



Synod Council Highlights—Meeting at the Synod Office March 20-21, 2026

The council approved:

- the appointment of a Lifeline Fund Committee (council officers and two council members),
- the reallocation of the unused bishop's transition funds,
- the use of Discord as a networking app for synod groups,
- the exploration of an initiative to support rural/small-town congregations with resources to develop healthy financial practices in collaboration with Lenoir-Rhyne University,
- *NC Synod Guidelines for Synod Council Calls to Supply Ministry* and the *NC Synod Guidelines for Synod Council Calls to Interim Ministry*,
- a fundraising initiative to pay registration fees for synod youth who choose to attend the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering,
- joining the *Amicus Brief* drafted by the NC Diocese of The Episcopal Church in support of the NC Conference of the United Methodist Church in response to the lawsuit *Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church of Wilmington v. The North Carolina Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction, of the United Methodist Church, et al.* and to be filed with the NC Supreme Court—contingent upon review by the General Counsel of the ELCA and final review and approval by NC Synod Council,
- Ms. Laura Brodsky to a 3-year term on the NC Lutheran Synod Foundation board,
- the constitutions of Nativity, Arden; Holy Trinity, Chapel Hill; Bethlehem, Hickory; Good Shepherd, Goldsboro; St. Martin, Concord; Our Father, Greensboro; and Redeemer, Gastonia;
- the ratification of Mr. Hunt Shuford and Ms. Samantha Howell to 3-year terms ('26-'29) on the Lenoir-Rhyne board; of Ms. Elizabeth Derrick, Ms. Sharon Graeber, the Rev. Dr. Rick Herman, Dr. Nisha Singh, and Mr. Avery Staley for 3-year terms ('26-'29) on the Lutheran Services Carolinas board, and of Ms. Meredith Shuford to fill a 3-year term ('26-'28) on the Novus Way board,
- the appointment of non-Synod Council member, Ms. Patti Fletcher, to the synod council's Finance and Property Committee,
- 2026 housing allowance for rostered ministers receiving Synod Council calls at this meeting,
- rostered ministers' transitions.

The council also:

- held a Special Order to hear an update from Deacon Jessica Noonan, LEAD Strategic Planning,
- held a Special Order with Mr. Greg Hudgins and Mr. Tommy Page for the annual report from the NC Synod Foundation,
- 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.