

REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL
Bulletin of Reports
South Carolina Synod, 2023-2024

Preface: Meeting Dates and Organization of Synod Council Committees

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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 2023 South Carolina (SC) Synod Assembly, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Synod Council has met on the following dates: August 26, 2023; November 13, 2023; February 26, 2024; and April 22, 2024. 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 Rev. Joanna Gragg (at large).
- Constitution:** Rev. W. Osborne Herlong Jr., chair; Mr. Daniel Crofts, Rev. Gregg Hoffman, Mr. Jeffrey Stringer, Ms. Gail Buchanan, Ms. Becky Koch, Mr. William Newmyer, and Rev. Henry M. Moody, Jr., advisory.
- Finance:** Ms. Cindy Davis, chair; Mrs. LaTynia Taylor; Mr. Raymond L. Hendrix Jr., Treasurer; Rev. W. Osborne Herlong Jr.; Ms. Charlene Fink, Synod Accountant; Ms. Donna Poulnot; Mr. Ron Walrath; and Ms. Sheila Caughman.
- Personnel:** Rev. Rachel Hoffman, chair; Ms. Kathy Hendrix; Rev. Joshua (Josh) Kestner; Mr. LaVone Griffin; and Rev. Carl Taylor.
- Property:** Ms. Beth Trump, chair; Mr. Larry Rathe, Property Manager; Mr. Al Estee; Mr. Randy Fellers; 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: Rev. Joanna Gragg, 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. Diane Wicker, Convener; Rev. Bobby Morris, Synod Council; and Mr. Mike Hartzog.
5. Appointed the following persons to the South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee for a term of two-years, 2024-2025: Ms. Silke Prylik, Christ, Hilton Head, Amelia Conference; Mr. Elliot Cox, St. Mark, Isle of Palms, Coastal Conference; Ms. Linda Albert, St. Philip, Myrtle Beach, Epiphany Conference; Mr. Richard Delap, Trinity, Greenville, Foothills Conference; Mr. Zach Lindler, St. Thomas, Chapin, Heartland Conference; and Deacon Deborah Poole, Pisgah, Lexington, Saxe Gotha Conference.

 Those persons serving 2023-2024 terms include: 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.
6. Appointed Deacon Sandra Holland as chair, 2024 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 years 2024 and 2025.
8. Appointed Mrs. Virginia Herlong, Synod Council, to the Audit Committee.
9. Appointed Mr. Brian Teusink to the Audit Committee for a three-year term expiring 2026.
10. Reappointed Rev. Pattie Sue Burton-Pye, as chair of the Audit Committee for the calendar year 2024.
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. Joyce Rose-Harris, and Rev. Joanna Gragg, respectively.
12. Reappointed Mr. Larry Rathe as Property Manager, South Carolina Synod, for a one-year, renewable term beginning April 2023.

II. PROPOSED 2025 COMPENSATION GUIDELINES

***RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION ON 2025 COMPENSATION GUIDELINES**

Recommends the 2025 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers, South Carolina Synod, for adoption by the 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

The *2025 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 *2025 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers* will be moved, upon approval by the 2024 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. Approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the properties of Our Shepherd, Hartsville and Faith Lutheran Chapel, Pickens have been received by the South Carolina Synod through Holy Closure, and
WHEREAS, there is a contract between Faith Lutheran Chapel, Pickens and ViaSat, provider of high-speed satellite broad band services and secure network systems; therefore, be it
Resolved, to list and place the properties on the market; and be it further
Resolved, to honor the contract between ViaSat and Faith Lutheran Chapel, Pickens to ensure proper disclosures and rights of first refusal are followed with the listing; and be it finally
Resolved, that Larry Rathe, Property Manager, be authorized to enter maintenance contracts, choose a realtor, and negotiate the selling of church properties received through Holy Closures and approved for sale by the Synod Council and upon the recommendation of the bishop or the bishop's appointee.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 26, 2023

2. Approved the following resolution:

Under the authority of †S13.24.c. of the Synod Constitution, to appoint the following Officers of the South Carolina Synod as trustees to take charge and control of the property of St. John, Johnston: Bishop Virginia S. Aebischer; Deacon Lexanne Graves, Vice President; Pr. W. Osborne Herlong, Secretary; Mr. Raymond Hendrix Jr., Treasurer, and

To authorize 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 remaining members at St. John, Johnston, have decided that it is no longer possible to function as a congregation; and

To move forward with Holy Closure when a written request is received, in accord with *S13.24. Synod Constitution that the remaining members at St. John, Johnston, have decided that it is no longer possible to function as a congregation or that they are unable to provide required governance.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 13, 2023

IV. CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

1. 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 2024 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.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. 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. 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 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.

S9.02. 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.
- S9.08. 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 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly)

2. Amended the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod*, by adding continuing resolutions, S7.01.A23. S7.01.B23. and recodify S7.01.A11. as S7.01.C11.

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.

(Rationale: To adopt a continuing resolution to provide additional authority for authorizing editing by the Committee of Reference and Counsel)

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

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.*

(Rationale: The synod's rules of organization and procedure should also address how the Committee of Reference and Counsel reports to the Synod Assembly and the status of its recommendations. To adopt

a continuing resolution that addresses the status of recommendations of the Committee of Reference and Counsel)

Additions are underscored
Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the previous 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.AC11. *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.*

3. 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*.

4. Rescinded the action on April 24, 2023, to propose to the 2023 Synod Assembly the amendment to S7.14.

V. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Received the Report of the Audit Committee, August 22, 2023, and refer the recommendations to the Finance Committee:

- All disbursement requests should be reviewed for accuracy before being approved.
- Travel and expense reimbursements should include travel location detail sufficient to support the number of miles requested as well as the reason for the travel. The blue Synod Travel/Expense form or a spreadsheet facsimile is recommended.
- Lost or missing receipts should be documented by noting the vendor, amount and reason for purchase, the fact that the invoice was lost and should be approved with the request for reimbursement.
- All reimbursement requests should be made monthly.

2. Approved the recommendations of the South Carolina Synod Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee to award grants for the year 2023-2024 in the amount of \$22,000 to:

Colony Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newberry	\$2,550
Partnership Consultation Expenses for Mission Statement, Core Values, & Strategic Goals	
Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas	\$7,400
Disaster Preparedness and Response Projects \$2, 950 and \$4,450	
Split between Mission Development and Special Expression of God's Love in the World	
South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers.....	\$1,000
Capital Campaign: New Entryway into Camp Kinard	
Matthew 2540.....	\$2.050
Guatemala Land and Facility for School, Daycare and Vocational Studies	
Security Wall to prevent gangs from threatening students, staff, and mission teams.	
James R. Crumley Jr. Archives.....	\$4,500
Documentary Film: Black Leaders and Congregations in the South Carolina Synod	
NovusWay Ministries	\$4,500
Expansion of Lutheroad Day Camp for underserved and/or unchurched youth.	
Partnership St. John's, Walhalla & St. Paul, Mt. Pleasant, Day Camp for underserved youth.	

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3. Approved the amendments to the Internal Control Policy made by the Audit Committee, which assists the Audit Committee to fulfill its general oversight of the synod's accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external processes as provided in *S11.05 and *S15.31., *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

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4. Approved the proposal for Scott and Company to serve as independent auditors for the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA for the years ending January 31, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029.

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5. Treasurer Hendrix reported the completion of the External Audit by Scott and Company as of and for the year ended January 31, 2023, and that the audit was clear.

Scott and Company

October 17, 2023

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, (the "Synod") (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of January 31, 2023, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Synod as of January 31, 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

A copy of the audit was sent to the members of the Synod Council and will be made available on the South Carolina Synod Web Site.

Scott and Company also issued a letter of Required Communications which was also sent to the members of the Synod Council.

Minutes of Synod Council Meeting, November 13, 2023

6. Approved the following resolution:

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 2024.

Rev. Virginia S. Aebischer	\$13,000
Rev. Richard T. Carter	\$45,000
Rev. Emily Hartmann	\$24,000
Rev. Jorge A. Leone	\$12,000
Rev. Joshua R. Knutson	\$22,000
Rev. Martin Lopez-Vega	\$20,250

7. Approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the following funds have not been used due to lack of a program or need or have not been utilized in 12 months or longer:

Acct # 3020305-1 Spouse Retreat.....	\$ 371.00
Acct # 3020334-1 Lifelong Faith Formation.....	\$ 365.00
Acct # 3020363-5 SC COVID-19	\$ 620.00
Acct # 3020347-1 Ventures	\$ 79.38
Acct # 3020336-1 Cultivating Leadership/Vitality	\$ 2,682.18
Acct # 3020336-3 Grace & Gigabytes Webinar	\$ 30.00
Acct # 4810482-1 COVID-19 Congregation Grants.....	\$ 49,000.00

therefore, be it

Resolved, that the funds listed above become unrestricted in accord with 4B.3, *Gift & Bequest Policy*; and be it finally

Resolved, that these balances be adjusted to become miscellaneous income in the current fiscal year, February 1, 2023, to January 31, 2024.

8. Approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Synod Council, meeting in regular session on November 13, 2023, undesignated the following formerly designated account balances,

and to redesignate as a part of Account # 4810483-1 Disciples/Stewardship-Resurrection:

Acct # 3020347-1 Ventures	\$ 79.38
Acct # 3020336-1 Cultivating Leadership/Vitality	\$2,682.18

therefore, be it

Resolved, that the account balances listed above become part of Account # 4810483-1 Disciples/Stewardship-Resurrection.

9. Increased the previously designated housing allowance of \$12,000 to \$20,000 for the calendar year 2024 for The Rev. Jorge Leone.

Minutes of Synod Council Meeting, February 26, 2024

10. Approved the Bylaws of the Synod Vitality Endowment Fund.

BYLAWS

Synod Vitality Endowment Fund - South Carolina Synod
Managed by Thrivent Financial

The Synod Council, South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, meeting in regular session on August 27, 2022, approved a *Resolution on Establishing a Synod Vitality Endowment Fund* [The Fund]. To effectively manage and use this fund for its intended purposes, the following bylaws are established:

- 1) Withdrawals from The Fund shall be based on a three-year rolling average of The Fund's value, based on the January 31 value of The Fund for the current year and previous two years;

- 2) The Finance Committee shall review The Fund's investment performance, preferably with the Financial Advisor managing The Fund's investment portfolio, at a regularly called meeting of the Finance Committee. Said review shall take place not less frequently than annually;
- 3) The Finance Committee, in a regularly called meeting and based on the afore mentioned rolling three-year average, is authorized to make spending withdrawals based on a percentage of The Fund's average value as described above;
- 4) The maximum annual withdrawal rate from The Fund shall not exceed 4%;
- 5) Because withdrawals are to be used for internal operations, an administrative fee shall not be leaved against The Fund by the Synod;
- 6) Funds withdrawn from The Fund will be placed in a temporarily restricted account and directed toward the Fund's stated objectives of supporting new starts, innovations, stewardship, and congregational vitality within the South Carolina Synod;
- 7) Unused funds may accumulate for up to two years after which time they will be re-invested in The Fund if not allocated;
- 8) Bylaws of The Fund shall be amended, as necessary, by the Synod Council in a regularly scheduled meeting; and
- 9) Bylaws of the Synod Vitality Endowment Fund shall be included in the Policies and Procedures Manual of the South Carolina Synod.

Minutes of Synod Council Meeting, February 26, 2024

11. Redesignated the Growing in God's Mission account from Safe Water Tanzania to a general fund account, Water & Agriculture Projects -Tanzania; and included in this account water for drinking, bathing, irrigation, and for other sustainable agricultural needs.

Minutes of Synod Council Meeting, February 26, 2024

VI. PERSONNEL

1. Granted on-leave-from-call status for Deacon Ashlyn S. Cox beginning July 2, 2023, The Rev. Mark J. Smith beginning September 1, 2023, and The Rev. Michael R. Sherman Jr beginning January 8, 2024.
2. Voted to continue on-leave-from-call status for the second year The Rev. Thulisiwe N. Beresford.
3. Granted family leave for The Rev. Jamie Reising beginning January 21, 2024, and The Rev. Rebecca Lord-Phillips beginning February 12, 2024.
4. Voted to continue family leave for the second year Deacon Mandi Whitley and Deacon Shelley M. Allen, and for the sixth year Deacon Lexanne Graves.
5. Requested the Conference of Bishops, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, extend family leave beyond six years for The Rev. Kristoffer K. Cox. 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 Rev. Kristoffer K. Cox.
ELCA Conference of Bishops, Actions Regarding Rosters, March 1, 2024.
6. Requested the Conference of Bishops, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, extend family leave beyond six years for Deacon Lexanne Graves. The Conference of Bishops approved, as provided in bylaw 7.61.08.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 Deacon Lexanne Graves.
ELCA Conference of Bishops, Actions Regarding Rosters, March 1, 2024.
7. Continued to list Deacon Deborah E. Poole on the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church as retired December 31, 2023.

8. Renewed a Call to Interim Ministry, South Carolina Synod, to The Rev. Mary W. Anderson beginning January 1, 2024, for a term of two years, in accord with 7.41.01.c. *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA.*
9. Renewed the Call to Interim Ministry, South Carolina Synod, to The Rev. Linda L. Anderson beginning April 15, 2024, for a term of two years, in accord with 7.41.01.c. *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA.*
10. Extended a Call to Non-Congregational Service to Deacon Barbara Hoy Rowell as Hospice Chaplain, Spiritual Care and Education Department, Prisma Health, Columbia, beginning February 19, 2024.
11. To extend to Pr. Sue Eld Johnson a Call to Non-Congregational Service as Chaplain, The Heritage at Lowman Active Life Center (The Heritage), Lutheran Homes of South Carolina, beginning November 6, 2023.
12. The Rev. Steven B. Counts resigned from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on September 13, 2023. As required when a rostered minister is removed from the roster, the files and records of Pr. Counts have been sent to the Office of the Secretary, ELCA.
13. Bishop Virginia S. Aebischer reported that The Rev. Michael R. Sherman resigned from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on March 23, 2024. As required when a rostered minister is removed from the roster, the files and records of Pr. Sherman have been sent to the Office of the Secretary, ELCA.

VII. INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

1. Ratified the action of the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Board of Trustees on May 18, 2023, to amend sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the by-laws of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina.
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 26, 2023
2. Ratified the action of the Boards of Lutheran Services for the Aging and Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, on September 11, 2023, to elect The Rev. Leroy Cannon to each of the respective Boards of Trustees, to a three-year term beginning September 2023 and ending September 2026.
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 13, 2023
3. Designated April 28, 2024, as Synod-wide Newberry College Sunday and to invite the congregations of the South Carolina Synod to participate.
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 13, 2023
4. Designated September 22, 2024, as Lutheran Services Carolinas Sunday in the South Carolina Synod and to invite congregations to participate.
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, February 26, 2024
5. Ratified the action of the respective Boards of Trustees of Lutheran Services for the Aging and Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas in electing Ms. Eunika Simons to each of the respective Boards of Trustees to a three-year term beginning September 2024 and ending September 2027.
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, April 22, 2024

VIII. SYNOD-AUTHORIZED WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

1. Redesignated Restoration Chapel, Columbia, formerly a Synod-Authorized Worshiping Community Exploration, as a Synod-Authorized Worshiping Community; and redesignated Pr. Amanda Burke, formerly Exploration Leader, as Leader.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 13, 2023

2. Approved the following Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities on the territory of the South Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for the calendar year 2024.

Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities

Columbia, Sagrada Familia (Holy Family)
Columbia, Restoration Chapel
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

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, February 26, 2024

IX. 200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD

1. Approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Carolina and Adjacent States was established in January 1824; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Synod Council authorize the Executive Committee to appoint a Planning Team to observe the 200th Anniversary of the South Carolina Synod; and be it further

Resolved, that the celebration kickoff at the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8, 2024; and be it finally

Resolved, that the culmination of the celebration of the 200th Anniversary takes place at the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 12-14, 2025, Columbia.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 26, 2023

X. SYNOD ASSEMBLY

1. 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*:

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

2. Received the annual review of Synod Assembly elected committees by the Executive Committee on August 8, 2023, 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 26, 2023

3. Approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a *Resolution on Living Into the Unity of the Body of Christ* was adopted at the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8-10, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the resolution 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;

WHEREAS, the resolution resolved that a report be given to the 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Synod Council receive the *Resolution on Living Into the Unity of the Body of Christ* adopted by the South Carolina Synod Assembly; and be it further

Resolved, that the Synod Council affirm the plans for implementation developed by Bishop Virginia S. Aebischer and the Office of the Bishop; and be it finally

Resolved, that a progress report be given in each of the meetings of the Synod Council beginning November 13, 2023, with the goal of bringing a report to the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8, 2024.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 26, 2023

4. Approved the *Minutes of the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8-10, 2023*, in principle, and allow Secretary Herlong and Bishop Virginia S. Aebischer to make editorial changes for publication in the *2023 Directory and Minutes of the South Carolina Synod, ELCA*.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 26, 2023

5. Designated August 15, 2025, as the beginning date of the term of the newly elected vice president following election at the 2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly in accord with †§8.52. Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 13, 2023

6. Approved the registration fee of \$75.00 per person for the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8, 2024.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 13, 2023

7. Designated the offerings received at the worship services of the 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly to the Campus Ministries in the South Carolina Synod.

Food insecurity is a real issue for a lot of students and the feeding ministries of our Campus Ministries is vital. Sharing a meal is a powerful means of welcoming people and creating community and life-giving work. We hope all congregations will find a special way to gather their assembly offering and send it to be a part of the very important ministry of feeding the young adults on our college campuses across South Carolina.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, February 26, 2024

8. To receive the Report of the Task Force [Bible Team] on Resolution on Living into the Unity of the Body of Christ with gratitude and to request that Secretary Herlong present the report to the 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly in *Recommendations, Notice and Report from the Synod Council*.

South Carolina Synod receiving Curriculum Gift for 2024-2025

The SC Synod Bible Team began meeting in the summer of 2023 to consider ways to fulfill the work of the Resolution on Living into the Unity of the Body of Christ that was passed at the 2023 Synod Assembly. This Bible Team includes Josh Kestner, Josh Knutson, Shelley Allen, Steven Gallego, Kevin Ogilvie, Lisa Isenhower, Bobby Morris, Joanna Gragg, Libby Bedenbaugh, Arden Hallman, Heather Apel, Deborah Poole, Wayne Kannaday, Ginny Aebischer. For a time, it also included Mark Buchan. This team meets together monthly to explore options for how to best resource and support the work of Bible Study and to gather the SC Synod together in Unity around God's Word. Updates on our activity has been shared at each meeting of the SC Synod Council. Now we are happy to share the results of our work with all of you.

We are excited to share that this team is writing a curriculum that is being offered as a gift to the entire Synod for use in Sunday School classes or with small groups. We have divided the curriculum into two sections. Section 1 will be sent to all congregations in early May and can be used in August, September, October, November, December and January. Section 2 will be released later in the fall

and is intended to be used between March 2025 through August 2025. The material will come as units of study that can be used over a period of several weeks but are not dated because we wanted to make it user friendly and allow each of you to determine when you wish to use each part, and to give you freedom to explore the topics for the weeks that your group needs. In Section 1 topics include: "Introduction to What the Bible is and What the Bible is not," "The Gospel of Luke," "Advent," "Christmas," "Revelation". This Bible Team is also working to produce the same topics in a version that could be used with youth classes. Be on the lookout for the first half of this gift in early May. Many thanks to the Bible Team for offering this to everyone in the SC Synod. In addition, this Bible Team is working on a video concept that we hope to produce this spring using short clips to explore various Biblical questions as Food for Thought and an opportunity to Feast on Faith. This part of our work is, indeed, a work in progress. We hope to produce these short videos for use on social media and anticipate that you will see some of this in the near future. In the meantime, keep reading the Scriptures together and living God's Word in the world.

*The Rev. Virginia S. Aebischer, Bishop
ELCA South Carolina Synod
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, February 26, 2024*

XI. SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Approved the following meeting dates and times of the Synod Council 2024-2025:

- August 24, 2024..... 10:00 a.m. Synod Council Retreat In-Person
- November 11, 2024 3:00 p.m. Online
- February 24, 2025 3:00 p.m. Online
- April 28, 2025..... 12 Noon In-Person (April 21, 2025 is the Monday after Easter)

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 13, 2023

XII. SYNOD OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Approved the synod office holiday schedule for 2024-2025:

- January 1 New Year's Day
- January 15..... Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- March 28 Good Friday (Thursday is taken off)
- May 27..... Memorial Day
- June 10-11* Post-Synod Assembly Compensation Days
- July 4 Independence Day
- September 2..... Labor Day
- November 27-28..... Thanksgiving Day (the preceding Wednesday is taken)
- December 24-January 1..... Christmas Eve 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.

Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, November 13, 2023

XIII. PROPOSED BUDGET SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD 2023-2024

***RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION**

1. Recommends the "Mission Funding and Spending Plan [Budget] Procedures" to guide the adoption of the 2025-2026 Mission Funding and Spending Plan for adoption by the 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

Mission Funding and Spending Plan [Budget S10.04] Procedures

Should a 2024 SC Synod Assembly [Assembly] voting member desire to propose amendment of 2025-2026 Mission Funding and Spending Plan [Budget S10.04] [The Plan], the following procedures will be followed for a proposed amendment to be considered “properly submitted.”

- a. Any proposed amendment to The Plan that increases a current program’s expense allocation, or that adds a new current program expense allocation proposal to The Plan, must include a corresponding decrease in some other current program proposal in the same amount; or identify an increase in revenues to offset the proposed expense.
- b. Proposed amendments to The Plan must be submitted to the secretary of the synod by 9:00 a.m. on June 5, 2024.
- c. Each proposed amendment or resolution to amend must be submitted using the synod’s on-line form.
- d. Each proposed amendment or resolution to amend must be cosponsored by not fewer than ten additional 2024 Assembly voting members. The voting member submitting the proposed amendment or resolution to amend must provide the name and telephone number of each cosponsor.
- e. The Synod Finance Committee shall meet at 11:00 a.m. on June 5, 2024, to consider each properly submitted amendment proposal. Synod Finance committee shall prepare a recommendation concerning each properly proposed amendment after considering the implications of said amendment if adopted by the voting members of the Assembly.
- f. During the consideration of The Plan by the Assembly, the Treasurer or Finance Committee shall report on the implication of each properly proposed amendments or resolutions to amend The Plan. This report will contain a recommendation from the Synod Finance Committee to the Assembly voting members.

**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
Minutes of Synod Council Meeting, February 26, 2024*

***RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION**

2. Recommends a Mission Funding and Spending Plan [Budget] in the amount of \$2,458,500 for the fiscal year February 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026, for adoption by the 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

See attached 2025-2026 Proposed Budget and Pie Chart Documents



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

**South Carolina Synod, ELCA
Proposed Mission Funding/Spending Plan 2025-2026**

	Approved Mission Funding/Spending Plan <u>2024-2025</u>	Proposed Mission Funding/Spending Plan <u>2025-2026</u>
Mission Support and Other Revenue		
Congregational Support Synod-Churchwide (1)	2,360,000	2,310,000
Fees-Assembly	13,000	54,000
Investment Income	50,000	50,000
Other Income	22,000	22,000
Carryover/Constitution Provision S15.14. (2)	0	22,500
Total Revenue	2,445,000	2,458,500
Benevolence and Expenditures		
Mission Benevolence		
ELCA Support (1)	690,000	495,000
SC Synod Ministries Support	115,000	94,886
Joint Ministries Region 9 Support	11,000	11,000
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	5,000	4,000
Archives	6,000	6,098
ELCA Regional Gift Planner	10,000	10,000
Southern Seminary	77,000	77,000
SC Lutheran Retreat Centers	54,000	59,000
NovusWay	12,800	14,000
Newberry College	12,800	10,000
Lutheran Homes	12,800	10,000
Lutheran Services Carolinas	12,800	13,000
Totals	1,019,200	803,984
Ministries		
Category 1-Rostered Ministry	101,250	105,375
Category 2-Congregations & Lay Leaders	109,000	100,500
Category 3-New Leader Development	195,441	222,791
Category 4-Connections & Resources for Ministry (3)	135,474	315,550
Totals	541,165	744,216
Operating Expenses		
Salaries, Benefits and Related (4)	793,000	819,000
Operating Expenses	91,635	91,300
Totals	884,635	910,300
Total Benevolence and Expenditures	2,445,000	2,458,500

Note #1 ELCA support for 2024/25 is 30% of unrestricted congregational support.
ELCA support for 2025/26 is 22% 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 2024/25 and 2025/26 budgets for the annual assembly of \$52,000 (online) and \$230,000 (in person) [respectively] are included in Category 4 - Connections & Resources for Ministry.

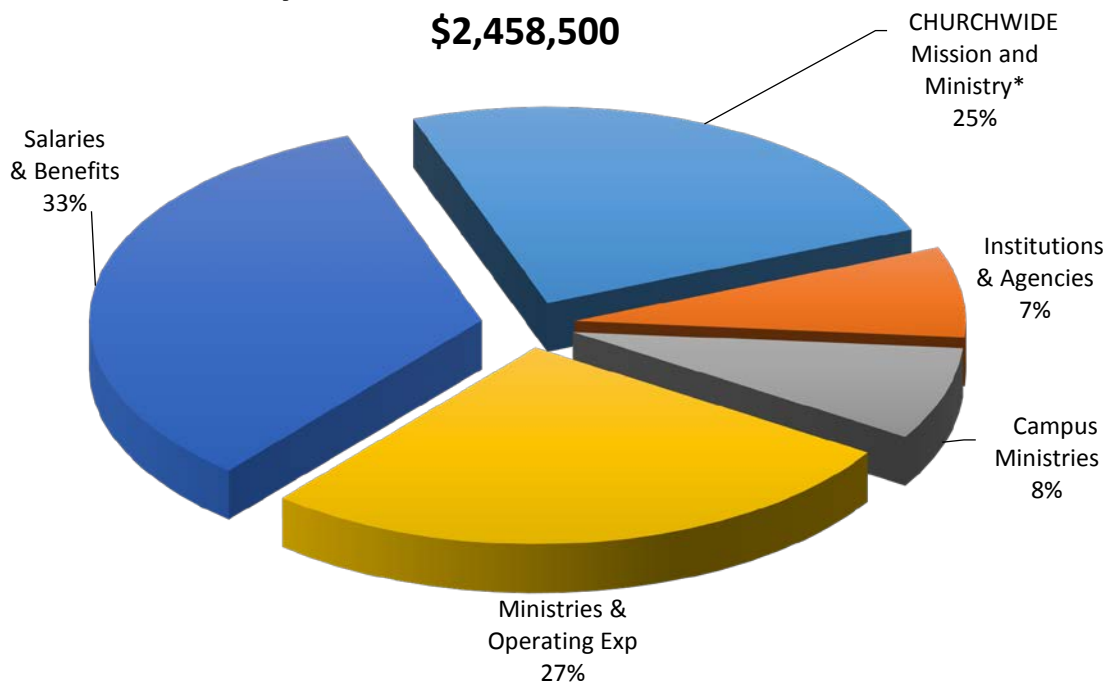
Note #4 The 2025/26 budget for salaries includes a 3.2% cost of living increase for the non-rostered staff. Rostered staff will be at or above compensation guidelines.

South Carolina Synod, ELCA 2025-2026 Proposed Mission Funding/Spending Plan

\$600,886	Churchwide Mission and Ministry
\$183,000	Institutions & Agencies
\$187,791	Campus Ministries
\$667,823	Ministries & Operating Expenses
\$819,000	Salaries & Benefits

\$2,458,500	

Mission Support from Congregations to Synod and Churchwide Ministries \$2,458,500



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 2025-2026 is 22% of unrestricted congregational support