlet	512,609	699,678	3,164,354	578,945	525,761	33,889	12,405	711,979
05686	St Philip, Myrtle Beach	287,877	521,386	2,424,436	0	285,594	7,800	19,631	510,790
07449	King Of Glory, North Myrtle Beach	258,112	457,477	4,277,802	353,631	320,947	11,740	15,800	364,767

Code Key: * = 2022 data not available as of report run date, C = Congregation Under Development

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Form A - Congregation Finances as of December 31, 2022

CD160 Report
9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Cong ID	Congregation Name and City	Regular Giving	Total Receipts	Total Assets	Total Indebtedness	Current Operating Expenses	Mission Support	Non-Mission Support	Total Disbursements
07693*	St Peter, Pawleys Island	304,597	477,390	0	1,184,887	303,274	1,150	35,316	456,969
	Conference Totals	\$2,160,102	\$3,032,892	\$19,914,811	\$2,117,463	\$2,229,119	\$109,345	\$239,185	\$3,072,592
Conference: 04 Amelia									
05664	St John's, Beaufort	447,608	1,297,093	3,753,839	210,872	393,399	42,500	36,130	498,105
30351	Lord Of Life, Bluffton	491,126	627,673	5,001,907	1,813,895	331,367	29,540	3,550	522,778
05665	Resurrection, Cameron	222,180	309,261	5,093,358	0	272,823	24,777	6,438	318,179
05666	St Matthew, Cameron	22,240	26,471	775,670	0	24,180	2,640	2,115	31,375
05677	Ehrhardt Memorial, Ehrhardt	25,153	32,397	1,082,982	0	25,019	3,000	813	28,832
05678	Mount Pleasant, Ehrhardt	58,665	65,374	1,357,247	0	65,897	6,000	0	71,897
05679*	Trinity, Elloree	93,212	97,987	0	0	114,611	4,515	0	119,126
05680*	St Nicholas, Fairfax	41,113	53,110	359,000	0	53,993	2,316	985	57,294
05681	Trinity, Fairfax	77,884	77,884	0	0	53,280	0	0	53,280
05682	Christ, Hilton Head Island	306,501	465,960	4,368,439	946,531	472,831	3,000	1,450	617,897
05684*	Pine Grove, Lone Star	82,326	89,007	0	0	45,330	5,200	1,442	60,958
05688	Orangeburg, Orangeburg	153,678	184,555	0	0	170,577	4,800	0	183,377
30080*	Hope, Vance	147,217	153,720	1,083,751	0	129,787	3,300	2,175	146,899
05692	Good Shepherd, Walterboro	93,400	118,930	2,031,900	0	66,500	10,230	12,537	103,679
	Conference Totals	\$2,262,303	\$3,599,422	\$24,908,093	\$2,971,298	\$2,219,594	\$141,818	\$67,635	\$2,813,676
Conference: 05 Heartland									
05689	Mount Horeb, Chapin	484,899	537,893	5,210,275	298,451	388,555	52,900	7,500	493,855
05690	Mount Olivet, Chapin	89,475	101,605	1,179,475	0	78,111	10,000	2,682	90,793
05693	St Thomas, Chapin	215,145	248,092	225,615	0	198,139	5,000	2,949	213,881
05653*	St John, Clinton	35,552	37,354	0	0	39,355	300	0	39,655
05609	St John, Irmo	96,899	111,020	2,528,911	0	70,727	9,500	2,680	82,907
05626	Mount Tabor, Little Mountain	214,168	242,482	4,065,416	0	137,634	26,114	11,669	183,590
05628*	Beth Eden, Newberry	8,956	10,002	128,658	0	12,042	250	375	12,667
05627	Bethany Evangelical, Newberry	81,202	99,270	3,823,090	0	67,484	8,604	2,075	112,169
05630	Colony, Newberry	90,219	151,570	3,240,566	41,288	151,603	9,323	440	179,459
05631*	Faith, Newberry	35,116	47,192	0	0	48,279	2,750	1,595	54,831
05633*	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Newberry	286,791	286,791	0	0	280,868	0	0	280,868
05629*	St James, Newberry	107,747	120,211	1,959,949	0	102,981	6,575	1,170	115,001
05634	St Philip, Newberry	172,534	329,781	3,780,200	117,652	201,915	18,000	4,732	348,806
05635	Summer Memorial, Newberry	157,580	207,383	3,640,078	0	135,839	16,500	11,197	192,756
05636	Mount Hermon, Peak	96,577	113,097	392,236	0	111,203	10,020	18,385	144,088
05637	Bethlehem, Pomaria	105,321	105,321	1,500,000	0	81,185	10,000	0	94,771

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Form A - Congregation Finances as of December 31, 2022

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Cong ID	Congregation Name and City	Regular Giving	Total Receipts	Total Assets	Total Indebtedness	Current Operating Expenses	Mission Support	Non-Mission Support	Total Disbursements
05638*	Pomaria, Pomaria	109,325	109,325	0	0	100,520	0	0	100,520
05642	St John, Pomaria	104,703	118,954	0	0	126,707	500	420	127,627
05639	St Matthew, Pomaria	137,123	145,667	1,081,444	0	102,975	8,900	403	112,278
05641*	St Paul, Pomaria	170,682	183,223	3,979,570	0	172,116	16,400	3,819	192,335
05640	Bachman Chapel, Prosperity	65,456	68,678	1,975,841	0	58,888	7,200	901	78,249
05643	Grace, Prosperity	138,031	280,497	4,312,113	195,564	131,060	9,000	6,224	202,922
05644	Macedonia, Prosperity	331,538	402,896	0	0	241,933	30,000	12,570	362,039
05625*	Mount Pilgrim, Prosperity	76,051	90,800	0	0	81,065	3,675	2,379	106,811
05646	St Luke's, Prosperity	199,077	431,579	1,891,575	0	229,471	22,080	28,084	418,502
05647*	Silverstreet, Silverstreet	89,198	105,868	0	0	80,685	2,500	9,340	96,814
05620	Bethel, White Rock	215,752	272,593	235,905	0	227,005	12,375	4,590	281,820
05649	St Timothy, Whitmire	19,031	20,235	785,689	0	17,721	2,430	0	20,481
Conference Totals		\$3,934,148	\$4,979,379	\$45,936,606	\$652,955	\$3,676,066	\$300,896	\$136,179	\$4,740,495
Conference: 06 Midlands									
05685	St Andrew, Blythewood	29,525	59,050	200,000	0	22,507	400	0	22,907
05696	Ascension, Columbia	88,921	105,181	155,306	0	179,176	1,200	700	181,076
05671	Christus Victor, Columbia	236,311	275,340	1,816,436	1,584	227,960	23,750	22,425	286,339
05698	Ebenezer, Columbia	672,775	905,991	2,519,214	42,747	595,688	36,300	18,318	735,713
05600	Good Shepherd, Columbia	448,300	524,514	3,166,425	43,725	454,551	45,400	18,130	518,081
05601	Incarnation, Columbia	274,767	274,767	0	0	267,364	0	0	267,364
05629	Living Springs, Columbia	486,215	1,454,725	4,123,158	331,420	389,600	54,188	70,480	1,156,080
05623	Redeemer, Columbia	573,315	717,657	7,874,055	0	587,322	64,460	24,125	787,283
05602	Reformation, Columbia	169,427	246,488	6,032,824	0	166,600	20,400	3,394	190,394
05604	St Andrew's, Columbia	822,725	877,828	7,509,242	0	524,039	47,508	18,090	614,005
05605	St Luke, Columbia	121,654	154,192	3,901,059	0	193,387	5,000	0	198,387
05606	St Michael, Columbia	174,685	250,184	838,426	0	233,871	8,000	0	241,871
05607	St Paul, Columbia	408,212	887,547	9,900,769	17,205	659,750	40,000	80,692	825,990
05608	Bethlehem, Irmo	143,481	260,688	3,592,153	0	249,474	18,764	0	268,238
05590	St James, Sumter	121,294	237,772	4,118,390	0	163,246	8,730	15,681	187,657
Conference Totals		\$4,771,607	\$7,231,924	\$55,747,457	\$436,681	\$4,914,535	\$374,100	\$272,035	\$6,481,385
Conference: 07 Conference Seven									
30725	Holy Spirit Evangelical, Charleston	205,648	278,089	5,673,909	0	296,146	21,197	1,253	319,976
05669	Lutheran Church Of The Redeemer, Charleston	574,107	606,308	4,929,882	184,322	483,085	24,600	29,335	590,201
05668	Martin Luther Evangelical, Charleston	151,572	183,379	2,201,235	0	141,526	10,800	6,968	176,047
05671*	St Barnabas, Charleston	81,891	135,053	0	0	110,487	10,500	18,064	139,051

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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05672	St Johannes, Charleston	137,335	158,334	4,858,822	329,703	182,241	6,000	3,425	226,222
05673	St John, Charleston	366,926	612,862	14,940,008	0	440,288	9,000	43,892	493,180
05674	St Matthew, Charleston	1,032,058	1,867,558	16,871,870	0	1,446,452	70,833	26,163	1,543,448
05687	Messiah, Hanahan	119,000	171,000	858,500	0	156,051	11,105	3,800	171,706
05690	St Mark, Isle of Palms	127,883	194,943	10,116,400	0	168,325	1,160	3,700	212,185
05683	Faith, Johns Island	63,890	71,227	1,918,856	0	63,522	5,350	3,189	82,684
05694	St Michael, Moncks Corner	104,658	116,158	1,328,494	0	44,015	2,860	28,463	103,338
07396	All Saints, Mount Pleasant	573,798	794,494	4,492,856	265,574	448,746	49,833	14,471	1,385,354
05685	St Paul, Mt Pleasant	44,074	196,930	1,581,204	1,490	58,900	5,836	500	65,236
05691	St Luke, Summerville	975,500	4,445,090	13,435,247	4,000,000	619,342	45,000	13,502	5,065,917
	Conference Totals	\$4,558,340	\$9,831,425	\$83,207,283	\$4,781,089	\$4,659,126	\$274,074	\$196,725	\$10,574,545
Conference: 08 Saxe Gotha									
05688	Transfiguration, Cayce	294,471	351,867	4,819,396	0	347,384	30,024	20,946	466,238
05722	Holy Trinity, Columbia	47,493	47,493	0	0	34,997	0	0	34,997
05721	Bethany, Lexington	52,828	67,710	804,147	0	41,228	3,950	860	60,093
05710	Nazareth, Lexington	88,912	115,489	1,895,000	0	75,702	990	15,338	116,293
05712	Pilgrim, Lexington	322,048	515,400	4,216,387	1,010,681	315,587	0	2,244	576,930
05713	Pisgah, Lexington	557,151	601,426	5,036,737	1,394,746	382,136	53,623	31,389	599,148
05711	Providence, Lexington	229,166	254,864	1,676,708	0	165,766	16,105	3,400	185,271
05715	St James, Lexington	207,017	481,756	4,331,388	0	183,864	15,000	1,500	200,364
05714*	St John, Lexington	114,958	117,758	0	0	123,276	1,500	0	124,776
05716	St Matthew's, Lexington	169,380	170,740	2,204,070	0	110,929	2,000	0	112,929
05718	St Stephen, Lexington	856,928	1,455,395	5,395,393	215,000	809,965	63,000	8,059	1,555,330
05719	Zion, Lexington	785,590	789,697	5,133,803	0	328,556	40,975	6,437	571,816
05723*	St John, Pelion	3,521	5,521	100,000	0	3,500	400	100	4,000
05612*	Good Shepherd, Swansea	41,103	52,693	0	0	69,227	4,020	320	73,567
05613	Sandy Run, Swansea	39,510	65,986	201,711	0	51,241	7,560	9,090	85,837
30851	C Cristo Rey, West Columbia	20,268	20,268	0	0	21,716	0	0	21,716
05614	Emmanuel, West Columbia	233,236	251,810	553,323	0	223,371	23,375	2,600	249,346
05615	Faith, West Columbia	138,689	147,165	2,105,406	75,187	98,809	14,500	3,618	132,051
05616	Mount Hermon, West Columbia	232,996	423,469	3,894,587	244,054	223,372	13,600	0	389,226
05617	Mount Tabor, West Columbia	554,052	750,150	8,406,463	0	605,898	53,031	21,744	691,721
05618*	Our Saviour, West Columbia	280,414	280,414	0	0	199,167	12,000	8,877	220,044
05619	St David, West Columbia	528,151	568,626	8,068,078	23,754	510,141	52,711	10,069	601,721
	Conference Totals	\$5,797,882	\$7,535,697	\$58,842,597	\$2,963,422	\$4,925,832	\$408,364	\$146,591	\$7,073,414
Conference: 09 Western									
05695	St Paul, Aiken	595,721	697,382	6,007,622	466,068	484,303	54,701	34,890	613,183

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Cong ID	Congregation Name and City	Regular Giving	Total Receipts	Total Assets	Total Indebtedness	Current Operating Expenses	Mission Support	Non-Mission Support	Total Disbursements
05696	Faith Evangelical, Batesburg Leesville	210,141	267,568	872,818	157,912	200,057	2,928	23,473	247,124
05697*	St Peter, Batesburg Leesville	14,834	21,202	303,500	0	10,569	2,000	7,900	20,469
05709	Wittenberg, Batesburg Leesville	289,141	420,927	2,730,971	0	293,530	27,200	110,594	455,139
05698	Grace, Gilbert	134,299	197,438	316,809	0	225,332	0	0	225,332
05699	St Paul, Gilbert	217,857	217,857	2,521,602	0	106,700	8,000	2,100	116,800
05700	St James, Graniteville	198,889	239,264	5,403,342	0	171,370	17,500	18,473	220,243
05701	Mount Calvary, Johnston	156,204	161,656	0	0	162,226	9,000	1,898	267,349
05702	St John, Johnston	1,529	5,782	715,627	0	14,774	3,598	0	18,372
05703	Bethlehem, Leesville	117,998	150,783	0	0	112,844	10,000	0	122,844
05705*	Cedar Grove, Leesville	276,317	343,541	0	0	220,435	25,000	1,834	247,269
05704*	Enon, Leesville	14,655	14,655	0	0	20,982	550	0	21,532
05706	Mount Hebron, Leesville	123,067	123,067	0	0	86,766	0	0	86,766
05708	St James, Leesville	123,900	137,553	2,334,028	0	127,975	10,000	2,958	140,933
05725	St Mark, Leesville	62,022	69,259	999,750	0	44,857	0	11,504	56,361
05707	Union, Leesville	160,253	216,847	2,846,736	0	140,180	11,286	735	179,902
05724	Corinth, Saluda	76,590	115,678	333,729	0	49,852	7,100	22,015	104,367
05729*	Mount Pleasant, Saluda	102,211	102,211	0	0	105,250	0	0	105,250
05727*	Good Hope, Ward	7,185	36,590	864,711	0	171,790	0	0	171,790
	Conference Totals	\$2,882,813	\$3,539,260	\$26,251,245	\$623,980	\$2,749,792	\$188,863	\$238,374	\$3,421,025
	Synod Totals	\$33,435,844	\$48,543,731	\$389,017,323	\$17,433,092	\$32,143,609	\$2,344,311	\$1,773,528	\$46,869,248

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Summary of Membership Statistics
Totals -- End of Year

	2021	2022	Change	Percent
Congregations	145	143	-2	-1.38
Congregations - Organized	144	142	-2	-1.39
Congregations - Under Development	1	1	0	0.00
Congregations - Filed Form A	105	114	9	8.57
Baptized Members	38,770	37,092	-1,678	-4.33
Average Baptized Members per Congregation	269	261	-8	-2.98
Confirmed Members	31,806	31,079	-727	-2.29
Average Confirmed Members per Congregation	221	219	-2	-0.91

Analysis of Membership Gains and Losses

Baptized Members -- Received				
By Baptism - Children Under Age 16	215	217	2	0.93
By Baptism - Adults Age 16 and Older	40	29	-11	-27.50
By Affirmation of Faith	315	398	83	26.35
By Transfer	375	601	226	60.27
From Other Sources and Stat Adjts	114	86	-28	-24.56
Baptized Members -- Total Received	1,059	1,331	272	25.68

Baptized Members -- Removed

By Death	586	553	-33	-5.63
By Transfer	297	422	125	42.09
For Other Reasons and Stat Adjts	1,327	1,266	-61	-4.60
Baptized Members -- Total Removed	2,210	2,241	31	1.40

Baptized Members Confirmed

Baptized Members Confirmed	141	189	48	34.04
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Active Participants

Active Participants	23,717	21,937	-1,780	-7.51
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Analysis of Attendance

	2021	2022
Avg. # wks congregations worshipped (on-site)	32	40
Avg. # wks congregations worshipped (online)	28	31
Total avg. weekly worship attendance (on-site)	7,521	9,296
Total avg. weekly worship attendance (online)	8,853	6,314
Avg. att. per congregation (on-site)	65	75
Avg. att. per congregation (online)	92	71
Average att. as a percentage of baptized membership (on-site)	19.40	25.06
Average att. as a percentage of baptized membership (online)	22.83	17.02

Vitality - Congregation Description (Averages)

<i>Range: Hardly at All (1) - Very Well (5)</i>	
Excitement About the Future	4.11
Positive Force in the Community	4.12
Ready to Try Something New	3.63

Vitality - Congregation Strengths (Averages)

<i>Range: Poor (1) - Great (5)</i>	
Seeking/Using Member Gifts	3.60
Live Out Faith in Their Daily Lives	3.79

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Summary of Financial Statistics

Totals -- End of Year	2021	2022	Change	Percent	Statistical Analysis
Total Receipts	45,386,440	48,543,731	3,157,291	6.96	Averages per Congregation Reporting Total Receipts (/143) 339,466.65
Total Disbursements	41,894,217	46,869,248	4,975,031	11.88	Total Disburse (/143) 327,756.98
Total Indebtedness on Dec 31	14,894,742	17,433,092	2,538,350	17.04	Total Indebtedness (/38) 458,765.58
Projected Mission Support	2,289,299	2,344,911	55,612	2.43	
Average Total Giving / Bapt Member	1030.79	1102.73	71.94	6.98	Percent Congs With No Debt 73.43
Average Total Giving / Conf Member	1256.49	1316.09	59.60	4.74	

Detail of Financial Statistics - Receipts

Regular Giving	33,210,647	33,435,844	225,197	0.68
Designated Giving	6,753,121	7,466,774	713,653	10.57
Earned Income (any source)	2,007,862	1,248,285	-759,577	-37.83
Grants (any source)	765,998	739,507	-26,491	-3.46
All Other Receipts	2,648,812	5,653,321	3,004,509	113.43

Detail of Financial Statistics - Disbursements

	Percent of Total Disbursements				
Current Operating Expenses	30,020,793	32,143,609	2,122,816	7.07	68.58
Capital Improvements	3,564,160	6,798,922	3,234,762	90.76	14.51
Payments on Debts	3,211,526	2,358,553	-852,973	-26.56	5.03
Mission Support	2,150,306	2,344,311	194,005	9.02	5.00
Other Synod Benevolence	365,793	359,980	-5,813	-1.59	0.77
Other CWO Benevolence	45,854	54,807	8,953	19.53	0.12
Benevolence - Another Country	107,946	63,307	-44,639	-41.35	0.14
Benevolence - Camps	45,790	67,515	21,725	47.44	0.14
Benevolence - Campus Ministry	61,165	74,022	12,857	21.02	0.16
Benevolence - Colleges	25,441	20,904	-4,537	-17.83	0.04
Benevolence - Seminaries	10,090	7,235	-2,855	-28.30	0.02
Benevolence - Social Service	305,195	381,821	76,626	25.11	0.81
Benevolence - Direct Recipient	687,591	743,937	56,346	8.19	1.59
Subtotal Non-Mission Supt Benev	1,654,865	1,773,528	118,663	7.17	3.78
Other Expenses & Realized Losses	1,292,567	1,450,325	157,758	12.21	3.09

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Congregations Reporting Ethnic Active Participants	2021	2022	Change	Percent	Percent of Congregations Reporting Ethnic Active Participants
African American/Black	50	48	-2	-4.00	African American/Black 33.57
African National/African Caribbean	7	12	5	71.43	African National/African Caribbean 8.39
American Indian/Alaska Native	5	5	0	0.00	American Indian/Alaska Native 3.50
Arab/Middle Eastern	6	4	-2	-33.33	Arab/Middle Eastern 2.80
Asian/Pacific Islander	31	31	0	0.00	Asian/Pacific Islander 21.68
Latino/Hispanic	27	27	0	0.00	Latino/Hispanic 18.88
Multiracial	36	30	-6	-16.67	Multiracial 20.98
White	141	137	-4	-2.84	White 95.80

Total Ethnic Active Participants

	2021	2022	Change	Percent	Percent Ethnic Active Participants
African American/Black	314	200	-114	-36.31	African American/Black 0.92
African National/African Caribbean	13	18	5	38.46	African National/African Caribbean 0.08
American Indian/Alaska Native	7	6	-1	-14.29	American Indian/Alaska Native 0.03
Arab/Middle Eastern	8	14	6	75.00	Arab/Middle Eastern 0.06
Asian/Pacific Islander	80	76	-4	-5.00	Asian/Pacific Islander 0.35
Latino/Hispanic	182	222	40	21.98	Latino/Hispanic 1.03
Multiracial	112	92	-20	-17.86	Multiracial 0.42
White	23,004	21,021	-1,983	-8.62	White 97.10

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA
(111 Congs Filed)

	Yes	No	No Resp	Students
C30 - Did this congregation have Christian education on-site	99	10	2	
Educational Ministry				
Was Christian education offered online	21	30	60	
Total number of students				6,726
Did this congregation have vacation Bible school on-site	62	44	5	
Was vacation Bible school offered online	2	38	71	
Total number of students				3,022

C39 - Website contains current information

Yes	90
No	6
No website	15
No response to any	0

C40 - Social media profile contains current information

Yes	93
No	6
No social media profile	11
No response to any	1

	Definitely untrue	Hardly true	Somewhat true	Mostly true	Definitely true	Unsure	No response
C33 - As part of the worship service, this congregation provides written or verbal instructions to help visitors fully participate.	0	0	8	12	91	0	0
C34 - Someone in this congregation follows up with first-time visitors within one week.	2	8	23	28	47	3	0
C35 - Visitors who worship in this congregation typically attend more than once.	1	4	22	60	21	3	0
C36 - In the past year, this congregation has discussed how to remain active in the local community.	1	5	8	20	76	1	0

C43 - Familiarity with effort to "activate each of us, so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love."

Not at all	44
Slightly	31
Moderately	31
Extremely	5
No response to any	0

	Never	Less than once a month	Once a month	Several times a month	Every week	No response
C41 - How often did this congregation offer online worship (live or posted)?	22	4	0	2	83	1
C37 - In the past year, this congregation has implemented strategies for engaging new people.	33	2	2	2	2	2
C38 - This congregation displays a public statement of inclusion (in the bulletin, banner and/or website).	17	8	17	15	45	4
C42 - In the past year, online worship has been an effective way to engage new people in the life of this congregation.	19	6	25	22	27	10

	2022	2023 (proj.)
Never	22	24
Less than once a month	4	2
Once a month	0	1
Several times a month	2	0
Every week	83	83
No response	0	1

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

(111 Congs Filed)

C31 Languages in which Liturgies are Regularly Conducted

Amharic			
Anyuak			
Arabic			
Batak			
Burmese			
Cambodian			
Cantonese			
Cherokee			
Creole			
Czech			
Danish			
Dinka			
English	110		
Estonian			
Finnish			
French			
German			
Haitian			
Hmong			
Hungarian			
Indonesian			
Inupiat			
Japanese			
Kiswahili			
Korean			
Lakotah			
Lao			
Latvian			
Maban			
Mandarin			
Navajo			
Norwegian			
Nuer			
Oromo			
Paiute			
Portuguese			
Sign			
Slovak			
Spanish		1	
Swahili			
Swedish			
Tagalog			
Taiwanese			
Tamil			
Telugu			
Thai			
Tigrinya			
Ukrainian			
Urdu			
Vietnamese			

C32 - Disability Assistance Provided

Wheelchair Accessibility	110
Braille Worship Materials	4
Large Print Worship Materials	80
Assistive Hearing Devices	66
Sign Language Interpreters	0
Mental Health Ministries	6
Ministry with People with Developmental Disabilities	10
Specialized Faith Formation for Children or Adults (ADHD, autism, dyslexia, etc.)	3
No Response to Any	0

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Summary of Congregations That Did Not File 2022 Report Form A

CD950 Report

9C South Carolina Synod, ELCA

Last Year Filed	Cong ID	Cong Status	Baptized Members	Congregation Name	City, State	Minister	Phone
2009	05628	Org	41	Beth Eden	Newberry, SC	Dennis R. Gunter	(803)276-0652
2009	05629	Org	269	St James	Newberry, SC	Dennis R. Gunter	(803)276-0652
2009	05680	Org	81	St Nicholas	Fairfax, SC		(803)632-3528
2011	05723	Org	5	St John	Pelion, SC		
2015	05625	Org	150	Mount Pilgrim	Prosperity, SC	Bobby M. Morris	(803)364-4709
2015	05679	Org	92	Trinity	Elloree, SC	Dewey M. Evans	(803)897-2668
2016	05671	Org	142	St Barnabas	Charleston, SC		(843)722-3380
2017	05618	Org	218	Our Saviour	West Columbia, SC		(803)794-8180
2017	05704	Org	48	Enon	Leesville, SC		
2018	05631	Org	77	Faith	Newberry, SC		(803)276-5422
2018	05647	Org	117	Silverstreet	Silverstreet, SC		(803)276-1102
2018	05658	Org	32	Atonement	Laurens, SC		(864)984-7200
2018	05684	Org	98	Pine Grove	Lone Star, SC		(803)826-6971
2019	05612	Org	35	Good Shepherd	Swansea, SC		(803)568-3295
2019	05648	Org	30	Augsburg	Union, SC		(864)427-1833
2019	05653	Org	30	St John	Clinton, SC		(864)833-0172
2019	05682	Org	49	Trinity	Georgetown, SC		(843)546-5424
2019	05729	Org	66	Mount Pleasant	Saluda, SC		(864)445-7330
2019	05730	Org	224	Redeemer	Greer, SC	Venning E. Stringer	(864)877-5876
2019	07693	Org	237	St Peter	Pawleys Island, SC	Norris G. Van Dyke	(843)237-2795
2020	05633	Org	421	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	Newberry, SC	Matthew B. Titus	(803)276-2003
2020	05638	Org	97	Pomaria	Pomaria, SC		(803)276-4165
2020	05697	Org	16	St Peter	Batesburg Leesville, SC		(803)687-0098
2020	05714	Org	104	St John	Lexington, SC		(803)957-5402
2020	05727	Org	44	Good Hope	Ward, SC		(864)445-3682
2021	05641	Org	330	St Paul	Pomaria, SC		(803)276-2570
2021	05705	Org	835	Cedar Grove	Leesville, SC		(803)532-3543
2021	30080	Org	65	Hope	Vance, SC		(803)492-8419
2021	30683	Org	83	Faith Lutheran Chapel	Pickens, SC		(864)898-1890

Synod Total: 29 Congregation(s)