

Multicultural vision for the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand: a call to action

We urge:

- a. All churches in the highly multicultural context of Australia to prayerfully consider aiming to become a multicultural church, whether through the model of linked congregations or one multicultural congregation.
- b. Churches to cultivate genuine cultural respect within the life of the church, recognising each other's cultural expression and accepting it as a kingdom-building resource for the whole church.
- c. Churches to recognise that giving the various cultures voice, starting with the First Nations people of Australia, is an essential ingredient in church's participation in God's mission in the world.
- d. Monocultural Anglo-Australian churches to at least actively seek partnerships with Christians of other cultures.
- e. Monocultural migrant ethnic churches to at least actively seek partnerships with Christians of other cultures.
- f. Non-English-speaking churches to look to their future and the needs of their youth by linking up with other churches with a multicultural orientation.
- g. Churches to include in worship elements from more than one culture, celebrating the cultures represented.
- h. Churches to ensure that their structures reflect the cultural variety present. The presence of people of many cultures is the beginning of multiculturalism, but a church is truly multicultural when more than one culture is expressed in its leadership, decision-making, celebrations, ethos, worship style, decor and public image.
- i. The Lutheran Church of Australia to gather people in multicultural celebrations in order to praise God together and learn how diverse we are and yet how united we can be.
- j. Australian Lutheran College to offer units in multicultural ministry and mission.
- k. The Lutheran Church of Australia to reflect their multicultural make-up in their structures, such as decision-making style, ways of consulting, constitutions, and the availability of translated documents and ways of choosing ordained leaders.
- l. Churches to pursue a multicultural journey not just as a way of being church, but in a missional framework, seeing diversity in unity as a powerful evangelistic witness to the dawning of the new order of relationships which is the kingdom of God.