

**South Carolina Women of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**June 12-13, 2015  
Twenty-Eighth Annual Convention  
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
Lexington, South Carolina**

**Theme: "Be Thou My Vision"**

*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* Matthew 6:19-21

After the orientation, the prelude and the banner processional to the convention hymn *"Be Thou My Vision"* introduced the weekend events.

**First Session  
Friday, June 12, 2015  
1:30 – 3:15 PM**

The Twenty-eighth Annual Convention of the South Carolina Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (SC WELCA) was held June 12-13, 2015 at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. The first session opened with the "Formal Opening of Convention" in the 2015 Bulletin of Reports (BOR), pages 10-11, conducted by Virginia Herlong, President, who declared this convention to be in session.

President Herlong called upon The Rev. Dr. Jane Mitcham, Convention Chaplain, to lead the convention in prayer, after which she invited the convention to share one of their God moments connecting faith to life and life to faith with the person sitting next to them.

President Herlong called upon The Rev. Dr. Patrick Riddle, Senior Pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, who welcomed the convention.

**Adoption of Proposed Rules of Procedure**

President Herlong called on Secretary Elsa Hope, who referred to the Proposed Rules of Procedures on pages 17-19 in the BOR. Secretary Hope moved that the Proposed Rules of Procedures be adopted (Board Recommendation #1 on page 19). The MOTION CARRIED by a show of green cards.

**Appointment of Convention Committees**

President Herlong referred to the 2015 Convention Committees on page 8 in the BOR and asked the chair of each committee to stand and be recognized. President Herlong informed the convention that the committee appointments were made prior to the convention and thanked the members for agreeing to serve. Carolyn Torrence was appointed parliamentarian.

**Adoption of Convention Program Agenda**

Secretary Hope referred to the proposed Convention Program Agenda for the 2015 SC WELCA Convention on pages 10-15 in the BOR. She moved that the Convention Program Agenda be adopted (Board Recommendation #2 on page 19). The MOTION CARRIED by a show of green cards.

### **Report of the Committee on Credentials**

President Herlong called on Ruth Morgan, Chair of the Committee on Credentials, who gave the First Report on Credentials as follows:

Delegates	112	Visitors	25
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	4
Board Members	7	First Timer Guests	2
<b>Voting Strength</b>	<b>123</b>	Other	26
		<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>180</b>

Chair Morgan moved that the report be accepted. The MOTION CARRIED by a show of green cards.

### **Ingathering Offering and Litany**

Treasurer Jane Potter led the litany and Mrs. Nickie Riley served as music leader. The Young Women Guests served as ushers and collected the offering.

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

President Herlong explained the process of the ecclesiastical ballot for Vice President as written on page 17 in the BOR. The definition of Ecclesiastical Ballot is on page 41 in the BOR. She called on Rachel Quesada, Chair of the Committee on Conduct of Elections, who gave instructions for the nominating ballot for Vice President.

President Herlong called on The Rev. Mitcham who offered a prayer for guidance. Votes were cast for the first ballot as the nominating ballot for the election of the Vice President. After the collection of the ballots by Tellers 1 and II, President Herlong declared the first ballot for Vice President closed.

### **Introduction of Special Guests and Synodical Board**

President Herlong made the recommendation that the Convention Special Guests as listed on page 6 in the BOR be recognized in appreciation for their participation. Jane Willis, Dean of Student Affairs, represented Newberry College for Dr. Maurice Scherrens. Theresa Player, Community Outreach Director, represented Lutheran Homes of South Carolina for Denise Dickinson. President Herlong thanked the current Board and Non-Board members as listed on page 9 in the BOR and asked the convention to recognize them with applause.

### **Introduction of Young Women Guests**

President Herlong called on Julie Roy, Young Women Guest Coordinator, who introduced the following:

Conference 1	Foothills	Holy Trinity, Anderson	Ashley Jordon
Conference 1	Foothills	Immanuel, Greenwood	Katie Vandegrift
Conference 5	Heartland	Macedonia, Prosperity	Paige Derrick
Conference 7	Trident	St. Matthew's, Charleston	Meridith Jenkinson
Conference 9	Western	Cedar Grove, Leesville	Crystal Pressley

Young Women Guests were welcomed and recognized with applause.

### **Introduction of First Timer Guests**

President Herlong called on Dianne Pitts, First Timer Guest Coordinator, who introduced the First Timer Guests.

Conference 1	Foothills	Holy Trinity, Anderson	Judy Brown
Conference 1	Foothills	Immanuel, Greenwood	Sarah Boatwright
Conference 7	Trident	St. Luke, Summerville	Susan Kaufman
Conference 7	Trident	St. Luke, Summerville	Vanessa Eagan

In addition, Mrs. Pitts asked those who came to convention for the first time to stand and be recognized. Special Guests from our Mission and Latino churches were also recognized:

Pleasant Springs Church at Christ Mission, Columbia - Patricia Corley, and Carolyn Ashford  
Sagrada Familia/Gethsemane, Columbia – Ana Ramirez  
Cristo Rey/St. David, West Columbia – Yamile Varon, Lizbeth Funes, Antonia Rubio

### **Report of the Treasurer**

President Herlong called on Treasurer Potter who gave the Report of the Treasurer and called attention to the financial reports through January 31, 2015 (BOR pages 26-34). Receipts of Regular Offering were 86% of the budgeted amount. Treasurer Potter thanked the members of the Audit and Stewardship Committees for their support.

### **Presentation of the 2016-2017 Budget**

President Herlong called on Sue Yates, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, who presented the Proposed Budget for 2016-2017 on page 32 in the BOR. President Herlong encouraged the delegates to study the proposed budget and be ready for its adoption Saturday afternoon at which time the floor would be open for debate and amendment. President Herlong opened the floor for questions or clarification. There were no questions.

### **Churchwide Representative**

President Herlong welcomed and introduced Dawn Smith, Churchwide Representative. She comes to us from Michigan where she has served as board member and president of the Northwest Lower Michigan Synodical Women's Organization. She has served on the Executive Board since 2011 and now represents Executive President, Patti Austin, and the Churchwide Women's Organization. Mrs. Smith was a former triennial delegate and 5-time triennial gathering participant. At her church she teaches Sunday School, serves as a Stephen minister, works with a hospice spiritual care team and as an aide to an elementary student with special needs. She and Greg, her husband of 28 years, have four children. James, the oldest, just graduated from Gettysburg Seminary and tomorrow a congregation in Ohio will be voting on extending a call to him. Daughter Nicole attends Columbia University Law School. Her other daughter, Ashley, attends the University of Michigan studying psychology. Their youngest son, John, is a junior in high school. Dawn enjoys Scrabble, reading, baking, gardening, exercising, and running with her son.

Mrs. Smith brought greetings from Churchwide and presented her address using the "building blocks" of W-E-L-C-A. Churchwide credited South Carolina WELCA's Regular Offerings for 2014 a total of \$25,037 and Thank Offerings totaled \$2,231. She commended SC WELCA for its website which is a resource for all within ELCA. The Triennial Convention will be July 10-13, 2017 and the Triennial Gathering will be July 13-16, 2017 and held in Minneapolis, MN. She encouraged the convention to consider applying for Triennial Gathering Promoter. *(A complete copy of her presentation in Power Point is on the SC WELCA website.)*

President Herlong called on The Rev. Dick Webber to lead the convention in singing.

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

President Herlong called on Chair Quesada who gave the results of the first ballot for Vice President:

Eligible to vote - 123  
Number of votes cast - 116  
Number of votes necessary to elect (75%) - 87  
Number of illegal votes - 8

Jennifer Nuovo – 47	Pat Rucker – 2	Ruth Morgan - 1
Becky Koch – 18	Linda Reynolds – 2	Karen Freeman - 1
Linda Wilkerson – 10	Sherry Fowler - 1	Linda Griffith - 1
Mary McKeen – 6	Cindy Bundrick - 1	Jackie Utley - 1
Elsa Hope – 5	Christine Price - 1	Agnes Folk - 1
Jan Long – 5	Sharon Ganis - 1	
Martha Emily Shirer – 2	Nancy Fulmer - 1	

President Herlong declared no one was elected on the first ballot. Anyone who wished to withdraw their name was asked to stand and be recognized. The following asked to be removed from the ballot and their names were struck from the ballot for Vice President:

Jennifer Nuovo	Pat Rucker	Sharon Ganis
Linda Wilkerson	Linda Reynolds	Nancy Fulmer
Elsa Hope	Agnes Folk	Ruth Morgan
Jan Long	Cindy Bundrick	Karen Freeman
Martha Emily Shirer	Christine Price	Jackie Utley

President Herlong recognized Jennifer Nuovo for her faithful service as Vice President this past year and announced the following persons as eligible for the second ballot for Vice President.

Becky Koch, Mary McKeen, Sherry Fowler, Linda Griffith

To be elected Vice President on the second ballot, two-thirds of the votes cast are necessary for election. President Herlong called on Chair Quesada who gave instructions for the second ballot for Vice President. After the collection of the second ballots by Tellers 1 and II, President Herlong declared the second ballot for Vice President closed.

### **GREETINGS**

The Rev. Eric Wolf, Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, brought greetings from the **South Carolina Synod**.

Sherry Sheppard and Rebecca Phillips brought greetings from **Thrivent Financial**.

The Rev. Dr. Clayton Schmit, Provost, brought greetings from **Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary**.

Ms. Jane Willis, NC Dean of Students, brought greetings from **Newberry College**.

Teresa Player, Community Outreach Director, brought greetings from **Lutheran Homes of South Carolina**.

Archie Trawick, President, brought greetings from **Lutheran Men-in-Mission**.

## **Announcements**

President Herlong called on Vice President Nuovo who announced the workshops found on page 7 of the BOR.

## **Social Hour and Banquet**

Beginning at 5:30 PM a Social Hour was hosted by Thrivent Financial in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the evening banquet in the St. Stephen's Ministry Center. Vice President Nuovo welcomed the banquet attendees and introduced the entertainers, "God's Toolbox."

## **Second Session Saturday, June 13, 2015 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

## **Gathering Songs and Prayer**

President Herlong called on The Rev. Webber to lead the Joy in Singing with the Theme Hymn "*Be Thou My Vision*." President Herlong called on The Rev. Mitcham, who opened the second session with devotions and led the convention in prayer.

President Herlong called attention to the Resolution on Public Education which had come before the Committee on Reference and Council and was been placed on the delegate tables just before this session. The back of the resolution referenced the Resolution on Public Education passed at the May 28-30, 2015 SC Synod Assembly. The delegates were asked to review these resolutions and be ready for discussion and vote during the afternoon session under Unfinished Business.

## **Report of the Committee on Credentials**

President Herlong called on Chair Morgan who gave the Second Report of the Committee on Credentials as follows:

Delegates	127	Visitors	30
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	5
Board Members	7	First Timer Guests	3
<b>Voting Strength</b>	<b>138</b>	Other	39
		<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>215</b>

Chair Morgan moved that the report be accepted. The MOTION CARRIED by a show of green cards.

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

President Herlong called on Chair Quesada who gave the results of the Second Ballot for Vice President:

Eligible to vote - 132  
Number of votes cast - 129  
Number of votes necessary to elect (66%) - 88  
Number of illegal votes - 0

Becky Koch – 93      Linda Griffith - 17      Sherry Fowler – 10      Mary McKeen - 9

President Herlong declared Becky Koch as South Carolina Synodical Vice President and offered her congratulations. Mrs. Koch thanked the convention for their support with votes and contributions to the Convention Project.

### **Mission Committee Reports**

President Herlong called on Mary McKeen, Chair of Mission: Community, who referred to her written report on pages 35-36 in the BOR.

President Herlong called on Druscilla Bridges and Christine Price, Co-Chairs for Mission: Growth, who referred to their written report on page 37 in the BOR.

### **Board Skit**

President Herlong called on Jan Long and Mary McKeen who presented the Board Skit which focused on the Mission Statement, Purpose Statement, and WELCA Logo.

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

President Herlong called on Linda Wilkerson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, who submitted the following nominations for Secretary:

Elsa Hope, Mary McKeen

President Herlong asked for nominations from the floor. No nominations were received. A motion from the floor was made to close the nominations. There was a second and the MOTION CARRIED with a show of green cards.

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

President Herlong called on Chair Quesada who gave the instructions for balloting for Secretary. Votes were cast for Secretary. President Herlong called on Tellers I and II to collect the ballots and declared the First Ballot for Secretary closed.

### **GREETINGS**

Lisette Martinez, President of the **Caribbean Synodical Women's Organization**, brought greetings and presented the structure and status of the WELCA headquarters in Puerto Rico.

Deacon Jorge Leone of the **Latino Ministries in SC Synod** brought greetings and gave an update of the three Latino mission churches in South Carolina.

Libby and Laura Bedenbaugh, Development Associates of **Novus Way**, brought greetings and offered assistance for planning retreats.

Dallas Shealy, Executive Director of **SC Lutheran Retreat Centers**, brought greetings and thanked the SC WELCA for the monies contributed through the Lucinda Pin project for the past several years, a major part of the capital campaign for the Retreat Centers.

The Rev. Dr. Mary Anderson, Pastor of Incarnation Lutheran Church in Columbia and one of the first women pastors to be ordained in the SC Synod, brought greetings in celebration of the **45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Women** in the ELCA. She gave a brief history of the ordination of women pastors in the SC Synod, recognizing the first woman pastor, Beverly Alexander, ordained as Assistant Pastor in 1981. Currently in the SC Synod, there are 40 clergy women in calls or on leave from call, out of 182 active clergy. Among the mentors she recognized were Carolyn Torrence, Gloria Rast, Mary Ann Shealy, Christine Shaw, Dot Wise, and clergy spouses. She thanked the SC WELCA for their partnership.

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

President Herlong called on Chair Quesada, who gave the results of the First Ballot for Secretary:

Eligible to vote - 138  
Number of votes cast - 124  
Number of votes necessary to elect (66%) - 70  
Number of illegal votes - 0

Elsa Hope – 91                      Mary McKeen – 33

President Herlong declared Elsa Hope as South Carolina Synodical Secretary and offered her congratulations. She recognized Mary McKeen for her faithful service during her term on the board. Mrs. Hope thanked the convention for their vote and support.

President Herlong called on The Rev. Webber and Mrs. Riley for Joy in Singing.

### **Keynote Speaker**

President Herlong introduced and welcomed The Rev. Jacqueline Utley as the keynote speaker. The Rev. Utley (Pastor Jackie) is the first African American female to be ordained in the South Carolina Synod. She is a native of Lake View, SC, but lived in Connecticut for 21 years before returning to the South in 1996. Her background is in the Pentecostal and Methodist traditions and she has served as a licensed Evangelist Missionary of the Church of God in Christ. She earned a BA in Sociology from Coker College in Hartsville and a Master of Divinity from LTSS in 2009 as a non-Lutheran. In 2011 she joined Ascension Lutheran Church in Columbia and in 2013 she was ordained at the SC Synod Assembly as a rostered leader of our synod. She now serves as Pastor of Ascension in Columbia and the Mission Developer of The Jericho Community of Eau Claire, the neighborhood around Ascension.

The Rev. Utley shared her journey to becoming the first African-American ordained as pastor in the South Carolina Synod. Her reflection on the words of our theme hymn was a challenge to petition the Lord for discernment and for his guidance rather than relying on our own expectations, desires and agendas. She referred to SC WELCA as “heavenly minded visionaries whose sole purpose is to please God with the building up of God’s Kingdom.”

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

President Herlong referred to page 17 in the BOR and called on Linda Wilkerson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to present nominations for Board Members and thanked the Nominating Committee for their diligence and hard work. Chair Wilkerson submitted the following names as nominees for the Board:

Druscilla Bridges	Karen Freeman	Ruth Morgan
Rachel Quesada	Becky Smoak	

President Herlong asked for nominations from the floor. No nominations were received. There was a motion to close the nominations followed with a second. The MOTION CARRIED with a show of green cards. President Herlong announced the nominations for Board Members closed.

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

President Herlong called on Chair Quesada who gave instructions for the First Ballot for Board Members. Delegates voted for only four of the names on the ballot. President Herlong called on Tellers I and II to collect the ballots and declared the First Ballot for Board Members closed.

## **GREETINGS**

Cathy Milejczak, Co-Chair of our companion synod in Tanzania, brought greetings from **Tanzania** and offered the opportunity to view photos at the Tanzania table. She thanked the convention for the support for the Tanzania mission to include collection of layettes, home health kits, quilts, school supplies, and the sewing machine ministries.

Bethany Vause, **Lutheran Services Carolinas**, expressed gratitude for the generosity of the convention.

## **Report on Convention Project**

President Herlong called on Becky Koch, Chair of the Convention Project, who expressed her appreciation to Shari Donley, Karen Freeman, Jennifer Nuovo, and other members of the Mission Action Committee. Their report is on pages 38-40 in the BOR. Mission Action provides the opportunity to put our faith into action through the support of the convention project. Gift cards, checks and cash totaled \$7,909. She reported that most of the items received were counted as miscellaneous (6,694) rather than complete kits, so they will be recalculated.

*(Secretary's Note: After the convention, the following report was given in the 2015 Convention Ripple.)*

Kit One - Clothing and Recreational Items – 156 miscellaneous items

Kit Two - School Supplies – 45 complete kits, plus 290 miscellaneous items

Kit Three - Adult Hygiene – 150 complete kits, plus 1,924 miscellaneous items

Children Hygiene – 225 complete kits, plus 30 miscellaneous items

Kit Four - Cleaning Supplies – 118 complete kits, plus 234 miscellaneous items

Kit five - Household Items – 313 miscellaneous items

**Total Complete kits – 538; Total Miscellaneous Items – 2,947**

President Herlong called on The Rev. Mitcham who gave thanks for the blessings received in these gifts.

## **Announcements**

Vice President Nuovo invited those interested in volunteering for next year's convention to fill out the volunteer forms and to complete the Convention Evaluations. She also encouraged suggestions for workshop leaders and entertainment for the 2016 convention.

President Herlong called on The Rev. Mitcham for the blessing of lunch which was catered by The Palms.

**Third Session  
Saturday, June 13, 2015  
12:45 PM – 3:15 PM**

## **Gathering Songs**

President Herlong called on The Rev. Webber to lead the Joy in Singing with the Theme Hymn "*Be Thou My Vision.*"

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

Since the Chair of the Committee on Conduct of Elections was one of the nominees, President Herlong called on Secretary Hope who gave the results of the First Ballot for Board Members:

Eligible to vote - 138

Number of votes cast - 127

Number of votes necessary to elect - 70



Number of Illegal votes - 3

Rachel Quesada - 113   Karen Freeman – 112   Ruth Morgan – 110   Becky Smoak – 78  
Druscilla Bridges – 65

President Herlong declared Rachel Quesada, Karen Freeman, Ruth Morgan, and Betty Smoak as elected members of the South Carolina Synodical Board for 2015-2017. She recognized Druscilla Bridges for her faithful service during her term on the board.

#### **Report of the President**

President Herlong called on Vice President Nuovo to preside as Chair while she gave the Report of the President. President Herlong referred to her report on page 23 in the BOR and thanked each officer and board member individually for their service on the board.

#### **Report of the Vice President**

President Herlong called on Vice President Nuovo who referred to her report on page 24 in the BOR. She expressed her gratitude for the support and encouragement received from so many during her tenure and especially for the help in preparation of the Convention.

#### **Report of the Secretary**

President Virginia called on Secretary Hope who referred to page 25 in the BOR. She expressed her appreciation for the time and energy SC WELCA members have expended in answering the Lord's call to ministry and making a difference in the lives of so many, near and far. She thanked the board for their guidance and support.

#### **Young Women Guest Skit**

President Herlong called on Julie Roy and the Young Women Guests for a presentation. The skit by Paige Derrick, Ashley Jordon, Crystal Pressley, Katie Vandegrift, Meredith Jenkinson, and Julie Roy focused around their busy lives, meetings, and looking forward to the experience of their first SC WELCA Convention.

#### **Synodical Board Recommendations #3 & #4**

President Herlong called on Chair Yates who presented Board Recommendation #3 on page 19 in the BOR - "That the Audit Report of the Treasurer be adopted." She referred to the Report of the Audit Committee on page 28 in the BOR and moved that Recommendation #3 be adopted. President Herlong stated that since the motion to adopt came from the Stewardship Committee, a second to the motion was not required. There was no discussion. President Herlong called for a vote on the recommendation to adopt the Audit Report. The MOTION CARRIED by a show of green cards.

President Herlong called on Chair Yates who presented Board Recommendation #4 on page 19 in the BOR - "That the proposed budget for February 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017 be adopted." She moved that the recommendation be adopted. A second was not required. The floor was opened for amendment or debate. Hearing no amendment or debate, President Herlong called for a vote on the recommendation to adopt the Proposed Budget. The MOTION CARRIED by a show of green cards.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS** *(Complete Convention Committee Recommendations are on the website)*

President Herlong called on Suzanne Heusinger, Chair of the **Committee on the Report of the President**, who gave the report and moved that the recommendations of the committee be adopted. The MOTION CARRIED by a show of green cards.

President Herlong called on Donna Turbeville, Chair of the **Committee on Minutes**, who gave the report and moved that the recommendations of the committee be adopted. MOTION CARRIED by a show of green cards.

President Herlong called on Marsha Mikell, Chair of the **Committee on Reference and Counsel**, who gave the report and moved that the recommendations of the committee be adopted. The MOTION CARRIED by the show of green cards.

President Herlong called on Chair Mikell to bring to the convention any resolutions which have been submitted for consideration. She referred to the **Resolution on Public Education** which had been placed on the delegate tables at the beginning of Session Two and moved that this resolution be brought to the floor for discussion during Unfinished Business in Session Three. President Herlong stated that in order to bring the resolution to the floor for discussion, a two-thirds majority vote is required. The MOTION CARRIED by the show of green cards.

The Resolution follows:

South Carolina Women of the ELCA  
28<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, June 12-13, 2015  
Resolution on Public Education

Whereas, at the 2015 South Carolina Synod Assembly the delegates passed a resolution in support of public education;

Whereas, public education and poverty issues were a main focus of the South Carolina Synod Assembly on May 28-30, 2015 in Spartanburg, SC. Voting members resolved to pray for school leaders and students; find ways for congregations to partner with local schools; and called for the Bishop, and those appointed by that office, to advocate with legislative and education officials the commitment of South Carolina's Lutherans to help meet the needs of the education system; (See copy of Synod Assembly resolution on the back)

Whereas, we are encouraged to view the YouTube video from Synod Assembly on Dr. Tammy Pawloski PH.D., Director of the Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty at Francis Marion University, who spoke to the convention about poverty and childhood learning; (Video available at Assembly site)

Whereas, South Carolina Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are committed to Justice for everyone in many arenas;

We Resolve to watch Dr. Pawloski's video, read the Synod Assembly resolution and support this resolution on Public Education in our congregations, conferences, the state and the world as our Purpose Statement demands.

This information will be available on the SCWELCA website.

Submitted by the following delegates:

Marsha J. Mikell, St. John, Charleston

Donna Boozer, Faith, Batesburg-Leesville

Karen S. Lucas, Good Shepherd, Columbia

Agnes B. Folk, St. Luke, Florence

Joan Holling, St. Matthew, Charleston

### **Report of Offerings**

President Herlong called on Treasurer Potter who gave the Report of Offerings as follows:

Convention Offering	\$4,265.04
Joy Offering	\$8,423.08
Convention Project	932.00
Total	\$13,620.12

One half of the Convention Offering was designated to go to Lutheran Services Carolinas and stay within South Carolina. The total Joy Offering will go to Churchwide designated for ELCA Good Gifts.

### **Report of the Committee on Credentials**

President Herlong called on Ruth Morgan, Chair, who gave the third and Final Report of the Committee on Credentials as follows:

Delegates	127	Visitors	30
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	5
Board Members	7	First Timer Guests	3
<b>Voting Strength</b>	<b>138</b>	Other	40
		<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>216</b>

Chair Morgan moved that the report be accepted. The MOTION CARRIED by a show of green cards.

### **Unfinished Business**

President Herlong called for discussion on the Resolution on Public Education as moved earlier by the Committee of Reference and Counsel. There was no discussion. The vote was called. The MOTION CARRIED by a show of green cards.

President Herlong called on Jan Long, Convention Co-Chair, who led the convention with prayer requests which had been placed in the Chapel Prayer Box.

### **GREETINGS**

President Herlong called on Jillian Newmyer, President of **SC Lutheran Church Youth**, who brought greetings and shared that the theme for this year is "Together, We Rise." Lutheran Church Youth has four service events: two weekend service projects doing yard work around the state, Camp Hugg for special needs teenagers, and Bridge Building, a weeklong camp to bridge the gap between generations working with seniors at The Heritage at Lowman in White Rock and the Rice Estate in Columbia.

### **Announcements**

President Herlong called on Nancy Fulmer who distributed door prizes.

President Herlong called on Vice President Nuovo who reminded all current, outgoing, and newly elected board members to meet in the Conference Room immediately after the worship service.

The spring *Ripple* listed the dates for the 2016 Convention as June 10-11, 2016 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville. Due to the Synod Assembly scheduled for June 9-11, 2016, and the availability of the Trinity for June 3-4, 2016, the next SC WELCA Convention has been rescheduled for June 3-4, 2016. The Rev. Susan Crowell wrote: "It would be an honor and a privilege for the people of God at Trinity Lutheran Church in Greenville to host the South Carolina Women of the ELCA convention at our congregation on Friday and Saturday, June 3 and 4, 2016. We give thanks to God for the wonderful ministry you are doing and would be happy to host you next year."

### **Formal Closing of Convention**

The Formal Closing of Convention on pages 14-15 in the BOR was conducted by President Herlong and declared this convention to be closed.

**Sending Worship with Holy Communion**

The Rev. Mitcham, Presiding, with The Rev. Webber, Assisting

Installation of Officers and Board Members by Dawn Smith, Churchwide Representative

At the conclusion of worship, a Board Meeting with all current, outgoing and newly elected members was held.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Hope, Secretary

South Carolina Women of the ELCA

**South Carolina Women of the ELCA  
2015-2016 SWO Officers and Board Members**

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**Board Members**

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