

North American Lutheran Church
Carolinas Mission Region 2026 Convocation Minutes
May 2-3, 2026
Christiana Lutheran Church, Granite Quarry, NC

The Convocation began Friday afternoon at 1:00pm with a service of Holy Communion in the sanctuary of Christiana Lutheran Church. The Convening Dean of the Carolinas Mission Region presided and NALC Bishop, Rev. Dan Selbo preached. After the service, the people gathered in the Fellowship Hall which was our designated meeting room. The Convocation was called to order by Convening Dean Carl Haynes at 2:25pm. The President of the Christiana Congregation Council was recognized. He welcomed the delegates and visitors of the Convocation to Christiana and presented a video of their ministry to Armed Service Veterans at a monthly luncheon.

A Bulletin of Reports and Appendix was sent via email to all those who registered for the Convocation. Including these documents: Agenda; Rules of Procedure; Minutes for the 2025 CMR Convocation; Deans' Reports; reports from these teams: Convocation Planning, Disaster Response, Communications, PCAT, and Missions; 2026-27 budget; Proposed bylaw for the Administrative Team; Treasurer's Report; Finance Report; list of breakout sessions; current CMR Bylaws; and Giving Guidelines.

Registered Attendance at 2:25pm on Friday: Clergy (voting) 32; Lay Delegates 45 for a total of 77 with voting privileges. Clergy visitors 7; Seminarian 1; guests/visitors 3 for a total of 11 visitors. Total registration 88.

Business session #1 was opened at 2:51pm with a prayer by the Chaplain, the Rev. Tonya Brittain from Organ Lutheran Church, Salisbury.

The Bar was set as the Fellowship Hall.

A **MOTION** was properly made/seconded to adopt the proposed **Agenda**. It was **ADOPTED**.

A **MOTION** was properly made/seconded to adopt the proposed **Rules of Procedure**. They were **ADOPTED**.

The minutes of the 2025 Carolinas Mission Region Convocation, previously approved as corrected by CMR Council were received as presented.

Announcements were made.

The Deans' Reports were presented and accepted with no questions and no additions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS had been distributed with the Bulletin of Reports. There were no questions to the chairpersons. The reports were accepted as presented.

The 2026-2027 BUDGET was presented by the Treasurer, Kathy Hefner, and Chair of the Finance Committee, Darryl Hentz.

The PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS RE: THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM was presented by the secretary of the CMR Council (we do not have an Executive Council). A concern was raised by Rev. Dieter Punt regarding whether the job descriptions belonged in the Bylaws and might make it difficult for the Council to change them when necessary.

TREASURER'S REPORT was reviewed and accepted as presented. The Annual Ministry Support was explained according to the policy statement: up to 80% of the balance of monies in the Undesignated Fund at the end of the fiscal year can be used to support benevolent ministries. At the end of 2024-2025 fiscal year there were no monies available.

At 3:15pm the convocation took a break for refreshments and to visit the display tables in Smith Hall.

At 4:02pm the Convocation reconvened in the Fellowship Hall for Business Session #2.

- Rev. David Keener, Southeastern Area Assistant to the Bishop spoke about the resources available from the NALC to assist congregations in their ministries, including Renew, Equip, Transform; Rev. Teresa Peters and Youth & Family Ministry. Two ordinations are planned: Robert Dernbach May 17 at Silverstreet Lutheran in Silverstreet, SC and Lucas Safrit in September to Christiana Lutheran, Granite Quarry, NC. Bishop Selbo and Dean Haynes recognized Rev. Bill White for his years of service as the Eastern Assistant to the Bishop, who spoke about evangelism and discipleship.
- North American Lutheran Seminary and Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary's Lutheran Studies Program were addressed by the Director of that program, the Rev. Dr. Nathan Yoder. We currently have 62 NALC seminarians in the NALS network. Steps are being taken to hopefully include the Lutheran Studies program in the NALC budget. You can audit courses in the program for free if you attend the classes in person. Rev. Yoder thanked Rev. Carl Haynes for all the work he had done to initiate the course of studies at Gordon Conwell and his work on the Advisory Board.
- Convener Carl Haynes then recognized:
 - Pastors who are new to the CMR: Rev. Don Safrit (Interim Faith, Faith, NC), Rev. Peter Feige (Our Savior and Antioch, Dallas, NC); Rev. Terri Landers (Interim Mt. Calvary, Claremont, NC); Rev. Tony Metze (retired from St. Paul, Columbia, SC).
 - Pastors who received new calls: Rev. Rob Crawford to Grace, Washington, NC a Lutheran/Anglican shared congregation; Rev. David Keener to be Southeastern Area Assistant to the Bishop; Rev. David Hefner as Interim at New Jerusalem, Hickory, NC; and Chris Metze to St. Peter's, Chapin, SC.
 - Congregations new to the mission Region: Silverstreet in Silverstreet, SC; Macedonia in Prosperity, SC; Cedar Grove in Leesville, SC; Mt. Tabor in Little Mountain, SC; St. Paul in Columbia, SC; Christ the King in Evans, GA
 - Candidates for Ministry: Master of Divinity students – Cody Carpenter, Lucas Safrit, James Price, Shane Honig, Melanie Corn, Robert Dernbach, Kyle Page. Deacon Track – Adam Foster.
- Bishop Dan Selbo addressed the convocation. He gave an update of our ministries of the 20/20 Vision. We have grown from 444 to 567 congregations; from 35 to 45 Mission Districts; from 5 to 21 global workers; and from 23 to 66 seminary students. Challenges before us: in the next 8 years about 240 pastors will retire. We have 35 fulltime and 28 part time pastoral vacancies. We are dealing with aging congregations in a changing culture and the political landscape is divisive. Our New Vision is to be striving for excellence – do what we do well. Use this vision to evaluate our pastoral candidates. Renew – know our calling and purpose. Equip – fill the gaps in our growth. Transform – outward-facing posture. Rev. Tom Brashears address the convocation concerning Renew, Equip and Transform resources. There are many areas in North America that need the presence of a moderate Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith.

At 5:30pm we adjourned for supper and more time in Smith Hall with our Mission Partners.

Saturday Morning registration opened at 7:45am.

At 8:15am we gathered in the sanctuary of Christiana for Matins followed with Bible study led by Rev. Matt Knuppel of Grace Lutheran, Pfafftown, NC. After Bible study we had more time for fellowship and visits in Smith Hall with the Mission Partners.

10:15am-11:15am we attended Breakout Sessions for our Mission District meetings.

At 11:15am the Council met with the newly elected members to elect a new Convener, since Rev. Carl Haynes would finish his term on the Council at the end of this Convocation, and a Vice President since Rev. Ric Smith resigned to take a full time call as Hospice Chaplain. Rev. Dawn Rister of South Carolina Mission District was elected Convener. Rev. Dieter Punt was elected V. President. The next meeting date for the Council was set for July 30 at 10:00am at Holy Trinity Gastonia.

Lunch was served in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30am.

We re-convened at 12:45pm. A presentation by Rev. Dr. Andrew Weisner was given to Mr. Merve Cloninger for his many years of service to our Lord Jesus Christ at Antioch Lutheran Church, Dallas, NC and the surrounding community.

Election results:

- Piedmont East: Dean, Rev. Heidi Punt, lay representative to Council Janice Poole
- Catawba Valley: Dean, Rev. Steve Johnson (2nd term as Dean), lay representative Kay Weaver (2nd term), Rev. Dieter Punt to finish Rev. Ric Smith's term ending 2027.
- South Carolina: lay representative Bradley Shealy
- Southern Piedmont: Dean Rev. Steven P. King, lay representative Bruce Kiser
- Convener: Rev. Dawn Rister
- Vice President: Rev. Dieter Punt

Rev. Steven Johnson rose to a point of personal privilege and was recognized by the Convener. Rev. Johnson moved the following resolution and presented Rev. Carl Haynes a gift in honor of his years of service to our Lord Jesus Christ in the Carolinas Mission Region and the Lutheran Studies Program at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. The resolution is attached as an Appendix to the minutes.

At 1:05pm we attended break out sessions for Mission Partner presentations.

At 2:00pm we heard presentations from these Missions: Carolinas Lutheran Women, NALC Disaster Response, Trail Life USA, Congo Mission International, SMI Haiti, and Rehoboth Ethiopian Church.

At 3:45pm we began Business Session #3. Chaplain Tonya Brittain prayed for our discernment as we consider the Bylaw change and the 2026-27 budget.

- Administrative Team bylaw proposal: After discussion, Rev. Dieter Punt moved and Rev. Steven Johnson seconded A **MOTION** to refer the proposed bylaw back to the Regional Council to rework and bring it back to the 2027 Convocation. After more discussion Philip Mills "Called the Question" and a vote was taken on the main motion using the colored cards provided. It was **ADOPTED**.
- 2026-2027 budget: Bruce Kiser moved and Rev. Ric Smith seconded the **MOTION** to adopt the proposed 2026-2027 budget. It was **ADOPTED**.

It was announced that the 2027 Carolinas Mission Region Convocation would be hosted by the Catawba Valley Mission District at St. John's Lutheran Church at 740 N. Center St. in Statesville, NC.

At 4:05pm we had closing worship using Responsive Prayer 2, Installation of the newly elected Council members, Convener and V. President by EAAB Rev. David Keener, and liturgy for closing of the Convocation. We adjourned at 4:13pm May 2, 2026.

Rev. David L. Hefner, secretary

A RESOLUTION HONORING

The Rev Carl Haynes

WHEREAS The Rev Carl Haynes served as the first Dean of the Carolinas Mission District, now the Carolinas Mission Region, and

WHEREAS he is concluding his service as both Dean of the Piedmont East Mission District and Convening Dean of the Carolinas Mission Region, and

WHEREAS he was instrumental in, and the driving force behind, the conception and development of the Lutheran Studies Program at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary at a time prior to the North American Lutheran Church having theological training options, and

WHEREAS he has continued to guide the development and maturity of this program into a vital part of the North American Lutheran Seminary, and

WHEREAS he continues to serve as the Chair of its Board of Advisors, and

WHEREAS he has, throughout his ministry, served with grace and humility, passion and fervor, wisdom and compassion, courage and determination, and

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Carolinas Mission Region gathered in convocation, to express our profound appreciation and gratitude for his service to our Lord Jesus Christ in the Carolinas Mission Region, and

WHEREAS he is our Brother in Christ, whom we love,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Carolina Mission Region, in assembly, declares this day to be THE REV CARL HAYNES DAY throughout the Carolinas Mission Region.

2026 Carolinas Mission Region Convocation, NALC

Bulletin of Reports Table of Contents

1. Agenda
2. Rules of Procedure
3. 2025 Convocation Minutes
4. Deans' Reports
 - a. Southern Piedmont, Catawba Valley, South Carolina, Piedmont East
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Convocation Planning
 - b. Disaster Response
 - c. Communications
 - d. Pastoral Care and Transition (PCAT)
 - e. Missions
6. 2026-2027 Budget
7. Bylaw: Administrative Team
8. Treasurer's Report
9. Finance Report
10. Breakout Sessions

**2026 Carolinas Mission Region Convocation, NALC
Christiana Lutheran Church, Salisbury, NC
Agenda of Worship and Sessions**

Friday, May 1

- 11:30 a.m. Registration Opens in Elevator Lobby
1:00 p.m. Opening Worship with Holy Communion, Bishop Selbo Preaching/Dean Carl Haynes, Presiding, Sanctuary
2:25 p.m. Recognize Members of Christiana and Housekeeping information (Council President Jason Smith) Fellowship Hall
2:30 p.m. Business Session 1 – Fellowship Hall
(Set the Bar, adopt agenda, adopt Rules of Procedure, review minutes of 2025 CMR Convocation, Dean’s and Committee Reports, introduce budget, Reports on Website, Youth and Family Ministries, Introduce Bylaw change: Administrative Team; review reports from the Treasurer and Finance Committee, Q&A on budget)
3:30 p.m. Break – refreshments & visit Mission Partners in Smith Hall
4:00 p.m. Business Session 2 – Fellowship Hall
Rev. Dave Keener, new AAB for the Southeastern Area of the NALC, Ecumenical Partners: LCMC (Rev. Adam Cantrell) and LCMS (Rev. Dr. Bill Harmon), Pastors new to the Mission Region, Congregations new to the Mission Region, Introduction of candidates for ministry, Recognition of anniversaries: ordinations, congregations
5:00 p.m. Bishop Selbo
5:30 p.m. Break – Blessing of Meal/Doxology, take everything with you, exit Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. Dinner – Fellowship Hall (The meal has been included in the registration fee.)
7:00 p.m. Time with Mission Partners in Smith Hall

Saturday, May 2

- 7:45 a.m. Registration Opens to those not registered on Friday, Elevator Lobby
8:15 a.m. Morning Worship – Matins, in Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Bible Study, in Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Refreshments with Mission Partners in Smith Hall
10:15 a.m. Mission District Meetings – Breakout
11:15 a.m. Regional Council Meeting
(Elect Convener for 2026-2027 and set next meeting, date, time and place)
11:30 p.m. Lunch (Lunch has been included in the registration fee)
12:45 p.m. Mission District and New Convener Elections Results
12:50 p.m. Mission Partner Presentations (Breakout Sessions)
1:30 p.m. Break
1:45 p.m. Missionaries/Mission Partner Presentations – Fellowship Hall
Carolinas Lutheran Women, NALC Disaster Response (Mary Bates & Rodney Paulson, Lutheran Services Carolina, Lutherans for Life, Trail Life USA, and Updates on Congo Mission International, SMI Haiti, Ethiopian Ministry, and Victory International
3:00 p.m. Business Session 3 (Vote on Bylaw change: Administrative Team; Vote on Budget,)
4:00 p.m. Closing Worship Responsive Prayer 2, Installation Service & Closing of Convocation

Post-Convocation Survey-Handout to be filled out and turned in

PROPOSED 2026 Carolinas Mission Region Convocation Rules of Procedure

1. The business of this convocation shall be as outlined in the official agenda presented by the CMR Council and distributed to the registered voting delegates.
2. The rules set forth in the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised," shall govern this convocation in all applicable cases and to the extent consistent with the rules and agenda adopted by this convocation.
3. Once adopted, the rules may only be amended or suspended by a two-thirds vote of the registered, voting delegates present and voting at this convocation.
4. The quorum for conducting business at this convocation shall consist of the registered voting clergy and delegates who are in attendance at this convocation. Those with voting privileges are NALC rostered ordained clergy residing in the Carolinas and the lay delegates properly selected by their congregation.
5. This convocation shall receive reports, conduct business, hold elections, consider any constitutional matters, adopt a budget for the following fiscal year, and shall take other actions regarding the ongoing ministry of the Carolinas Mission Region of the NALC.
6. All elections will be conducted according to the CMR constitution, and a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
7. NALC staff who are present will have voice during the Convocation. Other visitors shall not have the right of voice or vote during the business sessions of this convocation, unless permission is given by the Convocation.
8. Lay members of the Carolinas Mission Regional Council shall be allowed the right of voice during business sessions of the convocation.
9. The CMR Council will meet prior to the final worship at the Convocation for the sole purpose of electing a Convener. Installations of the Carolinas Mission Regional Council shall occur during the closing worship of the convocation.
10. Unless otherwise determined by a majority of the registered, voting delegates and clergy, all speeches during discussion shall be limited to three minutes. A signal shall be given one minute before the speaker's time ends. A second signal shall be given one minute later, and the speaker shall then end their speech. Each speaker shall begin by identifying themselves with name and congregation.

IF YOU WANT TO ...	THEN USE THIS MOTION ...
Avoid taking a direct vote on a motion	Postpone Indefinitely
Change the wording of the motion	Amend
Have a committee discuss a motion in detail and come back with a recommendation	Commit or Defer
Discuss a motion later in the meeting, or maybe put it off until the next meeting	Postpone to a certain time or definitely
Provide for a certain amount of time for discussion of the motion, either for the subject matter or for each speaker	Limit/ extend limits of debate
End debate on the motion and vote now	Previous Question
Stop dealing with the motion temporarily to allow something of an urgent matter to be done immediately	Lay on the Table

North American Lutheran Church
Carolinas Mission Region 2025 Convocation Minutes
May 2-3, 2025
Christ's Lutheran Church, Stanley, NC

The Convocation began Friday afternoon at 1:00 pm when Convener, Rev. Steven P. King, called the Convocation to order for Plenary Session One with the Order for Opening a Convocation. Several announcements were made. The Bar was set as all registered clergy and lay delegates assembled for this Convocation. It was **MOVED** and seconded that we adopt the proposed agenda. It was **ADOPTED**. It was **MOVED** and seconded that we adopt the Proposed Rules of Procedure. They were **ADOPTED**. The Minutes of the 2024 Convocation were received into the record having been approved by the CMR Council at its meeting on July 9, 2024. The Deans' and Committees' reports were also received into the record. The three items the Convocation would vote on were introduced: the Constitutional Amendment, the 2025-26 Budget, and the Annual Ministry Support. We moved at 1:15pm to the Sanctuary for our opening worship. Registered attendance at 1:00 was 29 clergy and 25 lay persons.

The Bulletin of Reports was sent to all who registered and included these documents: the Agenda, Rules of Procedure, the Minutes of the 2024 Convocation, Deans' reports, a list by Mission District of our congregations, Committee reports (Finance, Convocation Planning, Disaster Response, Missions, Pastoral Care and Transition, Youth and Solid Rock Day Camp, Advisory Board of the Lutheran Studies Program at GCTS), Proposed revision of CMR Constitution Article 7.02, Proposed Budget for 2025-2026, Annual Ministry Support recommendation, Report of the Treasurer, Contingency Fund Report, Carolinas Mission Region Constitution and Bylaws,

After worship we reconvened in the fellowship hall. At 2:15 Rev. King asked Rev. Bill White, the Eastern Area Assistant to the Bishop, to give an update on NALC activities. He was scheduled for Saturday at 10:30, but since we were ahead of schedule, we invited him to address the Convocation at this time.

At 3:00 pm we began our Mission Presentations. These ministries spoke to the Convocation: Awakening Lives to World Mission (Bill Moberly by video), Fish Stix Ministry (Andi Laaker), Rehoboth Ethiopian Mission start (Rev. Marta Sabore), Sharing Shepherds (Rev. Marty Ramey, Nicole Hurst), Kairos Prison Ministry (Rev. David Hefner) and Stand By Me: a ministry to the detention center and beyond (Susan Keefe), Guatemala Mission Trip (Rev. Dieter Punt), Disaster Response (Ron Paulson), Water Missions International (Deirdre Martin), Feed the Hunger Pack-a-Thon (Sarah Brandt), Missions Team (Rev. Chris Metze), Carolinas Lutheran Men (Bruce Zander), Carolinas Lutheran Women (Debbie Little), Malawi Orphan Care Project (Ken Ekegren).

At 5:00 pm we recognized members of our host Church, thanking them for their work and service to the Convocation. A **Motion** was made and seconded that we adjourn until 8:45 Saturday morning. It was **adopted**. The Chaplain prayed for our evening meal, and we sang the Doxology. Mission Districts gathered in assigned areas to have their business meetings which included electing a lay member to serve a three-year term to the CMR Council.

Friday Supper was served at 6:00 pm and the evening was free for fellowship among the attendees.

Saturday morning at 8:45 we gathered for worship in the sanctuary of Christ's Lutheran Church. Following worship, Rev. Henry Pawluk led a Bible study on the Convocation theme: "We Worship in Spirit and in Truth" from John 4:1-26.

The Convocation was called back into session for Plenary Session 2 by Convener Rev. Steve P. King.

Pastor Todd Cook and Kathy Hefner described the progress of updating the CMR Website and how the on-line registration aided the process. We had more late registrations this year than ever.

Melanie Corn, CMR director of Youth and Family Ministries and Cody Carpenter, seminarian, reported on Youth and Family, especially the Solid Rock Day Camps.

Rev. Heidi Punt updated us on the SMI Haiti. They have not been to Haiti since 2021 because of the political chaos. They serve 500 school children in their Mission House. She also challenged each congregation in the Mission Region to give \$100 a year and described what could be done with that money in Haiti.

Angela Briedenbach of SONetwork described their work in Eastern Europe.

Rev. Scott Licht of Lutherans for Life listed all the various ways they encourage ministry for life in all stages of life.

Rev. King announced the **results of the Mission District elections**: Catawba Valley – Karen Duncan, South Carolina - Darryl Hentz, Southern Piedmont – Perry Kallam. Piedmont East did not elect anyone and would meet later to consider a late nomination.

Larry Shull received and responded to questions about the 2025-2026 budget.

Rev. David Nuottila described the work of God through Congo Ministry, International.

Rev. Henry Pawluk reminded the Convocation of the books available through American Lutheran Publicity Bureau (ALPB).

At 11:00 am the Order of the Day was a Recess, during which time the CMR Council met to **elect a Convener and Vice President**. The V.P. is needed because we are incorporated.

Rev. King called us back to order at 11:30 for Plenary Session **Three**.

He announced the results of the election for Convener and Vice President. The new Convener for 2025-2026 is Rev. Carl Haynes, Dean of the Piedmont East Mission District. The V.P. is Rev. Ric Smith, pastor at Christ United Lutheran, Granite Falls, NC.

Father Jeremiah Caughran from the ACNA brought greetings from Grace ACNA church in Gastonia, NC.

Pastors new to our Mission Region were introduced: Dale Stanley was called to St. John's Statesville, NC and ordained March 22. Jim Lehman from Illinois is Interim at St. Peter, Chapin, SC. Don Safrit recently joined the NALC and is retired. Logan Wilmoth is retired and serving Advent in Hanahan, SC. Rick Robers is serving St. Timothy, Goose Creek, SC. Doug Hefner was called to Grace, Newton, NC. Carlin Ours is back in the Carolinas and was called to Concordia, China Grove. Ryan Henkel is serving Holy Trinity, Gastonia. Rebecca Foster is serving Antioch, Dallas, NC.

Three congregations have joined from South Carolina: Cedar Grove in Leesville; Mt. Tabor in Little Mountain; Silverstreet in Silverstreet.

We have nine candidates on the M.Div. track to ordination to word and sacrament ministry: Laura Sharp-Waites, Lucas Safrit, Cody Carpenter, Melanie Corn, Kyle Page, Robert Dernbauch, James Price, and Shane Honig who is not yet registered with the Candidacy Committee. We have one candidate in the Diaconate program: Adam Foster (husband of Rebecca).

We recognized pastors celebrating 5-year interval anniversaries of their ordination.
We recognized congregations celebrating over 150 years in ministry.

It was announced that next year's Convocation will be held May 1-2, 2026 at Christiana Lutheran Church in Granite Quarry, NC in the Piedmont East Mission District.

Pastor Samar Ghandour (Advent, King's Mountain) told us about the work of Victory Ministries in Liberia, one of four Lutheran denominations there.

It was **MOVED/SECONDED** that we move lunch from 12:00 – 1:00 pm and start Plenary Session Four at 1:00 pm. It was **ADOPTED**.

Convener, Rev. King, called Plenary Session **Four** to order at 1:00.

Attendance: Clergy – 39. Lay delegates – 33. Total voting – 72. Clergy visitors – 1. Seminarians – 5. Visitors/guests – 41. Total visitors – 47. Total registered attendees – 119.
17 of 56 congregations were not represented. 39 of 56 were represented.

A **MOTION** by Rev. Steve Johnson/Rev. Todd Cook was made “to adopt the 2025-2026 budget as presented.” By voting with colored voting cards, it was **ADOPTED**.

A **MOTION** by Rev. Steve Johnson/ Rev. Todd Cook was made “to approve the recommendation from the CMR Council to allocate the \$7800 for Annual Ministry Support to three ministries: \$3700 to the NALC Disaster Response Fund and designate it for North Carolina, \$2000 to the Disaster Response Warehouse at St. Jacob's Lutheran Church, Chapin, SC for improvements and upgrades, and \$2100 to assist congregations to go on mission trips to western North Carolina to help with damage from Hurricane Helene.” By voting with colored voting cards, it was **ADOPTED**.

A **MOTION** by Rev. Steve Johnson/ Rev. Todd Cook was made “to adopt the revised Constitution Article 7.02.” The Secretary read the revision into the record: “7.02 *Those with voting responsibilities at a Convocation of the Carolinas Mission Region, or any Convocation of a member Mission District, shall be the ordained ministers of the Mission Districts that comprise the Carolinas Mission Region of the NALC and the official lay delegates of the congregations of the Mission Region and Mission Districts. Each congregation may send up to two lay delegates to the annual CMR Convocation and Mission District Convocations. Lay persons chosen by their congregations to represent them at the Convocation are delegates. Clergy and delegates have voice and vote.*

In response to the discussion at last year’s Convocation, The Rev. Dr. Nathan Yoder was asked to speak to the office of the ministry and in what manner clergy are delegates. By voting with colored voting cards, the motion to adopt the Constitutional Amendment was **ADOPTED.**

The secretary was instructed to send, by email and/or snail mail, the revised Constitution Article 7.02 to all the congregations of the Carolinas Mission Region who must vote to ratify the change to the Constitution within four months, i.e., by September 4, 2025, for it to become effective. As soon as enough congregations have responded to determine whether the change is ratified or not, the secretary will inform the congregations of the Mission Region, by email and/or snail mail, of the results of the ratification process. The revision must be ratified by two-thirds of the congregations who are members of the Region at the close of the Convocation by written notice to the Convener, Rev. Carl Haynes.

Our closing worship had been moved up to 2:30 pm instead of 3:30 pm. Therefore, a RECESS was called and a request made that all gather in the sanctuary at 2:30 pm. The service of Holy Communion with Installation of newly elected officers was held with Rev. Bill White preaching and installing the elected officers. The worship service ended with the “Closing of a Convocation” liturgy at 3:30 pm.

Rev. David Hefner, secretary
Carolinas Mission Region of the NALC.

Annual Dean's Report, Southern Piedmont Mission District, July 2025- April 2026

In addition to meeting weekly with pastors for fellowship and Bible study via Zoom on Mondays and in person on Tuesday in Hickory, I met with fellow pastors, Deans, and congregations in person, for a variety of reasons, participated in the annual Lutheran week activities and NALC Convocation, attended the annual NALC Dean's meeting in Dallas, TX, attended the annual Pro Ecclesia conference in Birmingham, AL, met regularly, either in person or via Zoom, with the Missions team, Day Camp planning team, and the Finance committee, and I also:

- Called a Mission District meeting in January, to update pastors and lay leaders on what's going on in the NALC and in Mission Region, and to elect a Dean and a pastor to fill the remaining term of the Pastor's position on the Mission Region council as well as one Lay Representative to the Mission Region council. Our new AAB, Pr. David Keener, provided updates from the NALC. Election resulted in Pr. Steven King being reelected as Dean and Pr. Marty Ramey being elected to fill the remaining term for a Pastor Representative to the Mission Region Council. No one was elected as a Lay Representative for the Region's council. We will vote again during the Mission Region Convocation to elect a Lay Representative.
- Worked with Antioch, Dallas through the mutual ending of the call of their pastor. Helping with day-to-day ministry and the securing of supply pastors. Helped to draft a Contract of Pastoral services with Our Savior Luther church, Dallas for their pastor to serve both congregations. Led the PACT workshop. The Congregation is now in the call process.
- Working with St. Luke, Monroe to enter the call process. Phone conference call with the NALC Call Process Coordinator complete, awaiting the PCAT Workshop to be scheduled so the congregation can continue in the call process.
- Working with Grace, Bessemer City to secure a Stated Supply pastor (currently under contract until August) in the short term and will be looking for a long term Stated supply later this year.
- Met with two LCMC pastors and one lay person to discuss the process of becoming rostered pastors in the NALC.
- Worked with Bethel and Antioch to purchase supplies and assemble 475 School Kits. All kits delivered to Burnsville, NC for distribution. Helped Disaster Response leaders by repositioning the one of the Tool trailers from/to Burnsville, NC. Also helping to explore new ways to improve the Disaster Response warehouse at Advent, Kings Mountain by adding a receiving building.
- Worked with Bethel and Antioch to collect and deliver two trailer loads of food and bedding supplies to Creston, NC and Burnsville, NC.
- Assisted with Fish Stix VBS at Holy Trinity, Gastonia. Coordinated transportation of 336 health kits assembled by VBS participants to Advent Warehouse.
- Assisted in the planning of the 2026 Mission Region Pastor's retreat
- Coordinated purchase and pickup/Delivery of 300 5-gal. buckets to be used to build Flood Buckets.
- Participated in the installation of Pr. Chris Metze, St. Peter, Chapin.
- We welcome Pastor Peter Feige (LCMC/NALC), our newest NALC Rostered pastor. He is serving at both Our Saviour Lutheran church, Dallas where he is called, and Antioch Lutheran church, Dallas as their interim.

Mission District congregations in transition: Cross of Christ, Concord, (In the call process) and Antioch, Dallas (In the call process), St. Luke's, Monroe, (in the call process) and Grace, Bessemer City, (Being served by Stated Supply).

Please keep the following retired pastors in prayer: Brack East, Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), Michael Greenauer, Parkinsons disease and Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, Tom Corbell, stroke in optic nerve of both eyes.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Steven King, Dean
Southern Piedmont Mission District

Catawba Valley Mission District
Annual Dean's Report **May, 2026**

EVENTS

Mission Region Convocation – May 2-3
Installation of Pastor Carlin Ours – Concordia, China Grove – June 1
Mission Region Executive Council – June 4, Sept 10, Jan 7, March 4
Mission District Pastors – June 14, Sept 18, Nov 20, Feb 19, Mar 19
Mission Region Finance Committee – June 25, Feb 12
Solid Rock Day Camp – @ Grace Newton, June 16-20
Lutheran Week (NALC Convo), Pittsburgh, Aug 4-8
Gordon Conwell Lutheran Studies Program, Board of Advisors – Sept 17
Men's Gathering at Holy Trinity, Gastonia – Oct 10
Visit Disaster Relief Families, Burnsville, NC - Oct 17
Pastor Randal Cauble Retirement celebration – Oct 26
McDaniel Yoder Conference, Gordon Conwell Seminary – Oct 31
Annual Deans Meeting, Dallas, TX – Nov 9-12
Deans Meeting with Bishop Selbo – Jan 27
P-CAT – New Jerusalem, Hickory – Feb 7
Mt Calvary, Claremont – Council – Feb 22
Atonement, N Wilkesboro – Council – April 12

CONGREGATIONAL VISITS OR SUPPLY

Atonement, N Wilkesboro; Grace, Newton; Holy Trinity, Troutman
Immanuel, Sumter; Millers, Hickory; Mt. Calvary, Claremont
New Covenant, Morganton; New Jerusalem, Hickory; St. James, Newton
St. John's, Statesville; St. Martin's, Maiden

ONGOING

Weekly meetings with two groups of pastors
Pastoral care for three pastors/families
Ongoing conversations with one ELCA pastor, two LCMS pastors and one LCMS congregation

OTHER

Worked with CMR Deans, Treasurer, Secretary and Communications Lead to clarify duties and developed recommendations for a CMR Administration Team.
Serving on the planning team for the Fall 2026 CMR Clergy Retreat
Serving on the NALC Development Support Team.

PASTORAL TRANSITIONS

1. Pastor Randall Cauble concluded his ministry at New Jerusalem, Hickory after 34 years! Well done good and faithful servant. His health recovery is ongoing and promising.
2. Pastor Bill White concluded his service as our Area Assistant to the Bishop on 12/31. He has been a great partner in ministry, and we wish him well as he focuses on health issues and family.
3. Pastor David Keener has accepted as our new Area Assistant to the Bishop.
4. Pastor Ron Orovitz has concluded his ministry at Grace, Bessemer City on 2/28, and has re-retired. Well done, good and faithful servant.
5. Pastor David Hefner has concluded interim ministry at Mt. Calvary, Claremont and is now serving as interim pastor at New Jerusalem, Hickory.
6. We welcome Pastor Terri Landers to the NALC and our Mission District. She is serving as interim pastor at Mt. Calvary, Claremont.

MISSION DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION

Mt. Calvary, Claremont – Pastor Terri Landers, interim (call process)

New Covenant, Morganton – Pastor Andrew Weisner, interim

New Jerusalem, Hickory – Pastor David Hefner, interim (call process)

Word of Life, Vale – (LCMC contract lay pastor, Todd Wright)

CATAWBA VALLEY MISSION DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS

- Atonement, Wilkesboro (Pastor Roger Hull)
- Christ United, Granite Falls (Pastor Ric Smith)
- Grace, Newton (Pastor Doug Hefner)
- Holy Trinity, Troutman (Pastor Dieter Punt)
- Millers, Hickory (Pastor Todd Cook)
- Mt. Calvary, Claremont (call process, Pastor Terri Landers, interim)
- New Covenant, Morganton (Pastor Andrew Weisner, interim)
- New Jerusalem, Hickory (call process, Pastor David Hefner, interim)
- Shiloh, Hickory (Pastor Jason Sigmon)
- St. James Newton (Pastor Ken Reed)
- St. Johns, Statesville (Pastor Dale Stanley)
- St. Martin's, Maiden (Pastor Nathan Yoder)
- Word of Life, Vale (LCMC contract lay pastor, Todd Wright)

In Christ,

Pastor Steve Johnson, Dean

South Carolina Mission District Dean's Report
Rev. Dawn W. Rister, Dean

SOUTH CAROLINA MISSION DISTRICT:

- The South Carolina Mission District now has 20 "Mission Driven" congregations who are excited about sharing the gospel!!
- This year we welcomed Macedonia Lutheran Church (Prosperity, SC) and St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Columbia, SC) to the North American Lutheran Church.
- Christ the King (Evans, Georgia) joined the South Carolina Mission Region.
- Pr. Leon Rawl continues to serve as interim of Cedar Grove.
- Pr. Cathy Fanslau is serving as interim at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church.
- Pr. Christopher Metze is now serving St. Peter Lutheran Church (Chapin, SC).
- Pastors and congregations are meeting regularly for fellowship and discussion. We are working together in mission, vision, and to provide pulpit supply, pastoral care, and administrative assistance for congregations in transition.
- We continue to have conversations with congregations interested in affiliating with the NALC.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church Pomaria hosted the Carolinas Lutheran Women's Convocation, and it was a huge success.
- We are thankful for our supply pastors and seminarians who faithfully serve our congregations: Pr. Dave Keener, Pr. Bill White, Pr. Gary Blobaum, Pr. Cathy Fanslau, Pr. Leon Rawl, Pr. Tony Metze, Pr. Dave Tholstrup, Pr. Brian Hughes, Sem. Melanie Corn, Sem. Bob Dernbach, and Sem. Kyle Page.
- We give thanks for the spouses and families of our pastors and seminarians who faithfully give their love and support!!
- St. Paul's Columbia is hosting Rehoboth Ethiopian Church.
- Pr. Steve Counts is serving Mayer Memorial three Sundays per month.
- We celebrate our NALS Seminarians: Melanie Corn, Bob Dernbach, and Kyle Page.
- The ordination and installation for Robert Dernbach will be May 17th at Silverstreet Lutheran Church.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION

- Immanuel Lutheran Church, (Sumter, SC)
- Lamb of God Lutheran Church (Simpsonville, SC)
- Mayer Memorial Lutheran Church (Newberry, SC)
- Mt Tabor Lutheran Church (Little Mountain, SC)
- Cedar Grove Lutheran Church, (Leesville, SC)
- Macedonia Lutheran Church, (Prosperity, SC)
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, (Columbia, SC)

Piedmont East Mission District Dean's Report to the Carolinas Mission Region 2026 Convocation

The congregations in the Piedmont East Mission District (PEMD) include: Christiana, Salisbury with Lucas Safrit, contract lay pastor; Concordia, China Grove - Carlin Ours, pastor; Faith, Faith – Don Safrit, interim pastor; Faith, Wilmington, Paul Ebert pastor (LCMC); Grace, Pffaftown, Matt Knuppel, pastor; Nazareth, Rural Hall – Kevin Powers, pastor; Grace, Washington [Lutheran/Anglican Hybrid] Rob Crawford; New Hope, Kannapolis/St. Mark's, Salisbury, Marty Ramey, interim pastor; Organ, Salisbury, Tonya Brittan, pastor; Peace, Gibsonville, Steve King, pastor; Salem, Salisbury, Ernie Sheldon, 2 year term pastor; St. John's, Asheboro, Keith Less, pastor; Trinity, Landis, Candace Carter, pastor; Union, Salisbury, Heidi Punt, pastor; Navy Chaplain Pastor Joseph Pinzl, stationed in Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, NC; Pastor Bill White, retired; Pastor Craig Abee; Pastor George Rhyne, retired; Pr. Mark Ryman, St. Paul's Salisbury, LCMC; Janice Kelly, retired; Pastor Bill Ketchie, retired; Pastor Woodrow Frick, retired; Pastor Larry Bost, retired; Pastor Don Safrit, retired; Pastor Carl Haynes, Dean, retired. Sola Publishing, Pastor Steve King, Director, is also a part of the PEMD. Deacon James Clapp, called to Word and Service.

Dawn Merrell retired from being a full time organist in January 2025. I attended the luncheon given in her honor at Union Lutheran Church. I attended the NALC Lutheran Week, in Pittsburg, PA last August. I attended Salem Lutheran's 175 Anniversary also held in August. I returned to Salem later that month to help assemble Flood Buckets for NALC Disaster Relief. Lucas Safrit has been approved by the Candidacy Committee for ordination to Word and Sacrament Ministry. He finished his internship at Christiana Lutheran and has accepted a contract position as a lay pastor as he finishes his Lutheran Courses under Dr. Nathan Yoder at the Lutheran Studies Program at GCTS. He is supervised by Pastor Carl Haynes. Rob Crawford resigned as pastor of Faith Lutheran in Faith and took at call to Grace, Washington.

As Dean of the PEMD, it has been my privilege and joy to minister to the pastors and congregations of my mission district and to supply in their pulpits when they need to be away. I preached Homecoming at Organ and Christiana and was one of the preachers for Union's 250th Year Celebration. I enjoy gathering monthly in one of our congregations for a pastors' meeting that includes pericope study, mission district and region news and fellowship. The meetings usually begin with a light breakfast and end with lunch.

To date there are four congregations in transition:

Faith Lutheran, Faith, NC – looking to call a pastor. Pr. Don Safrit, Interim

Christiana Lutheran, supervised lay pastor, Lucas Safrit.

New Hope, Kannapolis/St. Mark's, Salisbury, Marty Ramey, Interim

Part of my role as dean/convening dean includes attending/conducting Carolinas Mission Region Executive Committee meetings, attending Finance Committee meetings, the NALC's Deans Meeting in Dallas, TX, Call Committee meetings, doing conflict management within congregations, as well as between pastors and members.

I am appreciative of the support I receive from Bishop Dan Selbo, Area Assistant to the Bishop Bill White, and newly appointed AAP Dave Keener, and my fellow deans: Steven King, Dawn Rister and Steve Johnson.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Carl Haynes, Dean, Piedmont East Mission District
Convening Dean, Carolinas Mission Region

**2026 Convocation Planning Committee Report
Carolinas Mission Region Convocation
May 1-2, 2026**

Committee Members:

**The Rev. Carl Haynes
Kathy Hefner
Angie Fleming
Haley Szymonski
Linda Crouch
Susan Keefe**

**The Rev. David Hefner
Madeline Zieverink
Charlotte Pacilio
Karen Goodman
Laurie Ritchie**

**The Rev. Todd Cook
Pastoral Intern Lucas Safrit
David Preslar
LaVaughn Beaver
Marlene Pethel**

Just as “the Apostle Paul charged Timothy to do his best to present himself as a worker” to proclaim the Word of truth, we also have that same charge. The 2026 Convocation will begin and end with worship to focus our hearts and minds on the things above to guide us throughout the convocation and as we leave to head out into the world. The convocation will provide opportunities to learn of the ministries of NALC partners through presentations to the attendees and in breakout sessions as well as through opportunities to visit personally with ministry representatives. In addition, opportunities for mission district meetings, NALC updates, fellowship, and handling the business of the mission region will occur.

Heartfelt appreciation is extended to the congregation of Christiana Lutheran Church who has been planning and preparing for the convocation since the close of the 2025 convocation. The members of the congregation have met multiple times to plan extensively to host a convocation which will be enjoyed by all and give God all glory and honor. In addition, gratitude is extended to members of the Convocation Committee for all planning and work on behalf of the convocation.

As the 2026 convocation draws to a close, please prayerfully consider serving as a member of the planning committee for the 2027 convocation.

CMR Disaster Response Report for the 2026 Convocation

Disaster Response helped to support 2 volunteer groups in May and June 2025 in Burnsville NC. The volunteer groups were from Texas and Michigan by helping them rebuild a home damaged by a tree falling on it. Maintenance was performed on 4 trailers that are housed at Advent Warehouse. In August the shower trailer was moved from Burnsville NC back to Advent Warehouse for maintenance and prepped for volunteer groups doing mission work in Texas.

Upcoming events: Support personnel will be traveling back to Burnsville in May 2026 to support volunteer groups coming into rebuild.

Advent warehouse is at maximum capacity. St Jacob's- Chapin SC overflow warehouse that back fills Carolina Mission Region warehouses is at 85% capacity.

Submitted by:
Rod Paulson
CMR Disaster Response

Report to 2026 Carolinas Mission Region Convocation

Communications Team – Rev. Todd Cook

Our Mission Region Website continues to grow in usage. We've seen several congregations over the last year make use of the front page to announce job listings, of which many of those positions were filled. We continue to strive to keep contact information current.

Following last year's Convocation, several volunteers stepped forward to help with website management and information updates: Brandon Slice, Laura Sharp-Waites, and Bruce Kiser. Each has been working to help with keeping information current and helping the deans to make better use of the resource.

We will continue to look for more ways to make the CMR website more usable and offer more functionality to it to help our congregations and our church leaders across the mission region.

We continue to maintain a paid Zoom account for use by our mission region. Anyone needing access please contact me and we'll get you scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Todd Cook pastor@millersnalc.org

Pastoral Care and Transition Team (PCAT) 2026 CMR Convocation Report

In North Carolina it was a relatively slow year for PCAT workshops. According to the NALC Call Process Manual, a congregation in the call process will hold a congregational workshop *after* the Call Committee has had a zoom call meeting with the NALC Call Process Coordinator. Pr. Shelly Schultz. The purpose of the workshop is to guide the congregation through a Bible study and conversation about leadership, conflict, "call vs. hire," membership vs. discipleship, perceived pastoral needs, and other relevant topics in order to give the call committee information and feedback to help them complete the Congregational Profile with the best information about the congregation. Workshops are held Saturdays from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, normally.

We did workshops at Mt. Calvary, Claremont (July 19), New Jerusalem, Hickory (February 7), St. Luke's, Monroe (April 18), and Antioch, Dallas (April 25).

In South Carolina, the Dean, Rev. Dawn Rister, conducted the workshops as necessary. See her Dean's Report.

Rev. David Hefner, chair

CMR Missions Team Annual Report

2025-2026

The CMR Missions Team has awarded eight mission grants totaling \$14,000 so far this fiscal year and is currently reviewing several additional applications. We continue to look for ways to improve the application process both before and after grants are awarded. We have recently added a third page to the application that provides prompts to help applicants report on the outcomes of completed projects. The CMR Missions Team gives thanks to God for another fruitful year in mission and extends its sincere gratitude to our grant recipients and to the congregations of the region whose support makes these efforts possible.

AMOUNT	CHURCH / ORGANIZATION	RECIPIENT / PROGRAM	PURPOSE
\$3,000	Union Lutheran Church	Heidi Punt – Son Ministries	Mission support
\$1,000	St. Martin’s Lutheran Church	Summer Mission Trip	Mission trip to Loris, SC
\$1,000	New Jerusalem Lutheran Church	Summer Mission Trip	Mission trip to Loris, SC
\$3,000	St. Peter's Lutheran Church	Yengesa Mission School	Mission trip to Sierra Leone
\$1,000	Concordia Lutheran Church	Feed the Hunger Pack-a-Thon	Community support
\$1,000	Rehoboth Ethiopian Church (Charleston)	Evangelism Conference	Evangelism outreach
\$1,000	Silverstreet Lutheran Church	Reuben Elementary School Backpack Program	School supply outreach
\$3,000	St. Luke's Lutheran Church	Cate Waddell – Lamb Institute (Honduras)	Missionary support
 Total Distributed \$14,000 			

Pr. Chris Metze,

Mission Team Chair

CAROLINAS MISSION REGION
Proposed Budget Worksheet for Regional Council from Finance Committee
for '26 - '27 Budget

* = changed items from '25-'26 Budget		'26 - '27 Proposed Budget	'25 - '26 Budget	Actual as of 3/31/26	Actual 7/1/24 - 6/30/25
BUDGETED FUNDS INCOME					
40100	Benevolence from CMR Congregations	52,400.00	49,125.00	41,836.17	48,774.23
BUDGETED FUNDS EXPENDITURES					
68300	DEAN EXPENSES				
68301	Catawba Valley MD Dean Expenses	5,500.00	5,500.00	2,199.11	5,151.53
68302	Piedmont-East MD Dean Expenses	4,000.00	4,000.00	2,866.43	4,069.51
68303	Southern Piedmont MD Dean Expenses	3,500.00	3,500.00	1,086.97	2,464.79
68304	South Carolina MD Dean Expenses	6,000.00	6,000.00	1,797.30	4,782.83
68394	Honorarium - Catawba Valley MD Dean	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
68395	Honorarium - Piedmont-East MD Dean	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
68396	Honorarium - Southern Piedmont MD Dean	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
68397	Honorarium - South Carolina MD Dean	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
68398	Honorarium - Convener	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
TOTAL DEAN EXPENSES		21,500.00	21,500.00	7,949.81	18,968.66
69000	REGIONAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES				
69100	Mileage	1,500.00	1,500.00	417.60	478.37
69200	Lodging/Meals	250.00	250.00	0.00	77.48
69300	Region Administration (postage, PO Box, Ins., office sup., Zoom lic., computer pr	1,900.00	2,150.00 *	1,533.57	1,406.14
69400	Website Operation (10/1/24 \$708/yr., 10/1/25 \$828/yr.)	850.00	825.00 *	424.37	693.16
TOTAL REGIONAL COUNCIL ADMIN. EXPENSES		4,500.00	4,725.00 *	2,375.54	2,655.15
69401	ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM				
69411	Honorarium - CMR Secretary	500.00	0.00 *	0.00	0.00
69421	Honorarium - CMR Treasurer	500.00	0.00 *	0.00	0.00
69431	Honorarium - CMR Administrative Assistant	500.00	0.00 *	0.00	0.00
69441	Honorarium - CMR Communications Officer	500.00	0.00 *	0.00	0.00
69451	Honorarium - CMR Youth Director	500.00	0.00 *	0.00	0.00
69461	Honorarium - CMR Solid Rock Day Camp Coordinator	500.00	0.00 *	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM EXPENSES		3,000.00	0.00 *	0.00	0.00
70000	STANDING COMMITTEES & OPERATING FUNDS				
70010	Convocation Committee	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
70020	Youth Ministry & Congregational Life Committee	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
70040	Communications Committee	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
70050	Budget and Finance Committee	300.00	500.00 *	96.43	889.83
70060	Internship Site Assistance Committee	100.00	200.00 *	0.00	0.00
70070	Missions Committee	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
70080	P-CAT Committee	500.00	700.00 *	222.60	125.00
70090	Clergy Retreat Committee	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
70100	Retired Pastors and Seminarians/Candidacy Assistance	5,000.00	5,000.00	196.94	933.91
70130	Region Training and Education Events	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
70140	Contingency Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	2,640.99	1,945.00
70160	Seminarian Scholarships	10,000.00	9,000.00 *	4,238.00	3,000.00
76000	Inquirer's Retreats (formerly "NET Work" Retreats)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL STANDING COMMITTEES & OPERATING FUNDS		23,400.00	22,900.00 *	7,394.96	6,893.74
TOTAL BUDGETED FUNDS EXPENDITURES		52,400.00	49,125.00 *	17,720.31	28,517.55
		Increase of \$ 3,275.00			

Extra funds over the budget amount are needed to replenish certain restricted funds (Missions, Youth, Theo. Ed., Annual Ministry Support).

It is suggested that congregations contribute 1% of the congregation's yearly operating budget to the CMR.

CMR Bylaws Article 1. Section 4. subsection i.

i. The Administrative Team of the CMR will consist of the CMR secretary, treasurer, administrative assistant, communications officer, youth director, and Solid Rock Day Camp coordinator. Each position will receive a budgeted annual honorarium. The duties of these six (6) positions are described below:

CMR Secretary:

- Secretary will fulfill all duties of Article 9.03 of the CMR Constitution and Bylaws
- Attend and record minutes of the CMR Council meetings
- Provide a copy of the minutes within two weeks after the meeting for all members of the Council to review
- Attend and record the minutes of the annual CMR Convocation
- Provide a copy of the minutes within two weeks of any Convocation for the CMR Council and those registered for the Convocation, and have the minutes available to be distributed for the next Convocation
- Keep a record of Council member's terms
- Communicate any CMR roster changes to the NALC (interims, death of a clergy, etc.)
- Manage the directory of congregations and pastors (information)
- Handle correspondence for the Regional and Mission District Deans and the Council
- Send out email announcements/communications to all pastors and congregations when requested by the Deans, officers, and Committees to include a monthly email newsletter.
- Maintain the files of the Region, including archives.
- Provide Quarterly reports to CMR Council and Annual Report for CMR Convocation
- Be the secretary of the CMR Convocation Planning team

CMR Treasurer

- Treasurer will fulfill all duties of the CMR Constitution (9.04) and Bylaws
- Prepare and send acknowledgments for benevolence donations.
- Prepare and send contribution acknowledgement letter at the beginning of each calendar year for the previous calendar year.
- Provide Quarterly financial reports to CMR Council and Annual Report for CMR Convocation
- Be a member of the CMR Convocation Planning team

CMR Administrative Assistant: these duties may be assigned to another officer

- Be responsible for all USPS mailings needed as requested by CMR Teams and Committees
- Prepare materials to be distributed for the annual CMR Convocation (flyers, registrations, forms, agendas, etc.) in coordination with the Dean and Council members

CMR Communications Officer

- Maintain and update the CMR website and Social Media sites
- Be a member of the CMR Convocation Planning team
- Coordinate/provide support for other Teams/Committees to keep Team/Committee tabs on the website updated
- Manage the website directory of congregations and pastors
- Maintain website directories and spreadsheets for each individual Mission District
- Post/Advertise all CMR/Mission District Events on the website
- Provide Quarterly reports to CMR Council and Annual Report for CMR Convocation
- Be administrator of the CMR Zoom account

CMR Youth Director

- Plans, coordinates, and implements annual CMR Youth Retreat
- Plans, coordinates, and implements annual CMR Luther Bowl
- Plans, coordinates, and implements annual CMR Word and Sacrament/Diaconate Discernment Retreat
- Works with the CMR Treasurer to manage funds/provide reports and receipts as needed
- Provides Quarterly reports to CMR Council and Annual Report for CMR Convocation
- Provides support for Pastors/Congregations planning Mission District Youth events

CMR Day Camp Coordinator (these duties may also be assigned to the CMR Youth Director)

- Plans, implements, hires and trains counselors, and directs Day Camps for the CMR at its several locations
- Coordinates with Host Congregations to provide Day Camp programs

By the nature of their office, each of the Deans will work closely with the Administrative Team. The CMR Convener will provide supervision to ensure all responsibilities are completed.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER
For 2025/2026 Fiscal Year

Our fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th. The financial files being emailed with this report include the final report from 7/1/24 – 6/30/25, a report from 7/1/25 – **3/31/26**, a report of our Restricted Funds and Unrestricted Funds as of 3/31/26, a description of the line items and Restricted Funds, a report from the Finance Committee, the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 7/1/26 – 6/30/27 and the Giving Guidelines for the CMR & NALC. Please review all of these prior to the convocation and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

FYI

- ❖ 7/1/23 – 6/30/24 – 42 out of 52 congregations sent benevolence offerings to the CMR totaling \$55,716.
- ❖ 7/1/24 – 6/30/25 – 40 out of 56 congregations sent benevolence offerings to the CMR totaling \$48,774, with 3 of those 56 congregations being added in March 2025.
- ❖ 7/1/25 – 3/31/26 – 38 out of 58 congregations sent benevolence offerings to the CMR totaling \$48,836.
- ❖ The CMR covers the expenses incurred by the Deans of each of our 4 Mission Districts. Some of these are mileage, travel, meals, lodging, and conference fees for several events where the Dean is expected to be present; cost of pulpit supply for the congregation served by the Dean when he is asked to be at another congregation; and a small honorarium.
- ❖ We give some support to Seminarians via scholarships and covering costs for them to attend certain clergy meetings/events.
- ❖ The gifts you give are put to use here in the Carolinas and beyond as some of the committees direct. However, as a Mission Region, we do NOT send regular funding to the NALC. Congregations should send their gifts to the NALC directly to support the NALC general fund as well as their other ministries. All instructions and explanations can be found on the NALC website as well as the Giving Guidelines for the CMR and NALC document.

Please remember to make all checks payable to **“Carolinas Mission Region”** (not Carolinas Mission District) and mail them to PO Box 6381, Hickory, NC 28603.

Without the benevolence offerings from congregations we would not be able to fund the many missions of the Carolinas Mission Region. Along with the budgeted expenses, these offerings go towards funding Mission Grants, the CMR Youth and Family Fund, the Theological Education Fund and Annual Ministry Support. We are so grateful for your participation in the ministries of the CMR as we seek to go where God leads us.

Continue to pray for the CMR to be good stewards as they minister to the CMR and others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please ***share this information with your congregation*** and help them, through prayer and conversation, discern how they can best share the blessings of God with the CMR.

If I can be of any help to you or your congregation at any time, please contact me: via mail to CMR, PO Box 6381, Hickory, NC 28603; email to cmdtreasurernalc@gmail.com; phone 828-598-0342 or cell – 717-224-1050.

In humble service to Our Lord and the CMR,
Kathy Hefner, CMR Treasurer

CAROLINAS MISSION REGION
7/1/24 - 6/30/25
BUDGET VS. ACTUAL
and Non-Budgeted Items

Other Income and Expenses NOT Shown Under Budgeted Items		
Clergy Retreat Registrations 2024		cancelled due to hurricane Helene
McDaniel-Yoder Conference Registrations 2024	1,460.00	held 10/25/24, 33 attended
McDaniel-Yoder Conference Expenses 2024	2,889.37	plus \$398.69 paid in previous fiscal year
Registration Over (Under) Expenses	(1,429.37)	
CMR 2025 Convocation Registrations	5,900.00	123 attended
CMR 2025 Convocation Expenses	4,369.18	
Registration Over (Under) Expenses	1,530.82	
CMR 2025 Convocation Offerings	4,477.00	1/2 NALS & 1/2 Gordon-Conwell Theo. Sem. - Lutheran Studies Program
CMR Youth General Fund - Income		
Donation from NALC for use of bus @ CYG in Texas	1,000.00	
CMR Youth General Fund - Expenses		
NALC Continental Youth Gathering Bus cost	5,125.05	
Expenses & donations in FYE 6/30/24 was \$13,454.58 so actual total cost of bus was \$18,579.63		
NALC Continental Youth Gathering Mission Project	250.00	
NALC Continental Youth Gathering Photo Display	8.01	
Total Expenses from CMR Youth General Fund	5,383.06	
CMR Youth Spring Retreat - 2025 Registrations	9,295.00	held 3/14-16/2025, 78 attended
CMR Youth Spring Retreat - 2025 Expenses	8,429.17	
Registration Over (Under) Expenses	865.83	
Youth - 2024 Day Camp Registrations	11,800.00	plus \$2,300 in last FY
Youth - 2024 Day Camp Gift		plus \$1,625 in last FY
Youth - 2024 Day Camp Expenses	14,428.82	plus \$2,168.10 in last FY
Registration Over (Under) Expenses	(2,628.82)	
Youth - 2025 Day Camp Registrations	6,570.00	
Youth - 2025 Day Camp Gifts	1,675.00	
Youth - 2025 Day Camp Expenses	2,816.53	
Registration Over (Under) Expenses	5,428.47	
Undesignated Funds Transferred to Designated Funds:		
Missions - to bring to \$20,000 (7/1/24)	18,000.00	
Annual Ministry Support	7,800.00	
Theological Education Fund - to bring to \$5,400 (7/1/24)	1,506.00	
CMR Youth Fund - to bring to \$15,000 (7/1/24)	5,802.46	
Total Undesignated Funds Transferred to Designated Funds	33,108.46	
Restricted: Theological Education Fund Income (GIFT)	440.00	
Restricted: Mission Funds Expenses		
Mission Grant - Joy Mission Church - Rehoboth Evangelism Conf.	1,000.00	
Mission Grant - Concordia - Feed the Hunger Project	1,000.00	
Mission Grant - Holy Trinity, Troutman - mission trip to Guatemala	3,000.00	
Mission Grant - St. Luke's, Monroe - Cate Waddell to Honduras	3,000.00	
Mission Grant - Sharing Shepherds Mission	1,000.00	
Mission Grant - Union, Salisbury - Western NC Project	1,000.00	
Mission Grant - St. Jacob's, Chapin - Congo Mission Trip	3,000.00	
Mission Grant - St. Paul, Pomaria - Bible for Every Kid	1,000.00	
Mission Grant - Bethel, Lincolnton - SMI Haiti	1,000.00	
Mission Grant - Salem, Salisbury - Disaster Response Mission Trip	1,000.00	
Mission Grant - Salem, Salisbury - NC Mountains Mission Trip	1,000.00	
Mission Grant - Mayer Memorial, Newberry - Disaster Response NC&SC	1,000.00	
Mission Grant - Mayer Memorial, Newberry - Discipleship with seniors	1,000.00	
Mission Grant - Rehoboth, Columbia - Evangelism Conference	1,000.00	
TOTAL MISSION GRANTS	20,000.00	
Restricted: Internship Site Assistance Funds		
St. Paul, Pomaria, SC for Intern Laura Sharp-Waltes (Expense)	(12,000.00)	
Gifts (Income)	300.00	
Restricted: Annual Ministry Support		
NALC - Disaster Response for Western North Carolina	3,700.00	
St. Jacob's LC, Chapin - Improvements to Disaster Response warehouse	2,000.00	
Union & St. Timothy for mission trip to WNC \$1,050 each	2,100.00	
TOTAL ANNUAL MINISTRY SUPPORT	7,800.00	
Restricted: Seminarian Assistance Funds	174.52	

CAROLINAS MISSION REGION
7/1/25 - 3/31/26
BUDGET VS. ACTUAL
and Non-Budgeted Items

BUDGETED FUNDS INCOME		Actual	Budget	\$ Over/Under Budget
40100	Benevolence from CMR Congregations	41,836.17	49,125.00	-7,288.83
46410	Individual Donations	387.00	0.00	387.00
43000	In-Kind Gifts	303.78		
	TOTAL BUDGETED FUNDS INCOME	42,526.95		
BUDGETED FUNDS EXPENDITURES				
68300	DEAN EXPENSES			
68301	Catawba Valley MD Dean Expenses	2,199.11	5,500.00	-3,300.89
	Mileage \$1,523.90			
	NALC Convo registration \$300			
	NALC Clergy Retreat Registration \$200			
	McDaniel/Yoder Conference Registration \$60			
	Lunch with pastor \$30.20 + \$50.40 + \$34.61			
68302	Piedmont-East MD Dean Expenses	2,866.43	4,000.00	-1,133.57
	Mileage \$1,154.75			
	Snacks for CMR Council mtg. 3/4/26 \$41.00			
	NALC Convo registration & ins. \$397.26			
	NALC Convo gas \$111.20, food \$37.32, parking \$76.00, hotel \$937.60			
	Gas & food 10/26 trip to Grace, Washington \$27.82, food 12/7 \$11.84			
	Parking & food for NALC Dean's mtg. 11/10 - 11/12 \$71.64			
68303	Southern Piedmont MD Dean Expenses	1,086.97	3,500.00	-2,413.03
	NALC Dean's Mtg. (11/10 - 11/12) Airfare \$1,069.97			
	NALC Clergy Retreat registration & hotel \$381.41 - cancelled, refunded \$364.41			
68304	South Carolina MD Dean Expenses	1,797.30	6,000.00	-4,202.70
	Mileage \$587.30			
	Lunch with pastor \$37.22 + \$24.31			
	Lunch for MD meeting 11/20 \$339.80			
	NALC Convo parking \$275, hotel \$128.80 (church paid for part)			
	Parking and food for NALC Dean's mtg. 11/10 - 11/12 \$77.28			
	Reimburse airfare for trip to NALS & Dallas (NALC meeting) for Jerry Price III (possible seminarian) \$327.59			
68394	Honorarium - Catawba Valley MD Dean (paid after Convocation)	0.00	500.00	-500.00
68395	Honorarium - Piedmont-East MD Dean (paid after Convocation)	0.00	500.00	-500.00
68396	Honorarium - Southern Piedmont MD Dean (paid after Convocation)	0.00	500.00	-500.00
68397	Honorarium - South Carolina MD Dean (paid after Convocation)	0.00	500.00	-500.00
68398	Honorarium - Convener (paid after Convocation)	0.00	500.00	-500.00
	TOTAL DEAN EXPENSES	7,949.81	21,500.00	-13,550.19
69000	REGIONAL COUNCIL EXPENSES			
69100	Mileage	417.60	1,500.00	-1,082.40
69200	Lodging/Meals	0.00	250.00	-250.00
69300	Region Administration (postage, PO Box, Ins., office supplies, Zoom license, computer programs)	1,533.57	2,150.00	-616.43
69400	Website Operation	424.37	825.00	-400.63
	TOTAL REGIONAL COUNCIL EXPENSES	2,375.54	4,725.00	-2,349.46
70000	STANDING COMMITTEES & OPERATING FUNDS			
70010	Convocation Committee	0.00	100.00	-100.00
70020	Youth Ministry & Congregational Life Committee	0.00	100.00	-100.00
70040	Communications Committee	0.00	100.00	-100.00
70050	Budget and Finance Committee	96.43	500.00	-403.57
70060	Internship Site Assistance Committee	0.00	200.00	-200.00
70070	Missions Committee	0.00	100.00	-100.00
70080	P-CAT Committee	222.60	700.00	-477.40
70090	Clergy Retreat Committee	0.00	100.00	-100.00
70100	Retired Pastors and Seminararians/Candidacy Assistance	196.94	5,000.00	-4,803.06
70130	Region Training and Education Events	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
70140	Contingency Fund	2,640.99	5,000.00	-2,359.01
70160	Seminarian Scholarships	4,238.00	9,000.00	-4,762.00
76000	"NET Work" Retreats (2)	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
	TOTAL STANDING COMMITTEES & OPERATING FUNDS	7,394.96	22,900.00	-15,505.04
	TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	17,720.31	49,125.00	-31,404.69

It is suggested that congregations contribute 1% of the congregation's yearly operating budget to the CMR. Extra funds over the operating budget amount are needed to replenish certain restricted funds (Missions, Youth, Theological Ed., Annual Ministry Support).

**CAROLINAS MISSION REGION OF THE NALC
RESTRICTED & UNRESTRICTED FUNDS REPORT
AS OF MARCH 31, 2026**

		<u>Amount</u>
Restricted Funds		
Annual Ministry Support	\$	-
Camp/Retreat Project	\$	2,498.34
CMR Men's Group	\$	1,101.32
Intentional Interim Training	\$	2,500.00
Internship Site Assistance Funds	\$	1,216.65
Missions (recurring to \$20,000)	\$	6,000.00
Seminarian Assistance Funds	\$	1,855.48
Theological Education Fund (recurring to \$5,400)	\$	2,648.57
CMR Youth & Family Fund (recurring to \$15,000)	\$	3,261.17
Youth Fund (General)	\$	1,812.70
Youth Retreat	\$	1,448.47
Day Camp	\$	0
Total Restricted Funds	\$	21,081.53
Inquirers Retreat (excess funds from event)	\$	597.30
Total Unrestricted Funds	\$	29,186.40
 TOTAL FUNDS	 \$	 50,865.23

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
TO CAROLINAS MISSION REGION CONVOCATION
For Year Ended June 30, 2026**

The purpose of the Finance Committee centers around the financial decisions that you make while in convocation, and in conjunction with your Executive Council as they govern the Carolinas Mission Region in accordance with those decisions. The Finance Committee assists the Treasurer to ensure that all the financial actions and transactions of the CMR are done in accordance with the laws of the land and the will of the convocation. The committee is responsible to prepare and present an annual budget to the Executive Committee for review and presentation to the annual convocation for approval by vote.

The members of the Carolinas Mission Region Finance Committee are as follows.

Kathy Hefner, Treasurer	Rev. Steven King (ex-officio)
Bruce Kiser	Rev. Carl Haynes (ex-officio)
Karen Duncan	Rev. Steve Johnson (ex-officio)
Rev. George Rhyne	Rev. Dawn Rister (ex-officio)
Darryl Hentz, Fin. Chair	

- The Finance Committee met on June 25, 2025, to receive and welcome a new member to the committee (Karen Duncan, New Covenant, Morganton, NC). At this meeting, the committee discussed the challenges of having approximately \$3,000 left in the account after replenishing the recurring Restricted Funds at fiscal year-end. The following was proposed – “On July 1 of each year, the Treasurer will hold an unrestricted cash reserve of \$5,000 in the bank account to cover emergency needs or immediate bills received and any remaining unrestricted cash can be used to replenish the recurring Restricted Funds.”
Due to lack of unrestricted funds available, the committee was unable to distribute funds to Annual Ministry Support. A presentation on a “Guide to Giving” by CMR Treasurer Kathy Hefner was shown to the committee. This document includes “giving guidelines” for CMR, NALC, partners and missionaries. The guidelines are posted on the CMR website.
- The Finance Committee met again on October 23, 2025, to review financial reports through September 30, 2025, and to hold further discussion on the low unrestricted fund balance (currently \$3,800). As of this meeting, there were no unpaid bills. An update was given on the response to the “Giving Guideline”.
- The Finance Committee also met on February 12, 2026, to review the financial reports through January 31, 2026. The committee prepared a budget proposal for the CMR Executive Committee for fiscal year 2026/2027.

We want to thank Treasurer Kathy Hefner for her dedicated service to the CMR. Thanks also to our Deans, for their ongoing stewardship in administering their duties, and the members of the finance committee for their continued service to the CMR.

Thanks be to God for these dedicated servants, and to all our congregations for their gracious financial support and prayers.

Darryl Hentz, Chair

CONTINGENCY FUND REPORT TO CONVOCATION
Carolinas Mission Region Finance Committee
For Year Ended June 30, 2026

When the Contingency Fund line-item was created, it was agreed that the Finance Committee would report directly to the Convocation any Executive actions authorizing use of funds from the Contingency Fund Account 70140.

- May 27, 2025, check number 2332 was issued in the amount of \$315 to the NALC for CMR share of psych evaluation costs for candidate Shane Honig.
- January 31, 2026, check number 2404 was issued in the amount of \$250 to purchase used laptop for CMR Secretary.
- March 9, 2026, check number 2410 was issued in the amount of \$1,000 to Trinity Anglican Seminary for tuition support to Rev. Candice Carter.
- March 18, 2026, check number 2412 was issued in the amount of \$1390.99 to purchase a laptop for CMR Treasurer.

70140 CONTINGENCY FUND

This item is intended to cover non-budgeted items that occur between Convocations that the CMR Executive Council determines to be necessary or beneficial to the welfare of the CMR or NALC. Any such expenditures or authorization of expenditures will be duly reported at the next Annual Convocation with an explanation and accounting.

CAROLINAS MISSION REGION
BUDGET LINE ITEM AND RESTRICTED ACCOUNT POLICIES
(Updated by Regional Council 1.23.2024)

68300 DEAN'S EXPENSES

These are regular, recurring expenses incurred by the Deans while administering their office. These classifications are subject to change at the Dean's request or in consultation with them.

69000 REGIONAL COUNCIL EXPENSES

The CMR Council meets at least quarterly, or as necessary to conduct the business of the Carolina Mission Region. Cost of meeting space, materials, and any expenses incurred by their meeting, such as mileage, meals, etc., and Regional Council Administrative expenses make up the CMR Council Expenses. The Convener must authorize payment or reimbursement of payment for these expenses. (Rev. 1.23.2024)

70000 - STANDING COMMITTEES:

70010 CONVOCAATION COMMITTEE

The convocation committee meets to plan for the annual convocation of the CMR. The budget line-item is allocated for committee meetings and business, and any expenses incurred by their meeting, such as mileage, meals, etc. The Chairperson of the Committee will approve the payment of all expenses and/or reimbursement of these expenses.

NOTE: All Convocation expenses for materials, meals, snacks, etc., and pre-approved expenses for travel, lodging, and meals for specially invited guests will be paid from the registration fees. (Rev. 1.23.2024)

70020 YOUTH MINISTRY & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

The Children and Youth Ministry Committee meets as needed to plan joint CMR events, retreats, and mission trips for children, youth, and families. These activities provide faith formation experiences for young people and build relationships among youth and youth groups. The Committee also helps congregations develop youth ministry in their own context and look toward developing a program to identify and encourage young people to consider ordained and lay ministry.

The budget line-item is allocated for committee meetings and business, and any expenses incurred by their meeting, such as mileage, meals, etc. The Chairperson of the Committee will approve the payment of all expenses and/or reimbursement of these expenses.

70040 COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee is responsible to maintain the CMR Website and social media accounts as active means of communication among the members of the CMR.

The budget line-item is allocated for committee meetings and business, and any expenses incurred by their meeting, such as mileage, meals, etc., The Chairperson of the Committee will approve the payment of all expenses and/or reimbursement of these expenses.

NOTE: The website operation costs are covered under "Regional Council Expenses."
(Rev. 1.23.2024)

70050 BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

It is the responsibility of the Finance Committee to see that the office of the Treasurer is assisted in every way possible to ensure that all the financial actions and transactions of the CMR are done in accordance with the laws of the land and the will of the Convocation. The committee is responsible for preparing and proposing an annual budget to be presented to the CMR Council for approval and presentation to the CMR Annual Convocation for approval by vote. The committee then monitors the receipts and expenses of the CMR to ensure that all monies are duly recorded and expended according to their intended purpose and within the guidelines established by the Convocation. The Finance Committee will report regularly to the CMR Council and provide them with financial documents prepared by the Treasurer each quarter, and annually to the Convocation. The committee is responsible for arranging periodic audits in accordance with the Bylaws. The budget line-item is allocated for committee meetings and business, and any expenses incurred by their meeting, such as mileage, meals, etc. The Chairperson of the Committee will approve the payment of all expenses and/or reimbursement of these expenses.

70060 INTERNSHIP SITE ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

This committee, consisting of the District Deans, was formed following the establishment of an Internship Site Assistance Fund, to receive grant applications from congregations who have been approved as Internship Sites within the CMR. The Committee receives grant requests, reviews them to ensure they are within the Internship Site Assistance Funds established guidelines, and submits their recommendations to the CMR Council for the determined amount of funding. The CMR Council will approve or reject the congregation site for funding assistance. The budget line-item is allocated for committee meetings and business, and any expenses incurred by their meeting, such as mileage, meals, etc. The Convenor will approve the payment of all expenses and/or reimbursement of these expenses. (Rev. 1.23.2024)

70070 MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee was originally a 'Task Force' appointed by Executive Council action on Oct. 22, 2013. At the following annual Convocation on May 30, 2014, a Mission Fund was established by vote, and the new Mission Committee was formed. The Mission Committee engages in intentional prayer for CMR congregations and assists them in their efforts to fulfill the Great Commission at home and abroad. It solicits and receives grant applications, reviews these applications to ensure that they are within the established Missions Fund guidelines. The budget line-item is allocated for committee meetings and business, and any expenses incurred by their meeting, such as mileage, meals, etc. The Chairperson of the Committee will approve the payment of all expenses and/or reimbursement of these expenses. (Rev. 1.23.2024)

70080 PCAT COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Care and Transition Team (PCAT) was officially recognized by the CMR Annual Convocation in May 2016 in response to direction from the Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism. The PCAT team consists of skilled pastors and lay persons who are available and willing, at the Dean's request, to serve as "first responders" in providing pastoral care to member congregations in times of transition, conflict, or difficulty. The team facilitates a congregational workshop in preparation for the Call Process and works with congregations, councils, and pastors wishing to strengthen and

deepen communication, shared leadership, goal setting, and visioning within their congregations. The budget line-item is allocated for committee meetings and business, and any expenses incurred by their meeting and ministry to congregations, such as mileage, meals, etc. The Chairperson of the Committee will approve the payment of all expenses and/or reimbursement of these expenses. (Rev. 1.23.2024)

70090 CLERGY RETREAT COMMITTEE

This item is intended to cover only committee expenses. The costs of the Pastors' Retreat, i.e., cost of a guest speaker and their travel and lodging, meals, etc., and site/facility rental for the conference will be covered by registration fees. The event coordinator will approve the payment of all expenses and/or reimbursement of these expenses. (Rev. 1.23.2024)

70100 RETIRED PASTORS, PASTORS BETWEEN CALLS, SEMINARIANS IN CANDIDACY ASSISTANCE

This item is intended to assist retired pastors, pastors between calls, and seminarians in NALC Candidacy, with expenses (meals, transportation, and lodging) to attend the annual NALC Convocation and Lutheran Week Events, the annual NALC Pastors' Conference, the annual CMR Convocation, the annual CMR Pastors' Retreat, and registration for the annual Reformation Ecclesia Plantanda Lecture series/McDaniel/Yoder Center for Theology event held at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Grants approved cannot exceed 50% of the cost of any event and are not to exceed \$1,000 toward any event. The Convener will approve the payment of all expenses and/or reimbursement of these expenses. (Rev. 1.23.2024)

70130 DISTRICT TRAINING AND EDUCATION EVENTS

This item is intended to provide support for training and/or education events held within the CMR for the benefit of CMR congregations and communities, for example, Disaster Response Training. The District Deans will be the committee to oversee this line item which is intended to cover any expenses incurred by their meeting, such as mileage, meals, etc., and the associated costs for the event to occur. The Convener will approve the payment of all expenses and/or reimbursement for these expenses. (Rev. 9.26.23)

70140 CONTINGENCY FUND

This item is intended to cover non-budgeted items that occur between Convocations that the CMR Council determines to be necessary or beneficial to the welfare of the CMR or NALC. Any such expenditures or authorization of expenditures will be duly reported at the next Annual Convocation with an explanation and accounting. Expenditures from this fund are approved by Council vote, therefore no further approval is required. (Rev. 1.23.2024)

70160 SEMINARIAN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Executive Committee, acting on a recommendation from the Finance Committee at their March 20, 2018, quarterly meeting, approved the addition of a line item to the proposed budget for year 2018/2019 for Seminarian Scholarships. The proposed budget was approved at the Annual Convocation with line item 70160 in the amount of up to \$1,000 for each Seminarian who is a NALC Candidate for ordination and actively a member of a CMR congregation. The District Deans will constitute the committee to oversee this line item. The Convener will instruct the Treasurer on when and to whom these disbursements should be made. (rev. 9.26.23)

76000 NET WORK Discernment Retreats

Acting upon a motion as presented, the 2019 Carolinas Mission Region Convocation established a line item in the budget of \$1,000 annually to be used for at least two (2) retreats for those interested in ordained ministry or have been recommended by their pastor as persons who may have gifts for ministry. These retreats will be hosted by congregations of the CMR. The NET WORK committee will be responsible for scheduling these retreats.

RESTRICTED FUNDS – POLICY AND HISTORY

CAMPING AND RETREAT EXPLORATION COMMITTEE

The Executive Council in 2018 approved the formation of a Camping and Retreat Exploration Committee to explore the possibilities of establishing a camping and retreat facility within the bounds of our District to serve the needs of the CMR of the NALC and other surrounding NALC Mission Regions. The committee was officially recognized at the 2019 Annual CMR Convocation.

No funding for this Committee will come from the CMR budget, but will be voluntarily received from individuals, congregations, and/or other church organizations who wish to contribute to forming and building camping and retreat facilities for the CMR. The Camping and Retreat Exploration Committee will determine the use of funds received.

CMD MEN'S GROUP

A task force meeting over a period of nearly two years and following a meeting of men from around the CMR at Holy Trinity, Gastonia, N.C. formed the Carolinas Lutheran Men. At the meeting at Holy Trinity, seven men were recruited to serve as a Steering Committee. A meeting was held March 20, 2014, at Holy Trinity, Gastonia and a Chair, Recording Secretary and Treasurer were elected. After only a few meetings of the Steering Committee attendance fell and a quorum was not regularly present in order to conduct business. The group is presently inactive.

INTERNSHIP SITE ASSISTANCE FUND

This fund is intended to financially assist congregations who have been approved by the NALC Candidacy Committee as Internship Sites. Following the publication by the NALC of recommended guidelines and expectations for congregations of the NALC serving as approved internship sites, the CMR recognized the need for internship sites within the CMR, and the sizeable costs of serving as a site. The fund provides financial assistance to internship sites approved by Candidacy through a grant program administered by the Internship Site Assistance Committee and overseen by the CMR Council.

The fund was recommended to the CMR Convocation, May 20, 2016, where it was approved and funded in the amount of \$15,000, with the provision that the Fund be replenished each year from contributions made through donations made from congregations and/or individuals, and from CMR Unrestricted Funds transfers by the Treasurer at the direction of the Convocation.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND

Named in loving memory of Bishop Michael McDaniel and the Reverend Dr. J. Larry Yoder, the McDaniel/Yoder Center for Theology is a resource for continuing education for clergy and laity in the CMR. The main annual event of the Center is the Reformation Ecclesia Plantanda Lecture series, a one-day conference in late October. The fund

receives gifts from individuals, groups, and proceeds from registrations fees for the annual event.

MISSIONS FUND

At the annual CMR Convocation on May 30, 2014, the Missions Task Force made a recommendation to the Convocation that a recurring "Mission Fund" be established and funded in the amount of \$15,000. The Convocation chose to increase the amount to \$20,000, approved the fund by vote, and directed the Treasurer to transfer the funds into a restricted account. Following the Convocation, the Mission Task Force became the 'Mission Committee' and subsequently formulated a set of guidelines to govern the grant application process. (Rev. 1.23.2024)

CAROLINAS MISSION REGIONAL YOUTH AND FAMILIES FUND

The CMR Youth is seeing greater participation in regional events, such as Youth Retreats, Family Retreats, the Day Camp Program implemented in 2021, and other Youth and Family events. These regional programs are in turn giving rise to a renewal of youth ministry on the Mission District level. To assist in this mission, the 2020 CMR Convocation voted to expand the former restricted fund established by the 2018 CMR Convocation (\$2,500) to a \$15,000 recurring annual fund. All expenditures are approved by the Regional Youth Coordinator and reported to the Regional Council. (Rev. 1.23.2024)

ANNUAL MINISTRY SUPPORT

Adopted by CMR Council May 30, 2023, that of any funds in our Unrestricted Fund account on the first day of the fiscal year and after replenishment of Funds, the CMR Council will designate up to 80% of those funds to be held in a restricted account named "ANNUAL MINISTRY SUPPORT" until the next annual Convocation, at which time the CMR Council will make recommendations to the Convocation on how those monies will be disbursed.

INTENTIONAL INTERIM TRAINING

Moved by the CMR Council and adopted by the 2023 Convocation that we establish a Restricted Account for INTENTIONAL INTERIM TRAINING and fund the account in the initial amount of \$2,500 from Unrestricted Funds. These funds will be used to reimburse Carolinas Mission Region pastors who engage in INTENTIONAL INTERIM TRAINING events approved in advance by their Dean. Disbursements will be approved by their Dean upon completion of the training event(s) and having received copies of the original invoice(s) issued by the sponsor of the event.

SEMINARIAN ASSISTANCE FUND

Moved by the CMR Council and adopted by the 2017 Convocation that we establish a SEMINARIAN ASSISTANCE FUND for the purpose of underwriting the academic expenses of seminarians who are members of the CMR congregations and have begun the NALC Candidacy process; that an initial transfer of \$2,500 from the CMR Unrestricted Funds begin this fund; and that a CMR committee be established to monitor the fund and make formal proposals concerning its allocation to the CMR Executive Council.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

AWAKENING LIVES TO WORLD MISSIONS - Pr. Bill Moberly

"Fruitful Partnerships with NALC Global Workers Are Changing Lives for Eternity!"
ALWM is the sending agency for 8 of the 23 current NALC Global workers, working on three continents. Most of them work among the unreached and unevangelized! So, Pastor Moberly will share a broad perspective on vital global ministry happening in diverse settings, sharing stories and updates about these men and women who are sharing the Gospel on the front lines.

LUTHERAN MILITARY VETERANS AND FAMILY MINISTRY - Chaplain Leslie Haynes

LMVFM is a Christian non-profit (501c3) faith based ministry. We are dedicated to serving military veterans, military contractors and their families in need of care and assistance, regardless of their faith or religious affiliation. When is "Thank you for your service" not enough? Let's go further than just words, and heed the call to action for the benefit of our Military Service members and families.

MALAWI ORPHAN CARE PROJECT - Ken Ekegren, President

Malawi Orphan Care Project will present opportunities for churches and individuals to serve as God's hands and feet by sharing God's love for the people of Kanyenyeva, Malawi through various MOCP sponsored projects. These include an orphan feeding program, Bible and school education, business enterprises, farm project and a girls' rescue center. Involvement can range from financial support to active participation in mission trips. MOCP is a Recognized Ministry among the Mission Partners of NALC.

SPIRITUAL ORPHANS NETWORK - David & Angela Breidenbach

"Bringing Global Missions Home" - For many, the idea of global mission seems suited only for a select few or might be something we might do "someday, when there is enough time, money, etc." But what if global missions can actually happen in your own home and in our home congregation today? For the last 20 years, Pastor David & Angela Breidenbach have been doing global missions ministry and have learned that missions is not something we do "over there," rather connecting spiritual orphans to the global family of Christ it is something that begins, first and foremost, in our homes.

WATER MISSION - Marie Reny

Many Lutheran congregations long to engage in global mission but struggle to find partnerships that are theologically aligned, sustainable, and that meaningfully engage the whole congregation as active participants in the mission. This breakout will explore how Water Mission partners with congregations to address the global water crisis through sustainable engineering solutions that meet physical needs while creating space for Gospel witness. We will share practical pathways for engaging your congregation through shared ownership in a global mission. Participants will leave with actionable ideas for helping their church step more fully into global mission beyond financial giving.

BYLAWS
CAROLINAS MISSION REGION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

As adopted by the Carolinas Mission Region of the North American Lutheran Church at its Convocation on September 25, 2021

Article I. Standing Teams/Committees and Task Forces

Section 1. The Carolinas Mission Regional Council shall appoint as many standing teams and committees as the local and wider concerns of the Carolinas Mission Region (*hereinafter designated as CMR*) shall require. As occasions arise temporary Task Forces may be approved to carry out specific, time-defined tasks. Although appointed by and responsible to the CMR Regional Council, these teams, committees, and task forces shall be recognized as representative of the interest of, and performing essential services for, the Mission Region as a whole.

Section 2. Except as stipulated in the following paragraphs, the duties of all teams, committees, and task forces shall be assigned by the Regional Council, along with such instructions as, in its judgment, are in the best interests of the CMR. All actions of teams, committees, and task forces shall be subject to review by the Regional Council.

Section 3. All official organizations and special interest groups recognized by this Mission Region are responsible to the CMR Council. No organization or interest group shall be recognized which holds beliefs or principles contrary to the Constitutions of the NALC and/or the CMR.

Section 4. Standing Teams and Committees of the CMR and their respective descriptions and responsibilities are recognized below.

- A. **The Convocation Committee** meets to plan for the annual convocation of the CMR. Once a location has been selected by the Convocation Committee and approved by the Regional Council, the committee meets to develop an agenda for the annual convocation. The budget line item is allocated for travel expenses, such as mileage, meals, etc. for committee meetings and business.
- B. **The Youth and Family Life Ministry Committee** is chaired by the Carolinas Youth Ministry Coordinator and meets as needed to plan joint regional events, retreats, and mission trips for children, youth, and families. These activities provide faith formation experiences for young people and build relationships among youth and youth groups. The Committee also helps congregations and Mission Districts develop youth ministry in their own context. The budget line item is allocated for travel expenses, such as mileage, meals, etc. for committee meetings and business.
- C. **The Discipleship Committee** exists to assist congregations in developing enthusiastic, biblically grounded disciples of Jesus. To this end they will take advantage of the life-to-life emphasis of the NALC, encouraging disciples to be personally accountable to each other in their walk with Jesus through the mutual conversation and consolation in the family of God that leads to a confessional renewal of catechesis and Bible study, regular worship, prayer, service, giving, and spiritual friendship (mutual encouragement) in the Body of Christ. The budget line item is allocated for travel expenses, such as mileage, meals, etc. for committee meetings and business.

- D. **The Communications Committee** is responsible to maintain the CMR Website and social media pages as active means of communication throughout the region. It will be this committee's responsibility to maintain an up-to-date database of all clergy, lay professionals, group leaders and congregations of the CMR. The budget line item is allocated for travel expenses, such as mileage, meals, etc. for committee meetings and business.
- E. **The Finance Committee** assists the office of the Treasurer in every way possible to ensure that all the financial actions and transactions of the CMR are done in accordance with the laws of the land and the will of the Convocation. It is responsible for preparing and proposing an annual budget to be presented to the CMR Council for approval and presentation to the Annual Regional Convocation for approval by vote. The committee then monitors the receipts and expenses of the CMR to ensure that all monies are duly recorded and expended according to their intended purpose and within the guidelines established by the Convocation. The Finance Committee will report regularly to the CMR Council and provide them financial documents prepared by the Treasurer each quarter, and annually to the Convocation. The committee is responsible for conducting annual audits by the Finance committee and additional audits every three (3) years by an appointed committee that are not members of the Finance Committee or upon a Change of Treasurer. The budget line-item is allocated for travel expenses, such as mileage, meals, etc. for committee meetings and business.
- F. **The Internship Site Assistance Committee** has been formed following the establishment of an Internship Site Assistance Fund, to receive grant applications from congregations who have been approved as Internship Sites within the CMR. The Committee receives grant applications, reviews them to ensure they are within the Internship Site Assistance Funds established guidelines, and submits their recommendations for the determined amount of funding to the Regional Council which will approve or reject the congregation site for funding assistance. The budget line-item is allocated for travel expenses, such as mileage, meals, etc. for committee meetings and business.
- G. **The Mission Team** engages in intentional prayer for CMR congregations and assists them in their efforts to fulfill the Great Commission at home and abroad. It solicits and receives grant applications, reviews them to ensure that they are within the established Missions Fund guidelines, approves or denies said applications, then reports their actions to the Regional Council. The budget line-item is allocated for travel expenses, such as mileage, meals, etc. for committee meetings and business.
- H. **The Pastoral Care and Transition Team (PCAT Team)** consists of trained pastors and lay persons who are available and willing, at the Deans' request, to serve as "first responders" in providing pastoral care to member congregations in times of transition, conflict, or difficulty. The team facilitates a congregational workshop in preparation for the Call Process and works with congregations, councils, and pastors wishing to strengthen and improve communication, shared leadership, goal setting, and visioning within their congregations. The budget line-item is allocated for travel expenses, such as mileage, meals, etc. for committee meetings and business.

Article II. Duties of Officers

- A. **Convener** – *(for the purposes of incorporation, the Convener is also known as the President)* duties are described in Article 8 of the CMR Constitution.
- B. **Secretary** – shall maintain incorporation papers of the CMR in addition to the duties described in Article 9 of the CMR Constitution and Article 1.4.i of the CMR Bylaws.
- C. **Treasurer** – duties are described in Article 9 of the CMR Constitution and Article 1.4.i of the CMR Bylaws.

Article III. Calendar Terms and Convocation Date

- A. **Terms of Office.** All elected officers of the CMR shall serve for a term of one year with the possibility of serving up to nine consecutive terms. *(For the purposes of incorporation, a Vice-President will be elected from among the Regional Council members and shall serve for a term of one year with the possibility of serving up to nine consecutive terms.)* The Secretary and Treasurer shall serve for a term of three years and may serve for an unlimited number of terms. The term of office for Regional Council members shall be three years with the possibility of serving two consecutive terms. In order to initiate the staggering of terms for the one (1) additional clergy and two (2) lay delegates to the Regional Council, in the first year in which the CMR Constitution and Bylaws become effective, the clergy representative will be elected to a one-year term, one lay representative will be elected to a two-year term, and one lay representative will be elected to a three-year term.
- B. **Installation and Beginning of Terms.** Any person elected shall be installed during the Annual CMR Convocation at which they were elected. Their terms begin at the close of the Convocation. An officer's term ends at the conclusion of the Convocation during the year said term expires.

Article IV. Mission District Formation/Reformation

- A. **New Mission District Formation.** As growth among the number of CMR Congregations occurs additional Mission Districts may be added. By recommendation of the Deans or when a number of congregations in geographic proximity wish to come together in a new Mission District, the Deans or Pastors of these congregations shall petition the Regional Council for recognition of the new district. The Regional Council may approve or deny such requests.
- B. **Mission District Re-formation.** From time-to-time it may be necessary to adjust the congregational distribution and geographic boundaries of existing Mission Districts. Such re-alignment of Mission Districts shall be the task of the Regional Council.

***The Carolinas Mission Region
of the North American Lutheran Church
PO Box 6381, Hickory, NC 28603***



AUGUST 2025

WHERE DO WE SEND OUR CHECK??? WHAT MINISTRIES CAN WE SUPPORT???

Questions like these have been asked, especially as a new congregation becomes part of the NALC. We have tried to put some of the basics in one document for easy reference. Hopefully you will find this document helpful. This first page is just a short list of some of the opportunities for you to share your benevolence offerings. The following pages give much more detail on exact ways to send your offerings.

ORGANIZATIONS AND ADDRESSES FOR OFFERINGS

Carolinas Mission Region, PO Box 6381, Hickory, NC 28603

North American Lutheran Church, 2113 Harwood Road, Suite 309, PMB 409, Bedford, TX 76021-4703
(Please use this link for the [Donation Allocation Form](#) found on the NALC website and include that with your check. If receiving this document as a printed copy go to page 5 of this document, item #4 for instructions on how to find the Donation Allocation Form.)

Disaster Response for North Carolina:

Advent Lutheran Church, 230 Oak Grove Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Saint John's Lutheran Church, 740 North Center Street, Statesville, NC 28677

Write Disaster Response Fund in the memo line of your check for both churches

NALC Disaster Response Fund

North American Lutheran Church, 2113 Harwood Road, Suite 309, PMB 409, Bedford, TX 76021-4703.
(Please use this link for the [Donation Allocation Form](#) found on the NALC website and include that with your check. If receiving this document as a printed copy go to page 5 of this document, item #4 for instructions on how to find the Donation Allocation Form.)

Pr. Heidi Punt – NALC Global Worker to Haiti

SMI Haiti, 1530 Heron Ridge Blvd., Greenwood, IN 46143

Pr. David Nuottila – Congo Missionary

Congo Mission International, Inc., 1208 Fifth Street, Rosenberg, TX 77471

Pr. Samar Ghandour – Victory Ministry

Victory Ministry, PO Box 3419, Salisbury, NC 28145

Mission Congregations (only 1 as of July 2025)

Rehoboth Ethiopian Church, c/o Rev. Marta Sabore, 1405 Victoria Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Seminaries

North American Lutheran Seminary

North American Lutheran Church, 2113 Harwood Road, Suite 309, PMB 409, Bedford, TX 76021-4703 (Please use this link for the [Donation Allocation Form](#) found on the NALC website and include it with your check. If receiving this document as a printed copy go to page 5 of this document, item #4 for instructions on how to find the Donation Allocation Form.)

The Lutheran Studies Program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Checks payable and sent to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 14542 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC 28273 with *Lutheran Studies Program* on the memo line.

GIVING HELPS FOR CONGREGATIONS AND TREASURERS

CAROLINAS MISSION REGION

It is **suggested** that congregations **contribute 1% of the congregation's yearly operating budget to the CMR operating budget.** The congregation's "yearly operating budget" consists of all expenses needed to operate the congregation: salaries, utilities, insurance, property maintenance, committee/ministry teams expenses, computer expenses, video/broadcasting licenses and fees, etc. It does NOT include any charitable or benevolent giving.

A copy of the CMR operating budget of \$49,125.00 for 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026 is included in this information. We are asking you to give as you are able to support the items listed in the operating budget. However, you cannot designate your offerings for any part of the operating budget. We refer to any money given (unless otherwise designated) as "Benevolence" or "Unrestricted Funds" because they are given to support everything in the operating budget or for general use.

We pray that we receive more than enough funds to support the operating budget because we have four Restricted Funds which are replenished to a specified amount from the balance of Unrestricted Funds available at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1: Missions, Annual Ministry Support, Youth & Family and Theological Education. If we don't have extra funds, the four Restricted Funds cannot be replenished to the full amount.

There are currently a total of nine "Restricted Funds" with a specific purpose and are not part of the operating budget: Camp/Retreat Project, CMR Men's Group, Intentional Interim Training, Internship Site Assistance Fund, Seminarian Assistance Fund, Theological Education Fund and CMR Youth & Family Fund (which includes Solid Rock Day Camp, Youth Retreat, and General Youth Fund). If you wish to contribute to a Restricted Fund, you MUST designate on the memo line of your check exactly which Restricted Fund you are giving towards.

The Missions Fund is set at a cap of \$20,000 by previous Convocation vote, thus donations to that fund cannot be accepted. Beyond giving benevolent offerings to the CMR, we pray you will also support other missions and ministries.

The amount in the Annual Ministry Support Fund is set each year by the CMR Executive Council and then brought to the Convocation for approval. Therefore contributions are not accepted to that fund.

Checks should be made payable to Carolinas Mission Region and mailed to: Carolinas Mission Region, PO Box 6381, Hickory, NC 28603. No need to put an individual's name on the check or the envelope. Be sure the memo line on the check is specific – for instance Benevolence, Solid Rock Day Camp, Internship Site Assistance Fund and the like. If nothing is listed, it will be deposited as benevolence into the Unrestricted Funds.

DISASTER RESPONSE monetary gifts can be given three ways.

1. Money can be sent to be used for materials/supplies, gas, and other needs of the Warehouse located at Advent Lutheran Church, Kings Mountain.
Make check payable to Advent Lutheran Church and mail to Advent Lutheran Church, 230 Oak Grove Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086. **BE SURE TO WRITE "DISASTER RESPONSE FUND" IN THE MEMO LINE OF THE CHECK.** For more information you can contact Rodney Paulson at paulsonmarried@gmail.com or 704-476-0592 as he is the Eastern Area Coordinator and a member at Advent.
2. Money can be sent to Saint John's Lutheran Church, 740 North Center Street, Statesville, NC 28677. **BE SURE TO PUT "DISASTER RESPONSE FUND" IN THE MEMO LINE OF THE CHECK.** Contact Frank Childress at 704-880-8880 for more information, to schedule a time to bring supplies to their warehouse, find out the supplies needed, etc.

3. You can send money to the NALC Disaster Response Fund to be used for all disasters, repairs to vehicles and equipment, gas, gift cards, mission trips to disaster areas, etc. Please use this link to find the [Donation Allocation Form](#) found on the NALC website and include that with your check. If receiving this document as a printed copy go to page 5, item #4 for instructions on how to find the Donation Allocation Form. You can specify for a specific disaster or geographical area, otherwise it will be used where needed.

MISSIONARIES

There are 3 pastors in the Carolinas that are directly involved as Global Workers. You can contact them to become more involved with their ministries.

1. **Pr. Heidi Punt is a NALC Global Worker to Haiti.** She works through SMI Haiti ("Sundouloi Ministries, Incorporated"). More information can be found at <https://www.smihaiti.org>. Pr. Heidi can be reached at pastor@ulcsalisbury.org or (815) 883-4883. Gifts for this ministry can be sent to SMI Haiti, 1530 Heron Ridge Blvd., Greenwood, IN 46143.
2. **Pr. David Nuottila and Pr. Stephane Kalonji (formerly a pastor in North Carolina) work through the Congo Mission International, Inc.** Gifts for this ministry should be made payable to "Congo Mission International" and sent to Congo Mission International, Inc., 1208 Fifth Street, Rosenberg, TX 77471. You can contact Pr. David Nuottila at revdavidwn@gmail.com or (803) 604-6227 for more information or go the Facebook page for Congo Mission International.
3. **Pr. Samar Ghandour serves through Victory International Ministry** serving West Africa (Liberia, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone). You can contact Pr. Samar at samarghandour@hotmail.com or (704) 490-2744. Gifts for this ministry should be made payable to "Victory Ministry" and sent to Victory Ministry, PO Box 3419, Salisbury, NC 28145.

There are many other Global Workers connected with the NALC and you can find out more about them on the NALC website.

MISSION CONGREGATIONS

As of 2025, the Carolinas Mission Region only has one Mission Congregation – Rehoboth Ethiopian Church. They are currently using worship space at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbia, SC. You can contact Pr. Marta Sabore for information via chuchuiye@yahoo.com or (256) 863-8129. If you wish to support this mission congregation, checks can be made payable to "Rehoboth Ethiopian Church" and mailed to Rehoboth Ethiopian Church, c/o Rev. Marta Sabore, 1405 Victoria Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

SEMINARIANS

The CMR operating budget provides for Scholarships for seminarians who are a member of a NALC congregation in the Carolinas. Most seminarians can always use more financial help and of course, PRAYERS. If you desire to assist the seminarians in any way, we ask you NOT to send funds to the CMR, rather work directly with the seminarian. This helps build relationships and will be a blessing to both parties. In 2025/2026 we expect to have 9 seminarians from the CMR. You can check with the Dean of your Mission District or the CMR Treasurer for specific names and contact information.

SEMINARIES

Contributions to the **North American Lutheran Seminary** (NALS), located in Ambridge, PA can be made through the NALC. Follow the giving directions below under “Giving to the North American Lutheran Church” and include the Donation Allocation Form, putting your gift amount on the line for the North American Lutheran Seminary.

The **Lutheran Studies Program** at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary is now a part of the NALS Network. *However, Gordon-Conwell does not currently receive funding from the NALS.* NALC seminarians there qualify for NALS need-based scholarships from the NALC theological education fund (up to 80% tuition), but other expenditures, including faculty salary and adjunct professor compensation, are not yet part of the NALS budget. A proposal is now in the works to the NALS Board of Regents and the Gordon-Conwell Lutheran Advisory Board that the NALS would begin to incorporate some of our funding into its budget, but that arrangement has yet to be formalized. In the interim, we need your continuing help to grow the program. If you wish to give to this study program please make *checks payable to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and put Lutheran Studies Program on the memo line.* Mail checks to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 14542 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC 28273. The Rev. Dr. Nathan H. Yoder is now the Director of the Lutheran Studies Program.

GIVING TO THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) depends on the faithful generosity of its congregations, members, and friends. Your gifts sustain gospel proclamation, disciple-making, global missions, theological education, disaster relief, and much more. The NALC is deeply grateful for your support. Every gift—large or small—helps the NALC faithfully carry out the work Christ has entrusted to His Church.

To view the options online, go to the NALC’s website (thenalc.org) and in the upper right of the home page click on “Explore the NALC”. Under the column titled “Get Involved”, click on “Give & Support”. There you will find the links to the online giving and the Donation Allocation Form as well as other giving information.

All gifts to the North American Lutheran Church can be either made online or mailed to the lockbox at the address below. Before mailing your donation, please review the “*Instructions for Mailed Donations*” below.

**North American Lutheran Church
2113 Harwood Road, Suite 309,
PMB 409, Bedford, TX 76021-4703 USA**

The NALC recommends 5-8% of the congregation’s operating budget minus benevolence be given to the NALC general operating fund, but that’s all it is, a recommendation.

Instructions for Mailed Donations

To ensure timely and accurate processing, here are some guidelines for how checks should be written:

1. Checks should be payable to **North American Lutheran Church** or **NALC**. Do not include a fund name (such as NALS or Great Commission Fund) on the payee line.
2. Use the memo line to indicate a specific fund. If you leave the memo line blank, your gift will be deposited to the Operating (General) Fund.

3. Specific fund options are listed on the Donation Allocation Form and include General (Operating) Fund, Great Commission Fund, North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS), 20/20 Vision, Disaster Response Fund, Financial Aid (Scholarships), General Theological Education, Women of the NALC (WNALC), WNALC Mission Bank, Bishop Bradosky Discipleship Fund and Amy C. Schifrin Scholarship Fund.
4. If you send a single check with allocations for multiple funds, please use this link to complete the [Donation Allocation Form](#) found on the NALC website and include it with your check. If you receive this guideline by printed copy, go to the NALC's website (thenalc.org) and in the upper right of the home page click on "Explore the NALC". Under the column titled "Get Involved", click on "Give & Support". There you will find the link to the Donation Allocation Form.

NALC MINISTRY PARTNERS

There are several categories of ministry partners in the NALC: Partner Agencies, Global Workers, Recognized Ministries, and Congregational Partnerships.

- **Partner Agencies:** These organizations collaborate with the NALC in carrying out the Great Commission. Each Partner Agency undergoes a thorough application and vetting process and is approved by the Executive Council.
- **Global Workers:** Our Global Workers are individuals who are called to serve as missionaries in different parts of the world. There are 21 Global Workers and there are 4 that have been SUGGESTED as good partners for The Eastern Area of the NALC. Those Global Workers are Kathleen Lutz working in Kenya with Theovision (WMPL), Dagaga Gemachu, also in Kenya with Oromo Christian Fellowship (ALWM), Heidi Punt working with a mission in Haiti (SMI Haiti) and Swapon Sarker in Bangladesh (ALWM).
- **Recognized Ministries:** Recognized Ministries are independent organizations that align with the NALC's mission strategy. They must demonstrate a connection to the Lutheran church, financial integrity, and an evangelical focus.
- **Congregational Partnerships:** Congregational Partnerships are global or local mission efforts initiated and administered by NALC congregations. They often include relationships with churches in Ethiopia (EECMY), Tanzania (ELCT), or other mission contexts.

Go to the NALC's website (thenalc.org) and in the upper right of the home page click on "Explore the NALC". Under the column titled "Get Involved", go to "Mission Partners". It will take you part way down that page and under the heading "Find a Ministry to Adopt" you will see a list of at least 68 Ministry Partners of the NALC. Under each ministry, it will list the type of partner (Global Worker, Recognized Ministry, etc.) and if it is Domestic or Global. If you left click on the ministry you are interested in, a small box will pop up with more information and if you scroll to the bottom of that box you will see the link for their website. Every congregation should be able to find at least one ministry on that page that they can relate to and get involved with. We encourage you to review this page, pray about it, and embrace at least one ministry listed there. We also encourage you to be involved in some fashion in addition to sending monetary gifts.

August 2025



*The Carolinas Mission Region
of the North American Lutheran Church*



Annual Convocation 2026

Friday, May 1 thru Saturday, May 2

at Christiana Lutheran Church, 6190 US Highway 52, Salisbury, NC

As required by the CMR Constitution, Article 7.04: "The responsibilities of the annual Convocation shall include: provision for breakout Mission District Convocations, the business of which may include the election of their respective Deans and other representatives on the Regional Council; installation of officers and the Regional Council; adoption of a budget for the subsequent fiscal year (to be defined as July 1 – June 30) by a majority vote; consideration of mission and ministry needs of the Carolinas Mission Region; reception of reports; and other items of business as may be determined by the Regional Council, the Convener, or by the Convocation." We will provide this AND MORE!

PLEASE PLAN NOW TO ATTEND. ALL CLERGY AND LAITY ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

REMEMBER THE CONSTITUTION NOW ALLOWS FOR 2 DELEGATES FROM EACH CONGREGATION PLUS THEIR PASTOR(S).

go to www.carolinas-nalc.org
to register

REGISTER EARLY !! Lots of events in Salisbury this weekend.

Theme - Unashamed Workers for Christ

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

The Apostle Paul charged Timothy to do his best to present himself to God as one approved, a worker who had no need to be ashamed because of his inability to knowledgeably proclaim the Word of truth rightly. The same goes for us today. As disciples of Christ each of us should know God's word well enough to be able to rightly talk about it to others apologetically.

HOTELS

HAMPTON INN

1001 Klumac Road
Salisbury, NC
(12 minutes from church)
\$159/night King or two Queens

Breakfast included

Call 704-637-8000 or <https://group.hamptoninn.com/4pjcs6>

Use code: Carolinas Mission Region Convocation

Book by **April 1** for this rate

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

125 Marriott Circle
Salisbury, NC
(10 minutes from church)
\$129/night King or two Queens

Breakfast included

[Carolinas Mission Region Convocation 2026](#)
(ctrl & click to get to hotel page)
OR Call 704-314-4100

Use code: Carolinas Mission Region Convocation 2026

Book by **April 1** for this rate

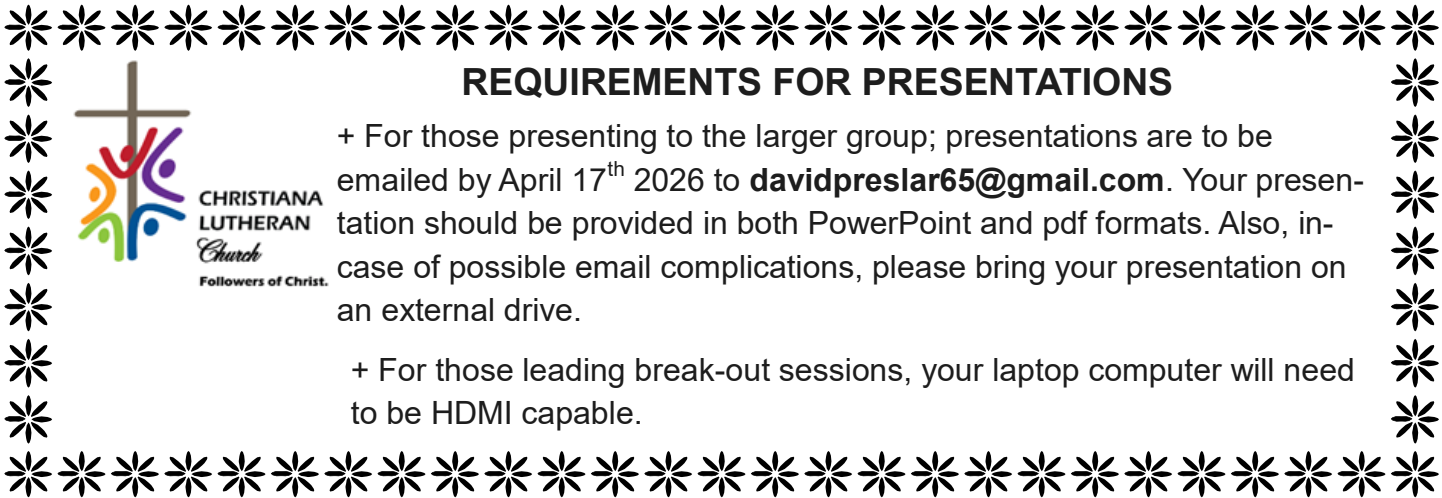
TURN OF THE CENTURY BED AND BREAKFAST

529 S. Fulton St., Salisbury (13 minutes from church)
704-642-1660
\$165-\$195/night depending on the room you select
Free Gourmet Breakfast

Convocation Offerings will be used for continued help for those in need in Western North Carolina. Please make checks payable to "Carolinas Mission Region".

The offering will be collected at the evening worship on Friday.

We encourage ALL congregations to send an offering with their delegate. Please write "Convo Offering" on the memo line of the check.



CHRISTIANA
LUTHERAN
Church
Followers of Christ.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESENTATIONS

+ For those presenting to the larger group; presentations are to be emailed by April 17th 2026 to davidpreslar65@gmail.com. Your presentation should be provided in both PowerPoint and pdf formats. Also, in case of possible email complications, please bring your presentation on an external drive.

+ For those leading break-out sessions, your laptop computer will need to be HDMI capable.

INGATHERING - BATH TOWELS AND WASHCLOTHS

At the Continental Youth Gathering in July 2026, the Youth plan to assemble **2000** Health Care Kits. The CMR Youth are to bring BATH towels and WASHCLOTHS ONLY for the Health Care Kits. The youth are asking for those attending the CMR Convocation to bring bath towels and washcloths with you, so the Youth can take them to the Continental Youth Gathering.

NALC DISASTER RESPONSE INGATHERING

As of March 11, the only disaster response supplies needed at this particular time are shovels, rakes, and brooms.

NEED HELP??

For questions or problems with Registration – Kathy Hefner,
cmdtreasurerナル@gmail.com, 717-224-1050 (cell)

For questions regarding the church site – Madeline Zieverink,
mzieverink@carolina.rr.com, 704-213-4181 (cell)

For questions about the convocation itself – Susan Keefe,
ballkeefe@yahoo.com, 803-773-0775 (home)