

**Synod Council Meeting Highlights**  
South Carolina Synod – April 4, 2022  
*by Rev. Ozzie Herlong, secretary*

Voted to continue on-leave-from-call for a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Renewed the call to Interim Ministry, South Carolina Synod, to the Rev. Linda L. Anderson beginning April 15, 2022, for a term of two-years, in accord with 7.41.01.c. *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA.*

Extended a Call to Non-Congregational Service to The Rev Ashley R. Twitchell, as part-time chaplain, RoseCrest, Lutheran Homes of South Carolina, beginning January 6, 2022.

Approve a Legacy Plan for congregations to distribute property and assets received in Holy Closure, in accord with \*C7.01., *2019 Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA*, that honor certain parameters:

1. legacy plans honor the intentions of the founding and sustaining members, who established this church in witness and in furtherance of the Gospel;
2. in line with our constitution, all buildings and property of churches are received by Synod Council on behalf of the South Carolina synod;
3. while the original plan may include the sale of the building, it remains possible the Synod will use the building for other ministry purposes;
4. all gifts to the synod are received unrestricted; if the property is sold, however, the South Carolina Synod Council invites recommendations from the congregation for the dispersal of up to 20% of the net proceeds allowed by IRS; and
5. to disperse the net proceeds from the sale in the following manner: 10% to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America mission support, 10% to Other Properties Maintenance Account (account number 4810367-1), and the remaining 60% to the South Carolina Synod. “

To carry out to the fullest extent possible the spirit of the legacy plan.

Approved a Property Advisory Task Force to assess all properties acquired through Holy Closure.

Authorized the Executive Committee to appoint persons to serve on the Property Advisory Task Force for a one-year, renewable term beginning April 2022.

Approved a Property Manager, a non-stipend position, South Carolina Synod, to manage and oversee the maintenance, repair and sale of church properties obtained through the Holy Closure Process; and approved the position annually by the Synod Council; and approved a Property Manager who is annually appointed to the Property Committee by the Synod Council; and entitled the person serving in this capacity to indemnification in accord with †S16.02., *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod* as a committee member; and allowed this position to be under the direction of the SC Synod Council and the bishop; and report to the Synod Council and the bishop; and authorized the Property Manager 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; and to pay all expenses of the Property Manager incurred in the fulfillment of said duties, including but not limited to, mileage at the IRS business standard mileage rate, lodging, and meals.

Approved the appointment of Larry Rathe as Property Manager, South Carolina Synod, for a one-year, renewable term beginning April 2022.

Approved the appointment of Steven Reed, Shepherd of the Sea, Garden City, as a voting member from the South Carolina Synod to the Churchwide Assembly, August 8-12, 2022, Columbus, Ohio, to fill the vacancy of Sergio Lorenzo, in accord with bylaw S9.03.01., which provides for the alternate to come from nominees receiving the next highest number of votes on the ballot cast at the meeting of the Synod Assembly, June 26, 2021.

Reviewed the roster status of a retired Minister of Word and Sacrament and took Synod Council action in accord with 7.31.01.g., *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* which

requires that a retired rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament shall maintain membership in a congregation of this church.

Voted to follow CDC guidelines at the time of Synod Assembly. As we have seen throughout the past two years, the recommendations and severity of COVID-19 can change very quickly. We are ready to make adjustments and put protocols in place, but at this time it seems that use of masks will be optional and there will be no social distancing requirement or limit to the number of gathered persons except those limits determined by local fire and safety codes. This is the standard currently being followed by the city of Charleston and the Marriott. The Synod will have hand sanitizer and masks available throughout the Assembly.

To encourage, if eligible, attendees be fully vaccinated and to take a COVID-19 test before traveling. We certainly expect should attendees test positive or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 prior to Assembly that they stay home. Per the CDC, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. Typical symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Should an attendee develop any of these symptoms once at Assembly, we expect them to isolate until such time as they can return home. If an attendee develops symptoms, we ask that they report this to their rostered leader who would then report this to Pastor Emily Edenfield, Assistant to the Bishop, immediately. If an attendee does not have a rostered leader to report to, they should immediately report this to Pastor Emily Edenfield, Assistant to the Bishop.

Voted to provide ministry display spaces at the South Carolina Synod Assembly, June 12-14, 2022, for the following Synod sponsored Ministries, Institutions, Organizations, Synod related ELCA Ministries and Task Forces:

Portico Benefit Services  
Stewardship Network, South Carolina Synod  
Mission Investment Fund  
You're On Mute Podcast/My Pocket – Rev. Mary Anderson  
South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Foundation  
Newberry College  
South Carolina Women Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
NovusWay Ministries, Inc.  
Lutheran Services Carolinas  
South Carolina Lutheran Church Youth  
Restoration Chapel, Greenwood  
The Journey, Columbia; and

To authorize the Executive Committee to approve requests for Ministry Displays received after the Synod Council meeting on April 4, 2022.

Fixed the time and place for Synod Assemblies, in accord with S7.11.01., *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod*:

2023 – June 8-10, Columbia SC  
2024 – June 8, Online

2025 – June 12-14, Columbia SC  
2026 – June 11-13, Columbia SC  
2027 – June 12, Online

Recognized the members of the Synod Council, terms expiring 2022, and presented those present with a Certificate of Thanks:

Kayla Audette  
Larry Rathe  
John L. Kinard  
Kathy Riggan  
LaVone Griffin  
Daniel Crofts  
Rev. Michael Sherman  
Rev. Joanna Gragg