

AGENDA 2.2.9

Our Direction 2018–2024

PROPOSED MOTION

Submitted by General Church Council

BE IT RESOLVED that Synod approve the document 'Our Direction 2018–2024' as a catalyst for action.

REASONS FOR THE MOTION

In 2013 the General Convention of Synod adopted a Strategic Direction 2013–2018.

The 'Report of the Strategic Direction 2013–2018' (refer GCC Report - Attachment G) provides a summary of what has been achieved over the past six years.

The GCC has reviewed the strategic direction and, as stated in the report, it believes the current priorities are still relevant and therefore no major changes are necessary for the period 2018–2024.

However, it is proposed that there are some changes in emphasis, with particular attention to:

1. equipping people for mission and ministry in the church, local communities and the wider world;
2. promoting and encouraging a greater participation by Lutherans of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background in the life of the church. A major proposed initiative is the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan;
3. a strong commitment to the protection of people, especially children and the vulnerable; and
4. developing stronger collaboration and relationships between all parts of the church to support mission, including districts, schools, aged care and community service organisations.

We recommend to the General Synod that it adopts the document 'Our Direction 2018–2024'.



Our Mission

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.

Our Values

Through faith in Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit we are:

Shaped by the gospel of grace:

- as an undeserved gift from God
- as a life changing and life-giving word
- in equipping us for action

Blessed by relationships

- in service to each other
- in respect for each others' gifts
- in witness to our communities and the world

United by Christ

- in our confession of faith
- in working together and sharing resources

Inspired by compassion

- in actions and words
- favouring people who are poor and those who are marginalised

Marked by integrity

- for effective witness
- for excellence in service
- for stewardship of God's gifts

Our Direction 2018–2024

We work together in bringing to life the Objects of the Church.

Our vision is 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).

OUR PRIORITIES

1. Grow as God's People

- 1.1 Support a passionate faith in individuals, families and communities shaped by a growing understanding of God's word, nurtured and sustained in prayer and worship
- 1.2 Encourage worship that recognises people receive and respond to God's grace in different ways
- 1.3 Equip people for mission and ministry in the church, local communities and the wider world
- 1.4 Raise the awareness in our communities of issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and grow their meaningful participation in the life and mission of the church
- 1.5 Protect and uphold the dignity of people, especially children and the vulnerable, to lead lives in peace and safety

2. Go as God's People

- 2.1 Strengthen a missional culture where individuals, families and communities are inspired, passionate and active in sharing the gospel
- 2.2 Encourage strong missional-oriented leadership by supporting pastors, lay workers and other leaders to be effective ministers of Christ in a changing world
- 2.3 Support collaborative, missional-oriented approaches in changed and changing mission fields
- 2.4 Seek and grow new mission fields, working in partnership across the church and others that share our values
- 2.6 Support existing communities to be active in mission
- 2.7 Encourage continued support for overseas ministries carried out through effective church to church partnerships

3. Enable us to Grow and Go

- 3.1. Governance
 - 3.1.1 Strengthen governance at all levels, clarify accountabilities and ensure appropriate support
 - 3.1.2 Improve governance structures and the relationships between all parts of the church, including districts, schools, aged-care and community-service organisations
- 3.2. Engagement and Communications
 - 3.2.1 Support greater engagement with local communities to assist churchwide services be responsive to their needs
 - 3.2.2 Support church ministries to effectively use diverse media to inspire and equip individuals, families and communities to grow and go
 - 3.2.3 Encourage local communities so that they feel valued, united and hopeful within their wider church family
 - 3.2.4 Deepen collaboration between the ministries of the church to achieve integrated and effective communications and engagement across the church
- 3.3. Assets and Resources
 - 3.3.1. Enhance care of our people, especially church workers and their families
 - 3.3.2. Improve the use of our assets and resources that releases support to mission and ministry
 - 3.3.3. Enhance stewardship of our assets and resources
 - 3.3.4. Encourage greater support for the work of the church using innovative approaches