

Synod Council Meeting Highlights
South Carolina Synod – November 15, 2021
by Rev. Ozzie Herlong, secretary

Extended a Call to Non-Congregational Service to The Rev. David W. Coffman as Campus Pastor, Newberry College, beginning December 1, 2021.

Appointed The Rev. Patti Sue Burton-Pye, Pastor, Providence, Lexington, to the Audit Committee, South Carolina Synod, to a three-year term expiring 2024.

Appointed Russ Burleson, Mt. Horeb, Chapin, chair of the Audit Committee for the calendar year 2022.

Re-appointed Mr. Henry Fulmer and Mr. Edward M. Woodward Jr. to the Board of Trustees, James R. Crumley Jr. Archives, Region 9 ELCA, for the calendar year 2022.

Designated housing allowances for the Rostered Ministers serving on the synod staff of the South Carolina Synod and the Rostered Ministers serving as mission developers. The allowances were approved for the calendar year 2022.

Approved the Synod Office Holiday Schedule for 2022-2023.

Amended the *Resolution on the Distribution of the Proceeds from the Sale of Trinity Lutheran Church Saluda* approved by the Synod Council on August 21, 2021.

Additions are underscored.
Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the previous text.

WHEREAS, the property of Trinity Lutheran Church, 430 Trinity Road, Saluda, South Carolina 29138, is under a sale contract for ~~\$240,000~~ \$175,000 with a ~~proposed~~ closing date of ~~September 17~~ October 6, 2021, and

WHEREAS the realtor cost will be 7% or ~~\$16,800~~ \$12,250 and

WHEREAS the cost of the South Carolina Stamp will be ~~\$600~~ \$647.50, and the attorney fees will be \$550; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, to designate \$82,000, to new start and vitality fund, account #3020459-1; and be it further

RESOLVED, to designate ~~\$90,000~~ \$42,552.50 to Current Unrestricted Balance, account # 452000-1; and be it further

RESOLVED, to designate \$10,000 to the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund, account #4810346-3; and be it ~~further~~ finally

RESOLVED, to designate \$27,000 to the Cristo Rey, West Columbia, Building Fund, account 3020328-2. ~~and be it finally~~

~~RESOLVED, that the balance be designated to Current Unrestricted Balance, account #452000-1.~~

Continue to list The Rev. Mark Buchan on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church as retired December 1, 2021; to continue to list The Rev. Beverly Aurand on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church as retired January 31, 2022; to continue to list The Rev. Diane Bowker on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church as retired February 20, 2022.

Amended the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolution, South Carolina Synod* to bring continuing resolutions defining networks into conformity with the Organization Chart:

Additions are underscored.

Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the previous text.

S11.01.A44.21. The Deepening Discipleship Table

The Deepening Discipleship Table will support and serve the people of the South Carolina Synod, by equipping current and future disciples for leadership. This table includes the following networks:

- ~~a.~~ ~~The Equipping Evangelism Leaders Network will train leaders who will equip people to experience evangelism creatively by going to those who need to hear the good news.~~
- ~~b.~~ a. The Equipping Rostered ~~Leaders~~ Ministers Network will assist the rostered ~~leaders~~ ministers of the South Carolina Synod as they live their baptismal vocation through self-care, learning, discerning and fellowship.
- ~~c.~~ ~~The Equipping Youth and Young Adults Network will gather, equip, and inspire youth and young adults, by promoting opportunities for fellowship, service, and baptismal vocational engagement.~~
- ~~d.~~ b. The Equipping Steward Leaders Network will train leaders who will assist people in understanding the biblical relationship between resources and mission and equip them to live accordingly.
- ~~e.~~ c. ~~The Equipping~~ Lifelong Faith Formation Network will assist congregations by supporting their capacity to develop and to nurture the Christian faith for all ages.

S11.01.B44.21. Community Engagement Table

The Community Engagement Table will work to inspire and equip the people of the South Carolina Synod to discern and live out God's justice, peace, and wholeness as they accompany their neighbors in their local communities and beyond. This table includes the following networks:

- a. The Global Mission and Companion Synod Network will assist people to become aware of opportunities to interact with and support brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. This Network promotes a missional view of accompaniment- walking alongside the communities with whom it interacts, learning each community's story and recognizing how God is already at work with their communities.
- b. The Community Outreach Network will assist people to make Christ known by partnering with neighbors and congregations as they work to address the specific needs of their communities.
- c. The Inclusiveness Network will assist people in actively inviting and welcoming all persons regardless of race or culture by sharing the grace and love of Jesus Christ.
- d. The Ecumenical Network will assist people in the activity of ecumenical and interreligious relationships and enhance the public commitments of this synod to Lutheran, ecumenical, and interfaith cooperation, promoting unity among Christ's people.
- ~~e.~~ ~~The Planting and Sustaining New Congregations Network will assist in identifying locations on the territory of the South Carolina Synod for establishing congregations under development or Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities (SAWCs). This network will provide oversight and assist the synod in sustaining their mission.~~
- ~~f.~~ ~~The Renewing Existing Congregations Network will work with people in congregations to renew and strengthen their relationship with God, with one another, and with the communities around them.~~
- ~~e.~~ e. ~~The Equipping Youth and Young Adults Network will gather, equip, and inspire youth and young adults, by promoting opportunities for fellowship, service, and baptismal vocational engagement.~~
- ~~f.~~ f. ~~The Hunger Relief Network will work to encourage and equip people, communities of faith, and organizations within the South Carolina Synod to support sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.~~
- ~~g.~~ g. ~~The Vision of The Indigenous Peoples Accompaniment Network is to learn and educate churches and other groups about the need to seek truth, justice, and reconciliation with all Indigenous Peoples in South Carolina, and practice accompaniment with Indigenous Peoples.~~

S11.01.C44.21. Communication and Technology Table

The Communication and Technology Table will assist the people of the South Carolina Synod to develop communications through digital media, print media, web development and technology. This table includes the following networks:

- ~~a.~~ ~~Our Real Stories Network will provide ways for South Carolina Lutherans to communicate what God is doing in local ministry settings.~~
- ~~b.~~ a. The Communication Assistance Network will assist congregations in developing the tools necessary to tell their story.
- ~~c.~~ b. The Synod Technology Advisory Network will work in consultation with Synod staff and Information Technology professionals to make recommendations regarding hardware and software needs.

- c. The Assembly Communications Network will provide information leading up to Synod Assembly, real-time updates during the Synod Assembly through social media and the website, along with news and stories following up after Synod Assembly.

Converted regular on-leave-from-call roster status of a minister of Word and Service 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*.

Approved a *Resolution on the Sale of the Property of Christ Mission, Winyah Drive, Columbia:*

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Synod is the owner of the land and buildings located at 1323 Winyah Drive, Columbia, SC, 29203; and

WHEREAS, this is the same property that Christ Mission is using as its sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the land and building are insured by Southern Mutual Church Insurance Company (Southern), policy number STD 003016914; and

WHEREAS, Southern has notified the Synod by letter that an inspection of the property reveals six (6) adverse conditions on the property; and

WHEREAS, Southern in the letter stated that if these conditions are not corrected by January 3, 2022, the policy referred to above would not be renewed effective March 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Larry Rathe, the Chairman of the Synod's Property Committee, has determined the cost to correct these adverse conditions will be approximate \$ 61,000; and

WHEREAS, Larry Rathe, Chairman of the Synod's Property Committee; the Rev. Virginia Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod of the ELCA; the Rev. James Henricks, Director for Evangelical Mission; and the Rev. Leroy Cannon, Pastor, Christ Mission have discussed the future use of the property and has determined that the property should be sold for the best interest of the Synod; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council meeting on November 15, 2021, ratify the actions of Larry Rathe, Chairman of the Synod's Property Committee; the Rev. Virginia Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod of the ELCA; the Rev. James Henricks, Director for Evangelical Mission; and the Rev. Leroy Cannon, Pastor, Christ Mission regarding the property on 1323 Winyah Drive in Columbia, SC and be it finally

RESOLVED, to authorize Larry Rathe, the Chairman of the Synod's Property Committee, or his appointee to negotiate the sale of the property on Winyah Drive in Columbia, SC.

Approved the meeting dates and times of the Synod Council for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 and scheduled both online and in-person meetings.

Received a report of Conference of Bishops on September 30, 2021, to approve, as provided in bylaw 7.31.07.d. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, extension of on-leave-from-call status, renewable by the Synod Council on an annual basis up to a maximum of two years, for a minister of Word and Sacrament.

Received a report on the appointment of six persons to the South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee: Terms 2022-2023. The following persons accepted the appointment to the South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee, terms 2022-2023.

Amelia Conference - Mr. Kevin Wicker, Good Shepherd, Walterboro
Coastal Conference - Mrs. Ashley Shealy, Holy Spirit, Charleston
Epiphany Conference - Rev. Jason Lee, St. Philip, Myrtle Beach
Foothills Conference - Mr. Ken Heckel, Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Greenville

Heartland Conference - Mr. Von Metts, Summer Memorial, Newberry
Saxe Gotha Conference - Ms. Lauren Rawls, Transfiguration, Cayce

Those persons serving terms 2021-2022 include:

CENTRAL AREA (Midlands, Saxe Gotha, Western) - Rev. Eric Fink, chair, Living Springs, Columbia
EASTERN AREA (Coastal, Amelia, Epiphany) - Deacon Katie Justice, St. John's, Beaufort
NORTHERN AREA (Foothills, Upstate, Heartland) - Bob Williams, Springs of Grace, Boiling Springs
Midlands Conference - Norma Mackey, Christ Mission, Columbia
Upstate Conference - Deacon Shelley Allen, Joy, Moore
Western Conference - Rev. Lisa Isenhower, Faith, Batesburg-Leesville

Received a report on the appointment of Synod Council Committees

Finance Committee

Gordon McCay, chair	Raymond L. Hendrix Jr.
Bishop Virginia Aebischer	Rev. Ozzie Herlong
Cindy Davis	Donna M. Poulnot
Blake Dowd	Latynia Taylor
Charlene Fink	Jessica Maxheimer

Personnel Committee

Rev. Rachel Hoffman, chair	John Kinard
Kayla Audette	LaVone Griffin
Kathy Hendrix	

Constitution Committee

Rev. Ozzie Herlong, chair	Rev. Henry M. Moody Jr., Advisory
Rev. Frank Anderson	Gail Buchanan
Jeffrey Stringer	Becky Koch

Property Committee

Larry Rathe, chair
Robert Epting
Rev. Rusty Kehl

Conducted a Special Order with The Rev. John Mocko, coordinator, The Lifeline Fund: *Faith, Finance and Freedom*.

Received report on extension granted for receiving constitution for a congregational *Plan of Agreement for a Federated Congregation*.

Approved a Resolution to Increase Salaries for the Year Beginning February 1, 2022:

WHEREAS, the approved budget for the fiscal year February 1, 2022, to January 31, 2023 (22 / 23) in the amount of \$2,616,500 includes salaries and related benefits in the amount of \$700,000; and

WHEREAS, the budget for salaries and benefits calls for a 2.5% increase for the rostered ministers and a 3% increase for the staff; and

WHEREAS, the benefits would also increase due to the increase in salaries; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for salaries and benefits in 22 / 23 is \$677,780; and

WHEREAS, the U S Government has reported an inflation rate of 5.4% for September 2021, a 13 year high, and a 6.2% rate for October 2021, the highest increase in 30 years; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of a 5% increase in salaries for each employee would increase the cost of salaries and benefits by \$12,900 for a total cost of \$690,680; and

WHEREAS, the cost of \$690,680 is less than the budgeted amount of \$700,000; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the S C Synod Council approve a 5% increase in salaries and benefits for each employee of the synod effective in the fiscal year, February 1, 2022, to January 31, 2023.

Approved Christmas gifts for each member of the synod staff.

Received a communication from Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, secretary, ELCA, acknowledging the closure of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, (05645) Prosperity, effective July 11, 2021.

Received the Report of Bishop Virginia Aebischer regarding call process updates, stated supplies, interim ministries, and pastoral care of the bishop with congregations and rostered ministers.

Approved registration fees for the South Carolina Synod Assembly scheduled to be held June 12-14, 2022, at Charleston Marriott:

Early Bird Registration \$135
Regular Registration \$150

Approved the city for the meetings and a rotation for in person and online meetings for future synod assemblies:

2023 in person, Columbia
2024 online
2025 in person, Columbia
2026 in person, Columbia
2027 online

Received a report from the Lifeline Distribution Team. As of November 9, 2021, the Lifeline Fund has paid \$117,406 to education lenders and eliminated 75 years of education debt for six rostered ministers and a significant portion of the debt of one other rostered minister. The application for Lifeline Fund education debt repayments is found on this link: <https://form.jotform.com/200215181602035>.

Received the Report of the Treasurer, Raymond Hendrix, October 31, 2021.

Received reports on the South Carolina Christian Action Council, Audit Committee, Personnel Committee, Deepening Discipleship Table, Community Engagement Table, and the Communication and Technology Table.

Viewed a video featuring Wintley Phipps and engaged in conversation on racial reconciliation.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNuQbJst4Lk&list=RDGMEMMib4QpREwENw3_jAc0YgNw&index=25



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ELCA Synod of South Carolina