

Synod Council Meeting Highlights
August 24, 2024
by Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Secretary

Welcomed Deborah Slice as Executive Administrator beginning May 13, 2024.

Introduced Deacon Kimberly A. Heindl and D'Etta Broam, candidate.

Extended a call to Deacon Kimberly A. Heindl as Assistant to the Bishop beginning September 1, 2024.

Extended a Call to Specialized Service to D'Etta Broam as Deacon of Health and Wholeness, South Carolina Synod, beginning upon her ordination, September 29, 2024.

Heard a report from Deacon Deborah Poole, Coordinator for CYFM (Children, Youth, and Families). Deacon Poole presented the new mission, vision and core values, a new structure consisting of 6 teams, and a new logo. A calendar for 2024-2025 has been released. Teams will meet on September 21st to plan events. Youth are still needed to serve on teams.

Continued Family Leave for a minister of Word and Service for the third year.

Granted Family Leave status for a minister of Word and Service.

Renewed the Call to Interim Ministry, South Carolina Synod, to The Rev. Mark A. Scott beginning August 1, 2024, for a term of two-years, in accord with 7.41.01.c. *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*.

Continued to list The Rev. Phillip E. Clark, who retired on June 2, 2024, on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church.

Continued to list The Rev. Karen S. Hawkins, who retired on September 1, 2024, on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church.

Designated Sunday, May 4, 2025, Synod-wide as Newberry College Sunday and to invite the congregations of the South Carolina Synod to participate.

Received the annual review of Synod Assembly elected committees by the Executive Committee on August 6, 2024; reported that the persons on the synod assembly elected committees are available and current; and accepted the review of the Executive Committee as satisfying the annual review required by the Synod Council.

Approved the *Minutes of the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8, 2024*, in principle, and allow Secretary Herlong and Bishop Virginia S. Aebischer to make editorial changes for publication in the *2024 Directory and Minutes of the South Carolina Synod, ELCA*.

Appointed The Rev. Joanna Gragg and Ms. Joyce Rose-Harris to serve on the Lifeline Fund Distribution Team along with the officers of the Synod.

Appointed Tex Davis as judicatory representative to the Board of Directors, South Carolina Christian Action Council.

Appointed a Table and Structure Committee to review Chapter 11 of the Synod Constitution, (Tables, Networks, Task Force and Committees); and the Strategic Plan Ministry Result Areas (Synod Council and Staff, Rostered Leaders, Congregation and Lay Leaders, Raising up New Leaders); and appointed Deacon Lexanne Graves, convener, Deacon Kim Heindl, Rev. Rick Carter, Raymond Hendrix, Neal Fischer, Charlene Fink, Rev. Megan Lineberger, Rev. Joanna Gragg, Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Rev. Matt Titus and Tex Davis; and requested that the committee bring a report to the meeting of the Synod Council on November 11, 2024.

Appointed Synod Council Committees 2024-2025 and Chairs: Finance Committee, Cindy Davis; Personnel Committee, The Rev. Rachel Hoffman; Constitution Committee, The Rev. Ozzie Herlong; and Property Committee, Beth Trump, Convener.

Appointed Bernie Lee a member of the Audit Committee from the Synod Council.

Elected at-large members to the Executive Committee: The Rev. Joanna Gragg and Cindy Davis.

Received the Report of the Executive Committee's appointments to the Mutual Ministry Committee on August 6, 2024: Diane Wicker, Convener; The Rev. Bobby Morris; Mike Hartzog and Deacon Lexanne Graves, Synod Council.

Provided document for first reading of Union Congregation Plan of Agreement between 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.

Provided document for first reading of the proposed constitution St. Barnabas, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), South Carolina Synod, 45 Moultrie St., Charleston, South Carolina, entering into a Union Congregation Plan of Agreement with Parkside, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church, USA, Charleston Atlantic Presbytery.

Appointed six appointees and alternates to the South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee for a term of two-years, 2025-2026; and authorize the Executive Committee, if after notification, any of the appointees or alternates declines the appointment, or becomes ineligible to fill seats on this committee; and authorize the Executive Committee, if any changes occur in the composition of this committee, to fill the seats on this committee in accord with the constitutional requirements.

Appointed Silke Pyrlik, Christ, Hilton Head, as chair, 2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee.

Received the report of the Audit Committee with gratitude and referred the recommendation to Raymond Hendrix, Treasurer, regarding congregations need to return the remittance "green sheet" along with their remittance to ensure proper accounting.

Approved the Lifeline Fund Sustainability Plan to provide for education debt repayments for rostered ministers, provide for Financial Management Education for Candidates and Rostered Ministers, and encourage congregations to join in alleviating the financial burden that arises from theological education debt over four years.

Heard the Report of the 200th Anniversary of the South Carolina Synod Planning Team and the plans for South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 12-14, 2025.

Adopted a Resolution on South Carolina Disaster Response Fund

WHEREAS Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas (LDR Carolinas) is a ministry of North and South Carolina; and the function of this ministry is to support the Carolinas during times of disaster, through coordination with local congregations, non-profits, state and federal agencies; and the work of LDR is dependent upon grants from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod and South Carolina Synod; and gifts from congregations and individuals; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Synod currently has the South Carolina Disaster Response Fund that has been funded over the years during times of disaster; and

WHEREAS, additional funding would allow for immediate response when needed; and

WHEREAS, tropical storm Debby made landfall in South Carolina on August 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, there is a possibility of additional storms in the future; therefore, be it

Resolved, the South Carolina Synod Council, in accord with S15.21., Synod Constitution, gives consent for a synodwide appeal to increase the funding for the South Carolina Synod Disaster Response Fund; and be it further

Resolved, that this appeal be a four-month focus conducted September 1 – December 31, 2024; and be it finally

Resolved, that congregations and individuals be invited to send funds for the appeal to the South Carolina Synod via checks or online giving designating gifts to the South Carolina Disaster Response Fund.

Heard a report from the Executive Committee on the *Resolution on Communal Stewards of God's Creation* adopted at the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8, 2024, to encourage each congregation to set the goal of implementing at least one strategy to become better communal stewards of God's magnificent creation and to share their communal stewardship initiatives with the synod's Creation Care Task Force, with pictures, if possible, prior to the 2025 SC Synod Assembly.

Received a Report on the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8, 2024, from Wendy Davidson, assembly manager.

Heard a report that the offering received at the 2024 South Carolina Synod assembly worship service amounted to \$3,335.20. Pr. Josh Kestner, Campus Pastor, University, Clemson, expressed gratitude to the congregations and individuals for the assembly offering that will make a difference for Campus Ministries across the synod. Food insecurity is a real issue for many students in Campus Ministry. Ministry of feeding young adults and sharing a meal is a powerful means of welcoming people and creating community. Your generosity furthers this mission.