**COUNCIL FOR LOCAL MISSION**

**Terms of Reference**

**1. NAME**

The Council for Local Mission, referred to as “the Council”.

**2. RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH**

The Council is accountable to the General Church Board and shall fulfil its responsibilities in keeping with the Constitution and the policies of the Church.

**3. PURPOSE**

3.1 The Council shall

3.1.1 provide strategic leadership and support to nurture a growing missional culture in the Church;

3.1.2 develop strategic mission direction and establish the overall policy environment of the Church;

3.1.3 promote and coordinate congregational participation in local mission; and

3.1.4 oversee and monitor the resourcing of the mission of the Church to Australia and New Zealand.

3.2 The work of the Council is underpinned by the foremost Object of the Church, namely to fulfil the mission of God.

**4. AUTHORITY**

4.1 The General Church Board may delegate decision-making authority to the Council under a written delegations policy.

4.2 The policies of the Church shall guide the work of the Council in regard to

4.2.1 governance responsibilities, including compliance with the policies of the Church on Conflict of Interest and Review Processes;

4.2.2 functioning and decision-making; and

4.2.3 reviewing the terms of reference of committees that report to it.

**5. MEMBERSHIP**

5.1 The Council shall consist of seven [7] members appointed by the General Church Board on recommendations from the Standing Committee on Nominations.

5.2 The Council membership shall consist of people with a passion for mission and ministry and the following relevant skills, qualifications and experience:

5.2.1 a chairperson appointed by the General Church Board;

5.2.2 one pastor serving in a local church-related community;

5.2.3 three [3] members with current experience and competence in leading or working in mission in a local context; and

5.2.4 two [2] members with experience in strategic planning and/or organisational management.

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

5.4 The Bishop of the Church is an ex-officio member of the Council.

5.5 The Executive Officer – Local Mission (EO-LM) shall attend meetings of the Council.

5.6 The Council may from time to time meet in the absence of the EO-LM.

5.7 The Council, in consultation with the EO-LM, may invite other guests to attend meetings.

5.8 Up to two [2] consultants may be appointed by the General Church Board on the recommendation of the Council to advise on specific issues.

**6. MEETING ARRANGMENTS AND REPORTING**

6.1 Meetings shall be convened by the Chairperson.

6.2 It is at the discretion of the Council 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 Council meetings shall be submitted to the General Church Board.

6.5 An annual report is submitted to the General Church Board.

**7. RESPONSIBILITIES**

7.1 The Council develops mission policy and practice which

7.1.1 is based on the study of missiology and society and culture;

7.1.2 identifies, assesses and shares lessons from practical experience of mission in the Church;

7.1.3 monitors the development and provision of missional resources to congregations and other ministries of the Church; and

7.1.4 partners with Australian Lutheran College in establishing training programs that build mission capacity within the Church.

7.2 In addition to responsibilities prescribed in Section 8.7 of the By-laws, the Council shall

7.2.1 facilitate an integrated and consistent approach to local mission activity within the Church;

7.2.2 develop strategic plans and ministry priorities, including the financial and resources support required, for approval by the General Church Board;

7.2.3 oversee the finances of the Local Mission Department;

7.2.4 provide strategic leadership in collaboration with the Districts to support and encourage mission in local communities;

7.2.5 identify risks associated with local mission and develop and monitor a risk management plan;

7.2.6 review and monitor the work and well-being of the EO-LM;

7.2.7 oversee the work of committees of the Council by

7.2.7.1 appointing the membership;

7.2.7.2 reviewing and confirming their terms of reference;

7.2.7.3 receiving the minutes of committee meetings;

7.2.7.4 undertake regular performance review of the Directors and Managers of the departments; and

7.2.7.5 providing regular feedback to these committees;

7.2.8 work with the Communications Department of the Church to convey accounts of local mission activities to the wider Church; and

7.2.9 support the recruitment and performance management of the   
EO-LM.

**8. REVIEW**

8.1 The Terms of Reference for the Council shall be reviewed during each Synodical term.

8.2 Any changes to the Terms of Reference shall be approved by the General Church Board, upon review by the Standing Committee on Constitutions.