

**Minutes**  
**South Carolina Women of the ELCA**  
**Thirty-Third Annual Convention**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**September 26, 2021**  
**1:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Becky Koch Presiding**  
**Theme: Just Love**

*Let all you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14*

**Pre-Convention Business**

12:30 PM orientation was conducted by SCAV as practice for the online convention.

1:00 Linda Roland announced corrections to the Bulletin of Reports (BOR). On page 31 remove Sarah Cheesman from the members of the Action Committee as she was not a member. On page 14, Recommendation #3 should state “That the 2021 Audit Report of the Treasurer be adopted.” Since we did not have a convention last year the 2020 Audit was adopted by the Board. Please go to page 6 and under Reference and Council, change the name Jessica Watson to Molly Parkhill from University Lutheran, Clemson, Foothills.

Becky Koch announced that the election for President will be held by Ecclesiastical ballot, defined on page 35 of the BOR. Please open the BOR to page 26 to see the proposed budget. Later this afternoon, the floor will be open for comment.

**First Session – 1:00 PM**

The Thirty-Third Annual Convention of the South Carolina Women of the ELCA was held virtually with the assistance of SCAV, Inc. The first session began with the “Formal Opening of the Convention” found on page eight of the 2021 Bulletin of Reports (BOR), conducted by Becky Koch, President, who declared the convention to be in session.

**Devotions and Prayer – The Rev. Kathy Harris**

Pastor Kathy Harris is from Pickens, SC. This year’s theme is from I Corinthians; Let all that you do be done in love. She compared our community of faith to a spider’s web. How much more God can do with humans. (We are together on the web. Ha Ha) God cannot or will not be stopped or defeated. The convention is about more than administration, it is adding ministry to what we do.

**Video Greeting from the Bishop’s Office, SC Synod**

Bishop Virginia “Ginny” Aebischer provided a video message welcoming us to our convention and thanking us for all we do.

**Adoption of Proposed Rules of Procedure**

President Koch called on Secretary Linda Roland, who referred to the Proposed Rules of Procedures on pages 12 - 14 in the BOR. Secretary Roland moved that the Proposed Rules of Procedures be adopted (Recommendation #1). The MOTION CARRIED – 46

**Adoption of the Convention Agenda**

Secretary Roland referred to the Convention Program Agenda for the 2021 SC WELCA Convention on pages 8 – 11 in the BOR. Secretary Roland moved that the Convention Program Agenda be adopted (Recommendation #2) The MOTION CARRIED - 46

**Appointment of the Parliamentarian**

Mrs. Carolyn Torrence

**Introduction of Board Members and Convention Planning Committee**

Becky reviewed who does what and are listed on page 7 of the BOR.

**Report of the Committee on Credentials**

President Koch called on Suzanne Heusinger, Chair of the Committee on Credential, who gave the First Report on Credentials as follows:

|                        |           |                         |           |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Voting Members         | 49        | Visitors                | 0         |
| Officers               | 4         | Young Women Guests      | 0         |
| Board Members          | 8         | First Timer Guests      | 0         |
| <b>Voting Strength</b> | <b>61</b> | Other                   | 4         |
|                        |           | <b>Total Attendance</b> | <b>65</b> |

Chair Heusinger moved that the report be accepted. The MOTION CARRIED - 53

**Video Greetings**

Dr. Cathy Milejcek provided greetings from Tanzania

Jimmy Smith from Lutheran Men in Mission provided a video message with greetings and information about their current status.

**Report of the Treasurer**

President Koch called on Treasurer Rachel Quesada who gave the Report of the Treasurer and called attention to pages 19 – 28 in the BOR. Rachel reviewed the information on those pages. She thanked all for their financial support.

**Presentation of the 2022- 2023 Budget**

President Koch called on Roz Eckart, chair of the Stewardship Committee to present the Proposed Budget for 2022 – 2023 on page 26 of the BOR. At this time the floor is open only to questions. No questions were asked. She thanked Rachel and Roz.

**Video**

Lutheran Services, Carolinas presented greetings and information about their services.

### **Report of the Committee on the Conduct of Elections**

President Koch reviewed the rules for electing the president found on page 12 of the BOR. She called on Chair Elsa Hope chair of the Committee on Conduct of Elections for instructions for the nominating ballot. The definition is found on page 35. Type in the name of the person you are nominating including her cell number if it is someone not online at the convention. President Koch called on Rev. Harris who offered a prayer for guidance. President Koch called on Elsa Hope, Chair of the Committee on the Conduct of Election, who gave instructions for the nominating/first ballot for President. Votes were cast by using the polling function on their computers.

### **Prayer**

Pastor Kathy offered a prayer while we waited for a video/PowerPoint about SC WELCA activities.

### **Video**

Cindy McManus put together a presentation about what has been happening in SC WELCA units in spite of the pandemic.

### **Balloting**

Hayden (from SCAV) posted the names on the balloting: Sarah Cheesman, Christie Gardner, Elsa Hope, Risse Snelgrove, Amanda Boatwright, Brenda Fulmer, Linda Griffith, Roz Eckart. Elsa explained using the chat box to remove a name from nomination as well as how to email.

### **Break 3:15 – 3:30**

### **Balloting**

Elsa presented the ballot with the names of the remaining candidates: Amanda Boatwright, Sarah Cheesman, Christie Gardner, Risse Snelgrove. Pastor Kathy offered a prayer of guidance before the electronic vote.

### **Address of the Churchwide Representative – Barbara Thistle**

Becky asked Amanda Boatwright to introduce our churchwide representative, Barbara Thistle. She talked about her history with becoming a Lutheran and her participation in WELCA. She explained what happened at this year's churchwide convention and introduced the current officers and Board using photographs. She reviewed Constitutional changes and the organizations and programs they are supporting. She discussed churchwide finances. The current budget is 30% lower than previously and has caused staff reorganization. She thanked all participating women for their service and financial support.

### **Results of Second Ballot for President.**

Two-thirds of legal votes cast are needed for election. Elsa announced the results. 57 votes were cast. Risse Snelgrove – 27, Amanda Boatwright – 16, Sarah Cheesman- 8, Christie Gardner, 6. So, there was no election.

The third ballot will be Risse Snelgrove and Amanda Boatwright. Each candidate was introduced and talked about their involvement in WELCA.

Elsa introduced the third ballot, and Pastor Kathy provided a prayer for guidance.

### **Electronic balloting**

Elsa announced the results of the third ballot. Risse Snelgrove - 38, Amanda Boatwright - 18, illegal votes – 2. Becky announced Risse as the newly elected President. Risse then spoke a few words about being excited to serve.

### **Keynote Speaker: Thomas Knapp, Executive Director of the SC network of Children's Advocacy Centers**

Amanda Boatwright introduced our keynote speaker. He previously served in law enforcement and investigated crimes on children. This led him to his current position. He thanked SC WELCA for their support. Then Thomas explained more about how they assist children and families in crisis.

### **Report of the Nominating Committee**

Becky called on Betty Jo Amick for a report about the Treasurer's election. She referred us to page 35 and 36 in the BOR. Because the Constitution requires a written ballot and the only name is Virginia Herlong, the ballot will require us to enter her name online. She received 41 votes. Elsa reported there was one illegal vote. Becky declared Virginia as the new treasurer. Becky thanked her for her willingness to serve as she had another commitment and could not attend the convention.

### **Mission Action Report on Convention Projects**

Rae Davis reported on the results of our SC WELCA that we collected \$4686.00 for South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (SCNCAC) and \$2431 for Lutheran Disaster Response. She also thanked everyone who sewed the over 1000 masks for the children.

### **Video Greeting: The Rev. Danial Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response**

### **Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

Betty Jo Amick announced the rules for elections on page 13 of the BOR. She then introduced the candidates as found on pages 36 – 38. Pastor Kathy then offered a prayer for guidance. Two more names were added "from the floor" before the September 17 deadline for the online convention: Christie Gardner and LaTynia Taylor. Then Elsa Hope explained that we could vote for up to four names.

Results as follows Dee Bostick -25, Amanda West-Cruse - 16, Joy Derrick - 26, Kathi DeVoe - 9, Karen Freeman -26, Brenda Fulmer -19, Christie Gardner - 30, Amanda Sease-Baker - 21, LaTynia Taylor – 24, Amanda Cruse West – 16. 27 votes were needed to elect. Christie Gardner was elected on the first ballot. Elsa then gave directions for the Second Ballot. Vote for three of the following candidates Dee Bostick, LaTynia Taylor, Joy Derrick, Karen Freeman, and Amanda Sease-Baker. Pastor Kathy again offered prayer for guidance.

Fifty votes were cast, making the necessary number of votes to elect 26. Elected on the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot – Dee Bostic – 27, LaTynia Taylor - 28, and Joy Derrick - 32. Amanda Sease- Baker is the alternate with 21 votes. As Risse's position became open with her election as President, Amanda Sease-Baker will fill Risse's position until the next election.

**Stewardship – Audit Report of the Treasurer – (Recommendation #3)**

Roz Eckart presented Board Recommendation #3 found on page 26 in the BOR be adopted. She thanked her assistants. From the Committee it does not require a second. Yes votes - 44, No votes - 0. MOTION CARRIED.

**Stewardship – Adoption of the 2022-2023 Budget – (Recommendation #4)**

Roz Eckart presented Board Recommendation #4 on page 26 in the BOR. It also does not require a second. Yes votes – 41, No votes – 0. MOTION CARRIED.

**Report of the President**

Becky stated her report is on page 16 of the BOR. She thanked everyone for their continued support and for the technology such as Zoom that helped keep us connected. Keep Christ in the center of all our future decisions. She has been honored to serve for the past 8 years.

**Report of VP**

Amanda thanked all who helped especially with the convention. She thanked her committee members and Pastor Kathy. “Thanks for all your love.”

**Report of the Secretary**

Linda stated her report is found in the BOR. She emphasized the need to let her know when unit officers change.

**Report of the Committee on the Report of the President.**

Karen Freeman thanked Becky for her years of service. She stated that after her committee reviewed the report they motion to adopt Becky’s Report as President. Yes votes – 42, No votes – 0. MOTION CARRIED.

**Report of the Committee on Report of Minutes**

Christie Gardner stated the Committee reviewed the minutes up to 3:15 PM today. She stated their committee found them accurate and recommends approval. The rest will be approved by Secretary and President. Yes votes -41, No votes – 0. MOTION CARRIED

**Report of Offerings**

Rachel reported that the convention offerings received as of the convention date were \$2,825. The donations to the projects, including one half of the convention offerings, are \$4,686 for SCNCAC and \$2,440 for LDR.

**Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel (Resolutions – New Business)**

The Committee received one resolution signed by five members related to health. Linda Griffith motioned for the committee that they recommend adding the resolution to the New Business portion of the Convention Agenda. Yes votes – 36, No votes – 2. MOTION CARRIED.

**Invitation to the 2022 SC WELCA Convention**

Next year’s convention is being planned to be in person again. Becky read the invitation from Pastor Matthew Titus from The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Newberry, SC. The dates are June 24 & 25, 2022.

### **Committee on Ref. and Counsel**

Linda Griffith presented resolution on health and our Christian response to the Corona virus. “Whereas, the COVID virus has been an ongoing health issue since 2019; and whereas, SC DHEC’s recommendation has been to vaccinate eligible individuals to help reduce the spread of the virus in South Carolina, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the South Carolina Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America encourage prayerful and informed decision-making by individuals in consultation with medical experts as appropriate within the units.” Yes votes – 39, No votes – 3. MOTION CARRIED

Linda then read the traditional closing resolution: She then motioned that the report be adopted. Yes votes – 41, No votes – 0. MOTION CARRIED

### **Report of Committee on Conduction of Elections**

Elsa thanked her committee members and SCAV. She moved that her report be adopted. Yes votes – 37, No votes – 0. MOTION CARRIED. She reported that screen shots and results of all votes would be provided to the secretary.

### **Closing Devotions and Installation of Officers and Board Members**

Pastor Kathy used verses from Ecclesiastes to thank everyone for their patience and sticking around through the online convention process. She blessed the gifts we gave by bringing in a short video. She shared words of thanks to everyone for the gifts of remembrance we sent to all the South Carolina ordained female ministers in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination of Women. She thanked and outgoing Board members: Becky Koch, Rae Davis, Amanda Cruse West, Rachel Quesada. She installed the newly elected Board: Risse Snelgrove, Virginia Herlong, Christie Gardner, Dee Bostick, LaTynia Taylor, Joy Derick, and Amanda Sease-Baker.

### **Online question**

Elsa acknowledged that Sarah Cheesman had raised her hand online but had not been acknowledged earlier. She apologized that the question had been missed. She then tried to answer what she understood the question to be as Sarah had already exited the online convention. She stated that the agenda was approved to vote for 4 board members. Risse being elected President left another board position to fill. The person with the next highest number of votes takes her position. Thus Amanda Sease-Baker will fill out the year remaining of Risse’s term on the Board.

### **Formal Closing of the Convention**

Becky led us in the closing as posted in the BOR on page 11.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Roland, Secretary