



Synod Council Highlights—Meeting at the Synod Office December 5-6, 2025

The council approved:

- the acceptance of three email actions taken by council since the September meeting: (1) Updating personnel policy to reference health coverage at the Select Copay 2000 level; (2) Correcting the compensation package for Deacon Wendy Roberts; and (3) Acquire a vehicle for synod staff use.
- the appointment of Ms. Allison Runge, Esq. as Synod Attorney and the continued appointment of Mr. David Black, Esq. as Synod Attorney.
- the extension of Synod Council calls to Pastor Phil Tonnesen and Pastor Cassie Overcash, as assistants to the bishop conterminous term calls with the term of Bishop Emily.
- the appointment of the Rev. Paul Wollner as a non-council member of the Mission and Ministry Committee.
- the 10th Edition of the *Sexual Misconduct Policies and Procedures for Rostered Ministers of the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA.*
- the ratification of Ms. Elizabeth Derrick to serve on the LSC/LSA Board of Directors.
- the constitutions of three congregations: St. John's, Salisbury, Mount Gilead, Mount Pleasant, and St. James, Fayetteville.
- the use of un-awarded 2025 Peeler/Casey Funds to cover the costs of the immigration process and relocation for Pastor Miriam Schmidle.
- the *Policy for Allocating Unrestricted Funds Received by the NC Synod.*
- Synod staff compensation.
- 2026 housing allowance for synod staff serving under call.
- 2026 housing allowance for rostered ministers serving under Synod Council call.
- rostered ministers' transitions.

The council also:

- held a Special Order to hear a report from the Interim DEM, the Rev. Dr. Wolfgang Herz-Lane.
- held a Special Order to hear from Deacon Jessica Noonan, LEAD Strategic Planning, to consider creating a new strategic plan for the synod.
- held a Special Order with Mr. Roger Lyman, Home Mission Foundation, who asked for support regarding using an online sweepstakes service for fundraising. (The council declined to take any action.)
- received Bishop Emily's report, synod officers' reports, and staff reports.

The NC Synod Council will next meet at St. Andrew's, Hickory, on Thursday, May 28, just prior to Synod Gathering.