

Synod Council Meeting Highlights
November 11, 2024
by Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Secretary

Continued On-Leave-From Call for a minister of Word and Sacrament for the third year.

Extended a Call to Non-Congregation Service to Deacon Lexanne Graves as Consultant and Coach, Pinnacle Leadership Associates, beginning November 15, 2024.

Re-appointed The Rev. Patti Sue Burton-Pie to the Audit Committee, South Carolina Synod, to a three-year term expiring 2027 and re-appointed Pr. Burton-Pye as Chair of the Audit Committee for the calendar year 2025.

Approved the meeting dates of the Synod Council 2025-2026:

August 23, 2025,.....10:00 a.m. Synod Council Retreat In-Person
November 10, 20253:00 p.m. Online
February 23, 2026.....3:00 p.m. Online
April 27, 2026.....12 Noon In-Person

Designated the offering received at the Worship Services, June 12-14, 2025, South Carolina Synod Assembly to the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives. The James R. Crumley Jr. Archives has existed formally for more than 30 years as a mandated, non-profit agency of the ELCA. It contains the records of Lutherans who have been in this region for hundreds of years where centuries-old stories are preserved for future generations. This year, the Archives needs your help as it plans for a new chapter in its ministry. Please prayerfully consider a generous donation to ensure that your Lutheran history and heritage is available for decades to come.

Voted to give consent, in accord with S15.21., *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, to the request from The Rev Nathan Gragg, Development Officer, NovusWay Ministries; Mike Ward, Interim Co-CEO, NovusWay Ministries; and The Rev. Herman Yoos, Honorary Chair, Lutheridge 75th Birthday Capital Campaign; that the Lutheridge 75th Birthday Capital Campaign be placed on the calendar for a synodical appeal to congregations for a period of two years beginning January 1, 2025 and ending January 1, 2027.

Approved the Union Congregation Plan of Agreement:

WHEREAS, St. Barnabas, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, South Carolina Synod, 45 Moultrie St., Charleston, South Carolina, and Parkside, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church, USA, Charleston Atlantic Presbytery have approved a Union Congregation Plan of Agreement, on April 28, 2024, and January 14, 2024, respectively, therefore, be it

Resolved, to approve the Union Congregation Plan of Agreement between St. Barnabas, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, South Carolina Synod, and Parkside, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church, USA, Charleston Atlantic Presbytery; and finally, be it

Resolved, that the Union Congregation Plan of Agreement is effective upon both the approval of the Synod Council, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, South Carolina Synod and the Presbyterian Church, USA, Charleston Atlantic Presbytery.

Approved the Constitution of Parkside Church at Historic St. Barnabas

WHEREAS, St. Barnabas, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), South Carolina Synod, 45 Moultrie St., Charleston, South Carolina, and Parkside, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church, USA, Charleston Atlantic Presbytery have approved a Union Congregation Plan of Agreement, on April 28, 2024, and January 14, 2024, respectively; and

WHEREAS, St. Barnabas, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, South Carolina Synod, 45 Moultrie St., Charleston, South Carolina, and Parkside, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church, USA, Charleston Atlantic Presbytery have approved a constitution that is adequately in accord with the 2022 *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, on October 27, 2024, and November 10, 2024, respectively, and

WHEREAS in accord with this constitution in C1.01., the name of this congregation shall be Parkside Church at Historic St. Barnabas; therefore, be it

Resolved, to approve the constitution, St. Barnabas, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, South Carolina Synod, 45 Moultrie St., Charleston, South Carolina, and the constitution of Parkside, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church, USA, Charleston Atlantic Presbytery, which is adequately in accord with the *2022 Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA*.

Approved the recommendations of the South Carolina Synod Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee to award grants for the year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$21,000 to:

The Soggy Bottom Boys from St. Luke, Prosperity.....	\$500
Sound system for music for nursing home residents and individuals who often feel isolated and disconnected.	
Crossroads, Indian Land	\$500
Fund the Blessing Box and provide food security for elementary children of Indian Land School.	
James R. Crumley Jr. Archives.....	\$2,000
Create a platform that keeps constituency information organized and accessible, develop a database for easier mailings, expand # of donors, raise funds for future.	
WELCM (Winthrop Ecumenical Lutheran Campus Ministry).....	\$1,000
Cohort Fund Development course designed for campus ministry to expand donor and participation base.	
South Carolina Synod 200 th Anniversary Planning Team	\$1,000
To provide a portion of funding for the 200 th Anniversary Celebration Banquet, South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 12-14, 2025.	
Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas, part 1	\$7,500
Fund three different disaster preparedness and response projects which are not covered by the budgeted operating fund of LDR Carolinas provided by Lutheran Disaster Response. These project strengthen the readiness of congregations for local and major disasters across the Carolinas and aid those still working on long term recovery in both North Carolina and South Carolina following previous hurricanes and devastating flooding.	
Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas, part 2	\$4,500
Reformation, Columbia	\$2,500
Safe Space dinners is a ministry to homeless LGBTQA + youth 16-23 offering a safe space to gather, have home cooked meal and receive services.	
Bethel, White Rock	\$1,000
Update outdated facilities to include ADA restroom and covered walkway to improve current steep ramp without cover.	
Good Shepherd, Walterboro	\$500
Bi-monthly food pantry for community residents to distribute nutritious food and share Christ’s love to all.	

Approved 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 designated that the housing allowances shall apply to calendar year 2025.

Approved the synod office holiday schedule for 2025-2026:
 January 1..... New Year’s Day

January 20..... Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
April 17..... Good Friday (Thursday is taken off)
May 26..... Memorial Day
June 16-17 Post-Synod Assembly Compensation Days*
July 4 Independence Day
September 1 Labor Day
November 26-27 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.

Approved the Appointment of a Vice President Elections Committee

WHEREAS, the term of Deacon Lexanne Graves, vice-president, expires at the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 12-14, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the term of the newly elected vice-president shall begin on August 15, 2025, which is the time designated by the Synod Council in the meeting on November 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS the Synod Constitution provides the process of ecclesiastical ballot in S9.04.; *S9.04.A94.*; and S9.05.; therefore, be it

Resolved, that a Vice President Election Committee be appointed for the following purposes:

- Research the best practices for an election process from other synods and the ELCA
- Educate and inspire the synod as the synod engages in a discernment process
- Offer forums to identify the attributes, gifts and time commitment needed for this office; and be it further

Resolved, to appoint to the committee The Rev. Rachel Hoffman, Ellen Girardeau, Bill Newmyer, The Rev. Mary Finklea, Jeffrey Stringer, and Nancy Appel; and be it finally

Resolved, to request that the committee select a chair when the committee convenes for the first meeting.

Approved a recommendation to close Restoration Chapel, Columbia

WHEREAS, Restoration Chapel, Columbia, was designated by the Synod Council, South Carolina Synod, a Synod-authorized Worshiping Community Exploration in a meeting on April 24, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Staff, South Carolina Synod, in consultation with Miguel Gomez Acosta, Director of New Starts, Christian Community and Leadership, ELCA, it was determined that closure was the appropriate action; therefore, be it

Resolved, to close Restoration Chapel, Columbia, a Synod-authorized Worshiping Community, effective May 8, 2024.

Amended continuing resolution, S12.01.C23., *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod*, by striking ~~Columbia, Restoration Chapel~~ and re-codifying continuing resolution S12.01.~~C23.~~C24.

Received the report that the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Financial Statements as of and for the year ended January 31, 2024, Independent Auditors Report, Scott and Company were clear: “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, 2024, 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, 2024, 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.” To view the Financial Statements, go to <https://scsynod.com/wp-content/uploads/documents/2023-Audited-Financia-%20Statements.pdf>