

**Minutes**  
**South Carolina Women of the ELCA**  
**Thirty-Sixth Annual Convention**  
**St. Luke's Lutheran Church**  
**Summerville , South Carolina**  
**June 21 - 22 , 2024**

**Risse Snelgrove Presiding**  
**Theme: Just Love One Another**

*We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19*

**Friday, June 21, 2024**

**Pre-Convention Business**

The Voting member orientation commenced at 9:01 am.

Shari Donley, Secretary, announced changes to the Bulletin of Reports (BOR) found on pages 4 and 19. Instructions to contact Shari were given to anyone who finds any information that is incorrect in the BOR.

Shari continued with giving orientation instructions to the voting members.

Christie Gardner, VP and Convention Co-Chair, made convention and housekeeping announcements.

Risse Snelgrove, President, made additional announcements about the election of the Vice-President, the proposed budget, and submitting a resolution via the resolution form. Risse continued with recognizing the people who made this convention happen. Risse recognized anyone from out of state. Risse introduced the CWO Board representative, Myrna Wells-Ulland from Phoenix, Arizona.

The orientation session concluded at 9:30am.

Pat George announced the Land Acknowledgement and the Truth in Healing class.

The formal opening of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the SC Women of the ELCA commenced at approximately 9:45am.

Pastor Rebecca Wicker officiated the Opening Worship and Offering Service with Holy Communion.

**Plenary Session One**

Risse called on Pastor Andrea Rice from St. Luke's Lutheran Church to give a welcome to the convention.

Risse called on Bishop Dr. Virginia S. Aebischer to bring greetings from the SC ELCA Synod.

Risse introduced the SWO Board.

Risse introduced and appointed Denise Caulder to be the convention parliamentarian.

Risse introduced and recognized the members of the 2024 convention committees.

Risse recognized the Past-Presidents and those who were present. Also recognized were the Conference Leaders.

Risse recognized the Young Women Guests and the First Timer Guests.

Risse recognized the voting members and the attending leaders for Congregational Units.

**First Report of the Committee on Credentials** by Lena Jones at 10:05am.

Voting Members	59	Visitors	13
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	1
Board Members	8	First Timer Guests	14
<b>Voting Strength</b>	<b>71</b>	Other	0
		<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>99</b>

Lena moved the report be accepted. **Motion carried.**

### **Adoption of Board Recommendation #1 –Rules of Procedures (pages 22 - 24)**

Risse called on Secretary, Shari Donley, who referred to the Proposed Rules of Procedure found on pages 22 - 24 in the BOR. Secretary Donley moved that the Proposed Procedures be adopted (Recommendation #1 found on page 24). **Motion carried.**

### **Adoption of Board Recommendation #2 – Agenda (pages 15 - 21)**

Secretary Donley referred to the Convention Program Agenda for the 2024 SC WELCA Convention on pages 15 - 21 of the BOR. Secretary Donley moved that the Convention Agenda be adopted (Recommendation #2 found on page 24). **Motion carried.**

Risse called on Becky Koch, Chair of the Nominating Committee to read the constitution criteria for the Nomination of the Vice-President found on page 22 of the BOR.

### **First Nominating Ballot for Vice-President**

Ella Shumpert, Chair of the Committee on the Conduct of Elections, explained the procedure using the blue ballots.

Pastor Rebecca provided a prayer for guidance for the nominating of a Vice-President.

Voting members provided nominations for Vice-President using the blue ballot that were collected by the convention tellers and then turned over to the Committee on the Conduct of Elections for tabulation. Risse declared that the Nominating Ballot for Vice-President be closed.

Risse announced that nominations from the floor for Secretary closes at Noon and to turn them in to Secretary Shari Donley.

Ruth Ann Snipes brought greetings from Lutheran Disaster Relief of the Carolinas and announced she is available to visit congregations on the program.

Dallas Shealy brought greetings from the South Carolian Lutheran Retreat Centers.

Sarah Cliney brought greetings from Lutheran Family Services of the Carolinas.

Christie Gardner provided announcements and dismissed everyone to attend the first wave of workshops.

**Workshops A were attended.**

Pastor Rebecca blessed the lunch meal.

**Lunch 12:30**

**Plenary Session Two**

Joy in Sing Along – 1:35 pm

**Second Report of the Committee on Credentials** by Lena Jones at 01:33pm.

Voting Members	59	Visitors	15
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	1
Board Members	8	First Timer Guests	14
<b>Voting Strength</b>	<b>71</b>	Other	0
		<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>101</b>

Lena moved that the report be accepted. **Motion carried.**

**Balloting – Results of the first ballot for Vice-President** by Ella Shumpert

Ella explained the results and who received votes. Three-fourths of legal votes were necessary to win on the first ballot.

**The results of the Nominating Ballot for Vice-President are:**

Eligible to vote 71

Number of votes cast 52

Number of invalid votes cast 0

Necessary to Elect 39

Christy Gardner - 37

Sallie Folk - 1

Linda Roland – 1

Latynia Taylor – 1

Becky Koch – 3

Sarah Cheesman – 3

Diane Wicker – 2

Donna Fulmer – 3

Christine Price – 1

Names were removed by request to withdraw. The remaining candidates were Christie Gardner, Sarah Cheesman and Christine Price who came forward to be recognized.

## **Second Ballot for Vice-President**

Ella Shumpert, Chair of the Committee on the Conduct of Elections, explained the procedure using the yellow ballots.

Pastor Rebecca provided a prayer for guidance for the second ballot for Vice-President.

Second ballot for Vice-President was casted using the yellow ballot that were collected by the convention tellers and then turned over to the Committee on the Conduct of Elections for tabulation. Risse declared the second ballot for Vice-President closed.

Risse called on Diane Wicker to introduce the Keynote Speaker, Pastor Greg Van Dyke from Lutheran Church by the Lake in McCormick, SC. Pastor Van Dyke spoke on teen suicide.

## **Adoption of Board Recommendation #3 – Accounting Review of the Treasurer (page 33)**

Sallie Folk, Chair of the Finance Committee, moved to adopt Board Recommendation #3.

**Motion Carried.**

## **Break at 2:30 pm and reconvened at 2:45pm.**

Risse called on Treasurer Rachel Quesada to give a report of this morning's Ingathering Offering. The Convention Offering received was \$1,684.60. The Joy offering was \$671.60.

Pastor David Coffman brought greetings from Newberry College.

Randy Barnes brought greetings from South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission.

A video greeting from Novus Way by Nathan Gragg was presented.

## **Balloting – Results of the second ballot for Vice-President** by Ella Shumpert

Ella Shumpert explained the results and who received votes. Two-thirds of legal votes were necessary to win on the second ballot.

The results of the Nominating Ballot for Vice-President are:

Eligible to vote \_\_\_\_\_ 71 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of votes cast \_\_\_\_\_ 65 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of invalid votes cast \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Necessary to Elect \_\_\_\_\_ 49 \_\_\_\_\_

**Christy Gardner was elected Vice-President with 62 votes for a two-year term.** Christie came forward and addressed the convention.

A video on teen suicide was shared with the convention.

**Greetings from Lutheran Services of the Carolinas - Sandra West**

She explained services they provide using personal stories of clients.

**Presentation of the 2024 – 2025 Budget**

Rachel Quesada, SWO Treasurer, presented the current and proposed budget for 2025-2026 found on page 39 of the BOR. There were no questions at that time.

**Announcements** were made by Christie Gardner before the break for the workshops.

**Workshop B – 3:45 pm**

**Workshop C – 4:45 pm**

Pastor Rebecca blessed the banquet meal.

**Banquet – 6:00 pm**

**Entertainment at 7:00pm** by Tim Lowery a Christian storyteller and was enjoyed by all.

**Saturday, June 22, 2024**

8:30am Registration opens. Voting Members to be registered by 9:00 am

9:02am Joy in Singing

9:08am – Morning Devotions by Pastor Rebecca.

**Plenary Session Three**

**Third Report of the Committee on Credentials** by Lena Jones at 9:01am.

Voting Members	60	Visitors	15
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	1
Board Members	8	First Timer Guests	15
<b>Voting Strength</b>	<b>72</b>	Other	0
		<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>103</b>

Lena moved the credentials be accepted. **Motion carried.**

**Report of the Nominating Committee for Secretary** by Becky Koch

Becky presented the nominee for Secretary found on page 45 of the BOR.

Risse asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none. Diane Wicker moved and Sarah Cheesman second to close the nominations. Motion carried.

**Ballot for Secretary**

Ella Shumpert, Chair of the Committee on the Conduct of Elections, explained the procedure using the tan ballots.

Pastor Rebecca provided a prayer for guidance for the ballot for Secretary.

Voting commenced for Secretary.

Dr. Cathy Milejczack, Companion Synod Coordinator for the ELC of /Tanzania and SW Diocese to provide updates from Tanzania.

**Report of the 2023 – 2024 Financial Summary**

Sallie Folk, Chair of the Finance Committee, and Rachel Quesada, Treasurer, presented reports for the last fiscal year. See pages 34 - 38 in the BOR. Rachel provided answers to questions that were asked.

**Adoption of Board Recommendation #4 – 2025 – 2026 Budget**

Sallie Folk presented Board Recommendation #4 on page 39 to adopt the proposed budget for 2-1—2025 to 1-31-2026. There were questions about the cut on benevolence and the reduction in the monies sent to CWO. Diane Wicker moved and Donna Fulmer second to call the question. **Motion carried.** The question was called and the 2025 – 2026 budget was adopted. **Motion carried.**

Pastor Bobby Morris brought greetings from the Fifth Gospel Foundation.

**Balloting – Results of the ballot for Secretary** by Ella Shumpert

Ella Shumpert explained the results and who received votes.

**The results of the Nominating Ballot for Secretary are:**

Eligible to vote \_\_\_\_\_72\_\_\_\_\_

Number of votes cast \_\_\_\_\_66\_\_\_\_\_

Number of invalid votes cast \_\_\_\_\_0\_\_\_\_\_

Necessary to Elect \_\_\_\_\_34\_\_\_\_\_

Shari Donley was elected as Secretary for a second two-year term.

**First Ballot for Board Members**

Becky Koch, chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the following:  
Four Board Members shall be elected for a term of two years. The Nominating Committee shall nominate twice the number of people for the vacancies to be filled.

Candidates for the Board are Sarah Cheesman, Cristina Guillermo, Cindy McManus, Cheryl Peters, Lisa Petty, Dianna Pitts, Trish Scott and Carolyn Watt. There was one nomination from the floor by Christie Gardner for Brianna Harris.

LaTynia Taylor moved and Donna Fulmer second to close nominations from the floor. **Motion carried.**

Risse thanked Becky Koch, Merri Lewis and Luanne Farish for serving on the Nominating Committee.

Pastor Rebecca provided a prayer for guidance for the election of Board positions.

**First Ballot for Board members**

Ella Shumpert, Chair of the Committee on the Conduct of Elections, explained the procedure using the light blue ballots. Balloting proceeded with the ballots being collected by the convention tellers and then turned over to the Committee on the Conduct of Elections for tabulation. Risse declared the First Ballot for Synodical Board members closed.

VP Christie Gardner provided announcements.

**Break – 10:30 am and reconvened at approximately 10:45am.**

10:45am – The Board entertained the convention with a Jeopardy skit.

**2023 Triennial Convention and Gathering Report – Pat George**

Pat gave a report of the 2023 Triennial Convention and Gathering held Sept. 20 – 24 , 2023 in Phoenix. Pat introduced the SCWelca attendees: Christie Gardner, Sarah Cheesman, LaTynia Tayler, and Cindy McManus.

**Balloting – Results of the first ballot for Board Members** by Ella Shumpert

Ella Shumpert explained the results and who received votes.

**Report of the First Ballot for Board members** by Ella Shumpert

The results of the First Ballot for Board Member are:

Eligible to vote \_\_\_\_\_ 72 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of votes cast \_\_\_\_\_ 68 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of invalid votes cast \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_

Necessary to Elect \_\_\_\_\_ 35 \_\_\_\_\_

Sarah Cheesman – 34

Cristina Guillermo – 47

Cindy McManus – 30

Cheryl Peters – 20

Lisa Petty – 33

Dianne Pitts – 23

Trish Scott – 18

Carolyn Watt – 29

Brianne Harris – 39

Risse declared Cristina Guillermo and Brianna Harris received the votes necessary to be elected to the Board for a two-year term.

## Second Ballot for Board members

Ella Shumpert, Chair of the Committee on the Conduct of Elections, explained the procedure using the yellow ballots. Balloting proceeded with the ballots being collected by the convention tellers and then turned over to the Committee on the Conduct of Elections for tabulation. Risse declared the Second Ballot for Synodical Board members closed.

Robbie Kopp brought greetings from Thrivent and shared that he can provide help with Thrivent Action Teams.

Video greetings were shared from Dr. Chad Rimmer of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of the Carolinas.

Risse invited Jody Smiley, Chair of the \$1mil Katie's Fund Campaign, to give an update. Jody is from Blacksburg, Virginia. She is the past president of the CWO Executive Board and past president of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization.

## Greetings from Churchwide Representative – Myrna Wells-Ulland

LaTynia Taylor introduced our Churchwide Representative, Myrna Wells-Ulland.

Myrna did a slide presentation on the changes at CWO to be more efficient and feasible. An interim director has been found to fill the position while a search for a permanent director is being conducted. Myrna encouraged the attendees to use the tools and resources on the CWO website.

Risse presented gifts for the outgoing Board members: Linda Roland, Diane Wicker and Cindy McManus.

VP Christie Gardner gave announcements.

Pastor Rebecca blessed the Noon meal.

## Lunch at Noon.

## Plenary Session Four

12:55 - Joy in Singing

**Fourth Report from the Committee on Credentials** by Lena Jones at 1:07pm.

Voting Members	60	Visitors	15
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	1
Board Members	8	First Timer Guests	15
<b>Voting Strength</b>	<b>72</b>	Other	0
		<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>103</b>

Lena moved to accept the report. **Motion Carried**

**Balloting – Results of the Second ballot for Board Members** by Ella Shumpert

Ella Shumpert explained the results and who received votes.

**Report of the Second Ballot for Board members** by Ella Shumpert

The results of the Second Ballot for Board Member are:

Eligible to vote \_\_\_\_\_ 72 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of votes cast \_\_\_\_\_ 67 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of invalid votes cast \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Necessary to Elect \_\_\_\_\_ 35 \_\_\_\_\_

Sarah Cheesman – 36

Cindy McManus – 35

Lisa Petty – 37

Carolyn Watt – 27

Risse declared Sarah Cheesman and Lisa Petty received the votes necessary to be elected to the Board for a two-year term.

Brianna Harris, Coordinator for our Young Woman Guests, introduced Aubrey Guyton.

Cheryl Peters, Coordinator for First Time Guests, introduced the 15 guests. Each guest shared stories of the Ladie’s Support Group and things that were heavy on their minds.

**Report from the Action Committee on Convention Projects – Sarah Cheesman**

Sarah gave this report from page 41 and page 52 in BOR. As of today, we have:

Tanzania She Shed - \$37,800.25

The Fifth Gospel Foundation - \$875.00

Neighbors Together - \$975.00

Newberry Collage Nursing Scholarship Fund - \$4,219.09

Greetings were brought from Neighbors Together.

**Report of the Secretary**

Shari Donley referred everyone to her report on page 31 of the BOR. She shared some updates to the CUs found in the BOR. Finally, she thanked all who gave her the opportunity to serve as their Board Secretary.

**Report of the Vice President**

Christie Gardner stated her report is on page 30 in the BOR and gave thanks for the great convention we are having.

Vice-President Christie Gardner presided as Chair during the Report of the President.

Christie referred everyone to page 28 of the BOR for the Report of the President and called on Janine Wagner, Chair of the Committee on the Report of the President, to give her report.

### **Committee on the Report of the President – Janine Wagner**

Janine reported that her committee had reviewed Risse’s Report of June 2, 2024. They all approved and moved to adopt the report. **Motion carried.**

Risse presented the Report of the President.

Christie Gardner turned the Chair back over to President Risse Snelgrove.

### **Report of the Committee on Minutes – Amy Rusnak**

Amy reported that her committee met with the secretary and reviewed the minutes through this morning’s session. She moved to accept the report. **Motion carried.** Risse and Shari will review the remaining minutes for final approval.

### **Report on Reference and Counsel – Donna Fulmer**

Donna presented Resolution #1 (See attached) from St. John’s Lutheran Church in Spartanburg, SC, which is to go to the Triennial Convention in September 2026. Donna read the resolution and moved for adoption. **Motion carried.**

Donna then read Resolution #2, the Committee Resolution on Courtesy (See attached). **The resolution was adopted by applause from the attendees.**

### **New Business**

There was no New Business.

**Announcements by Christie Gardner** Christie announced that the 2025 convention venue has not been finalized however it is being actively pursued. Christie directed the attendees to turn in the name tags, to do the evaluations, and gave instructions for Worship and Closing of the Convention.

There was a drawing for three door prizes.

The convention concluded with:

**The Holy Communion Service with Pastor Rebecca Wicker presiding,  
Installation of Officers and Board by Myrna Wells-Ulland, CWO representative,  
The formal closing of convention and Liturgy, and  
A Board Meeting of all current, outgoing, and new officers and board members followed the worship.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Shari Donley, Secretary

Approved on August 22, 2024 by:  
Risse Snelgrove, President