

## **Synod Council Holds November Meeting** by Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Secretary

November 10, 2025

The South Carolina Synod Council met electronically on November 10, 2025. The council acted on a variety of matters intended to advance the synod's mission and ministry.

Vice president Andrew Boozer welcomed Ms. Shannon Smith, Archivist, James R. Crumley Jr. Region 9 Archives who joined the meeting and conducted the Special Order. Ms. Smith reviewed the ministry of the archives and the relocation of the archives to Newberry College. A link to a video was provided on the question of "Why Archives Matter?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZB25paG4DHI&t=1s>.

Bishop Virginia Aebischer highlighted several areas in her written report. She reported on expected changes in the ELCA Roster Manual by the Church Council, provided a brief *Overview of the Disaffiliation Process*, and reviewed a sample covenant for Stated Supply Pastor. Wendy Davidson, Assembly Manager announced that the assembly will be held at Brookland Baptist Banquet and Conference Center, West Columbia, June 11-13, 2026.

The council took the following actions:

- Extended to The Rev. Megan A. Boatwright, Call to Non-Congregational Service as Campus Pastor, University Lutheran Church, Clemson, beginning September 29, 2025.
- Continued to list The Rev. Larry Hagerty, retired October 31, 2025, on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church.
- Continued to list The Rev. Ken Gillikin, retired September 30, 2025, on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church.
- Continued to list Deacon Amy Brown, retired September 19, 2025, on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church.
- Renewed the call to The Rev. Mary W. Anderson, Interim Ministry, South Carolina Synod, beginning January 1, 2026, for a term of one-year.
- Re-appointed The Rev. Patti Sue Burton-Pye as Chair of the Audit Committee for the calendar year 2026.
- Re-appointed Mr. Edward M. Woodward Jr. as the South Carolina Synod representative on the Board of Trustees, James R. Crumley Jr. Archives, Region 9 ELCA, for the calendar years, 2026 and 2027; and appointed The Rev. Wayne Kannaday as the South Carolina Synod representative on the Board of Trustees, James R. Crumley Jr. Archives, Region 9 ELCA, for the calendar years, 2026 and 2027.
- Waived the normal one-year interval period for synodical appeals, S15.21.A09.c., Synod Constitution and gave consent to the James R. Crumley Jr. Region 9 Archives to conduct a two-year appeal to congregations beginning January 1, 2027, and ending January 1, 2029.
- Filled the vacancy on the Synod Council, Lay Woman, Northern Area, Term Ending 2027, by appointing Norma Price to this position until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, June 11-13, 2026.

- Approved the recommendation to the 2026 South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee to consider placing the names of two Ministers of Word and Service on the ballot for the 2026 Synod Assembly: Rostered Minister- At Large Term Ending 2029 and requested the constitution committee bring to the synod council, necessary amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod* to include a specific designation on the Synod Council Roster of Members.
- Approved the meeting dates of the Synod Council 2026-2027: August 22, 2026; November 9, 2026; February 22, 2027; and April 26, 2027.
- Appointed Russ Burlison, Mt. Horeb, Chapin, to the Audit Committee for a three-year term ending 2027.
- Approved the plan and resources for Learning to Live in Harmony with my Neighbor/Cultural Awareness /Competency/JUST Move; and to add dates and times to the Synod Calendar; and to invite members of the Synod Council, Synod Staff, Conference Deans, and Inclusiveness Network to participate.
- Approved the changes in the ELCA Roster Manual by the Church Council for calls to Supply Ministry, Ministers of Word and Sacrament, and gave authority to the Office of the Bishop to develop tools for adequate call oversight.
- Approved 2026 South Carolina Synod Assembly registration schedule and fees.
- Approved the three-year Funding Plan for Re:Center Outreach Ministry, Greenville.
- Extended to The Rev. Ashley R. Twitchell a part-time three-year term call to Non-Congregational Service as Director, Re:Center Outreach Ministry, Christ the King, Greenville, beginning January 1, 2026. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqhROgtwlZ8>)
- Approved housing allowances for the calendar year 2026 for the Rostered Ministers serving on the synod staff of the South Carolina Synod and the Rostered Ministers serving as mission developers.
- Approved December 23, 2025, as a Christmas Holiday in the Synod Office.
- Approved the Synod Office Holiday Schedule for 2026-2027.
- Approved the *Procedure for the Authorization and Addition of New Vendors* into the SC Synod's accounting system as recommended by the Internal Audit Committee in the Report of the Audit Committee submitted on October 22, 2025.
- Approved the recommendations of the South Carolina Synod Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee to award grants for the year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$20,000 to:  
  
Ebenezer, Columbia ..... \$500  
Update/rebuild website platform to make it less internally focused & more helpful for seekers and searches.

Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas .....	\$2,500
Projects for congregation disaster preparedness and leadership development.	
Shepherd of the Sea, Garden City.....	\$2,500
Food pantry for 150 Hispanic children per week for 10 weeks. Children are K-8.	
Newberry College.....	\$2,500
Wolves Pantry established as a campus-based resource to address food insecurity and inaccessibility faced by students.	
Good Shepherd, Walterboro .....	\$2,500
Bi-monthly food pantry for community residents to distribute nutritious food, books, Magazines and pet food and share Christ’s love to all. Serves 80-85 households.	
Pilgrim, Lexington.....	\$4,000
Expanding ministry efforts to help children & families cope with anxiety through a multi-part Series called Navigating the Pressure – Helping Kids Thrive in a Stressed-Out World.	
St. Peter’s, Pawleys Island.....	\$500
To enable programing to bring members of the congregation together with the preschool during the coming year. Funding to help the congregation grow and to achieve the demographic balance that has existed during previous years.	
Holy Communion, Spartanburg.....	\$2,500
Support the Woodlands Heights Elementary Backpack program. Each week during the school year. The ministry is slated to serve up to 75 students who have been vetted as food insecure.	
Summer Memorial, Newberry .....	\$500
Work with <i>Able South Carolina</i> to have an accessibility audit done of physical space & receive recommendations on upgrades for space to be more welcoming to individuals with mobility issues.	
James R. Crumley Jr. Archives.....	\$2,000
Purchase signage after relocation of the archives.	

The council received reports and engaged in the following:

- Received a report from the Constitution Committee on the incorporation of the required amendments to the Model Constitution for Synods of the ELCA adopted by the Churchwide Assembly, July 28-August 2, 2025. into the Synod Constitution.
- Received an update on the progress of the Bishop’s Election Committee.
- Report that the Financial Statements with Independent Auditor’s Report, Scott and Company, January 31, 2025, were received October 8, 2025. The auditor’s report is a ‘clear opinion.’
- Updates on follow up on resolutions from the 2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly.
- Engaged in an interactive devotional led by Rev. Eric Fink, “*Here I Stand! What’s in a Name?*”