

AGENDA 2.3.7

Membership of International Lutheran Council

(See also Agenda 2.2.5 and 2.3.8)

PROPOSED MOTION

Submitted by Holy Cross Congregation, Belconnen ACT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lutheran Church of Australia becomes a full member of the International Lutheran Council.

REASONS FOR THE MOTION

1. The Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) is at present an associate member of the International Lutheran Council (ILC). The LCA participates in Conferences at which it can speak, but cannot participate in the same way as a full member including in the ability to influence decision-making.
2. The ILC is a worldwide association of 37 established confessional Lutheran church bodies which proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of an unconditional commitment to the Holy Scriptures as the inspired and infallible Word of God and to the Lutheran Confessions contained in the Book of Concord as the true and faithful exposition of the Word of God.
3. The ILC exists for the purpose of encouraging, strengthening, and promoting confessional Lutheran theology and practice centering in Jesus Christ, both among member churches and throughout the world:
 - by providing opportunities for the joint study of contemporary theological issues.
 - by giving mutual support and encouragement to the heads of member church bodies.
 - by encouraging and assisting member churches in planning for mission outreach.
 - by strengthening theological education through conferences of theologians and seminary teachers, mission staffs and those involved with human care.
 - by facilitating communication between confessional Lutheran churches of the world through the publication of ILC News.
 - by stimulating and facilitating the preparation and publication of confessional Lutheran literature.
4. Full membership of the ILC would enable the LCA to participate fully, including in decision-making.

Also submitted by the Church of the Good Shepherd Tuggeranong Lutheran Parish, ACT, using identical text.