

**South Carolina Women of the ELCA
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 23, 2022
The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
Newberry, SC**

Present:

Officers:

President: Risse Snelgrove

Vice President: Amanda Boatwright

Secretary: Linda Roland

Treasurer: Virginia Herlong

Board:

Christie Gardner

Merri Lewis

Karen Freeman

Sarah Cheesman

Joy Derrick

LaTynia Taylor

Denise Warren

Also Present: Lorie Garcia (CWO Representative); Pat George; Jenifer Nuovo; Ella Shumpert; Cindy McManus

Devotion - Christie Gardner presented a devotion called “Kindness is a Choice” from Galatians. It is love in action.

Minutes and Correspondence – Motion by Merri; second by Sarah, to approve the minutes from May 21, 2022. **Motion carried.** Risse reported a WELCA letter from churchwide about a grant from Katie’s Fund for \$1000.00 for each synod to use for benevolence.

Linda reviewed from the last minutes which Board member would write an article for *The Ripple* about the convention workshops.

Treasurer’s Report (See attached)

Lorie asked what the “benevolence” line is in the report. Virginia explained it as a discretionary fund.

President’s Report by Risse Snelgrove

She stated it is what is in the convention BOR.

VP Report by Amanda Boatwright

She passed out thank you gifts to all Board members. The workshop and other rooms being used for the convention are ready to go. The main convention room is set up. Coffee will be provided by Thrivent with unlimited refills. It comes from a local vendor, Genesis. Thrivent also donated 150 folders and hand sanitizer for each registration. Registration starts 8:30 AM tomorrow. We should be here tomorrow by 8:00 AM.

LaTynia asked what time her daughter should be there on Friday; 1:45.

The Fair-Trade Store will open before registration.

Ann Caughman will present Pastor Matthew Titus’ letter as he is away.

Sarah reported on our benevolence projects current status:

- Goal of \$10,000 for Nursing; currently have about \$4000.
- \$400 for Katies fund as of now.

This will change tomorrow.

Convention Registration – Jennifer Nuovo

Registered are 82 voting members, 7 board, and 4 officers for a total voting strength of 93.

Also - 15 guests, 1 young women guest, and 6 first timers.

Jennifer cannot be here Saturday, Amanda will cover.

The voting team and credential committee need to realize that some staff are also a voting members.

They can vote but may not be seated in the voting section.

Mission Growth – Denise Warren

Denise passed out new ELCA Good Gifts catalogs. She asked Board members to take these to hand out at workshops.

Sixty-eight (68) letters were emailed to female pastors asking them to donate a resource based on their talents to our webpage that can be used for retreats, classes, or individual study.

There were some negative comments from the retreat. Denise “danced” too much, and they would like more of an actual Bible Study than what the program was. She got the name of a Pastor who previously had done a great job and will contact her (Jane Mitchem) to ask her for next year.

Mission Community – Karen Freeman

She has collected 66 pictures of nurses for the mural so far. She thanked Joy, Denise, Sarah, and Linda for help in putting up the mural.

Mission Action - Sarah

Her report about the projects is above under the VP Report.

Communication Report - Cindy McManus

Cindy has been comparing her mail chimp list with female pastors, etc. We now have about 1500 names for email. The service is free for up to 2000 names. There are still 254 emails that do not have a name to go with the address. She is considering sending them a note to ask who they are.

There is a box in the convention hall with forms for women who wish to subscribe for *The Ripple*.

38% of our email blasts have been opened.

She is working with the female pastors to get more items for the Resource page on our website. So far she has had a poor response.

There were 114 visitors last month to the webpage. 68 % were new to the site.

We continue trying to get more activity on the SC WELCA Facebook page. It has been hard for people to find our page. We have both a Facebook page and a group; only 18 viewers of the page. We are considering an Instagram and Twitter page. They can be connected to Facebook so that one need only post once to be on all sites. Pat George is willing to help get this working better.

Unfinished business

- We need to print out some forms for ladies at the convention to use to update their current congregational officers and set them out tomorrow.
- We have been invited by Zion Lutheran Church in Lexington to hold our convention there next year. Sarah made a **Motion**, second by Virginia, that we accept the invitation from Zion to hold our convention there on June 23 and 24, 2023. **Motion carried.**

Lorie Garcia Q&A

Lorie explained the \$1000 grant from Katie’s Fund for a “living theology and education”. She reviewed a number of the projects to which the fund has contributed over the years. We now as a synod have \$1000 to plan for something. We need to report back what we do. A churchwide capital campaign goal

to raise \$1,000,000 will be announced. How to apply for a grant is being reworked and will be on the website next year.

There used to be "Seed Grants". The question was asked if those are still available. Lorie was not sure if the current grants from Katie's Fund are the same thing

She discussed some of the spending issues around effective communication. There is a greater focus on that from churchwide at present.

Another question was why first-time voting members from the Zoom convention could not be considered being first timers again. She said they are eligible to run again to go again, just not as a first timer. The Churchwide Boards voted not to do that. They want the door open to more women being first timers. Plus, some synods had already held their elections before the board vote. Sarah stated to Lorie that it would have been nice for those people to know why they could not be considered first time again.

Risse discussed that there are now 5 full time people on the churchwide staff. Lorie said it functions as a governing board not working board. Risse asked why with a \$ 1.6 million budget so much is going to employee salaries. \$640,000 for 5 ½ employees. She feels that SC WELCA may need to consider decreasing our contribution if that doesn't change.

How do we get young people on board for WELCA? To be relevant to them. Easy to say, hard to do.

Are we meeting their needs? First we need to invite them personally and meet at times they can attend. Many will only come to meetings with activities where they are helping on a project. But once there is a relationship, they may become more involved.

By September there will be more Triennial information available.

LaTynia asked if grants are available for advertising. Lorie encouraged using Thrivent \$250 Action Team grants for that purpose.

Lorie stated she is excited to be here and thanked us for our welcome.

Announcements

Song books are available on the WELCA table for anyone who wishes one.

Virginia needs some signatures.

Reggie's plane cannot fly. Our entertainers now must drive here.

The meeting ended with our Secret prayer Partner reveal.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Roland

Secretary