

AGENDA 2.2.5

Membership of both International Lutheran Council and Lutheran World Federation

(See also Agenda 2.3.7 and 2.3.8)

PROPOSED MOTION

Submitted by General Church Council

BE IT RESOLVED that the General Church Council conduct a thorough investigation of the theological and church fellowship implications of full membership in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the International Lutheran Council (ILC), and report on that investigation to the 20th General Convention in 2021.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the General Church Council, on the basis of the report, submit a proposal to the 2021 General Convention on the possibility and advisability of the LCA applying for full membership in the LWF and the ILC.

REASONS FOR THE MOTION

1. A number of congregations have submitted proposals to the 19th LCA Convention of Synod (2018) in relation to the LCA applying for full membership in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the International Lutheran Council (ILC). These proposals are found at 2.3.7 and 2.3.8.
2. The General Church Council (GCC) referred these proposals to the General Pastors Conference (GPC) for advice and recommendation.
3. Membership in the LWF has been regarded as a theological matter for some years, particularly since the LWF member churches voted to become a 'communion' of churches in 1990. Membership in the ILC has not been regarded as a theological matter as it has a different self-understanding to the LWF. We have a practice, however, of 'pairing' these relationships, so what we do in respect to the one we also do in respect to the other.
4. In his report to the GPC, Bishop John Henderson drew the pastors' attention to this and suggested that GPC consider putting a motion that Synod asks that a study be commissioned to look at the implications and advisability of full membership in both LWF and ILC, and arrange for the presentation of a report with recommendations to the 2021 GPC and Synod.
5. The GPC discussed the matter and resolved to recommend to Convention of Synod that the LCA commission a study of the implications and advisability of full membership in both the LWF and the ILC and arrange for the presentation of a report with recommendations to the 2021 GPC and Convention of Synod.
6. The GCC submits this proposal to Synod in view of the recommendation from the GPC.