

SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 26, 2024

SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

REPORT OF ACTIONS OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 26, 2024

The members of the Synod Council of the South Carolina (SC) Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church joined in a zoom meeting on February 26, 2024. Here is a summary of actions:

	PAGE
Continue on-leave-from-call for The Rev. Thulisiwe N. Beresford for the second year.....	5
Granted on-leave-from-call for The Rev. Michael R. Sherman, Jr. beginning January 8, 2024.....	5
Continue Family Leave for Deacon Lexanne Graves for the sixth year.....	6
Extended a Call to Pr. Sue Eld Johnson as Chaplain, The Heritage at Lowman	6
Ratified the Action of Boards of Lutheran Services Carolinas to elect The Rev. Leroy Cannon.....	6
Reappointed The Rev. Patti Sue Burton-Pye as Chair of the Audit Committee Calendar Year 2024.....	6
Reappointed Mr. Henry Fulmer and Mr. Edward M. Woodward Jr. to the Board of Crumley Archives	7
Designated April 28, 2024, as Synod-wide Newberry College Sunday.....	7
Approved the Meeting Dates and Times of the Synod Council 2024-2025	7
Appointed Ms. Beth Trump as Chair of the Property Committee.....	8
Appointed Mr. Brian Teusink to the Audit Committee, Term Ending 2026.....	8
Designated August 15, 2025, as the beginning date of the term of the newly elected vice president 2025	9
Redesignated Restoration Chapel, Columbia as a Synod-Authorized Worshiping Community.....	9
Voted to move toward Holy Closure St. John, Johnston.....	10
Approved the registration fee of \$75.00 per person for the South Carolina Synod Assembly 2024.....	11
Approved Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee grants for the year 2023-2024	12
Approved the amendments to the Internal Control Policy made by the Audit Committee.....	13
Approved the proposal of the Audit Committee for Scott and Company to serve as Auditors.....	14
Approved Housing Allowances for the Rostered Ministers Calendar Year 2024.....	14
Removed Designation and Redesignated Funds	15
Amended Synod Constitution Continuing Resolutions Committee of Reference and Counsel	15
Approved the Synod Office Holiday Schedule for 2024-2025.....	17

**Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting
South Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
February 26, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The Zoom meeting of the Synod Council of the South Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, was called to order on February 26, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Deacon Lexanne K. Graves, vice president, presided.

QUORUM

Rev. Ozzie Herlong, secretary, determine the presence of a quorum. The *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod* provides:

S10.07.06. The Synod Council shall have at least three stated meetings annually. Special meetings may be called by the bishop or the vice president. A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

Secretary Herlong reported there were 15 of 26 Synod Council members present when the meeting convened at 3:00 p.m.

Vice president Graves declared that a quorum was present.

Vice president graves read the mission and visipn statements:

Mission Statement:

Equipping church leaders to develop impactful faith communities and disciples of Jesus.

Vision Statement:

Every person in South Carolina experiences God's love and grace.

MEMBERS PRESENT

The following persons were present for the meeting:

Officers

Bishop Virginia S. Aebischer
Deacon Lexanne K. Graves, Vice President
Pr. Ozzie Herlong, Secretary
Mr. Raymond Hendrix, Treasurer

Synod Council Members

Mr. Ben Bernstein	Mr. Hunter Prest
Ms. Sheila Caughman	Ms. Kathy Riggin
Ms. Cindy Davis	Mr. Jeffrey Stringer
Mr. Tex Davis	Rev. Carl Taylor
Mr. Randy Fellers	Ms. Beth Trump
Ms. Joyce Rose-Harris	
Ms. Virginia Herlong	
Pr. Rachel Hoffman	
Deacon Katie Justice	
Pr. Josh Kestner	
Pr. Bobby Morris	
Mr. Bill Newmyer	
Ms. Joyce Rose-Harris	
Ms. Mary Katherine King	
Ms. Becky Koch	
Pr. Bobby Morris	

Executive Staff

Pr. Richard T. Carter, Assistant to the Bishop
Pr. Emily M. Edenfield, Assistant to the Bishop
Pr. James P. Henrick, Director for Evangelical Mission

Church Council

Pr. Leroy Cannon

Guest: 2025 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers

Pr. Heather Apel
Pr. Jason Antley

AGENDA APPROVAL

Vice-president Graves presented the agenda which was sent in writing in advance of the meeting.

Moved;

Seconded: To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

VOTED

SC23.11.01.

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Vice president Graves declared the agenda approved.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Background

The *Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, August 26, 2023*, were distributed electronically to council members prior to the meeting.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the *Minutes of the Meeting of the Synod Council, August 26, 2023*.

VOTED

SC23.11.02.

To approve the *Minutes of the Meeting of the Synod Council, August 26, 2023*.

Vice president Graves declared the minutes approved.

SCRIPTURE AND SHARING

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

February 8, 2024

South Carolina Synod

Call to Order

Deacon Lexanne Graves, vice-president, called the Zoom Meeting of the Executive Committee to order on February 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting was to plan the agenda of the Synod Council meeting on February 26, 2024.

Members Present

Bishop Virginia S. Aebischer
Deacon Lexanne Graves, Vice-President
Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Secretary

Raymond Hendrix, Treasurer
Pr. Joanna Gragg, At-Large
Tex Davis, At-Large

Opening Devotions and Prayer

Vice President Graves led the committee in scripture reflections on Mark 9:2-9 and opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes.

The motion was seconded.

VOTED

ECSC24.02.01.

To approve the *Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, October 26, 2023.*

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SYNOD COUNCIL

To approve *by consent* recommendations ECSC24.02.02. to ECSC24.02.09.

Call to Interim Ministry: The Rev. Mary Anderson

Background

The *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, provides:

7.41.01.c. “Ministers of Word and Sacrament serving in interim ministry appointed by the synodical bishop may serve under a letter of call ... [*text continues*] A call to interim ministry shall be a term call extended by the Synod council upon recommendation of the synodical bishop.”

The Synod Council extended a call to interim ministry, South Carolina Synod, on February 24, 2020, to the Rev. Mary W. Anderson beginning January 1, 2020, for a term of two-years, in accord with 7.41.01.c. *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA.*

The Synod Council, meeting in regular session on February 28, 2022, extended a call to interim ministry, South Carolina Synod, to the Rev. Mary W. Anderson beginning January 1, 2022, for a term of two-years, in accord with 7.41.01.c. *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA.*

Pr. Anderson is currently serving as Interim Pastor, Pilgrim, Lexington. In an email addressed to Bishop Aebischer and Secretary Herlong dated January 15, 2024, Pr. Anderson requested “the Synod Council extend my call as an interim pastor for another two years.”

Bishop Aebischer and the Executive Committee recommend renewal of a call to Interim Ministry, South Carolina Synod.

VOTED

ECSC24.02.02.

To renew the 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.*

Extension of Family Leave: Pr. Kristoffer K. Cox, Minister of Word and Sacrament

Background

The following constitution provisions apply:

7.41.07. Retirement. Ministers of Word and Sacrament may retire upon attaining the earlier of age 60 or 30 years on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church or one of its predecessor bodies, and continue to be listed on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church, upon endorsement by the synod bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the minister of Word and Sacrament is listed on the roster.

7.31.07. On Leave from Call. A minister of Word and Sacrament of this church, serving under a regularly issued letter of call, who leaves the work of that ministry without accepting another regularly issued letter of call, may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church, upon endorsement by the synod bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod of which the minister of Word and Sacrament is a member, under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

c. Family Leave: A minister of Word and Sacrament may request leave for family responsibilities. By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synod bishop, such a minister of Word and Sacrament who is without a current letter of call and who requests leave for the birth or care of a child or children of the minister of Word and Sacrament or the care of an immediate family member (child, spouse, or parent) with a serious health condition may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church—under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council – for a maximum of six years, beginning at the completion of an active call.

ELCA Constitution

In a letter dated March 29, 2023, to Bishop Virginia S. Aebischer, Pr. Kristoffer K. Cox made a request for Family Leave retroactively to November 1, 2018. Pr. Cox retired from the military on November 1, 2018. His military chaplaincy began July 1, 2002. He had spent exactly three years in his first call congregation prior to that date. Pr. Cox shared in the letter that he is a caregiver for several members of his family such that he cannot currently consider a call until his current situation changes. Until then, Pr. Cox writes, “I am respectfully requesting to be placed on family leave.”

In accord with 7.31.07., Pr. Cox may retire upon attaining the earlier of age 60 or 30 years on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament. His date of birth is March 28, 1968. He is not eligible for retired status until either March 28, 2028 (age 60) or May 2029 (30 years on the roster). He can ask for an extension in October 2024 and 2026, which will carry him to his 60th birthday. He is currently a member of Living Springs, Columbia.

Upon the recommendation of Bishop Aebischer and the Executive Committee Pr. Kristoffer K. Cox was granted Family Leave retroactively to November 1, 2018, in accord with 7.31.07.c. ELCA Constitution, in the meeting of Synod Council April 24, 2023.

Pr. Cox requested extension of Family Leave in a letter to Bishop Aebischer dated January 11, 2024. Bishop Aebischer recommends extension of Family Leave.

VOTED

ECSC24.02.03.

To request the Conference of Bishops, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, extend Family beyond six-years for Pr. Kristoffer K. Cox.

Extension of Family Leave: Deacon Lexanne Graves, Minister of Word and Service

Background

Deacon Lexanne K. Graves was granted on-leave-from-call status beginning October 1, 2018. The Synod Council, meeting in regular session, on November 15, 2021, voted to convert regular on-leave-from-call roster status of Deacon Lexanne K. Graves to family leave status extending leave for three more years on the roster, in accord with 7.61.08.c., *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

7.61.08. On Leave from Call. A minister of Word and Service of this church, serving under a regularly issued letter of call, who leaves the work of that ministry without accepting another regularly issued letter of call, may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church, upon endorsement by the synod bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod of which the minister of Word and Service is a member, under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

c. Family Leave: A minister of Word and Service may request leave for family responsibilities. By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synod bishop, such a minister of Word and Service who is without a current letter of call and who requests leave for the birth or care of a child or children of the minister of Word and Service or the care of an immediate family member (child, spouse or parent) with a serious health condition may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church – under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council –for a maximum of six years beginning at the completion of an active call.

ELCA Constitution

Deacon Graves requested continuation of Family Leave status in a letter addressed to Bishop Virginia Aebischer on October 29, 2022.

Bishop Aebischer and the Executive Committee recommended continuation of Family Leave for the fifth year. The Synod Council, meeting in regular session on November 14, 2022, voted to continue Family Leave status for Deacon Lexanne Graves for the fifth year.

Deacon Graves requested continuation of Family Leave status in a letter addressed to Bishop Virginia Aebischer on October 22, 2023.

Bishop Aebischer and the Executive Committee recommended continuation of Family Leave for the sixth year. The Synod Council voted on November 13, 2023, to continue Family Leave status for Deacon Lexanne Graves for the sixth year.

Deacon Graves requested extension of Family Leave in a letter to Bishop Aebischer dated January 24, 2024. Bishop Aebischer recommended extension of Family Leave.

VOTED

ECSC24.02.04.

To request the Conference of Bishops, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, extend Family Leave beyond six-years for Deacon Lexanne Graves.

Family Leave: Pr. Jamie Reising, Minister of Word and Sacrament

Background

The following constitution provisions apply:

7.31.07. On Leave from Call. A minister of Word and Sacrament of this church, serving under a regularly issued letter of call, who leaves the work of that ministry without accepting another regularly issued letter of call, may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church, upon endorsement by the synod bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod of which the minister of Word and Sacrament is a member, under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

c. Family Leave: A minister of Word and Sacrament may request leave for family responsibilities. By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synod bishop, such a minister of Word and Sacrament who is without a current letter of call and who requests leave for the birth or care of a child or children of the minister of Word and Sacrament or the care of an immediate family member (child, spouse, or parent) with a serious health condition may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church—under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council – for a maximum of six years, beginning at the completion of an active call.

ELCA Constitution

Pastor Jamie Reising requests Family Leave status beginning January 21, 2024, which is the date that her call at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Charleston ended. Constitutional Provisions C9.05.d & C9.05.e were implemented in this situation. These Constitutional provisions outline the formation and work of a Bishop's Listening Team as an option when conflict rises between a rostered minister and a congregational council. One of the recommendations from the Bishop's Listening Team was that Pastor Jamie Reising should ask for Family Leave Status. Pastor Jamie wrote to Bishop Aebischer on January 21, 2024, asking for Family Leave. Bishop Aebischer recommends that the Synod Council grant Family Leave to Pastor Jamie Reising for six years. Bishop Aebischer

responded to Pastor Reising's request for this leave saying that she would recommend this to Synod Council and the Pastor can expect a letter indicating the vote of the Council to be sent to her after the February meeting. Bishop advised Pastor Reising that she should keep that letter, and that she is responsible to communicate with the bishop and she will need to annually request continuation of Family Leave for the coming year from the bishop and the Synod Council.

VOTED

ECSC24.02.05.

To grant Family Leave for Pr. Jamie Reising, in accord with 7.31.07.c. ELCA Constitution, beginning January 21, 2024.

Request for Family Leave: The Rev. Rebecca Lord-Phillips

Background

The following constitution provisions apply:

7.31.07. On Leave from Call. A minister of Word and Sacrament of this church, serving under a regularly issued letter of call, who leaves the work of that ministry without accepting another regularly issued letter of call, may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church, upon endorsement by the synod bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod of which the minister of Word and Sacrament is a member, under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

c. Family Leave: A minister of Word and Sacrament may request leave for family responsibilities. By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synod bishop, such a minister of Word and Sacrament who is without a current letter of call and who requests leave for the birth or care of a child or children of the minister of Word and Sacrament or the care of an immediate family member (child, spouse, or parent) with a serious health condition may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church—under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council – for a maximum of six years, beginning at the completion of an active call.

ELCA Constitution

In an email dated February 10, 2024, The Rev. Rebecca Lord-Phillips reported her resignation as pastor, Christ the King, Greenville, February 11, 2024. Pr. Lord-Phillips requested to be placed on Family Leave.

Bishop Virginia S. Aebischer and the Executive Committee recommend the status of Family Leave for The Rev. Rebecca Lord-Phillips beginning (date).

VOTED

ECSC24.02.06.

To grant Family Leave for The Rev. Rebecca Lord-Phillips beginning February 12, 2024.

Continuation on the Roster of Retired Ministers of Word and Service: Deacon Deborah Poole

Background

Churchwide bylaw 7.71.04. *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* provides: "Retirement. Ministers of Word and Service may retire upon attainment of age 60, or after 30 years on a roster of this church or one of its predecessor bodies, and continue to be listed on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the minister of Word and Service is listed on the roster." *[text continues]*

Deacon Deborah Poole notified Bishop Aebischer on November 20, 2023, that she would retire on December 31, 2023, and requested continuation on the roster of ministers of Word and Service on November 20, 2023.

Bishop Aebischer recommends that Deacon Deborah Poole continue to be listed on the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this Church.

VOTED

ECSC24.02.07.

To continue to list on the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church Deacon Deborah Poole who retired December 31, 2023.

Lutheran Services Carolinas Sunday September 22, 2024

Background

Ms. Emily Dubay, Director of Development, Lutheran Services Carolinas, requested in an email on January 17, 2023, that September 22, 2024, be designated Lutheran Services Carolinas Sunday in the South Carolina Synod.

On the Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) Sunday, designated on September 22, 2024, in the South Carolina (SC) Synod, LSC will extend invitations to congregations for temple talks. Temple talks are an opportunity for LSC to say “thank you” to congregations for their support and partnership, give an overview LSC’s programs and services in SC and share impact stories of lives improved! One of the speakers is Ted Goins, President & CEO. Speakers can be provided for no more than three congregations so invitations will be limited to first come, first serve. Please know that LSC would be glad to visit with your congregation any time if LSC Sunday isn’t the right fit. Speakers come in person to mingle with members and answer questions. An opportunity is also given to the congregations and members for supporting of the work of LSC. Thank you, information sharing, and impact stories will be made available to all congregations who wish to participate.

VOTED

ECSC24.02.08.

To designate September 22, 2024, as Lutheran Services Carolinas Sunday in the South Carolina Synod and invite congregations to participate.

Annual Approval of Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities

Background

The Christian Community and Leadership area of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America requests that synods approve annually all Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities (SAWC).

Rev. James Henricks, Director for Evangelical Mission, recommends to the Synod Council approval of the following Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities for the calendar year 2024.

VOTED

ECSC24.02.09.

To approve 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, Parroquet El Mesias (Church of the Messiah)

North Charleston, Christ Community

Pelion, Cristo Rey

West Columbia, Cristo Rey (Christ the King)

Greenwood, Restoration Chapel

End of Consent Agenda

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Bishop Aebischer provided a written report to the members of the Executive Committee prior to the meeting and reviewed selected items from the report with the members of the Executive Committee.

South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8, 2024

South Carolina Synod Assembly Flyer, June 8, 2024, from Wendy Davidson, Assembly Manager.

2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly Worship Offering

Background

The Synod Council designates the offerings received at the worship services during the South Carolina Synod Assemblies.

The Executive Committee recommends that offerings at the worship service of the 2024 Synod Assembly be designated to Campus Ministry.

The offering received at the 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly worship service is designated for Campus Ministries across the 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.

VOTED

ECSC24.02.10.

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

Report on 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly Resolution

The South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8-10, 2023, adopted the *Resolution on Living into the Unity of the Body of Christ*. The Synod Council voted August 26, 2023:

(text precedes) 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.

Report of the Director for Evangelical Mission

- a. Congregation Reports Forms A & B Analysis for Planning
- b. Christ the King, Greenville, Update
- c. Property Manager

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

2025 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers

Background

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/>

VOTED

ECSC24.02.11.

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

Mutual Ministry Committee

Ms. Diane Wicker, chair of the Mutual Ministry Committee, conducted a meeting of the committee with the members of the Office of the Bishop on January 16, 2024, at the Synod Office.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Attendance

Communications

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Financial Statement as of January 31, 2024

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Housing Allowance: Rev. Jorge Leone

Background:

The Rev. Jorge Leone has been serving as the Mission Developer for Cristo Rey and Sagrada Familia. As he moves towards retirement, he will share this new role with The Rev. Mark Buchan. Pr. Jorge has requested an adjustment in the original amount designated for housing allowance of \$12,000 in the November 13, 2023, meeting of the Synod Council.

VOTED

ECSC24.02.11.

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

Bylaws: Synod Vitality Endowment Fund

Background

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 recommended by the Finance Committee.

Recommendation to the Synod Council

To approve 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.

Mission Funding and Spending Plan [Budget] Procedures

Background

Mission Funding and Spending Plan [Budget] procedures are proposed for adoption by the 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly.

Recommendation to the Synod Council

To recommend 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

Mission Funding and Spending Plan [Budget]: Fiscal year February 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026

Background

The proposed Mission Funding and Spending Plan, Fiscal year February 1, 2025-January 31, 2026, was sent to the members of the Executive Committee.

Recommendation to the Synod Council

To recommend 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.

Zero dollars for Mission Support and SC Support only - 30 Congregations

Safe Water Tanzania to Water & Agriculture Projects - Tanzania

The Finance Committee, meeting on November 15, 2023, determined the need to broaden the scope of this funding and to change the Growing in God's Mission account, Safe Water Tanzania, to a general fund account, Water & Agriculture Projects -Tanzania; and to include in this account water for drinking, bathing, irrigation, and for other sustainable agricultural needs.

Recommendation to Synod Council

To recommend that the Synod Council change the Growing in God's Mission account, Safe Water Tanzania, to a general fund account, Water & Agriculture Projects -Tanzania; and

To include in this account water for drinking, bathing, irrigation, and for other sustainable agricultural needs.

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Report to the Synod Council, *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod*, Current version was amended November 13, 2023.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.



Rev. Ozzie Herlong, secretary
Synod Council
ELCA Synod of South Carolina