

AGENDA 2.2.13

Introduction of Christian Care Sunday

PROPOSED MOTION

Submitted by Board for Local Mission

BE IT RESOLVED that General Convention support the development, resourcing and promotion of an annual Christian Care Sunday whose aim is to

1. Provide a focus on the ministry of care provided by congregational members
2. Provide an opportunity to connect Lutheran aged care facilities with local congregations and local congregations with Lutheran aged care facilities
3. Provide an opportunity to connect Lutheran community services with local congregations and local congregations with Lutheran community services
4. Promote the ministry of care that is conducted through Lutheran aged and community services
5. Remind us of the many vulnerable people within our communities and of the work that is done by government and non-government (including faith-based) organisations.

REASONS FOR THE MOTION

1. The LCA is blessed to have many capable volunteers who provide care in their communities in a myriad of ways. A Christian Care Sunday is an opportunity to acknowledge the care provided by volunteers and give thanks for God's bounty and goodness.
2. The Lutheran Church of Australia has a variety of agencies through which it carries out its ministry and mission to the people of Australia and New Zealand. Lutheran aged care services and Lutheran community services are agencies that provide diaconal ministry on behalf of the church. A Christian Care Sunday is a time to thank God for these agencies and give thanks for God's bounty and goodness.
3. In the past, some Lutheran congregations celebrated Christian Community Care Sunday on the last Sunday in September, which coincides with Social Justice Sunday in Catholic churches. The Committee for Ministry with the Ageing, together with the One Loving God project steering committee, believe that reclaiming a celebration of Christian Care will have a positive and motivating effect on the provision of care that occurs in congregational ministry and on the provision of care that occurs through Lutheran aged and community care services.
4. There are many vulnerable people in our communities who suffer from physical, mental, emotional and social problems. Some of these needs are met by government and non-government agencies. Many needs are not met because of a lack of resources or an inability to access resources. Just as Christ cared for the sick and the vulnerable, so we too should consider their needs, respond as and when we are able, and give thanks for those who provide care on a regular basis.