

Twentieth Regular Convention of General Synod Minutes

Part A – Online sessions 1-2 October 2021

Hosted by Concordia College, Highgate South Australia

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Spiritual Life at Convention

1. Convention theme – Come, listen, live

The Convention of General Synod theme is based on Isaiah 55:3 '...**come** to me, **listen**, that you may **live**.'

COME – come to Jesus and there you will see how much God loves you and how much he paid to redeem you. His cross is your beginning and your end. Everything in your life and death is anchored and finds its meaning there. Here is where you come to be reborn – to repent, to lay down your burdens. Here you receive new life – forgiveness, renewal and refreshment.

LISTEN – pause at the cross, be still, hear the timeless God speak to you from the cross. Hear his voice in the crosses of your own life and in the life of the church. Lay aside the load you carry, all the voices demanding your attention, even those of your own making. Here at the cross, listen to God and you will receive everything you need ...

... that you may **LIVE**. Life truly comes when we live through the cross of Christ, in the power of his death, resurrection and ascension. Jesus is where God meets us on earth, and we know abundant life in him, life marked by the fruits of the Spirit and life eternal with him forever.

2. Logo explanation

The cross is central and prominent. Lutheran teaching always points to and revolves Jesus. Our teaching is interpreted by his cross. It's the lens through which we view the world. The cross shapes our relationships with God and with others.

The circle represents a how all creation finds its centre and its purpose in Jesus.

The background landscape mosaic places the cross in the context of the world in which we live, and our place and purpose in it.

The text (come, listen, live) is embedded around the cross, circling it in a continuous, never-ending movement. The invitation of God to come, listen and live at the foot of the cross is a lifetime calling.

3. Synod Offering

The 2021 Synod offering of \$19,097.60 was received for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea, a partner church of the LCA NZ. The offering will support in-service training of pastors in the ELCPNG so that they may be strengthened in their ministry of the gospel.

Roll Call of 2021 General Synod Delegates

^ Alternate for general Synod delegate who is unable to attend

* Apology given or absent

General Church Board

Bishop	John	Henderson
Assistant Bishop	Andrew	Pfeiffer
Secretary of the Church	Nigel	Long
Member	Paul	Argyle
Member	Charmaine	Harch
Member	Faye	Schmidt
Member	Tim	Stringer
Member	Tim	Wiebusch
Member	Mel	Zerner
Member	Peter	Zweck

Chairpersons of LCA Boards and Councils

ALWS Board	Jodie	Hoff
Australian Lutheran College Board	Kristine	Gebbie
Board for Lutheran Education Australia	Brett	Hausler
Council for Local Mission	Monika	Tropiano
Finke River Mission Board	Tim	Stollznaw

District Bishops

NSW-ACT District Bishop	Robert	Bartholomaeus
NZ District Bishop	Mark	Whitfield
Qld District Bishop	Mark	Vainikka
SA-NT District Bishop	David	Altus
Vic-Tas District Bishop	Lester	Priebbenow
WA District Bishop	Michael	Fulwood

Lutheran Education Principals

Principal - LEQ	Tanya	Crooks
Principal - LEVNT	Sue	Ellis
Principal - LEQ	Jodie	Hoff
Principal - LESNW	Francois	Pienaar
Principal - LEVNT	Greg	Schneider
Principal - LESNW	Daryl	Trigg

Parish Lay Delegates

New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory

Albury St Lukes Congregation	John	McClelland
Belconnen Holy Cross Congregation	Tony	von Brandenstein
Burrumbuttock Parish	Alison	Viedt
Campbelltown Good Shepherd Congregation	Barbara	Weber
Canberra Holy Trinity Finnish Congregation	John	Knight
Canberra-Queanbeyan Parish	Leigh	Nielsen
Central Coast St Matthews Congregation	Alan	Waterson
Central West parish	Tim	Sander*
Cooma Trinity Congregation	Sabine	Hickling
Epping LifeWay Congregation	Sabina	Pichler
Gilgandra-Dubbo Parish	Janet	Cheal
Gunnedah-Tamworth parish	Peter	Madirazza*
Henty Parish	Jeannie	Kenney
Lavington Grace Parish	Jean	Klier
Leeton-Griffith Parish	Charmain	Lieschke
Liverpool Living Waters Congregation	Gillian	Brooks
Narraweena Redeemer Congregation	Rene	Van den Tol
Port Macquarie St Peters Congregation	David	Pfeiffer
Springwood Our Saviour Congregation	Robert	Brown

St Marys St Pauls Congregation	Martin	Vanags
Sutherland Good Shepherd Congregation	Alison	Short
Sydney Indonesian (GKIA) Congregation	Trina	Supit
Sydney Southern Cross Finnish Parish	Tuula	Kuusela
Sydney St Pauls Congregation	Bruce	Arnold
Temora Lutheran Community Congregation	Robert	Pfeiffer
Tuggeranong Good Shepherd Congregation	Karen	Hannola
Wagga Wagga Parish	Malcolm	Kohlhagen [^]
	Rhonda	Lieschke*
Walla Walla Parish	Leon	Schoff
West Wyalong Immanuel Congregation	Jan	Doecke*
Woden Valley Immanuel Congregation	Kate	Traeger
Yagoona Concordia Congregation	Ian	Parisi*

New Zealand

Auckland Botany Chinese Congregation	David	Pang
Auckland Mountainside Congregation	Ray	Meharg
Christchurch St Pauls Congregation	Andrew	Mattiske*
Hamilton Parish	Steven	Liebelt
Hawkes Bay Redeemer Congregation	Bill	Groves
Kawerau Congregation	Erik	Rohde*
Manawatu Parish	Sheree	Garth*
Marton St Martins Congregation	Trevor	Jurgens*
Upper Moutere St Pauls Congregation	Tessa	Werner*
Wairarapa Parish		
Wellington St Pauls Congregation	Robert	Nippert
Whanganui Parish		

Queensland

Alberton Parish	Kelly	Johnston*
Ashmore Trinity Congregation	Robin	Braunack
Beaudesert St Pauls Congregation	Rebecca	Waters
Beenleigh Bethesda Congregation	Jon	Janetzki
Bethania Congregation	Christine	McDermott
Biloela Parish	Eureka	Coetzee*
Brassall St Marks		
Brisbane City St Andrews Congregation	Owen	Dixon
Buderim Congregation	Stephen	Mayer
	Rachel	Schilling
Bundaberg Parish	John	Dwyer*
	Ron	Pozzan
Caboolture St Pauls Congregation	Martin	Simmons
Cairns Parish	Kathleen	Close
Caloundra St Marks Congregation	Narelle	Jefferd*
	Ray	Morris [^]
Corinda St Johns Congregation	Graeme	Drapper
Crows Nest Parish	Jeffrey	Von Hoff*
Eight Mile Plains Parish	Barry	Noller*
Emerald St Johns Congregation	Robin	Jaensch
Everton Hills Prince of Peace Congregation	Sharryn	Cook
Fassifern Parish	Greg	Harmer
Gladstone St Martins Congregation	Neville	Gersch
Glasshouse Country Calvary Congregation	Robert	Smyth
Goombungee-Maclagan Parish	Judy	Hartwig
Gympie Zion Congregation	Jaydon	Bellingan*
Hervey Bay St James Congregation	Colin	Mibus
Highfields Christ Congregation	Barry	Darr*
	Dale	Pukallus [^]
Hope Vale Parish	Bruce	Woibo

Indooroopilly St Peters Congregation	Bruce	Lockwood
Ingham St Marks Congregation	Michelle	Crisafulli*
Ipswich Parish	Will	Milligan
Lockyer Valley Parish	Neil	Huth
	Ian	Rickus*
Lowood Parish	Aaron	Heck*
Mackay Community Congregation	Marie	Robke
Maryborough-Childers Parish	Heather	Brady*
Middle Park Good News Congregation	Katherine	Matuschka
Moree Parish	Susan	Promnitz
Mount Gravatt St Marks Congregation	Andrew	Spyropoulos
Mount Isa Congregation		
Murrumba Downs Living Faith Congregation	Danielle	Robinson
Nambour St Lukes Congregation	Philip	Thamm
Noosa Good Shepherd Congregation	Stephen	Wenke
Northern Rivers		
Nundah St Pauls Congregation	Jai	Raynor
Oakey Congregation		
Pittsworth Parish	Kathleen	Hanley*
Queensland Asian Congregation	Tim	Yiu
Redcliffe Grace Congregation	Garth	Hunt^
	Len	Weis*
Redlands Congregation	Helana	Siczek*
Rochedale Our Saviour Congregation	Neil	Bergmann
Rockhampton		
Rosewood District Parish	Janet	Krause
South Burnett Parish	Keith	Campbell
South West Queensland Parish	Daryn	Stiller
Southport Trinity Congregation	Neil	Lehmann*
Tallebudgera St Andrews (Gold Coast) Congregation	Judy	Hembrow
Tingalpa-Mt Cotton Parish	Inari	Thiel
Toowoomba Cornerstone Parish	Hazel	Weis
Toowoomba Emmanuel Fellowship Congregation	Anita	Short
Toowoomba Good Shepherd Congregation	Judith-Anne	Kleinschmidt
Toowoomba Redeemer Parish	John	Schulz
Toowoomba St Pauls Congregation	Robert	Steger
Townsville Parish	Corrie	Steel*
Wilsonton-Glencoe Parish	Geoffrey	Becker
Woolloongabba Nazareth Congregation	Helen	Beringen
Woolloongabba Nazareth Finnish Congregation	Leena	Vuorinen
<u>South Australia and Northern Territory</u>		
Aberfoyle Park Our Saviour Congregation	Andrew	Venning
Adelaide Bethlehem Congregation	Joanna	Hensley
	Gilbert	Materne
Adelaide St Stephens Congregation	Tanya	Wittwer
Albert Park-Semaphore Parish	Lucinda	Osborne
Alice Springs Parish	Bruce	Lindner
Angaston Parish	Suzanne	Graetz
Anmatyerr Language Area	Richard	Morton
	Seraphina	Presley-Haines
Balaklava Parish	Jarrad	Thiele
Barossa North Parish	Sabina	Frahn
	Josephine	Freckelton
Berri Barmera Lutheran Congregation	Trevor	Ziersch
Bethany-Tabor Parish	Raelene	Falland
Birdwood Holy Cross Congregation	Kelly	Mathews
Blackwood St Peters Congregation	Margaret	Modra
Blair Athol St Paul Congregation	Kate	Fox

Bordertown Parish	David	Wagenknecht
Bridgewater Grace Congregation	Mark	Christian
Broken Hill St Pauls Congregation	Marilyn	Hohnberg*
Carlsruhe-Saddleworth Parish	Gregory	Schmaal
Ceduna Parish	Wayne	Cooper
Central Eyre Peninsula parish	Kingsley	Scholz*
Cleve Lutheran Parish	Anthony	Zwar
Cummins Parish	Katrina	Agnew*
Darwin Top End Parish	Karen	Weier
Dernancourt St Johns Congregation	Mervyn	Wagner
Elizabeth St Peters Congregation	Colleen	Hage
Eudunda-Robertstown Parish	Dagmar	Roocke
	Philip	Roocke
Ferryden Park St Pauls Congregation	Marilyn	Wall
Fullarton St Peters Congregation	Craig	Hall
Gawler Lutheran Congregation	Joanne	Chamberlain
Glenelg St Pauls Congregation	Joel	Savage
Glynde St Andrews Congregation	Irwin	Traeger
Glynde Zion Congregation	Benjamin	Pfitzer
Golden Grove Congregation	Rosalie	Hoklas
Goolwa Redeemer Congregation	Tony	Carbone*
Greenock Parish	Margaret	Koch
Hahndorf St Michaels Congregation	David	Dreckow
Hahndorf St Pauls Parish	Marjorie	Ridenour
Hallett Cove Good Shepherd Congregation	Martin	Schumacher
Hampstead Holy Trinity Congregation	Mark	Kleinig
Hope Valley Trinity Congregation	Ruth	Jericho
Kangaroo Island Congregation	Wayne	Loechel*
Kingston SE St Johns Congregation	Rollo	Schaefer*
Light Lutheran Congregation	Gary	Schmidt
Lobethal Congregation	Bronwen	Klose
Loxton Parish	Lyndon	Hampel
	Samuel	Hentschke
Lyndoch Parish	Graeme	Heinrich
Magill Pilgrim Congregation	Mark	Schubert
Maitland Parish	Greg	Schulz
Mallee Lutheran Parish	Darren	Heintze
Mawson Lakes Community Congregation	Amy	Mann
McLaren Vale St Pauls Congregation	Keith	Eckermann
Mid Murray Parish	Alison	Eggers*
	Steven	Marks^
Mid North Lutheran Parish	Kym	Dreckow
Millicent St Pauls Congregation	Michael	Osborne
Morphett Vale Calvary Congregation	Rodney	Poole*
Mount Barker St Marks Congregation	Kym	van de Meulengraaf
Mount Compass St John Congregation	Jeff	Brittain
Mount Gambier St Martins Congregation	Lynette	Pattimore
Murray Bridge Christ Church Congregation	Delton	Schiller
Murray Bridge Holy Cross Congregation	Tanya	Hanckel
Nairne Redeemer Congregation	Michael	Gladigau
Naracoorte Parish	Bernie	Pfitzer
North Adelaide Immanuel Congregation	Wendy	Mayer
Novar Gardens Immanuel Congregation	Trevor	Hartmann
Nuriootpa St Petri Congregation	Lynette	Albrecht
	Robert	Albrecht
Onkaparinga Parish	Iris	Gladigau
Para Vista Good Shepherd Congregation	Robyn	Oatey
Paringa Holy Cross Congregation	Margaret	Simpfendorfer
Pasadena Trinity Congregation	Graeme	Payne
Penrice Salem Evangelical Congregation	Malcolm	Fechner

Pintupi/Luritja Language Area	Stanley	Roberts
Port Lincoln Our Saviours Congregation	Punata	Stockman
Port Pirie Parish	Geraldine	Avent
Renmark St Johns Trinity Congregation	David	Burger
Roxby Downs Congregation	Dennis	Hentschke*
Salisbury "The Ark" Congregation	Andrew	Winterfield*
Seaford Congregation	Cathryn	Hamilton
Southern Flinders Parish	Josephine	Baxter
Southern Yorke Peninsula Parish	Yvonne	Woidt
Strathalbyn Parish	Gina	Voigt*
Swan Reach Parish	Malcolm	Twartz
Tanunda Grace Lutheran Congregation	Alan	Reynolds
Tanunda Langmeil Congregation	David	Saegenschmitter
Tanunda Lutheran Home Chapel Congregation	Erich	Holzknicht
Tea Tree Gully St Johns Congregation	Glenis	Kupke
Underdale Glandore Lutheran Congregation	Selina	Wilksch*
Unley St Johns Congregation	Mark	Koch
Victor Harbor Congregation	Pam	Mickan
Waikerie Parish	Patricia	Walker
Warradale Faith Congregation	Bill	Mudge
Western Arrarnta Language Area	Mark	Materne
Whyalla St James Congregation	Rodney	Malbunka
	Keith	Sichler

Victoria (incl Tasmania)

Ballarat St Johns Congregation	Simon	Marcollo*
Bendigo Parish	Ian	Burdett
Box Hill St Pauls Congregation	Ben	Gargett
Chinese Lutheran Congregation	Terry	Wong*
Dimboola-Natimuk Parish	Andrea	Cross
Doncaster-Ivanhoe Congregation	Alan	Senior*
Footscray St Matthew Congregation	Helen	Semmler
Geelong Parish	Norma	Koehne
Gippsland Parish	Dieter	Melzer
Goulburn Murray Parish	Kathleen	Mills
Grampians Parish	Annie	Gellert
Greensborough Thomastown Parish	Devon	Dutschke
Grovedale Parish	Michael	Dillon
Hamilton St Matthew Congregation	Lesley	Johnson
Hobart St Peters Congregation	Sonia	Weidenbach
Horsham Holy Trinity Congregation	Steve	Cramer
	Rosemary	Cramer
Laverton Christ the Lords Slovak Congregation		
Melbourne Finnish Congregation	Satu	Kirk
Melbourne Hungarian		
Melbourne North West Regional Ministry Parish	Sandra	Wakeling
Melbourne Outer Eastern Congregation	Sabine	Haeusler
Melbourne South Eastern Congregation		
Melbourne St Johns Southgate Congregation	Katherine	Lieschke
Mildura Holy Trinity Congregation	Helen	Zibell
Minyip-Warracknabeal Parish	Summer	Schultz
Moorabbin-Dandenong Congregation	Jenny	Pietsch
Murtoa St Johns Congregation	Dennis	Schorback
Nhill Parish	Stephen	Zanker
North Geelong Our Redeemer Congregation	Elizabeth	Jewson
North Tasmania Parish	Leanne	Holland
Nunawading-Waverley Congregation	Merrilyn	Beaumont
Portland-Heywood Congregation	Sandra	McCallum
Rainbow Parish	Karen	Koning
Ringwood-Knox Parish	Teresa	Goldsbrough

Rosebud Bethany Congregation
 Swan Hill St Pauls Congregation
 Tabor Bethlehem Congregation
 Tarrington Parish
 Warrnambool Parish
 Wodonga Parish
 Wyndham Hobsons Bay Congregation

John Kuchel
 Lyn Scott*
 Tara Modra
 Gavin Bensch
 Geoff Nuske
 Carolyn Kiss
 Adam Zibell

Western Australia

Albany St Pauls Congregation
 Dalyellup Ocean Forest Lutheran Fellowship
 Duncraig Concordia Congregation
 Esperance-Kalgoorlie-Boulder Parish
 Geraldton Hope Congregation
 Katanning-Narrogin Parish
 Morley Bethlehem Congregation
 Parkwood St Lukes Congregation
 Perth Grace Chinese Congregation
 Perth St Johns Congregation
 Rockingham-Mandurah Congregation

Arlene Gimondo*
 Murray Pfitzner
 Maria Rudolph
 Nancy Willumsen
 Joanne Klein
 Raymond Kowald
 Christopher Kuchel
 Ronda Hahn
 Galvin Chong
 Monica Bodenstaff
 Manuela Swift^
 Oliver Swift*

Pastor Delegates

Australian Lutheran College

Stephen Haar	Adam Hensley	Stephen Hultgren
Thomas Pietsch	Stephen Pietsch	James Winderlich

Emeriti

John Kleinig	Greg Lockwood	Peter Lockwood
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Past Presidents/Bishops

Michael Semmler

New Zealand

Nich Kitchen	Jim Pietsch	Darryl Shoesmith
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New South Wales and Australia Capital Territory

John Borchert	Erik Braunack-Mayer	Christian Fandrich
Peter Fuhlbohm*	Joseph Graham	Paul Hannola
Darren Jaensch	James Leach	Darryl Mattner
Dan Mueller	Timothy Muller	Hans Peethala
Janne Pekkarinen	Mark Schultz	Richard Schwedes
Kees Sturm*	Mathew von Stanke	

Queensland

Brenton Altmann	Thomas Bohmert	Russell Brieze
Noel Burton	Rob Edwards	Adam Eime
Mark Gierus	Gregory Graham	David Haak
Mark Hansen	Ben Hentschke	Michael Jarick
Tim Jarick	Geoff Johnston	Andrew Koehler
Jing Luan	Michael Mayer	Mark Nitschke
Peter Noble	Ryan Norris	Joel Pukallus*
Lionel Rohrlach	Martin Scharnke	Gregory Schiller
David Schmidt	Ken Schultz	David Seligmann
Brian Shek	Paul Smith	Luke Spilsbury
Ed Szabo*	Matthew Thomas	Tommi Vuorinen
Matthew Wilksch	Mark Winter	

South Australia and Northern Territory

Valdis Andersons	Matthew Anker	Guntars Baikovs
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Andrew Bettison
Andrew Brook
Tim Ebbs
Chris Gallasch
Steven Hibbard
Adrian Kitson
Peter Klemm
Ian Lutze
Reid Matthias
Joshua Muller
Ben Pfeiffer
Leon Rosenberg
Jason Sander*
Stephen Schultz
Lee Van Rossen
Rodney Witmitz

Matthew Bishop
Paul Calnan
Matthew Edgecomb
Dale Gosden
Mathew Ker
Tim Klein
Geoff Kuchel
Chris Mann
Keith McNicol
Fraser Pearce
Michael Prenzler
Nigel Rosenzweig
Basil Schild
John Strelan
Andrew Vanderwal
Mark Worthing

Robert Borgas
Avito da Graca Costa
Richard Fox
Paul Hage
Paul Kerber
Fin Klein
David Kuss
Shaun Manning
Dean Mills
Joshua Pfeiffer
Dan Rooney
Andrew Ruddell
Rob Schubert
Joseph Theodorsen
Greg Vangsness

Victoria (incl Tasmania)

Howard Beard
Peter Ghalayini
Tom Hoffmann
Eugene Minge
Matthias Prenzler
Carl Richter
Carl Thiele
John Weier

Boyd Briese
Levi Graham
Brett Kennett
Sam Modra
Chris Raatz
Michael Steicke
Ian Vainikka

Tony Castle
Neil Guthrig
Lucas Matuschka
Wayne Muschamp
Frank Rasenberger
Tim Stringer
Gordon Wegener

Western Australia

Peter Hage
Andre Meyer

Steven Liersch
Jason Pokela

James Luk
Michael Rudolph

Consultants and Staff

Chief Executive Officer – LLL Australia
Church Worker Support Manager
Commission on Social & Bioethical
Questions, Chairperson
Cross-Cultural Ministry Facilitator
Executive Director - Australian Lutheran World
Service
Executive Director - Lutheran Education Australia
Executive Officer - Local Mission
Executive Officer of the Church
Grow Ministries Director
LCA Administration Assistant
LCA Business Manager
LCA Communications Manager
LLL Australia Board, Chairperson
Lutheran Archives Director
Lutheran Men of Australia, Chairperson
Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia
Lutheran Super, Chairperson
Lutheran Women of Australia, Chairperson
New & Renewing Churches Manager
Professional Standards Manager
Suomi Conference, Executive Director
Standing Committee on Constitutions, Chairperson
Standing Committee on Nominations, Chairperson

Ross
Christine

Cathryn
Craig
Jamie

Lisa
Tania
Peter
Jodi
Jayne
Debbie
Linda
Graeme
Rachel
David
Megan
John
Wendy
Nathan
Tim
Ian
David
Colleen

Smith
Materne

Hamilton
Heidenreich
Davies

Schmidt
Nelson
Schirmer
Brook
Welke
Venz
Macqueen
Huf
Kuchel
Pfeiffer
Materne
Grocke*
Habel
Hedt
Ross
Vainikka*
Dreckow
Fitzpatrick

Business of Convention

Day 1 - Friday 1 October 2021

Gathering Worship Service

Presider: Bishop of LCA Qld District Mark Vainikka

Text: Matthew 14:13-21

Liturgist: Rev Ben Hentschke

Welcoming rites: Bishop John Henderson

Business Session One

Preliminaries

1-01 Formal constituting of Convention (Agenda 1.1)

Bishop John Henderson declared open the Twentieth Regular Convention of General Synod 2021 at the Opening Service hosted in the Concordia College Chapel at Unley SA on Friday 1st October 2021.

1-02 Opening formalities and Welcome (Agenda 1.2.6)

Bishop John Henderson welcomed the Synod to the 2021 online sessions of the Twentieth Regular Convention of General Synod.

An Acknowledgement of Country was provided by the LCA Secretary of the Church, Dr Nigel Long.

An Acknowledgement of Māori was provided by Bishop Mark Whitfield from New Zealand. All indigenous delegates were welcomed to convention.

LCA Secretary, Dr Nigel Long, introduced the rules for transacting business, including online provisions.

Bishop John advised how the electronic voting process would occur, including timing, sending and receiving of votes. If required, voting would be by counting hands raised for and against using the hand icon in Zoom.

1-03 Endorsements (Agenda 1.2.1, 1.2.3-1.2.5)

The Convention endorsed the appointment of the following:

Minute Secretaries - Kate Burke, Holly Koning, Michelle Storie, Dianne Bergen, Tracy Smith, Ben Schubert and Jayne Welke

Communications Officers - Linda Macqueen and Lisa McIntosh

Committee for Verification of Minutes – Helen Martul, Susan Wood and Neil Lutz

Electoral Committee – Ray Pace (Chairperson), Rev Roger Atze, Bruce Kucks, Mark Hensel and Beth Toomey

1-04 Roll Call (Agenda 1.2.8)

LCA Secretary, Dr Nigel Long, announced that there were 359 registered delegates attending convention at 9:15 am at the opening business session. Dr Long advised a quorum was 226 (By-law 7.2.6). A quorum was declared.

1-05 Apologies (Agenda 1.2.9)

LCA Secretary Dr Nigel Long advised there were 29 apologies. Apologies were received from: Katrina Agnew, Jaydon Bellingan, Heather Brady, Tony Carbone, Michelle Crisafulli, Barry Darr, Jan Doecke, Alison Eggers, John Grocke, Marilyn Hohnberg, Narelle Jefferd, Rhonda Lieschke, Wayne Loechel, Peter Madirazza, Simon Marcollo, Ian Parisi, Rev Joel Pukallus, Tim Sander, Rev Jason Sander, Rollo Schaefer, Kingsley Scholz, Lyn Scott, Alan Senior, Rev Kees Sturm, Oliver Swift, Rev Ian Vainikka, Gina Voigt, Len Weis, Andrew Winterfield.

1-06 Greetings (Agenda 1.2.10)

Greetings were received from:

- Right Reverend George Samiec, Chairman of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England
- Bishop Phillip Huggins, President of the National Council of Churches in Australia

1-07 Receive Reports (Agenda 1.2.11)

20-01 RESOLVED that Convention receives all reports printed in the Book of Reports as reports to Convention.

1-08 Late Proposals for Acceptance (Agenda 1.2.12)

Vote was aborted due to technical issues. Vote carried over to session two.

Bishop John Henderson adjourned the session at 10:30am.

Business Session Two

Session two commenced at 11:00am.

1-09 Endorsement of Teller (agenda item 1.2.2)

A **point of order** was raised that Dr Tania Nelson is operating as a Teller during the votes using show of hands and so must be appointed by the Synod. The point of order was accepted.

20-02 RESOLVED that the Convention appoints Dr Tania Nelson as teller effective from commencement of the meeting.

1-10 Late Proposals for Acceptance (Agenda 1.2.12)

20-03 RESOLVED that the following late proposals be added to the Convention Agenda
2.1.11 Adoption of Postal Ballot

Constitutions

1-11 Adoption of Postal Ballot (Agenda 2.1.11)

20-04 RESOLVED that the General Synod confirms the following changes (words to be added - **bold**) to **Sections 7.2 'The Convening of General Synod'; 7.3 'Procedures in Transacting Business'** and **7.4 'Nominations and Elections'** that were resolved by a postal ballot of the 19th Synod delegates and the results announced by the bishop in April 2021:

SECTION 7.2 THE CONVENING OF GENERAL SYNOD

- 7.2.1 The regular convention of the General Synod shall **take place by meeting in person or by electronic means and** be held in the month of October or as near as practicable to that month, or as arranged by the General Church Board and the inviting body.

SECTION 7.3 PROCEDURE IN TRANSACTING BUSINESS

- 7.3.33 **In the event that a convention of the General Synod is held using electronic means in place of meeting in person, these procedures may be amended to suit that environment.**

SECTION 7.4 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- 7.4.13 **In the event that a convention of the General Synod is held using electronic means in place of meeting in person, these procedures may be amended to suit that environment.**

1-12 Synodical Term (agenda 2.1.1)

20-05 RESOLVED that the General Synod affirms the online sessions of the 20th regular Convention of General Synod is the beginning of the synodical term, and accordingly: all delegates shall serve from the commencement of the online sessions of the 20th regular convention of General Synod in 2021 to the commencement of the 21st regular convention of the next General Synod;

1. the newly elected members of the General Church Board shall serve from the conclusion of the online sessions of the 20th regular convention of General Synod in 2021 to the commencement of the 21st regular convention of the next General Synod;

2. the Bishop-elect shall assume office three [3] months after being elected at the online sessions of the 20th regular convention of General Synod; and
3. The Assistant Bishop shall assume office from the conclusion of the online sessions of the 20th regular convention of General Synod in 2021.

Reports

1-13 LCANZ Bishop Report (agenda 3.1)

Bishop John Henderson gave his final report to Synod (see page 53 of Book of Reports).

Election of Officials and GCB Members

1-14 Election of Bishop (agenda 15.1)

The Synod was advised of its right to add further names to the list of nominees.

The first reading of nominations for Bishop of the LCANZ were read. Nominees were Rev Matthew Anker and Rev Paul Smith.

The motion to add further names to the list of nominees was **LOST**.

The second reading of nominations was conducted. Chaplain Kathy Matuschka led the Synod in prayer prior to the vote. Vote was undertaken via Opavote and was held open during the session break.

Bishop John Henderson adjourned the session at 12:52pm.

Business Session Three

Session three commenced at 1:50pm.

1-15 Election of Bishop (agenda 15.1)

Rev Ray Pace announced the results of the vote. Rev Paul Smith was elected as the LCANZ Bishop. Bishop-Elect Paul Smith addressed the synod. Kathy Matuschka prayed for the Synod after the vote was announced.

Reports from LCA Boards, Committees and Commissions

1-16 General Church Board Report (agenda 4.1)

Peter Zweck presented the General Church Board report to Synod.
(see page 87 of Book of Reports)

1-17 College of Bishops Report (agenda 4.2)

Dr Nigel Long presented the College of Bishops report to Synod.
(See page 102 of Book of Reports)

1-18 Commission on Theology and Inter Church Relations Report (agenda 4.2.1)

Rev Dr Stephen Pietsch presented the CTICR report to Synod.
(See page 107 of Book of Reports)

1-19 Commission on Worship Report (agenda 4.2.3)

Rev Adrian Kitson presented the COW report to Synod.
(See page 118 of Book of Reports)

1-20 Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions Report (agenda 4.2.2)

Dr Cathryn Hamilton presented the CSBQ report to Synod.
(See page 111 of Book of Reports)

1-21 Secretary of the Church Report (agenda 4.6)

Dr Nigel Long presented the report of the Secretary of the Church to Synod.
(See page 133 of Book of Reports)

1-22 Finance Audit and Risk Report (agenda 4.5)

Mel Zerner presented the FAR report to Synod.
(See page 128 of Book of Reports)

Bishop John Henderson adjourned the session at 3:30pm.

Business Session Four

Session four commenced at 3:50pm.

1-23 Australian Lutheran College Report (agenda 5.1)

Prof Kristine Gebbie and Rev James Winderlich presented the ALC report to Synod.
(See page 168 of the Book of Reports)

Proposals from LCA Boards, Councils and Commissions

1-24 Changes to ALC Constitution (agenda 2.1.3)

20-06 RESOLVED that General Synod ratifies the following amendments to Article 13.1 Powers of Directors of the ALC Constitution approved by the General Church Board by ordinary resolution in October 2020 (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~; words to be added – **bold**)

ARTICLE 13.1 POWERS OF DIRECTORS

- 13.1.5 The Board of Directors shall recommend to the General Church ~~Council Board~~ **Board** ~~ordained candidates to be called as Principal and teaching staff.~~ ordained candidates to be called as Principal **by the General Church Board.**
- 13.1.6 The Board of Directors, under the oversight of the Bishop of the Church, shall be responsible for calling or appointing all teaching staff according to the Church's regular calling rules and practices.**
- 13.1.~~67~~
13.1.~~78~~ Calls shall be for a specific period of time.
The Board of Directors shall adopt policies for
13.1.~~78~~.1 the Principal to employ staff.
- 13.1.~~89~~ The Board of Directors shall
13.1.~~89~~.1 appoint sub-committees, which may include personnel who are not Directors, and define the terms of reference;
13.1.~~89~~.2 endorse programs of study leading to graduation as pastors, teachers, and lay workers in accordance with the graduate attributes required by key stakeholders;
13.1.~~89~~.3 endorse courses of study leading to degrees and awards;
13.1.~~89~~.4 administer the financial affairs of the College and manage the real and personal estate under its care;
13.1.~~89~~.5 review tuition fees;
13.1.~~89~~.6 adopt a budget;
13.1.~~89~~.7 receive regular reports from the Principal; and
13.1.~~89~~.8 decide on the responsible financial management of the College.
- 13.1.~~910~~ The Directors must comply with their duties as Directors under legislation and common law, and with the duties described in governance standard 5 of the regulations made under the ACNC Act which are
13.1.~~910~~.1 to exercise their powers and discharge their duties with the degree of care and diligence that a reasonable individual would exercise if they were a Director of the College;
13.1.~~910~~.2 to act in good faith in the best interests of the College and to further the not for profit purposes of the College set out in Article 7;
13.1.~~910~~.3 to disclose any perceived or actual material conflicts of interest in the manner set out in Clause 13.5;
13.1.~~910~~.4 to ensure that the financial affairs of the College are managed responsibly;
13.1.~~910~~.5 not to misuse their position as a Director;
13.1.~~910~~.6 not to misuse information they gain in their role as a Director; and
13.1.~~910~~.7 not to allow the College to operate while it is insolvent.

1-25 Changes to LCA By-laws (agenda 2.1.2)

20-07 RESOLVED that Section 5.1.2 of the LCA By-laws be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~; words to be added – **bold**):

A candidate shall be a graduate of ~~the~~ Australian Lutheran College, or shall have other certification from the teaching staff of ~~the~~ Australian Lutheran College, and shall be endorsed for ordination **by the Principal** ~~by the teaching staff and the Board of the~~ Australian Lutheran College.

Reports from LCA Boards, Committees and Commissions

1-26 Lutheran Laypeople's League Report (agenda 10.1)

Ross Smith presented the LLL report to Synod.
(See page 246 of the Book of Reports)

Election of Officials and GCB Members

1-26 Election of Assistant Bishop (agenda 15.2)

The first reading of nominations for Assistant Bishop of the LCA NZ were read. Nominees were Rev Neville Otto and Rev Stephen Pietsch. Vote for election was held over to day two.

Closing Devotion

Presider: Rev Ben Hentschke

Bishop John Henderson closed the day at 5:18pm.

Day 2 - Saturday 2 October 2021

Morning Worship

Presider: Bishop of Vic-Tas District Lester Priebbenow
Text: Isaiah 55:3 Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live
Liturgist: Rev Brett Kennett

Business Session Five

Session five commenced at 9:00am.

Reports from LCA Boards, Committees and Commissions

2-01 Australian Lutheran World Service Report (agenda 6.1)

Jodie Hoff and Jamie Davies presented the ALWS report to Synod.
(See page 186 of the Book of Reports)

Proposals from LCA Boards, Councils and Commissions

2-02 Changes to ALWS Constitution (agenda 2.1.4)

20-08 RESOLVED that the General Synod ratify the revised Constitution of Australian Lutheran World Service.

The full constitution of the Australian Lutheran World Service was omitted in error from the Book of Reports. It is reproduced in Appendix 1 (see page 22).

2-03 Appointment of ALWS auditor (agenda 2.1.5)

20-09 RESOLVED that the General Synod approves the extension of the appointment of the MRL Group as auditor of ALWS until 30 April 2024.

Election of Officials and GCB Members

2-04 Election of Assistant Bishop (agenda 15.2)

The second reading of nominations for Assistant Bishop of the LCA NZ was conducted. Chaplain Rev Gordon Wegener led the Synod in prayer prior to the vote. Vote will be closed prior to break to be counted.

Reports from LCA Boards, Committees and Commissions

2-05 Council for Local Mission Report (agenda 8.1)

Monika Tropiano and Dr Tania Nelson presented the Council for Local Mission report to Synod. (See page 219 of the Book of Reports)

Bishop John Henderson adjourned the session at 10:30am.

Business Session Six

Session six commenced at 11:00am.

Election of Officials and GCB Members

2-06 Election of Assistant Bishop (agenda 15.2)

Rev Ray Pace announced the results of the vote. Rev Neville Otto was elected as the LCA NZ Assistant Bishop. Rev Gordon Gerhardy prayed for the Synod after the vote was announced.

2-07 Election of General Church Board (agenda 15.3)

The nominations for the pastor member of the General Church Board were read. Vote was undertaken via Opavote.

Rev Ray Pace announced the results of the vote. Rev Dr Tim Stringer was elected as pastor member of the General Church Board.

The nominations for the lay members of the General Church Board were read. Vote was undertaken via Opavote. Announcement on election result was held over to after session break.

2-08 Ecclesiastical Discipline Review (agenda 2.1.7)

PROPOSED that General Synod:

1. Notes the GCB's preliminary response to the recommendations contained in the independent Ecclesiastical Discipline Review Team's (EDRT) report as presented in the 20th Regular Convention of General Synod's Book of Reports
2. Authorises the General Church Board to establish a Steering Committee, consistent with the EDRT report recommendation 2, with the first phase of its work to:
 - a. focus on scoping the work and associated resources required to implement the recommendations; and
 - b. have due regard to the GCB's advice relating to each of the recommendations; and
 - c. for the General Church Board to submit the Steering Committee's initial report on the scope and associated resourcing to the in-person sessions of the 20th Regular Convention of General Synod;
3. Requests the General Church Board to submit any necessary proposals enabling the implementation of the report's recommendations, based on the Steering Committee's initial work, for the General Synod's consideration at the 2022 in-person sessions of the 20th Regular Convention of General Synod; and
4. Requests that the Steering Committee consist of LCA members who are independent of any current matters before the Tribunal and Professional Standards Department (PSD), nor with any responsibility for the PSD, and include people with theological expertise or knowledge of legal or judicial matters as well as the Royal Commission into the Institutional Abuse of Children.

Proposed Amendment #1: that the following amendment be added to the original proposal:

- 5 That General Synod requests that the GCB meets with all members of PSD to discuss the full range of work carried out by PSD and the impact of the recommendations on all aspects of its activity.

The amendment was CARRIED.

20-10 RESOLVED that General Synod:

1. Notes the GCB's preliminary response to the recommendations contained in the independent Ecclesiastical Discipline Review Team's (EDRT) report as presented in the 20th Regular Convention of General Synod's Book of Reports
2. Authorises the General Church Board to establish a Steering Committee, consistent with the EDRT report recommendation 2, with the first phase of its work to:
 - a. focus on scoping the work and associated resources required to implement the recommendations; and
 - b. have due regard to the GCB's advice relating to each of the recommendations; and
 - c. for the General Church Board to submit the Steering Committee's initial report on the scope and associated resourcing to the in-person sessions of the 20th Regular Convention of General Synod;
3. Requests the General Church Board to submit any necessary proposals enabling the implementation of the report's recommendations, based on the Steering Committee's initial work, for the General Synod's consideration at the 2022 in-person sessions of the 20th Regular Convention of General Synod; and
4. Requests that the Steering Committee consist of LCA members who are independent of any current matters before the Tribunal and Professional Standards Department (PSD), nor with any responsibility for the PSD, and include people with theological expertise or knowledge of legal or judicial matters as well as the Royal Commission into the Institutional Abuse of Children.
5. That General Synod requests that the GCB meets with all members of PSD to discuss the full range of work carried out by PSD and the impact of the recommendations on all aspects of its activity.

Bishop John Henderson adjourned the session at 12:40pm.

Session Seven

Session seven commenced at 1:30pm.

Election of Officials and GCB Members

2-09 Election of General Church Board (agenda 15.3)

Rev Ray Pace announced the results of the vote. Mr Paul Argyle, Ms Kim Baumler, Ms Charmaine Harch, Mr Tim Wiebusch, Mr Mel Zerner, and Mr Peter Zweck were elected as lay members to the General Church Board. Rev Gordon Gerhardy prayed for the Synod after the vote was announced.

It was noted that the new General Church Board members commence in their roles at the adjournment of the online sessions of Convention. The installation of the General Church Board members could not be held during Convention. Installations would be held post the online session in the members home congregations.

Reports from LCA Boards, Committees and Commissions

2-10 Finke River Mission Report (agenda 7.1)

Tim Stollznaw presented the FRM report to Synod. (See page 210 of the Book of Reports)

2-11 Lutheran Education Australia Report (agenda 9.1)

Brett Hausler and Assoc Prof Lisa Schmidt presented the LEA report to Synod. (See page 234 of the Book of Reports)

Proposals from LCA Boards, Councils and Commissions

2-12 LCA Constitution Review (agenda 2.1.8)

20-11 RESOLVED that General Synod:

1. Affirms the work of the Phase 1 of the Constitution Review and acknowledges the contributions made by church members to it;

2. Authorises the General Church Board to establish a Working Group that considers the issues raised in the review, in particular the questions, 'who we are now as a LCANZ' and 'why do we gather as LCANZ', noting that these are fundamental questions for the LCA's constitutional arrangements, and ask the Working Group to:
 - a. prepare a position paper that responds to these issues and questions
 - b. have due regard to the principles and findings contained in the final report of the Phase 1 of the Constitution Review report; and
 - c. engage with key groups within the LCANZ, including the CTICR and
 - d. for the General Church Board to submit the Working Group's paper to the in-person sessions of the 2022 Convention to enable discussion by Synod delegates on the issues raised in it;
3. Requests the General Church Board to submit any necessary proposals authorising the move into Phase 2 of the review of the LCA Constitution and By-laws to continue the journey of ensuring the LCANZ has quality constitutional documents appropriate for the future and that reflects the LCANZ's understanding of who it is for the future, based on the Phase 1 final report and the Working Group's position paper, for the General Synod's consideration at the 2022 sessions of the 20th Regular Convention of General Synod; and
4. the Working Group consists of LCANZ members with a mix of backgrounds and perspectives which, together with relevant qualifications and experience, will enable the working group to fulfil its role.

Bishop John Henderson adjourned the session at 3:00pm.

Session Eight

Session eight commenced at 3:30pm.

Constitutions

2-13 New and amended definitions: Lutheran Church of Australia Inc (agenda 2.1.6.1)

20-12 RESOLVED that Article 1 NAME AND INTERPRETATION of the Constitution of the Church be amended to add and reorganise clauses as follows (words to be deleted - ~~strike through~~; words to be added - **bold**):

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 The name of this Church is LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA INC., ~~hereinafter called 'the Church'~~.
- 1.2 In this Constitution and the By-laws made there under, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:
 - 1.2.1 **'Act'** means the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (SA) as amended from time to time and includes any replacement of that Act or any provisions substituted for, and all regulations and statutory instruments issued under, that Act;
 - 1.2.2 **'auditor' means a person having appropriate qualifications to examine and verify financial accounts and records in accordance with legal requirements and the audit policy of the Church;**
 - 1.2.3 **'Church' means the Lutheran Church of Australia Incorporated;**
 - 1.2.14 **'church worker'** means any person whose name is listed on the Register of Church Workers provided for in the By-laws of the Church;
 - 1.2.25 **'congregation'** means a group of persons adhering to the Lutheran Faith who regularly meet for the administration of the Means of Grace and who have constituted themselves as an organised body by the adoption of a constitution;
 - 1.2.6 **'District' means a prescribed geographical area or other sector established by the Church to further the Objects of the Church;**
 - 1.2.37 **'Evangelical Lutheran Church'** ~~is~~ means a generic reference to churches throughout the world which proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as understood and confessed in the Book of Concord of 1580;
 - 1.2.8 **'General Church Board' means the voting members of the Church elected to administer the affairs of the Church;**
 - 1.2.9 **'lay member'** means any member of a congregation of the Church other than a pastor;
 - 1.2.510 **'parish'** means a congregation or a group of congregations forming an entity which is served by one or more pastors;

- 1.2.611 **'pastor'** or **'member of the Ministry'** means any person ordained to the Holy Ministry according to the rites and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who has been received into the Ministry of the Church according to Article 5.1;
- 1.2.12 **'special resolution'** means a resolution that is passed, after due notice has been given to all voting members and processed in accordance with the requirements of a special resolution, and which has been declared as having been passed as a special resolution;
- 1.2.713 **'teacher'** means any pastor or lay member called or appointed by the Church or by any of its Districts or congregations to serve on the teaching staff of a school or educational institution established and maintained by the Church or District or congregation;
- 1.2.14 **'Zone'** means a prescribed geographical area or other sector within a District of the Church; and
- 1.2.8 ~~'the Act' means the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (SA) as amended from time to time and includes any replacement of that Act or any provisions substituted for, and all regulations and statutory instruments issued under, that Act; and~~
- 1.2.915 words importing the singular number shall be deemed to include the plural number.

2-14 New and amended definitions: Model Constitution of Districts (agenda 2.1.6.2)

20-13 RESOLVED that Article 1 NAME AND INTERPRETATION of the By-laws of the Church, Constitution of the Districts, be amended to add and reorganise clauses as follows (words to be deleted - ~~strike through~~; words to be added - **bold**):

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 The name of the District is LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA, DISTRICT; hereinafter called **'the District'**.
- 1.2 In this Constitution and the By-laws made thereunder, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:
 - 1.2.1 **'Act'** means the Associations Incorporation Act, as amended from time to time and includes any replacement of that Act or any provisions substituted for, and all regulations and statutory instruments issued under, that Act;
 - 1.2.2 **'auditor'** means a person having appropriate qualifications to examine and verify financial accounts and records in accordance with legal requirements and the audit policy of the Church;
 - 1.2.13 **'Church'** means the Lutheran Church of Australia Incorporated;
 - 1.2.24 **'church worker'** means any person within the District whose name is listed on the Register of Church Workers provided for in the By-laws of the Church;
 - 1.2.35 **'congregation'** means a group of persons within the assigned area of the District adhering to the Lutheran Faith who regularly meet for the administration of the Means of Grace and who have constituted themselves as an organised body by the adoption of a constitution;
 - 1.2.6 **'District'** means the Lutheran Church of Australia District;
 - 1.2.47 **'Evangelical Lutheran Church'** ~~is~~ means a generic reference to churches throughout the world which proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as understood and confessed in the Book of Concord of 1580;
 - 1.2.8 **'financial year'** means the year ending 31 December;
 - 1.2.9 **'District Church Council'** means the voting members of the District elected to administer the affairs of the District;
 - 1.2.510 **'lay member'** means any member of a congregation of the District other than a pastor;
 - 1.2.611 **'parish'** means a congregation or a group of congregations forming an entity which is served by one or more pastors;
 - 1.2.712 **'pastor'** or **'member of the Ministry'** means any person ordained to the Holy Ministry according to the rites and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who has been received into the Ministry of the Church according to Article 5.1;
 - 1.2.13 **'special resolution'** means a resolution that is passed, after due notice has been given to all voting members and processed in accordance with the requirements of a special resolution, and which has been declared as having been passed as a special resolution;
 - 1.2.814 **'teacher'** means any pastor or lay member called or appointed by the District or any of its congregations to serve on the teaching staff of a school or

educational institution established and maintained by the District or congregation;

1.2.15 **'Zone' means a prescribed geographical area or other sector within the District;**

~~1.2.9 'the Act' means the Associations Incorporation Act, as amended from time to time and includes any replacement of that Act or any provisions substituted for, and all regulations and statutory instruments issued under, that Act; and~~

~~1.2.10~~ 1.2.16 words importing the singular number shall be deemed to include the plural number.

2-15 Not-for-Profit clause: Lutheran Church of Australia Inc. (agenda 2.1.6.3)

20-14 RESOLVED that ARTICLE 3. OBJECTS of the Constitution of the Church be amended to add the following clause (words to be added - **bold**):

ARTICLE 3. OBJECTS

3.2 Not-for-Profit

3.2.1 The property and income of the Church shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects or purposes of the Church and no part of that property or income may be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to members of the Church, except in good faith in the promotion of those objects or purposes.

3.2.2 A payment may be made to a member out of the funds of the Church only if it is authorised under the following clause 3.2.3.

3.2.3 A payment to a member out of the funds of the Church is authorised if it is

- 3.2.3.1 payment in good faith to the member as reasonable remuneration for any services provided to the Church, or for goods supplied to the Church, in the ordinary course of business; or**
- 3.2.3.2 payment of interest, on money borrowed by the Church from the member, at a rate not greater than the cash rate published from time to time by the Reserve Bank of Australia; or**
- 3.2.3.3 payment of reasonable rent to the member for premises leased by the member to the Church; or**
- 3.2.3.4 reimbursement of reasonable expenses properly incurred by the member on behalf of the Church; or**
- 3.2.3.5 making a payment or providing a benefit to a member in carrying out the objects of the Church for charitable purposes.**

2-16 Not-for-Profit clause: Model Constitution of Districts (2.1.6.4)

20-15 RESOLVED that ARTICLE 3. OBJECTS of the By-laws of the Church, Constitution of the Districts, be amended to add the following clause (words to be added - **bold**):

ARTICLE 3. OBJECTS

3.2 Not-for-Profit

3.2.1 The property and income of the District shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects or purposes of the District and the Church and no part of that property or income may be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to members of the District of the Church, except in good faith in the promotion of those objects or purposes.

3.2.2 A payment may be made to a member out of the funds of the District only if it is authorised under the following clause 3.2.3.

3.2.3 A payment to a member out of the funds of the District is authorised if it is

- 3.2.3.1 payment in good faith to the member as reasonable remuneration for any services provided to the District, or for goods supplied to the District, in the ordinary course of business; or**
- 3.2.3.2 payment of interest, on money borrowed by the District from the member, at a rate not greater than the cash rate published from time to time by the Reserve Bank of Australia; or**
- 3.2.3.3 payment of reasonable rent to the member for premises leased by the member to the District; or**
- 3.2.3.4 reimbursement of reasonable expenses properly incurred by the member on behalf of the District; or**
- 3.2.3.5 making a payment or providing a benefit to a member in carrying out the objects of the District for charitable purposes.**

2-17 Definition of Delegates to General Synod (agenda 2.1.6.5)

20-16 RESOLVED that ARTICLE 7. THE GENERAL SYNOD of the Constitution of the Church be amended to add the following words (words to be added – **bold**):

ARTICLE 7. THE GENERAL SYNOD

- 7.2 The General Synod shall consist of
- 7.2.1 lay delegates of the congregations;
 - 7.2.2 pastor delegates;
 - 7.2.3 the members of the General Church Board;
 - 7.2.4 chairpersons of boards **and councils** unless already eligible under 7.2.1, 7.2.2, or 7.2.3;
 - 7.2.5 all Bishops unless already eligible under 7.2.2, or 7.2.3;
 - 7.2.6 one [1] secondary and one [1] primary school principal elected from each region of Lutheran Education Australia by the principals of that region;
 - 7.2.7 past Bishops of the Church; and
 - 7.2.8 three [3] pastors emeriti nominated by the General Church Board who shall comprise the voting members.

2-18 Dissolution clause: Lutheran Church of Australia Inc. (agenda 2.1.6.6)

20-17 RESOLVED that ARTICLE 11. DISSOLUTION of the Constitution of the Church be amended to add the following words (words to be deleted - ~~strike through~~; words to be added - **bold**):

ARTICLE 11. DISSOLUTION

- 11.1 ~~Any resolution for dissolution or amalgamation shall be made~~ **Any motion for dissolution or amalgamation shall be resolved by a special resolution and shall be made** according to the following procedure:
- 11.1.1 ~~Written~~ **Written** notice of a motion specifying such action shall be given to the delegates of the General Synod.
 - 11.1.2 At least thirty [30] days written notice of a General Synod, specifying such action as a special motion, shall be given to the delegates of the General Synod.
 - 11.1.3 The motion must be presented at a duly constituted General Synod and shall require a majority of **not less than** three-quarters **[3/4]** of all the registered delegates of the General Synod.

Acknowledgements

2-19 Farewell to Bishop John Henderson

The Synod farewelled Bishop John Henderson who did not stand for re-election as Bishop. Assistant Bishop Andrew Pfeiffer led a session which was dedicated to John's service. His family joined Synod for this session. Specific greetings (via video and in person) were given by Bishop Mark Whitfield - LCNZ Bishop, Rev Martin Junge - General Secretary Lutheran World Federation, Bishop Philip Huggins - President National Council of Churches and Bishop David Altus - LCA SA-NT. A gift was presented to Bishop John and flowers to Mrs Valmai Henderson.

Closing Formalities

2-20 Adjournment of Convention

20-18 RESOLVED that the convention be adjourned.

This resolution refers to Article 7.3.27.3 of the Constitution.

Bishop John Henderson declared the Twentieth General Convention of Synod adjourned.

2-21 Vote of thanks (Agenda 16.2)

The Secretary of the Church, Dr Nigel Long, extended a vote of thanks to all who contributed to the successful planning and running of the online sessions of the 20th Convention of General Synod.

Closing Devotion

Presider: Rev Gordon Wegener

Appendix 1

Constitution of Australian Lutheran World Service

Australian Business Number (ABN) 36 660 551 871
Other Unincorporated Entity
An Agency of the Lutheran Church of Australia Inc
(ABN 36 763 133 867)

1. NAME

The name of the organisation is Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS).

2. RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH

ALWS is an agency of the Lutheran Church of Australia Inc (the Church) and shall fulfil its responsibilities in keeping with the Constitution and the policies of the Church.

3. PURPOSE

ALWS shall serve as the overseas humanitarian aid and development agency of the Church, translating the spirit of Christian love and faith of the Church into effective services with and for those most in need.

4. OBJECTS

The objects of ALWS are to:

- 4.1. provide life-sustaining care to those who suffer most from poverty and injustice in developing countries, empowering them to create more just and sustainable communities, through emergency relief and long-term development programs;
- 4.2. welcome and bring love to life for those fleeing from or affected by disaster, poverty and oppression, building strength and resilience for the future, through partnerships with organisations sharing the same purpose;
- 4.3. inspire the Lutheran family of Australia and New Zealand, and the wider community generally, to take action to help people hurt by poverty and injustice around the world, and to equip them to do it effectively;
- 4.4. work alongside local churches and partner organisations in the developing world to strengthen capacities to transform lives and the unjust structures that perpetuate poverty;
- 4.5. build alliances with organisations around the world, jointly mobilising resources to address poverty and crisis, and seek lasting solutions to injustice.

5. POWERS AND AUTHORITY

- 5.1. The Board of ALWS has all the lawful capacities and powers, to do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects of the organisation.
- 5.2. The Church shall have the power to assume and exercise full control of all funds and assets of ALWS, provided that:
 - 5.2.1. a resolution to this effect shall have been adopted by the General Synod of the Church at any time of its regular or special conventions; and
 - 5.2.2. such control shall be exercised subject to the purposes and conditions under which such funds or assets were acquired.
- 5.3. The management of the affairs of ALWS shall be vested in a Board which is appointed by the General Church Board (GCB) of the Church.
- 5.4. The policies of the Church shall guide the work of ALWS in regard to:
 - 5.4.1. governance responsibilities, including compliance with the policies of the Church on Conflict of Interest and Review Processes; and
 - 5.4.2. functioning and decision-making.

6. INCOME AND PROPERTY

- 6.1. The income and property of the organisation, including those held in trust for the organisation, will be applied towards the sole promotion of the objects of ALWS as set-out in Clause 4.
- 6.2. No income or property of ALWS will be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to any individual except as genuine compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation in its ordinary course of business.

7. BOARD MEMBERSHIP

- 7.1. The Board shall consist of not less than five [5] nor more than seven [7] members.
- 7.2. The Board shall consist of people with a passion for overseas aid and development and the relevant skills, qualifications and experience to govern ALWS from a cross-section of the districts of the Church.
- 7.3. The membership of the Board shall consist of the following appointed by the GCB:
 - 7.3.1. a chairperson who shall be a voting member of a congregation of the Church;
 - 7.3.2. one pastor on the Roll of Pastors of the Church;
 - 7.3.3. at least one member with knowledge and experience in the aid and development sector; and
 - 7.3.4. two [2] to four [4] members reflecting a diverse range of backgrounds and competencies to enable the objects to be fulfilled.
- 7.4. The Executive Officer (EO) shall attend all board meetings as a consultant .
- 7.5. All members of the Board must uphold the teachings and values of the Church, with a majority of members being Lutheran and the balance shall be practising members of another recognised denomination of the Christian faith.
- 7.6. Tenure of Board members shall be a minimum of one [1] term of three [3] years and a maximum of three [3] terms with the possibility of an extension to a fourth term in exceptional circumstances.
- 7.7. The Board, in consultation with the EO, may invite others to attend meetings.
- 7.8. The Board has the power to form sub-committees if necessary.
- 7.9. The Board may appoint a Board Advisory Group to provide advice and recommendations on areas of expertise.

8. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS AND REPORTING

- 8.1. Meetings shall be convened by the Chairperson.
- 8.2. The Board shall meet at least twice per year face-to-face. Additional meetings are at the discretion of the Board and may be convened face-to-face, by electronic means, or by other means of communication.
- 8.3. A majority of members of the Board shall constitute quorum at any meeting.
- 8.4. Email correspondence may be used for the distribution of minutes, advisory information or approval of documentation.
- 8.5. The minutes of the Board meetings shall be submitted to the GCB.

9. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board shall

- 9.1. appoint an Executive Officer (EO), in consultation with the GCB, who shall be responsible to the Board for overall conduct of the organisation, its staff and management of funds under its control;
- 9.2. provide good governance and oversight of the fiduciary aspects of ALWS, including compliance with funding and regulatory bodies, and ensuring continuity of accreditation;
- 9.3. approve all policies relating to governance, internal compliance and control, codes of conduct and legal compliance as mandated by the Australian Government;
- 9.4. ensure overall readiness for accreditation by the Australian Government;

- 9.5. set the strategic direction of the organisation in alignment with that of the Church and approve appropriate strategic and operational plans;
- 9.6. receive, review and approve periodic reports from the EO, including audited financial statements, financial reports, strategic and operational performance reports, and risk analysis reports;
- 9.7. nominate an independent auditor for approval by the Church for a three-year term;
- 9.8. maintain strong relationships with the Church and its entities, particularly with church congregations and Lutheran schools; and
- 9.9. conduct inductions for new members and periodic reviews of board performance, to provide a pathway to optimal governance effectiveness.

10. FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year shall be 1 January to 31 December.

11. CONTRACTS

The GCB delegates to the Board the authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the Church in the pursuit of its objects.

12. RECORD KEEPING

The Board shall

- 12.1. maintain financial records of ALWS that
 - 12.1.1. correctly record and explain the transactions, financial position and performance; and
 - 12.1.2. enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared and audited;
- 12.2. keep written records that correctly represent its operations and enable them to be produced when required by law;
- 12.3. retain its records for at least seven years, or as otherwise required by the ACNC Act or any other laws that may apply; and
- 12.4. take reasonable steps to ensure that the records are kept safe.

13. WINDING UP

- 13.1. In the event of ALWS being wound up or it ceasing to be endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient, any surplus assets remaining after the payment of liabilities of the organisation shall be transferred to another approved not-for-profit organisation that is an eligible organisation for the purposes of operating as an Overseas Aid Fund under Item 9.1.1 of the table set out in *Section 30-80(1)* of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.
- 13.2. In making distributions upon winding up, the Board must satisfy any obligations to the fullest extent possible that apply to assets over which a trust exists.