

RECOMMENDATIONS AND NOTICES FROM THE SYNOD COUNCIL
South Carolina Synod Assembly June 12-14, 2025

*NOTE: *Items II, III, IV, VII, VIII and IX are recommendations for Action by the 2025 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 2025 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.*
- S7.11.03. Voting members shall attend meetings of the assembly.**
- S7.11.05. At the regular annual meeting, the Synod Assembly shall approve a budget for the following fiscal year.**
- 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.**
- S7.21.01. 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.**
- †S7.23. 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.**
- S7.28. 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.*

Chapter 8. OFFICERS

†S8.01. The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

S8.20. Vice president

†S8.21. The vice president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The vice president shall be a layperson. The vice president shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The vice president shall not receive a salary for the performance of the duties of this office.

S8.22. The vice president shall chair the Synod Council.

8.50. General Provisions

†S8.51. The terms of office of the officers of this synod shall be as follows:

- a. The bishop of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected.**
- b. The vice president and secretary of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected. The officer shall serve until a successor takes office.**
- c. The treasurer of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected. The treasurer shall serve until a successor takes office.**

†S8.52. The terms of the officers shall begin on the first day of the third month following election or, in special circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.

†S8.53. Each officer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, except that the bishop need not be a member of a congregation of this synod at the time of election.

Chapter 9. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

†S9.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws. The Synod Assembly shall elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with bylaw 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- S9.01.A08. *The Synod Council Executive Committee shall provide for background checks for persons nominated for synodical office prior to the Synod Assembly at which the election will take place or as soon as possible after the Synod Assembly for newly elected officers nominated from the floor who were not identified as nominees prior to the assembly. The process shall be as follows:*
- a. *Prior to the Synod Assembly appropriate notice of the background check requirement and protocol will be provided to voting members, potential nominees, and others as directed by the Synod Council.*
 - b. *Nominees and newly elected officers are required to provide written consent to a background check and all information necessary to complete a background check, which should be completed prior to the Synod Assembly with respect to nominees and prior to installation for newly elected officers, if possible.*
 - c. *The Synod Council's Executive Committee shall designate one Executive Committee or Synod Council member to obtain the background checks.*
 - d. *All background checks for nominees and newly elected officers will entail a criminal background check. A financial background check will be completed for nominees for treasurer. The Executive Committee shall decide whether additional types of background checks are appropriate for each officer position.*
 - e. *The background check results shall be provided to that nominee or elected officer and to the Synod Council's Executive Committee. Further disclosure of the results may be determined by the Executive Committee.*
 - f. *The Executive Committee may adopt other procedures or protocols as are necessary to provide for background checks for nominees and newly elected synodical officers and shall report such actions to the Synod Council.*
- S9.02. **In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.**
- S9.03.02. 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.
- S9.03.05. 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.
- S9.04. **The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.**
- S9.04.A94. *An "ecclesiastical ballot" is an election process:*
- a. *In which on the first ballot the name of any eligible individual may be submitted for nomination by a voting member of the assembly;*
 - b. *Through which the possibility of election to office exists on any ballot by achievement of the required number of votes cast by voting members of the assembly applicable to a particular*

- ballot;*
- c. That precludes spoken floor nominations;*
 - d. In which the first ballot is the nominating ballot if no election occurs on the first ballot;*
 - e. In which the first ballot defines the total slate of nominees for possible election on a subsequent ballot, with no additional nominations permitted;*
 - f. That does not preclude, after the reporting of the first ballot, the right of persons nominated to withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot;*
 - g. In which any name appearing on the second ballot may not be subsequently withdrawn;*
 - h. That does not preclude an assembly's adoption of rules that permit, at a defined point in the election process and for a defined period of time, speeches to the assembly by nominees or their representatives and/or a question-and-answer forum in which the nominees or their representatives participate; and*
 - i. In which the number of names that appear on any ballot subsequent to the second ballot shall be determined in accordance with provisions of the governing documents (or, if the governing documents are silent, in accordance with rules adopted by the assembly).*

S9.05. The vice president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot as specified in S9.04.

S9.08. 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.

*** RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION ON RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

II. Recommends the Rules of Procedure for the election of the Vice-President for adoption by the 2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

Election of Vice President: Rules of Procedure

1. Provided there is no election on the first ballot for vice president, biographical information forms and withdrawal forms will be available at the secretary's table at the front of the assembly. After the reporting of the first ballot persons nominated have the right to withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot. If there are persons who want to withdraw their name, they must complete a withdrawal form. If a person wants to remain on the ballot, they are asked to complete the biographical information form. Both the biographical information form or the withdrawal form must be returned to the secretary's table at the front of the assembly before 8:00 a.m. Friday, June 13, 2025.

Biographical information will be distributed to the voting members prior to the casting of the third ballot. The seven nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot will be invited to address the assembly, with each speech limited to two minutes. If any of the nominees are not present at the assembly, the Conduct of Elections Committee will contact such persons by phone, if possible. They will be asked to either complete the biographical form and return it to Charlene Fink by email at charlene@scsynod.com or verbally withdraw their name. If the person desires, the bishop will allow designated alternates to speak in their behalf. The sequence of the speeches shall be determined by lot.

2. Provided there is no election on the third ballot for vice president, the three persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot will be asked to complete a *Disclosure Form for Nominees* and

submit the form to the secretary. They will also be invited to respond to two predetermined questions, with each candidate limited to five minutes. The questions will not be known to the candidates prior to the opportunity to respond. If any of the nominees are not present at the assembly, the Conduct of Elections Committee will contact such persons by phone, if possible, and if the person desires, the bishop will allow designated alternates to speak in their behalf. The sequence of responding to the questions shall be determined by lot.

OTHER ELECTION PROVISIONS

1. The results of the first ballot for vice president shall be posted in the registration area of the convention center as soon as they are available on Thursday night, June 12, 2025.
2. Persons wishing to withdraw their names after the first ballot for vice president must secure the appropriate form from the secretary's table and submit it to the secretary prior to 8:00 a.m. on Friday, June 13, 2025.
3. A person, who is not present at assembly, will be contacted by phone from members of the Conduct of Elections Committee to confirm their wish to remain on the ballot or withdraw their name.
4. The newly elected Vice President is required to provide a written consent to a background check immediately after the election results is announced and prior to installation.

*** RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION ON BUDGET PROCEDURES**

III. Recommends the "Mission Funding and Spending Plan Procedures (Budget Procedures)" to guide the adoption of the 2026-2027 Mission Funding and Spending Plan (Budget) for adoption by the 2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

Budget Procedures

1. Proposed amendments to the Mission Funding and Spending Plan [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 12. 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 Mission Funding and Spending Plan 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 MINUTES OF THE 2024 ASSEMBLY**

Report of the Secretary

The *Minutes of the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8, 2024*, are available on the documents page of the assembly website under additional information.

***IV. 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 2024 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.**

NOTICE OF TIME AND PLACE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD ASSEMBLIES

Report of the Secretary

V. 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.:

2026 – June 11-13, Columbia SC

2027– June 12, Online

NOTICE OF A BISHOP'S ELECTION AT THE NEXT ASSEMBLY IN 2026

Report of the Secretary

VI. Notice is given of a bishop's election that will take place at the next regular meeting of the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 11-13, 2026. The election processes are provided in the synod's governing documents and procedures. The Synod Constitution provides constitution provision S9.04. "The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot." The "ecclesiastical ballot" is an election process defined in continuing resolution S9.04.A94.

*** RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS: CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS, SOUTH CAROLAIN SYNOD, ELCA.**

The Mission and Vision, South Carolina Synod is available on the documents page of the assembly website under additional information.

Rationale: The change to these bylaws gives the Synod Council the authority to carry out the policies and mission of this synod. The amendment also gives flexibility to change them as needs change.

*To amend in accord with *S18.20., *S18.21. by two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting.*

VII. Recommends the amendment *en bloc* of the following bylaws, Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod, ELCA, for adoption by the 2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly by amending bylaw S10.07.05.; striking bylaw S11.01.03.; and striking the word "TABLES" under the header of Chapter 11.

Additions are Underscored

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

Chapter 10. SYNOD COUNCIL

S10.07. The composition of the Synod Council, the number of its members, and the manner of their selection, as well as the organization of the Synod Council, its additional duties and

responsibilities, and the number of meetings to be held each year shall be as set forth in the bylaws.

S10.07.05. The Synod Council shall ~~appoint annually the convener of each table in accordance with S11.01.03. The convener of each table, in consultation with the Office of the Bishop, shall appoint the convener of each network.~~ have the authority to carry out the policies and mission of this synod, in accordance with S11.01.02.

Chapter 11.

TABLES, NETWORKS, TASK FORCE AND COMMITTEES

†S11.01. There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on Discipline, a Mutual Ministry Committee, an Audit Committee, and such other committees as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties and functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created by this synod, and the composition and organizational structure of such units, shall be as set forth in this constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S11.01.02. This synod shall have a structure to initiate, implement, and oversee the programs and priorities of this synod receiving direction and counsel from the Synod Assembly and the Synod Council.

S11.01.03. ~~This synod shall have the following organizational units:~~
a. ~~A Deepening Discipleship Table~~
b. ~~A Community Engagement Table~~
c. ~~A Communication and Technology Table~~

*** RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION ON 2026 COMPENSATION GUIDELINES**

VIII. Recommends the 2026 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers, South Carolina Synod, for adoption by the 2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

The proposed 2026 *Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers* are available on the documents page of the assembly Website under Recommendations and Notices from the Synod Council for action by the assembly.

*** RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION ON 2026-2027 BUDGET**

The full detailed line-item 2026-2027 Proposed Mission Funding and Spending Plan is available on the documents page of the assembly website under Mission Funding and Spending Plan.

IX. Recommends a Mission Funding and Spending Plan (Budget) in the amount of \$2,471,956 for the fiscal year February 1, 2026 – January 31, 2027, for adoption by the 2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

The 2026-2027 Proposed Mission Funding and Spending Plan and Pie Chart Documents are on the next two pages.



Rev. W. Osborne Herlong, Jr., Secretary
Synod Council
ELCA Synod of South Carolina

South Carolina Synod, ELCA
Proposed Mission Funding/Spending Plan 2026-2027

	Approved Mission Funding/Spending Plan <u>2025-2026</u>	Proposed Mission Funding/Spending Plan <u>2026-2027</u>
Mission Support and Other Revenue		
Congregational Support Synod-Churchwide (1)	2,310,000	2,240,000
Fees-Assembly	54,000	63,000
Investment Income	50,000	65,000
Other Income	22,000	22,000
Carryover/Constitution Provision S15.14. (2)	22,500	81,956
Total Revenue	2,458,500	2,471,956
Benevolence and Expenditures		
Mission Benevolence		
ELCA Support (1)	495,000	484,000
SC Synod Ministries Support	94,886	70,000
Joint Ministries Region 9 Support	11,000	12,000
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	4,000	4,000
Archives	6,098	6,281
ELCA Regional Gift Planner	10,000	10,000
Southern Seminary	77,000	77,000
SC Lutheran Retreat Centers	59,000	61,200
NovusWay	14,000	16,000
Newberry College	10,000	11,000
Lutheran Homes	10,000	11,000
Lutheran Services Carolinas	13,000	15,000
Totals	803,984	777,481
Ministries		
Category 1-Rostered Ministry	105,375	97,150
Category 2-Congregations & Lay Leaders	100,500	101,000
Category 3-New Leader Development	222,791	223,500
Category 4-Connections & Resources for Ministry (3)	315,550	324,000
Totals	744,216	745,650
Operating Expenses		
Salaries, Benefits and Related (4)	819,000	856,000
Operating Expenses	91,300	92,825
Totals	910,300	948,825
Total Benevolence and Expenditures	2,458,500	2,471,956

Note #1 ELCA support for 2025/26 is 22% of unrestricted congregational support.
ELCA support for 2026/27 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 2025/26 and 2026/27 budgets for the annual assembly of \$230,000 and \$236,900 [respectively] are included in Category 4 - Connections & Resources for Ministry.

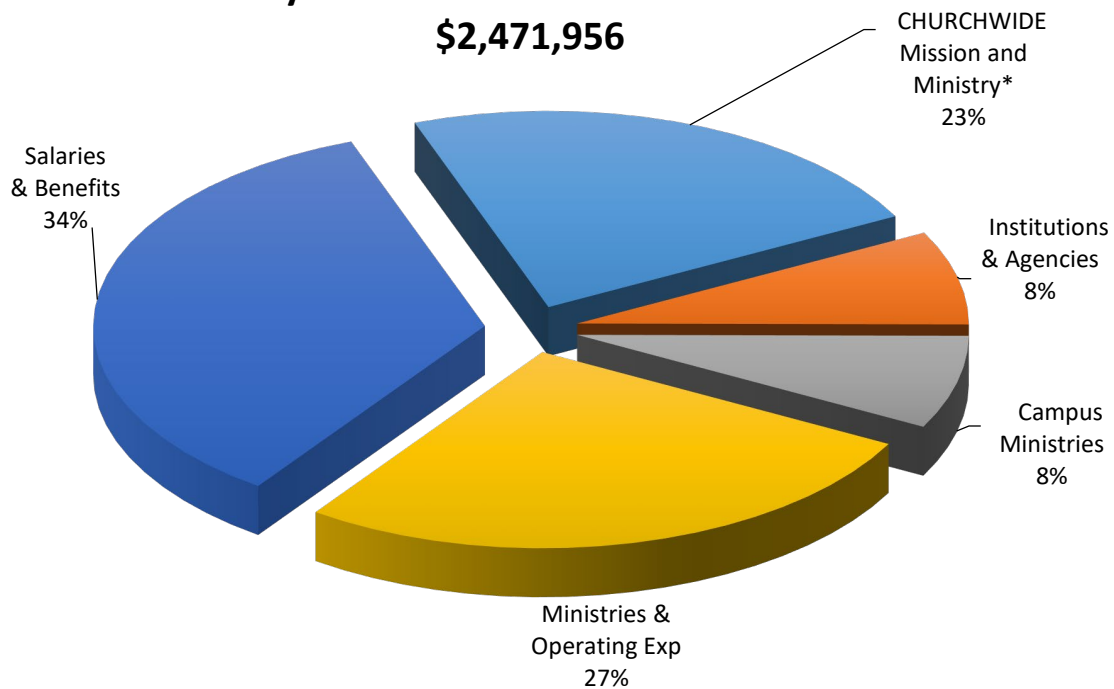
Note #4 The 2026/27 budget for salaries includes a 3% cost of living increase for non-rostered and rostered staff.

South Carolina Synod, ELCA 2026-2027 Proposed Mission Funding/Spending Plan

\$566,000	Churchwide Mission and Ministry
\$191,200	Institutions & Agencies
\$190,000	Campus Ministries
\$668,756	Ministries & Operating Expenses
\$856,000	Salaries & Benefits

\$2,471,956	

Mission Support from Congregations to Synod and Churchwide Ministries \$2,471,956



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

Lander University

Medical University of South Carolina

University of South Carolina - Columbia

Winthrop University

Institutions & Agencies

SC Lutheran Retreat Centers

Lutheran Homes of SC

NovusWay Ministries

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Newberry College

Lutheran Services Carolinas

*ELCA Support for 2026-2027 is 22% of unrestricted congregational support