

Synod Council Meeting Highlights
February 24, 2025
by Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Secretary

Granted On-Leave-From-Call Status for a minister of Word and Sacrament.

Granted On-Leave-From-Call Status for a minister of Word and Service.

Continued Study Leave for a minister of Word and Sacrament for the fifth year.

Continued Family Leave for a minister of Word and Sacrament for the seventh year.

Continued Family Leave for ministers of Word and Sacrament for the second year.

Continued to list The Rev. Jon Heiliger, retired on February 1, 2025, on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church.

Continued to list The Rev. Tony A. Metze, retired January 31, 2025, on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church.

Extended a call to Non-Congregation Service to The Rev. Richard W. Johnson as Chaplain, The Heritage at Lowman, Lutheran Homes of South Carolina beginning March 11, 2025.

Approved the following Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities on the territory of the South Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for the calendar year 2025:

Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities

- Columbia, Sagrada Familia (Holy Family)
- Gaston, Cristo Rey
- Greenville, Nuestro Salvador (Our Saviour)
- Mauldin, Parroquet El Mesias (Church of the Messiah)
- North Charleston, Christ Community
- Pelion, Cristo Rey
- West Columbia, Cristo Rey (Christ the King)
- Greenwood, Restoration Chapel

Requested that the 2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee prepare a ballot for Synod Council, Rostered Minister – Central Area, Term Expiring 2026, to be included in the committee’s report for the 2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly. The Rev. Carl Taylor accepted a call to a congregation in the Florida-Bahamas Synod and resigned from the Synod Council leaving a vacancy to be filled.

Appointed Elliott Cox as Co-Chair, 2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee.

Appointed Philip Bingenheimer Ebenezer, Columbia, to the Audit Committee, Term Expiring 2026.

Voted to recommend the *2026 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers, South Carolina Synod* for adoption by the 2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

The *2026 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 *2026 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers* will be moved, upon approval by the 2025 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/>

Approved the modifications to the *Strategic Plan and Ministry Results Areas*.

Voted to recommend 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.

Approved a recommendation on *Investment Advisory Firms*:

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Synod's total investment advisory fees can be reduced from 1% to .64% by moving the synod's accounts held by Synovus Securities; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council has the ultimate responsibility for investment managers, according to "the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA Investment Policy", item 5 a) Delegation of Responsibility; Reliance on Experts and Advisors; therefore, be it

Resolved, to approve a change in investment advisory firms for the South Carolina Synod's general investment account and the Mission Endowment Fund Account from Synovus Securities to Thrivent Trust Company as soon as it is feasible to transfer the funds.

Approved a recommendation on *Designated Accounts to Unrestricted Funds*:

WHEREAS, in accord with Section B. Donor Designated Gifts 4B.3 of the South Carolina Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Gift and Bequest Policy, adopted November 14, 2022, the following council restricted funds, as of December 31, 2024, may be undesignated due to lack of program or need:

History Book Project, Account Number 3020364-1, \$2,087.43;
South Carolina Synod Staff Salaries, Account Number 4810481-1, \$25,000;
The Great ReEvaluation Course, Account Number 3020386-1, \$2,107.20;
Rostered Leaders Support, Account Number 3020389-1, \$2,919.54;
Faith in Action, Account Number 3020337-1, \$2,600.00; and
Youth-Bridge Building, Account Number 3020319-1, \$665.00; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the accounts listed above become unrestricted in accord with 4B.3. Gift & Bequest Policy.

Approved a recommendation on *Unrestricted Funds to Designated Accounts*:

WHEREAS, in accord with Section B. Donor Designated Gifts 4B.3 of the South Carolina Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Gift and Bequest Policy, adopted November 14, 2022, the following council restricted funds, as of December 31, 2024, were unrestricted by the Synod Council on February 24, 2025, due to lack of program or need:

History Book Project, Account Number 3020364-1, \$2,087.43;
South Carolina Synod Staff Salaries, Account Number 4810481-1, \$25,000;
The Great ReEvaluation Course, Account Number 3020386-1, \$2,107.20;
Rostered Leaders Support, Account Number 3020389-1, \$2,919.54;
Faith in Action, Account Number 3020337-1, \$2,600.00; and
Youth-Bridge Building, Account Number 3020319-1, \$665.00; therefore, be it

Resolved, that \$2,087.43, the same amount as the balance of the formerly restricted account, History Book Project, and \$25,000, the same amount as the balance of the formerly restricted account, South Carolina Synod Staff Salaries, for a combined total of \$27, 087.43, be designated for the 200th Anniversary Celebration Account 3020366-2; and be it

Resolved, that \$2,107.20, the same amount as the balance of the formerly restricted account, The Great ReEvaluation Course, and \$2,919.54, the same amount as the balance of the formerly restricted account, Rostered Leaders Support, for a combined total of \$5,026.74, be designated for the Lifeline Fund, Account Number 3020384-1; and be it

Resolved, that \$2,600.00, the same amount of the balance of the formerly restricted account, Faith in Action, be designated for the Computer Purchase and Upgrades, Account Number 3020399-1; and be it finally

Resolved, that \$ 665.00, the same amount as the balance of the formerly restricted account, Youth-Bridge Building, be designated for the Youth-Camp Hugg, Account Number 3020333-1.

Voted to recommend the *Budget Procedures* to guide the adoption of the 2026-2027 Mission Funding and Spending Plan [Budget] 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

Approved a recommendation regarding the *Restriction of Grant: ELCA Director for Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Synod has received a Synod Shared Staff grant in the amount of \$33, 333.33 for the period of October 1, 2024, to January 31, 2025, from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for the work of Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM); and

WHEREAS, this work is currently being carried out by Bishop Virginia Aebischer and Rev. Rick Carter, Assistant to the Bishop; therefore, be it

Resolved, the amount of \$33, 333.33 received and future Synod Shared Staff grants from the ELCA be set aside in a restricted account for the work of Director for Evangelical Mission.

Received the Report of the Audit Committee and the committee's findings on November 19, 2024, as information.

Conducted a generative discussion on the document titled, *The Future Need for Pastoral Leaders in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.