

AGENDA 2.4.5

Constitutional changes: Care for children and the vulnerable

PROPOSED MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED that **Article 3 Objects** of the Constitution of the Church be amended in sub-clause 3.1.14 to include provisions for the care of children and the vulnerable as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strikethrough~~; words to be added – **bold**):

ARTICLE 3. OBJECTS

- 3.1 The Objects of the Church are to
- 3.1.1 fulfil the mission of the Christian Church in the world by proclaiming the Word of God and administering the Sacraments in accordance with the Confession of the Church laid down in the preceding Article 2;
 - 3.1.2 unite in one body Evangelical Lutheran congregations in Australia and New Zealand for the more effective work of the Church;
 - 3.1.3 promote and maintain true Christian unity in the bond of peace;
 - 3.1.4 ensure that preaching, teaching and practice in the Church are in conformity with the Confession of the Church;
 - 3.1.5 provide pastors and teachers and other church workers for service in the Church and its congregations, and for this purpose to establish and maintain institutions for their training;
 - 3.1.6 encourage every congregation to carry out its mission to its local community;
 - 3.1.7 establish, develop and support new congregations where it is not possible for individual congregations to do so;
 - 3.1.8 support and cooperate with selected churches in other lands as they seek to carry out their mission;
 - 3.1.9 dialogue with other Christian church bodies;
 - 3.1.10 establish and maintain schools and other institutions and to foster all other means whereby the members of the congregations receive Christian education;
 - 3.1.11 cultivate uniformity in worship, ecclesiastical practice and customs in accord with the principles laid down in Article X. of the Formula of Concord;
 - 3.1.12 publish, procure, and distribute literature compatible with the Confession and principles of the Church;
 - 3.1.13 minister to human need in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord in the spirit of Christian love and service, and to provide institutions and agencies for this purpose; and
 - ~~3.1.14 take such action as is necessary for the protection of the congregations, pastors, teachers and other church workers in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights.~~
 - 3.1.14 maintain and promote a culture of care in all areas of the Church and its activities, so that all people, especially the vulnerable such as children and the aged, are protected against any form of spiritual, emotional, physical and sexual abuse by ensuring that**
 - 3.1.14.1 appropriate governance and leadership structures are in place;**
 - 3.1.14.2 policies and procedures are appropriately prescribed;**
 - 3.1.14.3 a culture of safety and care for children and all people is actively encouraged and practiced; and**
 - 3.1.14.4 the well-being of congregations, pastors, teachers and other church workers in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights is supported and promoted.**

REASONS FOR THE MOTION

The need for due concern for the well-being of children, the aged and vulnerable people has been well accepted and expected in society and this amendment gives witness to the intent of the Church to demonstrate its support of this goal.