

Synod Council Meeting Highlights
August 26, 2023
by Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Secretary

Engaged in Strategic Planning and Visioning Process with Pr. Mike Ward, GSB. The process included the purpose of the synod, board development, duties of the members of the Synod Council, board effectiveness, best practices and strong behaviors.

Granted on-leave-from-call status for a minister of Word and Service and a minister of Word and Sacrament.

Continued Family Leave for ministers of Word and Service.

Received the annual review of Synod Assembly elected committees by the Executive Committee on August 8, 2023, and 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.

Appointed Deacon Sandra Holland as chair, 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee.

Appointed the following persons as conveners of tables in accord S10.07.05.

Deepening Discipleship Table: Rev. Megan Lineberger, Convener
Communication and Technology Table: Rev. Matthew Titus, Convener
Community Engagement (to be determined)

Appointed the following persons as Synod Council liaisons to Tables in accord with *S10.07.B14*.

Deepening Discipleship Table: Pr. Joanna Gragg, Liaison
Community Engagement Table: Mrs. Kathy Riggin, Liaison
Communication and Technology Table: Deacon Katie Justice, Liaison

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

Appointed Mrs. Virginia Herlong a member of the Audit Committee from the Synod Council

Appointed The Rev. Joanna Gragg and Ms. Joyce Rose-Harris to the Lifeline Distribution Team.

Re-appointed Larry Rathe as Property Manager, South Carolina Synod, for a one-year, renewable term beginning April 2023.

Ratified the action of the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Board of Trustees on May 18, 2023, to amend sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the by-laws of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina to clarify language related to employment of officers who hold employment contracts with the organization.

Appointed the following appointees to the South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee for a term of two-years, 2024-2025.

Amelia Conference – Ms. Silke Pyrlík, Christ, Hilton Head
Coastal Conference- Mr. Elliot Cox, St. Mark, Isle of Palms
Epiphany Conference – Ms. Linda Albert, St. Philip, Myrtle Beach
Foothills Conference – Mr. Richard Delap, Trinity, Greenville
Heartland Conference -Mr. Zach Lindler, St. Thomas, Chapin
Saxe Gotha Conference - Deacon Deborah Poole, Pisgah, Lexington

Those persons serving 2023-2024 terms include:

Midlands Conference - Rev. Carl Taylor, Living Springs, Columbia (Synod Council)
Upstate Conference - Rev. Christopher Girardeau, Reformation, Lancaster
Western Conference - Mr. Robert Epting, Wittenberg, Leesville
EASTERN AREA - Deacon Katie Holland, Redeemer, Charleston

NORTHERN AREA – [Vacant]

CENTRAL AREA - Deacon Sandra Holland, Chair, St. Andrew, Columbia

Appointed the Synod Council Committees:

Constitution – Ozzie Herlong, Daniel Crofts, Gregg Hoffman, Jeffrey Stringer, Henry Moody, Gail Buchanan, Becky Koch, William Newmyer

Finance – Cindy Davis, Charlene Fink, Raymond Hendrix, Ozzie Herlong, Donna Poulnot, Sheila Caughman, Ron Walrath, LaTynia Taylor

Personnel – Rachel Hoffman, Kathy Hendrix, Lavone Griffin, Josh Kestner, Carl Taylor

Property – Larry Rathe, Al Estee, Randy Fellers, Rusty Kehl, Beth Trump

Approved the following recommendation:

WHEREAS, the properties of Our Shepherd, Hartsville and Faith Lutheran Chapel, Pickens have been received by the South Carolina Synod through Holy Closure, and

WHEREAS, there is a contract between Faith Lutheran Chapel, Pickens and ViaSat, provider of high-speed satellite broad band services and secure network systems; therefore, be it

Resolved, to list and place the properties on the market; and be it further

Resolved, to honor the contract between ViaSat and Faith Lutheran Chapel, Pickens to ensure proper disclosures and rights of first refusal are followed with the listing; and be it finally

Resolved, that Larry Rathe, Property Manager, be authorized to enter maintenance contracts, choose a realtor, and negotiate the selling of church properties received through Holy Closures and approved for sale by the Synod Council and upon the recommendation of the bishop or the bishop's appointee.

Approved the following recommendation:

WHEREAS, a *Resolution on Living Into the Unity of the Body of Christ* was adopted at the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8-10, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the resolution resolved that the bishop's office will provide to the conferences and congregations resources to help facilitate this intentional one year study, including opportunities for partnering and individuals to help lead study and discussion;

WHEREAS, the resolution resolved that a report be given to the 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Synod Council receive the *Resolution on Living Into the Unity of the Body of Christ* adopted by the South Carolina Synod Assembly; and be it further

Resolved, that the Synod Council affirm the plans for implementation developed by Bishop Virginia Aebischer and the Office of the Bishop; and be it finally

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.

Elected to the Executive Committee At-Large Members: Mr. Tex Davis and the Rev. Joanna Gragg

Received a list of resources on Gun Violence which included:

1. 60 Day Journey Toward Justice In a Culture of Gun Violence:
https://www.elca.org/60days?_ga=2.128922252.141046859.1691508529-1239878301.1612365921
2. Provide your own input into next Social Statement: <https://www.elca.org/civicsandfaith>. The Study Response Period ends on Oct. 15th with a draft of the Social Statement expected in early December 2023, followed by edits and possible adoption at Churchwide Assembly in July 2025.

Rescinded the action of the Synod Council on April 24, 2023, to propose to the 2023 assembly the amendment to S7.14. Synod Constitution.

Approved the *Minutes of the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8-10, 2023*, in principle, and allow Secretary Herlong and Bishop Virginia Aebischer to make editorial changes for publication in the *2023 Directory and Minutes of the South Carolina Synod, ELCA*.

Approved the following recommendation:

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Carolina and Adjacent States was established in January 1824; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Synod Council authorize the Executive Committee to appoint a Planning Team to observe the 200th Anniversary of the South Carolina Synod; and be it further

Resolved, that the celebration kickoff at the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 8, 2024; and be it finally

Resolved, that the culmination of the celebration of the 200th Anniversary takes place at the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 12-14, 2025, Columbia.

Received the Report of the Audit Committee, August 22, 2023, and referred the recommendations to the Finance Committee:

- All disbursement requests should be reviewed for accuracy before being approved.
- Travel and expense reimbursements should include travel location detail sufficient to support the number of miles requested as well as the reason for the travel. The Synod Travel/Expense form or a spreadsheet facsimile is recommended.
- Lost or missing receipts should be documented by noting the vendor, amount and reason for purchase, the fact that the invoice was lost and should be approved with the request for reimbursement.
- All reimbursement requests should be made monthly.

Received a Report of the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly and noted that of the 348 registered voting members, 40% were rostered ministers and 60% were lay persons. The council noted with thanks that the offering at the worship service in the amount of \$8,488.00 was designated for the Lifeline Fund to be used for education debt repayments for rostered ministers.