

AGENDA 8.1

Commission on Worship

MEMBERS

Pr Adrian Kitson (chair); Pr Matthias Prenzler (vice chair); Mrs Trudi Skene (secretary and Worship Planning Page Manager), Pr Tim Klein, Mrs Sally Mattner and Pr Linards Jansons. Two Lay Member positions have remained vacant.

Consultants: Pr John Kleinig, Mrs Anne Hansen (Product Manager) and Bishop Greg Pietsch

PURPOSE

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

The objects of the Commission on Worship (updated General Convention 2010) are as follows:

- a. to give guidance in conformity with sound Lutheran principles to the church, its pastors, congregations, institutions, auxiliaries, and other organisations, in the theology and practice of Christian worship;
- b. to prepare resources for worship as requested by the church.

The commission comes under the oversight of the College of Bishops.

The commission does much of its work in departments, each of which has its own terms of reference: the Departments of Liturgics, Visual Arts, and Music and Song, with the Department of Drama and Movement being in recess throughout this synodical term.

Commission members all serve on, and represent, one or more Departments.

The commission needs members who provide a range of skills for the projects it undertakes: liturgical scholarship, authoring and editing, visual design and mentoring, music composition and evaluation, project management, web management, product management, plus skills in the preparation and leadership of worship and preaching. Consultants are invited to serve the commission to supplement its skills. The commission generally meets in February and August. During this synodical term it will have met six times.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN SYNODICAL PERIOD AGAINST PLAN

Objectives or Main Duties	Key outcomes over the synodical period
1. to give guidance in conformity with sound Lutheran principles to the church, its pastors, congregations, institutions, auxiliaries, and other organisations, in the theology and practice of Christian worship;	Multiple conversations via various means with local pastors and key lay leaders in the area of Worship and music in Worship.

2. to prepare resources for worship as requested by the church.	<p>a. Provision of children's Message Outlines for each Sunday of the church year in partnership with GROW Ministries.</p> <p>b. Provision of resources that assist the church in its aim to address the issue of domestic violence within our society and in the church.</p> <p>c. Provision of resources for congregations/communities where there are very limited musical resources available.</p> <p>d. Provision of resources and training on the nature of liturgy and song and how they are enacted in our culture faithfully and effectively.</p>
1. To provide support in the area of Worship for the College of Bishops.	<p>a. Input into the planning and enacting of the worship life of the 2018 General Synod,</p> <p>b. Provision of worship resources for the LCA 50/500 anniversaries</p>

SUCSESSES

- Effective delivery of worship resources and response to various issues concern of people the local setting.
- Increasing use of and support for the LCA Worship Planning Page.
- Establishment of a Certificate level music/worship course through ALC in 2018.
- All 50/500 resources completed and distributed.
- Completion of Children's Message resource in 2018.
- Support for College of Bishops in developing and managing the worship life of Convention in October 2018.
- Dialogue re copyright issues with developing more usable and varied music resources for local communities without musicians underway.
- Identification of current needs by consultation with the College of Bishops.
- Completion of 50th Anniversary worship Resources for us in local settings.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

1. The commission **does not have the capacity** to meet the needs fully and in a timely manner due to minimal staffing/resourcing.
2. The commission **struggles to have a sustainable capacity to effectively keep minutes and generally administer its affairs** and would benefit greatly from more centralised resources in the National office to assist with things such as minute secretaries, resource curation and archiving.
3. Again, we have learned that because of the large amount of work and its intensity, planning and coordinating the **worship life for general Synod would be better if it was staffed in some capacity.**
4. There is an acute need for **education, training and support for local lay worship leaders in the area of theology, liturgy, sacramental worship and congregational singing.** We are working on creative ways to meet this need. Having significant help in the LCA National office re copyright advice has been very helpful.
5. We are missing a strong theological connection that has been enjoyed in the past because we have no **direct link to the faculty of ALC.**
6. We continue to do our best to remain engaged in **the ecumenical liturgy and music world.**

RISKS

Description of risk	Likelihood of risk occurring and potential	Summary of action to mitigate the risk
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	impact for the ministry and LCA	
Not enough resource/capacity to meet the needs of staffing the General Convention worship planning and coordination.	Lack of support/education/training of local worship leaders and musicians in the area of Lutheran theology and practice which leads to lack of appreciation and understanding of who we are and what worship is. Our worship life as a church is not as rich as it could be.	Maintain the WPP Coordinator role within LCA budget expenditure/staffing plan. Seek ways to fund the development and coordination of worship life of General Synod as part of general Synod costings.
Not enough resource/capacity to provide usable audio versions of hymns and other music for use in many congregations without musicians or organists.	A decrease in the music and song dimension of our church.	Continue to work collaboratively with other denominations and groups and be highly prioritised in terms of our business.

ALIGNMENT TO LCA STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The commission sees its work largely within the areas of the LCA's Strategic Directions 2013-2018 in the areas of:

- (f) **encourage every congregation to carry out its mission to its local community;**
- (i) **dialogue** with other Christian church bodies;
- (k) **cultivate uniformity in worship**, ecclesiastical practice and customs in accord with the principles laid down in Article X. of the Formula of Concord; and
- (l) **publish, procure, and distribute literature** compatible with the Confession and principles of the church.

Our intention is that our work does indeed help our people to

- 1. Develop a passionate faith in individuals, families and communities shaped by a growing understanding of God's word, nurtured and sustained in prayer and worship.**
- 2. Encourage worship that recognises people receive and respond to God's grace in different ways.**
 01. Develop ways to share experiences of different congregations adapting their worship life in widely different situations
 02. Harness and build on the passion and joy of the worship by our new neighbours
 03. Encourage worship environments that learn from the exuberance of the young (in faith and age) and the wisdom and history of the old.
 04. Develop a culture that is open to learning broadly from the many different ways we can worship God with joy and relevance
- 3. Develop a strong culture of service in individuals, families and communities, both locally and overseas, as a natural outworking of an active faith.**

Our intention is that the guidance we offer, the ecumenical dialogue we undertake and the resources we provide encourage the church in its partnership in the Lord's mission, cultivate a gospel centred, culturally aware and sacramentally shaped worship life in the LCA. Our main means of working at this is via the provision of Lutheran worship resources for use at the local level via digital means.

COOPERATING LCA BOARDS AND AGENCIES

LEA	Joint meeting held in 2014 where discussion about how the commission can serve our schools in the provision of worship resources and ongoing conversation as a result.
Aged Care	Discussion about how the commission can serve Aged Care in the LCA in the provision of resources for use in aged care facilities of the church. Ongoing discussion pending.
Lutheran Media	Joint partnership on the provision of DVD worship services and discussions about the advent on on-line streaming of worship services – particularly for use by isolated and/or vacant congregations.
GROW Ministries	Provision of children's Message Outlines for each Sunday of the church year in partnership with GROW Ministries.
ALC	Provision of Cert IV in Worship through ALC/Grassroots Training now established. More conversation about how to present resource also at local church level under way.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Commission for Worship receive a budget allocation from the LCA to cover meeting expenses (including travel) and employment costs of the Worship Planning Page Manager.