

Lutheran Church of Australia Victoria & Tasmania District Church Council Strategy 2021-2024						
<b>Vision</b>	Our Vision is to see God’s love come to life in people – as described in the LCA’s Vision: to see God’s love in Christ coming to life in people everywhere through a Lutheran Church that joyfully receives, lives and shares the gospel (cf 1 John 4:9-12).					
<b>Mission</b>	God grows us as his people to a mature faith in Christ – a faith that comes to life through effective witness and ministry, so that people everywhere may know Christ and his love.					
<b>Strategic Initiative</b>	<b>#1</b>	<b>#2</b>	<b>#3</b>	<b>#4</b>	<b>#5</b>	<b>#6</b>
	<i>“Create and support Church Renewal and Church Planting”</i>	<i>“Support congregations in challenging and changing circumstances”</i>	<i>“Minister to a diverse community in our Church”</i>	<i>“Strengthen our Lutheran identity by collaborative mission and ministry with our Schools and Congregations”</i>	<i>“Build our Lutheran community and identity through communication”</i>	<i>“Explore and implement funding models and sources for the District in addition to congregational giving.”</i>
<b>Priorities</b>	<p>Support Pakenham Lakeside as an opportunity to learn and grow our experience.</p> <p>Support Tarneit and explore Geelong region church plant options, and other.</p> <p>Raise capability of sending congregations</p> <p>Explore simple, flexible and appropriate membership and constitutional arrangements for church planting.</p> <p>Leverage national resources and collaborations.</p>	<p>Provide guidance through the COVID-19 Pandemic.</p> <p>Explore and trial new Church Models of leadership and governance that support congregations to focus on mission and ministry, working with resources around the national church.</p> <p>With the national church explore and trial new Pastoral models, resources and pathways to better and more appropriately serve congregations in their particular circumstances (also relevant to Initiative #1).</p> <p>Targeted and easily available training and support for members to be able to carry out the initiatives within their worshipping community.</p> <p>Support congregations through the COVID-19 pandemic and as they emerge, and to embrace the opportunities arising.</p>	<p>Support Lutheran identity and mission and ministry in aged care, youth ministry, camping, and migrant ministries.</p> <p>Encourage our congregations, schools, aged care and camps to support each other and work collaboratively.</p> <p>Support LCA teaching on the church as a diverse people in Christ, united by the Spirit in faith, included in his family, reconciled to God in Christ and to one another in love.</p> <p>Support synodical unity on the matter of women’s ordination.</p> <p>Continue to strengthen governance models in aged care, schools, camping, congregations and the District.</p> <p>Embrace new Worship and ministry technologies. Provide supporting tools and share best practices.</p> <p>Leverage National worship technologies when appropriate and encourage shared resources and collaboration.</p> <p>Build skills in congregations to utilise and exploit the benefits and capabilities of modern communications technology.</p>	<p>Finalise the appropriate governance structures for LEVNT for good governance and compliance.</p> <p>Ensure strong mission and ministry links between District and Department, and local Schools and Congregations.</p> <p>Strong engagement and interaction with new LEVNT Ltd Board. Engage in strategy development of LEVNT Ltd.</p> <p>Ensure viable and sustainable Schools with strong Lutheran Identity and Purpose.</p>	<p>Supporting information during COVID-19.</p> <p>Communicate through a wider range of contacts and platforms.</p> <p>Leverage LCA National Media. Promote the work and what is available through National Church.</p> <p>Raise the profile of District Office, DCC, and the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Share and celebrate the wins from across the District.</p> <p>Continue DCC regional visits and interaction – communicate outcomes and learnings.</p> <p>Engage regularly with Pastors, Church Councils, Synod delegates and members.</p>	<p>Transition to Riversdale Road site co-location with St Pauls Box Hill and LEVNT.</p> <p>Encourage and support congregations and parishes to share resources and models to fund them.</p> <p>Create and promote more specific giving (sponsorship) initiatives based on the Strategic Initiatives – ie church planting.</p> <p>Promote volunteering and giving of in-kind resources, and sharing of gifts and talents.</p>
<b>The Objects</b>	We are guided by the Objects of the Church - Proclaim the Word of God; Administer the Sacraments; Unite in one Body; Maintain Christian Unity; Provide Pastors, Teachers & Workers; Encourage local mission; Establish, develop & support new congregations; Support churches in other lands; Dialogue with other Christian churches; Establish & maintain schools; Uniformity in worship; Publish, procure and distribute literature; Minister to human need; Protect our congregations, pastors, teachers and workers.					
<b>Our Values</b>	Our Values are those of the National Church. Through faith in Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit we are “Shaped by the gospel of grace”, “Blessed by relationships” and United by Christ’.					

Created: Oct 2020.

Approved DCC: December 2020.

Review (no change) April 2021