

COMMITTEE FOR LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. NAME

Lutherans for Life, referred to as “the Committee”.

2. RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH

The Committee is accountable to the Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions and shall fulfil its responsibilities in keeping with the Constitution and the policies of the Church.

3. PURPOSE

3.1 The purpose of the Committee is to

3.1.1 promote and defend the value of life from conception to natural death; and

3.1.2 lead education and other appropriate activities to achieve this end.

4. AUTHORITY

4.1 The Committee has no decision-making authority, except for any specific decision-making authority granted it under a written delegation.

4.2 The Committee may speak for the Church on issues related to its purpose, following approval by the College of Bishops or the General Church Board.

5. MEMBERSHIP

5.1 The Committee shall consist of at least four [4] members and up to seven [7] members appointed by the General Church Board on recommendations from the Standing Committee on Nominations, in consultation with the College of Bishops and Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions:

5.1.1 at least one [1] parish pastor; and

5.1.2 at least [3] lay members; and

The Bishop of the Church, or his appointee, may attend meetings of the Committee

5.2 The Committee shall consist of members with a passion for mission and ministry and with relevant skills, qualifications and experience in one or more of the following areas:

5.2.1 an interest in Lutheran ethics;

5.2.2 a legal background;

5.2.3 financial literacy;

5.2.4 practitioner in the medical field and

5.2.5 experience in life, family or Christian sex education.

5.3 The membership shall include a suitable mix of backgrounds and perspectives which, together with the skills, qualifications and experience, will enable the Committee to fulfil its role.

5.4 The Chairperson shall be appointed by the College of Bishops.

5.5 Up to two [2] consultants may be appointed by the Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions, on recommendation of the Committee, to contribute specialised knowledge that is not available among the membership when addressing specific issues.

6.0 MEETING ARRANGEMENTS AND REPORTING

6.1 Meetings shall be convened by the Chairperson.

- 6.2 It is at the discretion of the Committee to meet face-to-face, by electronic means, or by other means of communication.
- 6.3 Email correspondence may be used for the distribution of minutes, advisory information or approval of documentation.
- 6.4 The minutes of the meetings of the Committee shall be submitted to the Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions.
- 6.5 An annual report of the activities of the Committee shall be submitted to the Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions, and as otherwise requested by the College of Bishops.

7.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 The Committee shall fulfil its responsibilities in keeping with a commitment to the confessional basis of the Church, its objects and its policies and procedures.
- 7.1 The Committee is responsible for, but not limited to
 - 7.1.1 promoting utmost respect for human life since God is Creator and Preserver;
 - 7.1.2 reminding the Church and the world that human life begins at the first instance of conception, sometimes denominated fertilisation;
 - 7.1.3 receiving, administering and expending funds according to the Committee's purpose and the approved action plans.
 - 7.1.4 gaining public support for the protection of human life, especially those persons unborn and born, whose life others would categorise as unwanted, lacking in quality, worthless or otherwise dispensable;
 - 7.1.5 supporting those pregnancy support service centres which do not refer women for abortion but provide them with positive help during and after their pregnancy;
 - 7.1.6 supporting organisations which do not endorse euthanasia or any form of assisted suicide but rather promote palliative care options for those who are seriously ill or dying;
 - 7.1.7 publishing suitable information and educational materials dealing with contemporary life and death issues through appropriate media and having editorial oversight of their content;
 - 7.1.8 providing speakers and organising seminars or workshops with the purpose of creating or maintaining appreciation of God's good gift of human life and the community's responsibility for the ongoing care and protection of life; and
 - 7.1.9 overseeing, supporting and establishing Lutheran for Life Groups in Australia and New Zealand; and cooperating with other persons and organisations in pursuance of its purpose.

8. REVIEW

- 8.1 The Terms of Reference for the Committee shall be reviewed during each Synodical term.
- 8.2 Any changes to the Terms of Reference shall be approved by the General Church Board on recommendation of the Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions, upon review by the Standing Committee on Constitutions.