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**Communiqué 2**

**Review of the LCA/NZ Constitution – Phase 1**

**Guiding Principles for a 21st Century LCA/NZ**

**Phase 1 of our half-century Constitutional Review**

6 February 2020

**A message to all members, bodies and agencies of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand**

Dear members and friends of the LCA,

On behalf of our General Synod, the General Church Board is conducting a Review of the LCA/NZ Constitution, as we seek to be faithful to Christ, live the gospel and thrive in this 21st century.

In this second communique about the Review, I am now pleased to invite you to participate in the Review through telling the reviewers what you think needs to change, or alternatively does not need to change, in the LCA/NZ Constitution. The survey will remain open until 30April 2020.

Congregations and Ministries: It will help greatly if as many congregations as possible complete the survey. If you are responding on behalf of your congregation or ministry, you reflect the voice of the congregation or ministry in which you serve. This may not always be your personal view, so please make sure that the congregation/ministry has had the chance to discuss what it wants to say.

Districts, Boards and Agencies: We hope every that District and every Church Board/Agency will complete the survey, after a suitable governance-;evel discussion.

Individuals may also complete the survey.

Important notes:

1. This Review, and therefore this survey, is only about matters relating directly to the LCA/NZ Constitution. If your responses comment on other issues, the reviewers will be unable to respond to them, but will do their best to refer them on to the relevant persons.
2. Individuals will only be able to complete the survey once. If you are the representative of a district, agency, board, committee or congregation AND you also want to complete the survey separately as an individual, you will need to ask another member of the agency, board or congregation etc to complete the survey on that group’s behalf.

A ‘Constitutional Review Discussion Starter’ paper accompanies this communiqué. This paper intentionally takes an ‘arm’s length’ and critical look at our Church, examining where we may be in relation to the societies in which we minister. The paper also lists a number of key issues for us to consider in this Review and, finally, it lists the substantive questions that you will find when you access the electronic survey. This way you know in advance what the survey questions are. The paper is in part provocative in order to stimulate widespread discussion about this Review. To read or download the Discussion Starter paper, [click here](https://lca.box.com/shared/static/dngk22tnm0ym9ez93qtytl0gvi1htrjz.docx).

**Please read and reflect on the ‘Discussion Starter’ paper before your congregation/district/ agency completes the survey.** **Please complete the survey as soon as you can, as the survey finishes on 30 April 2020.**

You can access the survey in two ways. You can [click here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6HWXZ5Y) or go to the [Review webpage](http://www.lca.org.au/constitution-review) where you will find the link.

Once the survey responses have been analysed and aggregated, high-level results will be shared with you in a future communiqué, as well as in the future Review Report.

If you want to also make a separate written submission to this Review you are welcome to do so. Simply email your submission to [ConstitutionReview@lca.org.au](mailto:ConstitutionReview@lca.org.au)

To find out more about this Review (including Communiqué 1), go to the [Review webpage](http://www.lca.org.au/constitution-review).

If you have questions about the Review, please contact Peter Schirmer, Executive Officer of the Church at [peter.schirmer@lca.org.au](mailto:peter.schirmer@lca.org.au)

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John Henderson

Bishop

Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand