

Lutheran Church of Australia Victoria & Tasmania – District Church Council Strategic Directions 2016-2020 – <i>Our plan to serve the Church in Victoria and Tasmania</i>													Post Convention v1.1						
Vision & Purpose: As a District of the Lutheran Church of Australia we share the same Vision and Mission as the Lutheran Church of Australia, namely.... <i>Our Vision</i> 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). <i>Our Mission</i> is to show Christ’s love to the world as described in the LCA’s 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 Objects:	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					
Our Situation:		• 50 years of blessings as LCA, with faithful people and pastors • The grace of the Gospel is strong in our Church. • Australian society and culture is changing • More Australians identifying as ‘No religion’ • Community groups and church attendance and membership is decreasing • Migrant ministry is exciting and dynamic • Our migrant roots and identity make us well placed to serve • Our congregations are aging • We have many, many gifted servants in our Church • Urbanisation and multiculturalism continues strongly in Australia • Most congregations are small with < 50 at worship on any given Sunday • There is a new & exciting LCA-driven evangelism and church planting emphasis • Schools are growing • Local and District income not keeping up with costs • Some parishes can’t afford a pastor • Local and District leadership under pressure; fewer to draw on and accountabilities increasing • District Bishop asked to do too much management • New information technology gives us new ways to be connected • LCA implementing church-wide support services • Some District activities need revision																	
Strategic Themes: Grow as Gods People, Go as Gods People, Enable us to Go & Grow (alternative: “Collectively Enabling, locally Growing, locally Going”)																			
2016 Initiatives			Activities				2018 Milestones				2020 Outcomes								
Strategic Initiative #1 Support local mission and ministry strategies for church renewal, church planting, migrant and youth and young adult ministry			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to support the Pakenham Church Plant and Lakeside College.Engage national church planting/growth resourcesIdentify urban and regional growth areas and explore church (re)planting – ie explore Church Plant at GLCMore SMP’s for migrant ministryDevelop digital/social media communicationsTraining and sharing of resources to support local ministry				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Opportunities identified and strategies createdFunding models and/or grants identifiedCurrent initiatives reviewed and renewedLinks to national initiatives and support agreedChurch Planting resources being utilised				<ul style="list-style-type: none">New churches plantedCongregations renewed and sustainableSelf-sustaining ministries and communitiesNational approaches and initiatives leveraged								
Strategic Initiative #2 Identify and support opportunities for congregations in challenging and changing circumstances.			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support the Bishop and Pastor for Congregational Support to regularly visit and engage with parishes and congregations to proactively identify and support collaboration.Help congregations to engage with mission and ministry of schools				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Opportunities proactively identifiedCongregation in care and with supportConsultation and engagement underwayCollaborative planning commencing				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regionalised supply of PastorsMore Specific Ministry PastorsRegionalised ministry opportunitiesMinistry that supports strategy and vice-versaBetter resourced ministry and greater outcomes through sharingClosures celebrated with new opportunities								
Strategic Initiative #3 Develop new models and strategies for Aged Care and Camping.			<ul style="list-style-type: none">ie. Review the operating models of our two Aged Care facilities in line with best practice within this changing industry.ie. Undertake a strategic review with CMS of our camp sites utilising the services of LYQ for best practice and creating a long-term Master Plan and for sustainability.Chaplaincy model to consider how to support home visitation, and aged care centres (inc non-lutheran)				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Systems and processes understoodEngagement of the national church with the future of these ministriesCollaboration for the development of recommendations and plans.				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clear governance and management in placeIndustry best practice and governanceCompliant organisations.Risks mitigatedSustainable services and ongoing mission and ministry								
Strategic Initiative #4 Work more collaboratively with our Schools and seek greater worshipping community outcomes			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Intentional planning (DCC with CLEVNT) re greater collaborative opportunitiesIdentify shared service/resource opportunitiesActively encourage congregations to support mission and ministry in their local schools				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Opportunity for shared services identifiedLocal collaborations identified and supportedFuture opportunities better understood				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Efficiencies and savings through shared services.Stronger shared identityWorshipping communities and new ministry outcomesFinancial stability and sustainability								
Strategic Initiative #5 Continue to improve and modernise communications and services across the District.			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resource social media communicationsUpgrade District WebsiteSupport upgrading congregation websitesCommon platform for tele/video conferencing				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Digital and communication resources in placeOn-line presence establishedPilot programs for content, services and communications				<ul style="list-style-type: none">On-line mission & ministry deliveryIncreased communication and sense of communityA (digitally) connected ChurchCongregations getting the information and services they need.								
Strategic Initiative #6 Explore funding models and sources for the District in addition to congregational giving.			<ul style="list-style-type: none">ie. Establish and pilot a sponsorship model for key District ministriesie. Explore office requirements and location, to enhance facilities and release some of the value at 755 Station StreetEncourage common School & worshipping community space				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Models explored, proposed and reviewedPilot programs established				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Being able to fund for growthGiving that is inspired by ministry outcomesOther sustainable sources of funds – long termReduced direct dependency on congregational giving								
Enablers:																			
A. The Holy Spirit at work through God’s holy word and sacraments		B. The Objects of the Church		C. Where love comes to life - Our Lutheran understanding of God’s grace at work in the world and Church		D. Efficiencies and better outcomes through focus and simplification.		E. Leverage national resources and structures. Be enthusiastic trialers and adopters		F. Regional and collaborative mission and ministry opportunities		G. Wise stewardship of our resources and finances. Let’s not bury our talents.		H. Fund opportunities that support growth in our mission and ministry		I. Synodical unity. Listen and respond to the needs of congregations		J. Good governance and compliance	