

RECOMMENDATIONS, REPORTS, AND NOTICE FROM THE SYNOD COUNCIL
South Carolina Synod Assembly June 8-10, 2023

NOTE: *=Items II, III, IV, V, IX and X are recommendations for Action by the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly

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I. ASSEMBLY: PROCEDURES AND ELECTIONS

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.

[End of constitutional provisions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions to guide the procedures and elections in the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly]

*RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION ON BUDGET PROCEDURES

II. Recommend the following "Budget Procedures" to guide the adoption of the 2024-202 budget 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 the close of the first session at 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:
Chapter S10.04.**

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

Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod

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

III. 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**

IV. 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 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.
- S7.27. 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

[End of recommendation for assembly action on Proposed Amendments to Recommended Provisions.]

***RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION ON MINUTES OF THE 2022 ASSEMBLY**
Report of the Secretary

V. 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 placed in the archives.

VI. NOTICE OF TIME AND PLACE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD ASSEMBLIES
Report of the Secretary

Notice is given by the Secretary in accord with S7.13., *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*: The Synod Council fixed the time and place for the South Carolina Synod Assembly in accord with S7.11.01.:

- 2024 – June 8, Online
- 2025 – June 12-14, Columbia SC
- 2026 – June 11-13, Columbia SC
- 2027 – June 12, Online

VII. RESOLUTION ON A FAITHFUL APPROACH TO THE DEATH PENALTY IN SOUTH CAROLINA
Report to 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 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=pIJLdirIdbM>

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

VIII. RESOLUTION ON FAITH FORMATION, ADVOCACY, AND CARE IN TIME OF TRAUMA **Report to the 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 persons 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 specialist 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 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

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

IX. Recommend 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 2023 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/>

***RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION ON 2024-2025 BUDGET**

X. Recommend 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, Jr., Secretary
Synod Council
South Carolina Synod of the ELCA

**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.

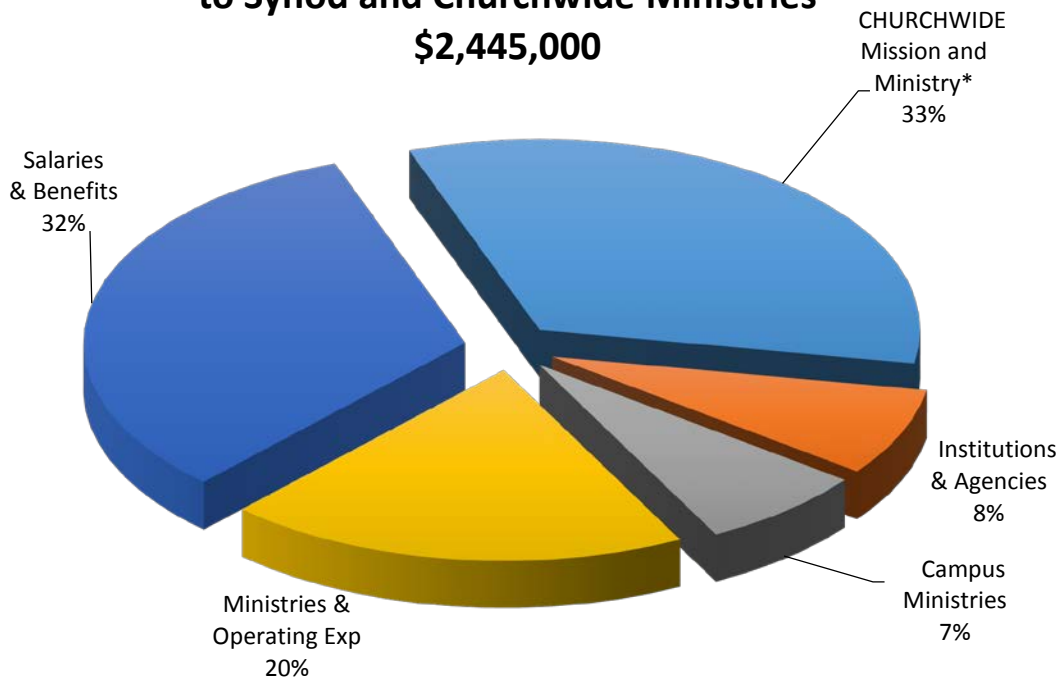
Note #3 The 2023/24 and 2024/25 budgets for the annual assembly of \$205,000 (in person) and \$52,000 (online) [respectively] are included in Category 4 - Connections & Resources for Ministry.

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