



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA



*where love
comes to life*

Minutes of the
Eighteenth

General Convention of Synod

- » Our Saviour Lutheran Church
and Redeemer Lutheran College
Rosedale, Qld
- » 29 September - 4 October

2015



Theme of Convention

Where Love Comes to life

1 John 4:9-12 (NIV)

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

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A. SPIRITUAL LIFE AT CONVENTION

1. DAILY WORSHIP SERVICES

Tuesday, 29 September 2015 – Opening of Convention

Rev John Henderson, LCA Bishop

Ephesians 1:17,18 (adapted and combined): 'The God of our Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of your hearts, so that you may know him better'.

Wednesday, 30 September 2015

Rev Paul Smith, LCA Queensland District Bishop

Ephesians 2:22: 'In him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit'.

Thursday, 1 October 2015

Rev David Altus, LCA SA/NT District Bishop

Ephesians 3:10: 'His intent was that now, though the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms'.

Friday, 2 October 2015

Rev Mark Whitfield, LCNZ Bishop

Galatians 2:20: 'It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me'.

In Memoriam Service

Church servants who have died during the last synodical term were remembered.

Pastors: Bruce Adams, Cyril Bartel, Kevin Fischer, John Hartwich, Davey Inkamala, Kevin Kotzur, Len Loffler, Cecil Logan, Stephen Mattner, Ben Mogg, Arthur Priebsenow, Henry Proeve, Arthur Rathjen, Murphy Roberts, Robert Turnbull, Noel Weiss, Glen Zweck

Pastors Wives: Jenny Benz, Janna Overduin, Nelda Mackenzie, Rita McNamarra, Valmai Pfitzner, Ruth Scheer, Netta Schubert, Daphne Stoll, Betty Turnbull

Lay People: Bob Bartram, Pauline Bartram, Robert Craig, Rita Fenske (nee Heinrich), Meryl Jennings, Kevin Kempin, Peter McNulty, Robert Mau, Gordon Menzel, Tjuki Pumpjack, Leanne Schreiber

Saturday, 3 October 2015

Rev Greg Pietsch, LCA Vic/Tas Bishop

Ephesians 5:8: 'You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light'.

Sunday, 4 October 2015 – Closing of Convention

Including installation of Rev Andrew Pfeiffer as Assistant Bishop and General Church Council

Rev John Henderson, LCA Bishop

Ephesians 6:10: 'Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power'.

2. CONVENTION THEME – ‘Where love comes to life’

Background Biblical and Theological Reflection

(refer to LCA website Convention 2015 for full text)

One of the clearest Biblical statements is in 1 John 4:19, ‘We love because he [God] first loved us’. Theologically, this is well summed up in the statement ‘the love of God does not find, but creates, that which is pleasing to it.’ (*Heidelberg Disputation*, 1518).

Accordingly, the vast weight of verses in the NT speak of God’s love for us, specifically in sending his Son as an atoning sacrifice (e.g. Rom 5:8; Eph 2:4–5; 2 Thess 2:16; Gal 2:20; 1 John 2:10ff; etc.). There are some references to our love for God (e.g. Rom 8:28; 1 Cor 2:9; 16:24 and a few others), but in the wider context of the each passage it is clear that our love is the reflexive response to his, ie love for God is initiated by his love for us.

Love for God is not initiated by us. It never has and never will. We do not exist in a moral neutrality, as though we could choose good and evil freely. We are ‘*dead in transgressions and sin*’ (Eph 2:1ff); as we say in the general confession of sin ‘we are born in bondage to sin and *cannot* free ourselves’.

God alone *is* love (1 John 4:8,16) and so love is ‘of’ [i.e. from] God (1 John 4:7). ‘Herein is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins’ (1 John 4:10). The love of which John speaks is not a humanly created thing. It is seen in the sending of Jesus to bear away wrath; to be our atoning sacrifice.

Paul’s parallel descriptions of us as ‘weak’ [ie helpless, without strength], ‘ungodly’, ‘sinners’ (Rom 5:6–10), ‘haters of God’ (Rom 1:30), ‘dead in our sins’ (Col 2:13; Eph 2:1), and ‘foolish, disobedient, deceived [and] enslaved’ (Titus 3:3) all stress the fact that, apart from the love of God coming to us in Jesus, we do not and cannot love him.

Love springs to life in God’s people as they are filled with his life. Love, therefore, becomes the mark of his own people ie those united to Jesus in whom his Spirit dwells. 1 John 3:14 states the matter clearly: ‘We know that we have been transferred from death to life, because we love the brothers and sisters. The person who does not love remains in death’ (CEB). Love, therefore, is the mark of a resurrected humanity. Many passages testify to this, but these are some of the clearest: 1 John 3:11–17; 4:7:21; Romans 5:5; John 13:35.

The whole law is summed up in love (e.g. Rom 13:8–10; Gal 5:13–15). This is not given to God’s people in Christ as a legal command, but as the fulfilment of

God's promise to write his law on our hearts (e.g. Deut 30:6; Jer 31:33; Ezek 11:19; 36:25; Heb 8:10; 10:16). As a result we actually delight in the law of God in our innermost being (e.g. Rom 7:7), even if we don't have the power of ourselves to fulfil it.

Salvation – in a very real sense – is salvation from our misplaced love: loving idols instead of God, and ourselves instead of others. Salvation is therefore liberating love: the love of God liberates us firstly to love him and thence one another. Being made in the image of God, such love is our true freedom.

Jesus is the only man who has ever kept the commandments of God. He alone has loved God with his whole heart and us as himself, and loves us still, so that we might truly have the love of God come to life in us. In him God's love for us is guaranteed; and by union with him we experience the miracle of loving God because he has loved us. We never need to wonder whether God is for us, or whether we are truly reconciled to him. He has reconciled us to himself in Jesus. Paul extols the depth of this assurance Paul in Ephesians 1:3–14, for example. Thus, the church is continually to be built up in the love of God and in mature love for one another (see, for example, Eph 4:11–16).

The love of which the Church speaks (as it proclaims the gospel) is not human love magnified to a divine level. It is wholly different from our love (just as God's righteousness is wholly different from our self-righteousness, and his wrath is wholly different from our anger).

This love is not an abstract principle, but living and active presence of God himself, who *is agape*. The love of God [ie not our love for God, but the love from and of God himself] is shed abroad in the hearts of God's people by the Spirit (Rom 5:5). The Spirit thus brings his fruit to bear in the relationships of believers (Gal 5:22,23).

In all this, we see Jesus' promise fulfilled: '...by this shall all know that you are my disciples' (John 13:35), because only he could produce this sort of love in their relationships. Luther's concern was not just that the gospel be preached, but that it be *heard*. Hearing is the most important function in the Christian life. Where true hearing takes place, love truly springs up. As the gospel was preached and heard, God's *agape* produced communities hitherto unimaginable.

One of the consequences of all this is that we should not equate the love of God with the common concept of 'unconditional acceptance'. In one sense God's love is unconditional in that it is not conditioned by anything in us, but in actuality it is counter-conditional, in that he doesn't leave us where he finds us. Anne Lamott writes: 'God loves us exactly the way we are, and God loves us too much to let us stay exactly the way we are.' His love transforms us, that we may bear

the full image of his Son (e.g. Rom 8:29; 1 Cor 15:49; 2 Cor 3:18; Phil 3:21; 1 John 3:2; etc).

Love, therefore is not something that lies in our hands to create. The Church is the community created by the love of God and continually re-created by that love, as we hear the gospel proclaimed to us and receive it with faith.

The New Testament injunctions to continue in love, and the commands about how the members of the church are to live with and for one another (e.g. Eph 4–6; Col 3–4) are all built on a powerful re-presentation of the gospel. Paul and the others proclaimed the good news afresh their letters to re-awaken faith from which good works flow. Justification is the powerhouse for our sanctification.

Where love comes to life. These issues are central.

a. What love do we speak of?

We speak of the love of God, as described and discussed above, centred in the person of Jesus and God's work in him on our behalf. This is not human love on a higher level, but the love of God himself ie the love which flows from him into our dead hearts.

b. What does it mean for that love to come to life?

The love of which we speak is a converting love. It changes us, causing us to turn from our idols and other expressions of false love. It breaks down any confidence in our own ability. This love transforms relationships and whole communities. It sweeps aside old barriers to true, self-giving *koinonia*; it erases the hostility built up through suspicion, unforgiveness, pride, etc. Wherever the gospel awakens true faith such communities are born.

c. Where does it come to life?

God's love comes to life where the gospel is truly heard by the power of the Spirit. It is created by the Word, sustained by him through the Spirit and flows from the one God and Father of us all. Therefore, love comes to life not only among Lutherans, but wherever God's people live in the fullness of the Triune life.

d. What does that look like?

Where love comes to life relationships are transformed, healing takes place, reconciliation is effected, forgiveness flows, people serve and give freely, each honours the other above himself or herself. The community where love comes to life is marked by the fruit of the Spirit.

May we not seek, therefore, to encourage the Convention in these ways?

- a. By “re-gospelising” ourselves so that faith may arise more fully?
- b. By teaching on the love of God, from which our love flows and by which ours is brought to life?
- c. By glorifying Jesus in our midst, so that our eyes may be drawn to him, rather than one another ... and one another’s shortcomings?
- d. By calling for repentant faith, where we have imagined that love is something we can create, use or handle to grow the church?
- e. And by worshipping the Father who has loved us without measure or reserve, in the full freedom and power of the Spirit.

3. CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

This year’s General Convention of Synod was the first time that floor and prayer chaplains, both ordained and laity, were available to provide pastoral care and spiritual support for delegates and visitors.

Two Chaplains were assigned each day to bring matters of Convention to prayer at various times, and to provide counselling support to delegates and visitors where sought.

4. CONVENTION DINNER

The Convention Dinner, hosted by Our Saviour, Rochedale congregation under the theme, ‘Jazz and Shiraz’.

The guest speaker was a member of the congregation, Tyson Stelzer, world-renowned wine writer and speaker, and this year named International Wine and Spirit Communicator of the Year. Tyson is a deacon and young adults leader at Our Saviour and has a huge heart for the Lutheran Church’s mission in South-East Asia.

Our Saviour congregation will be directing the net proceeds from the dinner to ‘Project Precious’—two projects in Cambodia to support children and their families:

- The first ever preschool in Ampilpramdeom Commune (Australian Lutheran World Service)
- Daily food program for children and training in food production for adults (LCA International Mission).

5. SYNOD OFFERING

The Synod offering of \$13 291.76 was received and will be directed to GROW Ministries.

B. ROLL CALL OF GENERAL SYNOD DELEGATES

^ Alternate for General Synod delegate who is unable to attend

* Apology given or absent

General Church Council

Bishop	Rev	John	Henderson
Secretary of the Church	Rev	Neville	Otto
South Australia/Northern Territory Bishop	Rev	David	Altus
Pastor Member at large	Rev	Avito	da Graca Costa
Lay Member at Large	Dr	Gillian	Heintze
New Zealand Lay Representative	Ms	Jill	Hobden
Western Australia Lay Representative	Mr	Volker	Hopfmuller
New South Wales Bishop	Rev	Mark	Lieschke
New South Wales Lay Representative	Mr	David	Menzel
Victoria Bishop	Rev	Greg	Pietsch
Queensland Bishop	Rev	Paul	Smith
Queensland Lay Representative	Mr	Michael	Stolz
Victoria Lay Representative	Mr	Timothy	Wiebusch
South Australia/Northern Territory Lay Representative	Mr	Mel	Zerner

Chairpersons of LCA Boards

Chair - Australian Lutheran College	Rev	David	Gogoll
Chair - Board for Mission	Mr	Steven	Wilksch
Chair - Commission on Salaries	Mr	Ray	Pietsch
Chair - Commission on Worship	Rev	Adrian	Kitson*
Chair - CSBQ	Dr	Robert	Pollnitz*
	Rev	Tim	Kowald^
Chair - CTICR	Rev Dr	Jeffery	Silcock
Chair - Education	Dr	Neville	Highett
Chair - Finke River Mission	Mr	Tim	Stollznow
Chair - Grow Ministries	Mr	Timothy	Wiebusch
Chair - Lay Ministry	Mr	Kym	Wallent*
Chair - Local Mission	Rev	Robert	Voigt
Chair - Lutheran Aged Care	Rev	Gordon	Wegener
Chair - Lutheran Archives	Mr	Everard	Leske
Chair - Lutheran Laypeople's League	Mr	Graeme	Huf
Chair - Media Ministry	Rev	Ben	Hentschke
Chair - Standing Committee on Constitutions	Mr	David	Dreckow
Chair - Standing Committee on Nominations	Mrs	Margaret	Koch
Chair - Support for Pastoral Ministry	Rev	David	Eckermann
Chair - Loan Management Committee	Mr	Colin	Schultz*

Executive Officers

EO - Education	Mr	Stephen	Rudolph
EO - Grow Ministries	Mrs	Jodi	Brook
EO - Lay Ministry	Mr	Nevin	Nitschke
EO - Lutheran Archives	Ms	Rachel	Kuchel
EO - Lutheran Media	Rev	Richard	Fox
EO - Suomi Conference	Rev	Ian	Vainikka
EO - LCA International Mission	Mrs	Glenice	Hartwich
Executive Officer of the Church	Mr	Peter	Schirmer
Principal ALC	Rev	James	Winderlich

Lutheran Education Principals

Principal - LEQ	Mrs	Janelle	Turner
Principal - LEQ	Ms	Jodie	Hoff
Principal - LEVNT	Mr	Shane	Jurecky
Principal - LEVNT	Mr	Tom	Brennen
Principal - LSA	Ms	Heather	Vogt
Principal - LSA	Ms	Angela	Branford

Bishops not on General Church Council

New Zealand Bishop	Rev	Mark	Whitfield
Western Australia Bishop	Rev	Greg	Pfeiffer

Parish Lay Delegates**Lutheran Church of New Zealand**

Auckland Mountainside Congregation	Mr	Ray	Meharg
Auckland Botany Chinese			
Christchurch St Pauls Congregation	Mrs	Svanaug	Nilsen*
Hamilton St Matthew Congregation	Mrs	Lesley	Johnson
Hawkes Bay Parish			
Kawerau Congregation			
Manawatu Parish	Dr	Pauline	Simonsen
Marton St Martins Congregation	Miss	Margaret	Gust
Upper Moutere Parish	Mrs	Haidee	Janetzki
Wairarapa Parish	Mrs	Josephine	Farley*
Wanganui St John Congregation	Mrs	Margreet	Renkema
Wellington St Pauls Congregation	Mrs	Leanne	Whitfield
Whakatane Congregation	Mr	Tony	Houlbrooke*

New South Wales (including Australian Capital Territory)

Albury St Lukes Congregation	Ms	Lynne	Cox
Bankstown-Liverpool Parish	Mrs	Ann	Butler
Bass Hill Southern Finnish			
Belconnen Holy Cross Congregation	Mr	Tony	Von Brandenstein
Burrumbuttock Parish	Mr	Ian	Pertzel
Campbelltown Good Shepherd Congregation	Mrs	Janet	Hartmann

Canberra Holy Trinity Finnish Congregation	Mrs	Tuula	Kokkonen
Canberra-Queanbeyan Parish	Mr	Ron	Falkenberg
Central Coast St Matthews Congregation	Mr	Alan	Waterson
Central West Parish	Mrs	Cindy	Harrison
Coffs Harbour Peace Congregation	Rev	Bruce	Hohnberg
Cooma Trinity Congregation			
Epping LifeWay Congregation	Mr	Greg	Lane
Gilgandra-Dubbo Parish	Mrs	Inge	Ramisch-Baker
Gunnedah-Tamworth Parish			
Henty Parish	Mr	Leon	Schoff
Illawarra and South Coast Congregation	Ms	Anna	Zoljan
Lavington Parish	Mr	Chey	Mattner
Leeton-Griffith Lutheran Parish			
Narraweena Redeemer Congregation	Mr	Rene	van den Tol
Port Macquarie St Peters Congregation	Mr	David	Pfeiffer*
Springwood Our Saviour Congregation	Mr	Robert	Brown
St Marys St Pauls Congregation	Mr	Martin	Vanags
Sutherland Good Shepherd Congregation	Dr	Alison	Short
Sydney Finnish Parish	Ms	Tuula	Kuusela
Sydney St Pauls Congregation	Dr	Bruce	Arnold
Temora Community Church Congregation	Mr	Dale	Wiencke
Tuggeranong Good Shepherd Congregation	Miss	Thea	Janetzki
Wagga Wagga Parish	Mr	Max	Lieschke
Walla Walla Parish	Mrs	Charmain	Lieschke
Woden Valley Immanuel Congregation	Mrs	Betty	Meyer
West Wyalong Lutheran Parish			

Queensland

Alberton Parish	Mrs	Rebecca	Ludcke
Ashmore Living Word Congregation	Mrs	Indira	Newell
Beau-Logan Parish	Mrs	Rebecca	Waters
	Mrs	Narelle	Kleinschmidt
Beenleigh Bethesda Congregation	Mr	Symon	Scheiwe
Bethania Congregation	Mrs	Jennifer	Kempe
Biloela Parish	Mr	Trevor	Kucks
Brassall St Mark's Congregation			
Brisbane City St Andrews Congregation	Mrs	Silke	Moolman
Buderim Congregation	Mr	Stephen	Muller
Bundaberg Parish	Mr	John	Dwyer
Caboolture St Pauls Congregation	Mr	Bernard	Schulz
Cairns Parish	Mrs	Anita	Moran*
Caloundra St Marks Congregation	Mr	Chris	Sabel
Corinda St Johns Congregation	Mr	Graeme	Drapper
Crows Nest Parish	Mr	David	Hiscock
Eight Mile Plains Parish	Rev	Norman	Bergen

Emerald Parish	Mrs	Robin	Jaensch
Everton Hills Prince Of Peace Congregation	Mrs	Sharryn	Cook
Fassifern Parish			
Gladstone St Martins Congregation	Mr	Jeff	Carr
Glasshouse Country Calvary Congregation	Mrs	Jillene	Scheffe
Gold Coast (Tallebudgera) St Andrews Congregation	Mrs	Judy	Hembrow
Goombungee-Maclagan Parish	Mrs	Judy	Hartwig
Gympie Zion Congregation	Mrs	Bev	Kapernick
Hervey Bay St James Congregation	Mr	David	Grieger
Hope Vale Parish	Rev	David	Spanagel
	Mrs	Cheryl	Cannon*
Indooroopilly St Peters Congregation	Mr	Bruce	Lockwood
Ingham-Mission Beach Parish			
Ipswich Parish	Mrs	Lorna	Hobson
Kingaroy Parish	Mr	Robert	Knock
Lockyer Valley Parish	Mr	David	Klinge
	Mrs	Shirley	Klinge
Lowood-Brisbane Valley Parish	Mr	Kevin	Ruthenberg
Mackay District Parish	Dr	Paul	Lange
Maryborough-Childers Parish	Ms	Heather	Brady
Middle Park Good News Congregation	Mrs	Katherine	Matuschka
Mount Gravatt St Marks Congregation	Mr	Andrew	Spyropoulos
Mount Isa Parish	Rev	Lauri	Iso-Aho
Murrumba Downs Living Faith Congregation	Mrs	Elizabeth	Winderlich
Nambour Parish	Ms	Corinna	Schimak
Noosa Good Shepherd Congregation	Mr	Stephen	Wenke
Northern Rivers Parish	Rev	Geoff	Hartwig*
Nundah St Pauls Congregation	Mrs	Catherine	Brown
Oakey Parish	Mr	Mark	Carter
Pittsworth Parish	Mr	Gavin	Pfeffer
Redcliffe Grace Congregation	Mrs	Danielle	Robinson
Redlands Parish	Mrs	Susan	Seng
Rosedale Our Saviour Congregation	Ms	Margit	Hubbers
Rockhampton Parish	Mr	Donald	McCall
Rosewood District Parish	Mrs	Janet	Krause
South West Queensland Parish	Mr	Wayne	Horrigan
	Mrs	Karen	Haak-Schoff
Southport Trinity Congregation	Mr	Garry	McDonald
Tingalpa-Mt Cotton Parish	Ms	Inari	Thiel
Toowoomba Cornerstone Parish	Mrs	Hazel	Weis
Toowoomba Emmanuel Fellowship Congregation	Mrs	Jenny	Gersekowski
Toowoomba Good Shepherd Congregation	Mr	Roy	Frost

Toowoomba Living Grace Congregation	Miss	Merna	Thamm
Toowoomba Redeemer Parish	Mrs	Jo	Ellsum
Toowoomba St Pauls Congregation	Mr	John	Cameron
Toowoomba Trinity-Christ Church Parish	Mr	Ken	Reid
Townsville Parish	Ms	Shelley	Koch
Wilsonton-Glencoe Parish	Mr	Geoffrey	Becker
Woolloongabba Nazareth Congregation	Mrs	Christine	Jones
Woolloongabba Nazareth Finnish Congregation	Ms	Ulla	Charles

South Australia and Northern Territory

Aberfoyle Park Our Saviour Congregation	Mr	Shannon	Hood
Adelaide Bethlehem Congregation	Dr	Judy	Jaensch
	Mr	Timothy	Pietsch
Adelaide Deaf Community			
Adelaide Finnish Congregation			
Adelaide St Stephens Congregation	Mrs	Colleen	Fitzpatrick
Aldinga Galilee Congregation			
Alice Springs Parish	Mr	Kym	Ritchie
Angaston Parish	Mrs	Kay	Herring
Balaklava Parish	Mr	Jarrad	Thiele
Barmera-New Residence Parish	Mr	Chris	Jericho
Berri Parish	Mr	Trevor	Ziersch
Bethany-Tabor Parish	Mr	Paul	Rohrlach
	Mr	Graham	Semmler
Birdwood Holy Cross Congregation	Mr	Adrian	Krollig
Blackwood St Peters Congregation	Mrs	Margaret	Modra
Blair Athol St Paul Congregation	Mrs	Tania	Nelson
Bordertown Parish	Mr	Bruce	Hunt
Bridgewater Grace Congregation	Mr	Mark	Christian
Brinkworth Parish	Mrs	Kristine	Leonard
Carlsruhe-Saddleworth Parish	Mr	Darryl	Schutz
Ceduna Parish			
Central-Eyre Peninsula Lutheran Parish			
Clare-Blyth Parish	Mr	Kym	Dreckow
Cleve Parish	Mrs	Judy	Buchold
Coonalpyn Parish	Mr	Adrian	March*
	Rev	Kees	Sturm^
Cummins Parish	Mr	Hartley	Modra
Darwin Top End Parish	Mrs	Madeleine	Von Muralt
Dernancourt St Johns Congregation	Mr	Mervyn	Wagner
Elizabeth St Peters Congregation	Mr	Paul	Ridley
Eudunda-Robertstown Parish	Mr	Hedley	Scholz
	Mrs	Lyn	Schutz
Ferryden Park St Paul Congregation	Mr	David	Arnold*
Freeling Parish	Mr	Jim	Cawrse

Fullarton St Peters Congregation	Mr	Craig	Hall*
Gawler Parish	Ms	Valerie	Mew
	Mr	Peter	Wittwer
Glandore-Underdale Parish	Mr	Barrie	Phillips
Glenelg St Paul Congregation	Mrs	Felicia	Heberle
Glynde St Andrews Congregation	Ms	Petra	Williams*
	Mrs	Pam	Thiele^
Glynde Zion Congregation	Mrs	Helene	Schulz
Golden Grove Congregation	Mr	Christiaan	Hersevoort
Goolwa Redeemer Congregation			
Greenock Parish	Mrs	Rhonda	Schild
Hahndorf St Michaels Congregation	Ms	Jennifer	Dickson
	Mr	Scott	Fairley
Hahndorf St Pauls Parish	Mrs	Stephnie	Wittwer
Hallett Cove Good Shepherd Congregation	Mrs	Lynette	Pattimore
Hampstead Holy Trinity Congregation	Mr	Phillip	Hiscock
Hope Valley Trinity Congregation	Mr	Keith	Kroehn
Kangaroo Island Congregation	Mr	Geoff	Rothe*
Kapunda Parish	Mr	Gary	Schmidt
Kingston SE St Johns Congregation			
Lameroo Parish	Mrs	Marilyn	Pickett
Light Pass Immanuel Parish	Mr	Robert	Leigh
Light Pass Strait Gate Parish	Mr	Rodney	Dorman
Lobethal Congregation	Mrs	Beryl	Smith
	Mr	Marcel	Smith
Loxton Parish	Mr	Lyndon	Hampel
Loxton St Peters Parish	Mr	John	Gladigau
Lyndoch Parish	Mrs	Kathryn	Krieg
Magill Pilgrim Congregation	Mr	Mark	Schubert
Maitland Parish	Mr	Peter	Clasohm
Mawson Lakes Community Congregation	Mr	Joshua	Ridley
McLaren Vale St Pauls Congregation	Mrs	Rosalie	Eckert
Mid Murray Parish	Mrs	Dawn	Bormann
Morphett Vale Calvary Congregation	Mr	Sydney	Kuchel
Mount Barker St Mark Congregation	Mr	Adrian	Curtis
Mount Compass St John Congregation			
Mount Gambier St Martins Congregation	Mr	James	Shaughnessy
Murray Bridge Christ Church Parish	Mr	Graham	Schubert
Murray Bridge Holy Cross Congregation	Mrs	Meredith	Page
Naracoorte Parish	Mr	Keith	Braendler
North Adelaide Immanuel Congregation	Mr	Greg	Bensted
Novar Gardens Immanuel Congregation	Dr	Valerie	Volk
Nuriootpa Parish	Rev	David	Freckelton
	Ms	Jacqueline	Will

Onkaparinga Parish	Mrs	Iris	Gladigau
Para Vista Good Shepherd Congregation	Mr	Keith	Kemp
	Mrs	Louisa	Kemp
Paringa Parish	Mr	Paul	Kruschel*
	Mr	Barry	Schier^
Pasadena Trinity Congregation	Mr	Geoff	Roocke
Pinnaroo Parish	Mrs	Helen	Rooney
Port Adelaide-Woodville Parish	Mrs	Joan	Grosse
Port Lincoln Parish	Mr	Jeff	Wendland*
Port Pirie Parish	Mr	David	Burger
Renmark St Johns Trinity Congregation	Mr	Dennis	Hentschke
Roxby Downs Congregation			
Salisbury Parish	Dr	Cathryn	Hamilton
Seaford Congregation	Mr	Keith	Eckert
Southern Flinders Parish	Mr	Richard	Kruger
Southern Yorke Peninsula Parish			
Strathalbyn Parish	Mr	Clive	Wundersitz
Swan Reach Parish	Mrs	Denise	Waechter
Tailem Bend Parish	Mrs	Rachel	Buse
Tanunda Langmeil Congregation	Mrs	Noleen	Mattschoss
Tanunda Lutheran Home Chapel Congregation	Mr	Ray	Giersch
Tanunda St Johns Parish	Mrs	Sue	Fuller
Tanunda St Pauls Parish	Mrs	Jana	Baikova
Tea Tree Gully St Johns Congregation	Ms	Cathy	Clark
Unley St Johns Congregation	Mr	Tim	Geue
	Mr	Valdis	Andersons
Victor Harbor Congregation	Mrs	Anna	Watson
Waikerie Parish	Mr	George	Krzoska
Warradale Faith Congregation	Mr	Winston	Haby
Whyalla Parish	Mr	Keith	Sichler
Yalata Lutheran Parish			
Victoria (including Tasmania)			
Ballarat St Johns Congregation	Mr	Ron	Wheaton
Bendigo Parish	Mr	John	Leach
Box Hill St Pauls Congregation	Mr	Mark	Hughes
	Ms	Kate	Burke
Dimboola-Jeparit Parish	Mr	Lou	Reichenbach*
	Mr	Geoffrey	Gellert^
Doncaster-Ivanhoe Congregation	Mr	Alan	Senior
Footscray St Matthew Congregation	Mrs	Robyn	Brennen
Geelong Parish	Dr	Norma	Koehne
Gippsland Parish	Mr	Dieter	Melzer
Goulburn Murray Parish	Ms	Vicky	Hope
Grampians Parish	Mrs	Annie	Gellert

Greensborough Parish	Mr	Michael	Pratt
Grovedale Parish	Mr	Steve	Burger*
Hamilton Parish	Mr	Rex	Wedding
Hobart St Peters Congregation	Ms	Sonia	Weidenbach
Horsham Parish	Mr	Arnold	Niewand
	Mrs	Linda	Niewand
Laverton Christ the Lord Slovak Congregation	Rev	Brett	Kennett
Melbourne (Doncaster) Trinity Chinese Congregation	Rev	Daniel	Wong
Melbourne Finnish Parish	Ms	Elizabeth	Nelson
Melbourne Hungarian Congregation	Mr	Kristofer	Nagy
Melbourne North West Regional Ministry Parish	Mr	John	Graetz
Melbourne Outer Eastern Congregation	Mrs	Sabine	Haeusler
Melbourne South Eastern Congregation	Rev	James	Luk
Melbourne St Johns Southgate Congregation	Ms	Janet	Abercombie
Mildura Parish	Mr	Russell	Zibell
Minyip-Warracknabeal Parish	Mr	Ray	Petering
Moorabbin-Dandenong Parish	Mrs	Jennifer	Pietsch
Murtoa St Johns Congregation	Mr	Dennis	Schorback
Natimuk Parish	Mr	Peter	Tischler
Nhill Parish, Vic	Mr	Barry	Schultz
North Geelong Our Redeemer Congregation	Mr	Ralph	Brinkmann
North Tasmania Parish			
Nunawading-Waverley Parish VIC	Mrs	Merrilyn	Beaumont
Portland-Heywood Multi-site Congregation	Mrs	Merlyn	Menzel
Rainbow Parish	Miss	Elissa	Keller
Ringwood-Knox Parish	Mr	Volker	Lange
Rosebud Bethany Congregation	Mr	John	Kuchel*
Swan Hill St Paul Congregation	Mr	Paul	Weinert
Tabor Parish	Mrs	Tanya	Neilson
Tarrington Parish	Mr	Mark	Tonissen
Wangaratta Parish	Mr	Brian	Grosser
Warrnambool Parish	Mr	Geoffrey	Nuske
Wodonga Parish	Mr	Phillip	Edwards
Wyndham-Hobsons Bay Congregation	Ms	Faye	Schmidt

Western Australia

Albany St Pauls Congregation	Ms	Judith	Pech
Canna Trinity Congregation			
Dalyellup Ocean Forest Congregation	Mr	Murray	Pfitzner
Duncraig Concordia Congregation	Mr	Lester	Dreckow
Esperance-Kalgoorlie-Boulder Parish	Mr	Neil	Weckert
Geraldton Hope Congregation	Mr	Joseph	Theodorsen
Katanning-Narrogin Parish	Mr	Paul	Zadow

Morawa St Paul Congregation			
Morley Bethlehem Congregation	Mrs	Roslyn	Zadow
Parkwood St Lukes Congregation	Mr	Simon	Pfitzner*
	Mrs	Margaret	Pfitzner^
Perth St Johns Congregation	Mrs	Sharon	Reid
Rockingham-Mandurah Congregation	Mrs	Tracy	Adams

Pastor Delegates**Australian Lutheran College**

Rev Dr Stephen Haar	Rev Dr Andrew Pfeiffer	Rev Dr Stephen Hultgren
Rev Dr Stephen Pietsch	Rev Andrew Jaensch	Rev Dr Dean Zweck
Rev Dr Peter Lockwood		

Emeriti

Rev Geoff Burger	Rev Dr Greg Lockwood	Rev Dr John Kleinig
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Past Presidents

Rev Dr Les Grope*	Rev Dr Lance Steicke*	Rev Dr Mike Semmler
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New Zealand

Rev John Davison	Rev Jim Pietsch
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New South Wales

Rev Darren Jaensch*	Rev John Borchert	Rev Steven Hibbard
Rev Ernie Kiss	Rev Mat Eckermann	Rev Kim Kuchel*
Rev Greg Fowler*	Rev Darren Kupke	Rev Christian Fandrich
Rev Simon Mackenzie	Rev Michael Grosas	Rev Hans Peethala
Rev Dr David Grulke	Rev Michael Rudolph	Rev Paul Hage
Rev Gabor Szabo*	Rev Adam Eime	Rev Robert Bartholomaeus

Queensland

Rev Mark Blackwell	Rev Michael Mayer	Rev Thomas Bohmert
Rev Michael Neldner	Rev Mark Brinkmann	Rev Noel Noack
Rev Sam Davis	Rev John O'Keefe	Rev Dr Noel Due
Rev Lou Pfeiffer	Rev Robert Edwards	Rev Joshua Pfeiffer
Rev Brenton Fiedler	Rev Greg Priebbenow	Rev Milton Fritsch
Rev Lester Reinbott	Rev Nathan Glover	Rev Lionel Rohrlach
Rev James Haak	Rev Luke Spilsbury	Rev Peter Hage
Rev Robin Stelzer	Rev Mark Hampel	Rev Jim Strelan
Rev Mark Henderson	Rev Carl Thiele	Rev Michael Jarick
Rev Matt Thiele	Rev Stuart Kleinig	Rev Paul Thiele
Rev Mark Vainikka	Rev Reid Matthias	Rev Matthew Wilksch
Rev Dr Michael Lockwood		

South Australian and Northern Territory

Rev Guntars Baikovs	Rev Joshua Muller	Rev Julian Bayha
Rev Greg Page	Rev Wayne Boehm	Rev Fraser Pearce

Rev Rob Borgas	Rev Ben Pfeiffer	Rev Jim Bryan
Rev Peter Pfitzner	Rev Ron Buchold	Rev Dr Harry Pickett
Rev Joel Cramer	Rev Michael Pietsch*	Rev David Eckermann
Rev David Preuss	Rev Peter Faggotter	Rev Nigel Rosenzweig
Rev Paul Fielke	Rev Dan Rooney	Rev Peter Fuhlbohm
Rev Dr Andrew Ruddell	Rev David Gogoll	Rev Jason Sander
Rev Greg R Graham	Rev Wally Schiller	Rev Mark Hansen
Rev Rob Schubert	Rev Geoff Havelberg	Rev Ken Schultz
Rev Geoff Johnston	Rev Stephen Schultz	Rev Phil Joppich
Rev Tim Spilsbury	Rev Tim Klein	Rev Michael Steicke
Rev Noel Kluge	Rev John Strelan	Rev Darrin Kohrt
Rev Dr John Thiel	Rev Andy Kowald	Rev Peter Traeger
Rev Geoff Kuchel	Rev Andrew Vanderwal	Rev David Kuss
Rev Greg Vangsness	Rev James Leach	Rev Detlev Vosgerau
Rev Steven Liersch	Rev Kevin Wood	Rev Keith McNicol
Rev Robin Zadow	Rev Peter Miller	Rev Peter Ziersch
Rev Eugene Minge		

Victoria

Rev Matthew Anker	Rev Sean McMaughan	Rev Andrew Bettison
Rev Wayne Muschamp	Rev Andrew Brook	Rev Ray Pace
Rev Tim Ebbs	Rev Lester Priebsenow	Rev Peter Ghalayini
Rev Chris Raatz	Rev Levi Graham	Rev Cecil Schmalkuche
Rev Phillip Haar	Rev Richard Taylor	Rev Tim Jarick
Rev Mark Tuffin	Rev Mathew Ker	Rev David Wear
Rev Adrian Kramer	Rev John Weier	Rev Nich Kitchen
Rev Mark Winter		

Western Australia

Rev André Meyer	Rev Tony Traeger	Rev Jason Pokela
Rev Rodney Witmitz	Rev Richard Schulze*	

Staff and Consultants present

LCA Business Manager	Mrs	Deborah	Venz
LCA Administration Assistant	Mrs	Jayne	Welke
LCA Communications Coordinator	Ms	Linda	Macqueen
LCA Assistant to the Bishop	Ms	Larissa	Helbig
Editor <i>The Lutheran</i> (outgoing)	Mrs	Roseanne	Scheffe
Editor <i>The Lutheran</i> (incoming)	Mrs	Lisa	McIntosh
Legal consultant	Mr	Fred	Kleinschmidt
Dialogue consultant	Mrs	Geraldine	Hawkes
EO - Lutheran Laypeople's League	Mr	Allen	Kupke

C. BUSINESS OF CONVENTION

1. PRELIMINARIES

1.1 Formal constituting of Convention

Bishop John Henderson declared open the Eighteenth Regular Convention of Synod 2015 at the Opening Service held in the Redeemer College Chapel at Rochedale on Tuesday 29 September 2015 at 7pm.

The adoption of the Agenda on the convening of Convention included the receiving of all Reports contained in the Book of Reports listed at Sections 2.6 to 17.3.

1.2 Endorsements

1.2.1 *Minute Secretaries*

2015:0101 RESOLVED that the appointment of Mrs Alice Lamnek, Mr Neil Kube, and Ms Wendy Hoopert as minute secretaries be endorsed.

1.2.2 *Head Teller*

2015:0102 RESOLVED that the appointment of Rev Wally Schiller as head teller be endorsed.

2015:0103 RESOLVED that the appointment of Mr Michael Turner as replacement head teller be endorsed.

1.2.3 *Communications Officers*

2015:0104 RESOLVED that the appointment of Ms Linda Macqueen, Ms Lisa McIntosh, Mrs Rosie Scheffe, Mr David Mau and Rev Ben Hentschke as communications officers be endorsed.

1.2.4 *Committee for Verification of Minutes*

2015:0105 RESOLVED that the appointment of Mr David Menzel, Ms Jill Hobden and Mr Volker Hopfmueller as members of the verification committee be endorsed.

1.2.5 *Electoral Committee*

2015:0106 RESOLVED that the appointment of Rev Ray Pace (chairperson), Rev Mark Blackwell, Rev Matthew Wilksch, and two lay members of the Electoral Committee be endorsed.

Mrs Judy Powell and Mr Russell Veerhuis were appointed as the lay members by the committee after business started.

1.3 Welcome to Convention

Bishop John Henderson extended a warm welcome to pastor and lay delegates attending Synod. He further welcomed visitors gathered in the chapel.

- Mr Ross Vasta MP extended a greeting to the Synod on behalf of Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Turnbull.
- LCA Queensland Bishop Paul Smith extended a welcome on behalf of the LCA church family in Queensland.
- Rev Robin Stelzer (Pastor, Rochedale) extended a welcome on behalf of the host congregation, Our Saviour Lutheran Church Rochedale.
- Mr David Radke (Principal of Redeemer Lutheran College, Rochedale) extended a welcome on behalf of the college community hosting the Synod.

1.4 Civic Welcome

Executive Officer of the Church, Mr Peter Schirmer extended a welcome to the following special guests who attended the Opening Service:

- Mr Mick de Brenni MP (State Member for Springwood attending on behalf of the Premier of Queensland the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP)
- Sister Elizabeth Delaney (General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia)
- The Rev Canon Richard Tutin (General Secretary of Queensland Churches Together)
- Bishop Brian Finnigan (representing the Most Revd Denis Hart the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and President of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference)
- The Right Rev Alison Taylor (representing The Most Revd Philip Freier the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne and Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia)
- Mr Stuart McMillan (President of the Uniting Church in Australia)
- Rev Bruce Johnson (Presbytery Minister of the Moreton Rivers Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia)
- Dr Joe Goodall (Moderator of the Congregational Federation of Australia & New Zealand)
- Mrs Meredith Goodall (Moderator of the Queensland Congregational Fellowship)
- The Very Rev Father John Abdel Karim (representing His Eminence Archbishop Paul Saliba, Primate of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand & the Philippines)
- The Very Rev Father John J Vesic (representing His Grace The Right Reverend Irinej, Bishop of the Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand)
- Lieutenant Colonel David Godkin (representing Commissioner Floyd Tidd of the Salvation Army Eastern Territory and Commissioner James Condon of the Salvation Army Southern Territory)
- Mr Ross Vasta MP (Federal Member for Bonner attending on behalf of the Prime Minister)

The following apologies were received from special guests invited to attend the Opening Service:

- His Excellency General the Honourable Peter Cosgrove (Governor General, Commonwealth of Australia)
- His Excellency Chris Seed (New Zealand High Commissioner to Australia)
- The Honourable Warren Truss MP (Federal Member for Wide Bay and leader of the National Party of Australia)
- The Honourable Ian Rickuss MP (Federal Member for Lockyer)
- The Honourable Jon Krause MP (State Member for Beaudesert)
- His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian (Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Diocese of Australia & New Zealand)
- His Grace Bishop Suriel (Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Melbourne & Affiliated Regions)
- The Right Rev David Cook (Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia)
- Rev Dr Bill Brown (National Chair of Australian Baptist Ministries)

1.5 Roll Call and Apologies

LCA Secretary Rev Neville Otto announced that there were 413 delegates registered for convention on Wednesday at the opening business session. The number of delegates in attendance on Thursday was 423, on Friday was 424 and Saturday was 423.

Please see list of delegates on pages 12–21 of this publication.

Apologies were received from:

- Revs Gabor Szabo, Greg Fowler, Dr Lance Steicke, Richard Schulze, Michael Pietsch, Kim Kuchel, Tim Koch, Stephen Jaensch, Darren Jaensch, Paul Renner
- David Pfeiffer, Cheryl Cannon, Jo Farley, Geoff Rothe, John Kuchel, Sylvia Hutt, Robert Smyth, Judith Smyth, Michael Vitale, Peter Madirazza, Darren Royals, John Grocke, Rob Pollnitz

1.6 Greetings

LCA Secretary Rev Neville Otto delivered a greeting to Synod on behalf of former LCA President, Rev Dr Lance Steicke.

An additional greeting was received from:

- Lauma Zusevics, Archbishop Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad

1.7 Late Proposals for acceptance

Continuation of Lay Reader Resources (Natimuk) proposal

It was announced that although this proposal had not met the original deadline, GCC had received it in time for inclusion in *The Book of Reports* and placed it on the agenda.

No additional late proposals were forthcoming from the floor of Synod.

1.8 Introductions

Mr Fred Kleinschmidt (legal consultant appointed by GCC to provide advice on procedural matters) and Ms Geraldine Hawkes (Executive Officer South Australian Council of Churches appointed by GCC to assist the Ordination Dialogue Group in their facilitating of group discussion) were introduced as consultants to Synod.

1.9 Acclamations

- Bishop John Henderson following the presentation of his report.
- Dr Andrew Pfeiffer on the announcement of his election as Assistant Bishop.

2. ADMINISTRATION AND PASTORAL

2.1 Office of the Bishop

2.1.1 *Report: LCA Bishop*
(see page 97 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0201 RESOLVED that the report of the Bishop be adopted

2.1.2 *Report: General Church Council*
(see page 124 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0202 RESOLVED that the report of the General Church Council be adopted

2.2 Proposals from LCA Boards and Commissions

2.2.1 *General Church Council: Standing Committee on Nominations*
(see page 20 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0203 RESOLVED that Section VII. D. Nominations and Elections, in the By-laws of the Church, be amended as follows (words to be removed – strike-through; words to be added – bold) and that the subsequent sections 9–13 be renumbered 8–12 accordingly:

NOMINATIONS IN GENERAL

1. Unless otherwise provided for, nominations to the Convention shall be made by a standing committee called the **LCA Standing Committee on Nominations, which shall act in accordance with rules resolved by Synod and amended from time to time by Synod or the General Church Council.**
2. ~~The method for appointing the Standing Committee on Nominations shall be as follows:~~
 1. ~~The General Church Council shall first appoint a Chairperson.~~
 2. ~~The Church Councils of the Districts of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Northern Territory, and Victorian Districts shall nominate one [1] pastor and two [2] lay members: one [1] male and one [1] female.~~
 3. ~~The General Church Council shall appoint a committee consisting of one [1] person from the nominations received from each of the four Districts.~~
 4. ~~The General Church Council shall appoint the District nominees as a sub-committee in their respective District to assist in the work of the Nominations Committee.~~

3. The Standing Committee shall meet prior to and at the regular convention of the General Synod. Any additional meeting may be called by the Chairperson subject to the provisions of the following Section VIII. G. 7. (3)
6. The duties of the Standing Committee on Nominations shall be as follows:
 1. ~~In reference to nominations for the convention, its duties shall be to~~
 1. solicit nominations with relevant information from congregations through an announcement in the official publication of the Church;
 2. ~~make additional nominations at its discretion;~~
 3. ~~ensure that sufficient nominations are made to fill all vacancies;~~
 4. ~~ensure that nominations are received from any body which has the right of nomination;~~
 5. ~~ensure that the consent of nominees has been received and that they are eligible for office;~~
 6. ~~prepare written lists of nominations, indicating the source of each nomination and which nominees are retiring members; and~~
 7. ~~supply to the delegates in a duplicated statement relevant information regarding the nominees, such as congregational membership, age, occupation or profession, specific experience, qualifications.~~
 2. ~~In general, its duties shall be~~
 1. ~~to acquaint itself with the membership needs of the boards of the Church and to consider the availability of suitable personnel to meet such needs;~~
 2. ~~to serve in a consultative capacity in matters relating to appointments to boards by the General Church Council; and~~
 3. ~~in the case of a casual vacancy in a position generally filled by election, to provide nominations for the filling of such vacancy to be considered together with any additional nominations which the General Church Council may make.~~
76. The following provisions shall apply to nominations for any elected office or any position on a board, except in those cases where the right of nomination has been delegated to a particular body:
 1. Persons retiring and eligible for re-election shall indicate their willingness to continue in service as members.
 2. Nominations, indicating the consent of the nominee, may be forwarded by any congregation to the Standing Committee on Nominations.
 3. Suggested nominations may be made by the Bishop of the Church, the Bishop of any District, and by any board of the Church in reference to that board, for consideration by the Standing Committee on Nominations.
 4. The Standing Committee on Nominations at its discretion may list a nominee for a position on a board in place of or in addition to that position for which the candidate was originally nominated, subject to the nominee's consent **and in consultation with the relevant board.**
 5. ~~During the days of the convention, up to the close of nominations, any two [2] delegates may submit a further nomination, which shall be signed by the proposer and seconder, and shall indicate the consent of the nominee.~~
87.
 1. ~~The first reading of nominations shall take place after the completion of the elections provided for in the preceding Section VII. D. 4., and a written list of these nominations shall be distributed to the delegates.~~
 2. ~~The nominations shall be arranged by the Standing Committee on Nominations into two [2] groups according to boards in order to give opportunity for reconsideration and/or addition of nominations to the second group in the light of elections to the first group.~~

- ~~3. One session shall elapse between the first reading and the close of nominations for the first group, and between the declaration **conduct** of elections for the first group and the close of nominations for the second group. At least one session shall elapse before the elections are conducted.~~
3. Where a new office or board is created, **or where changes are made to the composition of an existing board**, the time of closure for such nominations ~~may~~**shall** be ~~extended~~ **determined** by the Bishop and the elections be held later accordingly.

FURTHER RESOLVED that new rules for the Standing Committee on Nominations be adopted, as follows:

STANDING COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

NAME

1. The name of the Committee shall be LCA STANDING COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

ACCOUNTABILITY

2. The Committee shall be responsible to the General Church Council.

OBJECTS

3. The objects of the Committee shall be to
 1. facilitate nominations to the governing bodies of the Church in close cooperation with the relevant bodies;
 2. seek appropriate people to serve on those bodies; and
 3. carry out its duties during the synodical term and at the Convention of Synod as provided for in the By-Laws of the Church, Section VII. D.

MEMBERSHIP

4. The Committee shall consist of seven [7] members:
 1. one [1] pastor and five [5] lay members appointed by the General Church Council; and
 2. one [1] member of General Church Council.

The Executive Officer of the Church shall be a consultant and the Chairperson shall be appointed by General Church Council from the membership of the Committee.

DUTIES

5. In addition to the general duties of a board of the Church as laid down in Section VIII. G. of the By-laws of the Church and the procedures for Nominations in General as laid down in Section VII. D. 5-8 of the By-laws of the Church, the duties of the Committee shall be to
 1. develop and implement processes that enables members of the Church to offer themselves for service on a board or committee of the Church at any time;
 2. develop a systematic approach to the retention and retrieval of the nominations received from members of the Church which can be accessed when needed;
 3. facilitate a process to liaise with boards and committees to understand the strategic and operational decisions such bodies will need to make in a given synodical term;
 4. liaise with the governing bodies to identify the skills, experience and competencies such bodies will need;
 5. identify membership needs and consider the availability of suitable personnel to meet such needs;
 6. ensure that sufficient nominations are presented to fill all positions;
 7. ensure that the consent of nominees has been received and that such nominees are eligible for office;

8. work with the boards and committees to make recommendations for membership to the appropriate body which shall be in the form of a written list of nominations indicating the source of each nomination and which members are re-nominating;
9. supply to the delegates a copy of relevant information regarding the nominees, including congregational membership, occupation or profession, specific experience and qualifications; and
10. recommend to the General Church Council any policies and procedures to improve the identification and recruitment of suitable people to boards and committees for good governance at all levels.

MEETINGS

6. Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held at least twice a year. Special meetings of the Committee shall be held prior to and at the regular convention of the General Synod. Any additional meetings not covered by the budget for the committee shall be subject to the provisions of Section VIII. G. 7. of the By-laws of the Church.

2.2.2 General Church Council: Boards of the Church Section VIII. G. (see page 24 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0204 RESOLVED that Section VIII. G. 11. The Boards of the Church, in the By-laws of the Church, be amended as follows (words to be removed – strike-through; words to be added – **bold**):

The board **shall**

1. ~~shall~~ submit annually to the General Church Council a report which shall include
 1. a record of the past year's activities in relation to planned objectives;
 2. audited financial statements, including a balance sheet;
 3. ~~details of its proposed work program, with accompanying estimates of capital and operating costs and of income for the ensuing two years; and~~
 4. ~~an indication of foreshadowed major capital expansion beyond the ensuing three years.~~
 3. **a written financial report that explains significant variations between budget and actual performance and, where necessary, how surpluses will be used and deficits funded; and**
 4. **identification of its major programmatic and organisational risks and the plans to mitigate them;**
2. ~~shall indicate the amounts not expended in the year's operation when submitting its budget for the following year;~~
2. **submit for approval by the General Church Council a three year Strategic Plan which**
 1. **articulates the main objectives for the period;**
 2. **outlines the main activities to be implemented;**
 3. **identifies how the Plan aligns to the LCA's Strategic Direction;**
 4. **demonstrates cooperation with other LCA ministry areas; and**
 5. **provides an indicative recurrent and capital budget for each year;**
3. ~~shall~~ consult with the General Church Council in regard to the use of ~~profits~~ **surpluses** from ~~trading operations~~ or the possible investment of any funds entrusted to its control;
4. ~~shall~~ use money provided for specific ~~budget items~~ **purposes** for any other purpose only with the sanction of the Executive of the General Church Council;
5. ~~shall~~ enter into or increase any financial commitment or overdraft limit only with the express permission and prior approval of the General Church Council;

6. ~~shall~~ seek the sanction of the General Church Council before making any financial appeal in the Church;
7. ~~shall~~, if it keeps its own books of account, ensure that the prescribed accounting procedures are used, and shall nominate an auditor for appointment by the General Church Council;
8. ~~may~~ **have the right to** appoint sub-committees which include personnel who are not members of the board, provided that the Bishop of the Church has sanctioned their appointment; and such personnel may be regarded as ~~consultative members of~~ **consultants to** the board;
9. ~~shall~~ define the duties of any executive officer serving it, for approval by the General Church Council, and shall direct the work of, and receive reports from, such executive officers;
10. ~~shall submit to the General Church Council any proposals regarding the number of office staff it deems necessary;~~
- ~~11~~10. ~~shall~~ provide the necessary regulations for any full-time employees;
- ~~12~~11. ~~shall~~ forward copies of its minutes to ~~all members of~~ the General Church Council;
- ~~13~~12. ~~shall~~ submit to the General Synod a general and a financial report covering the synodical term;
13. **undertake and report on an annual evaluation of its performance to ensure effective governance; and**
14. **advise the LCA Standing Committee on Nominations of its membership needs as identified by its evaluation processes and other considerations.**

2.2.3 *General Church Council: Changes to Governing Bodies*
(see page 26 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0205 RESOLVED that Synod approves in principle support for competency-based, appropriately structured LCA councils, boards, committees and commissions; and authorises GCC to develop and trial as far as is practicable the new Rules and Governance Policy, as well as prepare necessary changes to the LCA By-Laws, for approval by General Synod in 2018 to give effect to the new arrangements for governing bodies.

2.2.4 *General Church Council: National Functions*
(see page 31 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0206 RESOLVED that GCC be authorised to trial a restructure of the National Church functions in a phased approach to provide more effective leadership, governance and other resources that are church-wide, mission-focused, service oriented, efficiently delivered and effective in enacting the decisions of General Synod; and that GCC reports back to General Synod in 2018 on the results of the trial restructure and submit proposals for changes to the Constitution and By-Laws to formalise those structural changes that have been demonstrated to provide more effective leadership, governance and other resources that are church-wide, mission-focused, service oriented, efficiently delivered and effective in enacting the decisions and direction of General Synod.

2.2.5 *General Church Council: Child Protection*
(see page 34 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0207 RESOLVED that the General Convention of Synod reaffirms that our children are a precious gift from God. They are to be nourished and nurtured in their spiritual life within the Lutheran Church of Australia and their needs must be considered by all boards, councils and committees prior to the making of decisions. Children are to be cared for and protected from all physical, psychological, sexual and spiritual abuse while engaging in all church activities. The General Convention of Synod authorises General Church Council to commit resources to continue to develop effective procedures, and education and training programs to ensure that children are valued, respected, listened to and kept safe from harm.

2.2.6 *General Church Council: Domestic Violence*
(see page 36 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0208 RESOLVED that the Convention of Synod reaffirms its condemnation of all forms of violence in the family and authorises GCC to commit resources for a church-wide campaign to address the prevalence of Family Violence amongst us, which may include sharing of resources, education initiatives and the provision of pastoral care to the survivors of violence, as well as the perpetrators of abuse.

2015:0209 RESOLVED that Synod request CTICR study the Lutheran theological and scriptural understanding of subordination and the role of male headship in marriage and the contextual implications for family violence.

2.2.7 *Board of Media Ministry: Affirming its Mission*
(see page 38 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0210 RESOLVED that the LCA Synod affirms Lutheran Media as a mission of the church to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through media to all people.

2.2.8 *Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions and Australian Lutheran World Service: Creation, Environment*
(see page 38 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0211 RESOLVED that the LCA affirms that a prime responsibility of Christians is to be responsible stewards of creation and all life on the planet and encourages LCA members, congregations, groups and agencies to:

1. intentionally and regularly include God's gift of creation and our stewardship and care in prayer and worship, individual and group study, and church decision-making;
2. encourage, implement and model ways of living and working that minimise the production of greenhouse gas emissions;
3. examine the long term implications of an economy which readily consumes and throws away;
4. act to reduce waste and implement the sustainable use and recycling of earth's resources;

5. wrestle with issues of resource and environmental justice for poor communities, nations and future generations; and
6. engage in dialogue, discussion, shared learning and action with decision makers and environmental groups in the wider community.

2.2.9 *Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions and Australian Lutheran World Service: Proposal on Refugees*
(see page 39 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0212 RESOLVED that Synod encourages congregations and individuals, and affirms those who are already active in their support, to welcome new arrivals from refugee backgrounds to their communities and that they work to understand their specific needs and actively support them in their resettlement.

2.2.10 *Australian Lutheran World Service: Appointment of ALWS Auditor*
(see page 40 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0213 RESOLVED that MRL Group remains appointed as auditor of Australian Lutheran World Service until 30 April 2019.

2.3 Proposals from Congregations

2.3.1 *Ordination of Both Men and Women*
(see page 41 of the Book of Reports)

The resolution as outlined in the Book of Reports was debated and prayed about over a number of sessions of Convention.

A Point of Order relating to what constituted a 'recommendation' as opposed to 'advice' from General Pastors Conference was raised during the debate arguing that the matter cannot be discussed because LCA By-Laws Section VII.C.28(2) had not been satisfied. The chair disallowed the point of order and that decision was appealed.

Assistant Bishop Greg Pietsch took the chair to enable this matter to be debated.

Convention voted to **uphold** the original ruling of the chair. Bishop John Henderson returned to the chair.

2015:0215 RESOLVED that the rules of transacting business in Section VII.C.16 in the By-Laws be suspended to enable a time limit to be placed on any one speaker to the motion.

2015:0214 PROPOSAL that the LCA accepts the ordination of both men and women and amends Theses of Agreement V1 and the Constitution accordingly.

Bishop Henderson declared to the Synod that the motion had been **LOST**, with 269 in favour of the resolution and 145 against.

The Proposals from the Mid-Murray Lutheran Parish Mannum SA and the Grampians Lutheran Parish Vic were not put under the rules of transacting business (Section VII.C.19 of the By-laws of the Church).

2015:0216 RESOLVED that Synod requests the CTICR to build on its earlier work regarding the ordination of women and men to develop a draft doctrinal statement for GPC and the 19th Convention of Synod that presents:

- A theological basis for the ordination of women and men.
- A theological basis for why the ordination of women and men need not be church divisive.
- And that GCC resource it.

Proposed amendment #1: that Synod requests the College of Bishops appoint a special commission to build on CTICR's earlier work regarding the ordination of women and men to develop a draft doctrinal statement for General Pastors Conference and the 19th Convention of Synod that presents:

- A theological basis for the ordination of women and men.
- A theological basis for why the ordination of women and men need not be church divisive.
- And that GCC resource it.

The proposed amendment was LOST.

Proposed amendment #2: that Synod requests the CTICR to build on earlier work regarding the ordination of women and men to develop a draft doctrinal statement for GPC and the 19th Convention of Synod that presents:

- A theological basis for the ordination of women and men;
- A theological basis for why the ordination of women and men need not be church divisive *including an approach that allows for the LCA to simultaneously uphold two alternate views of the Office of the Public Ministry.*
- And that GCC resource it.

The proposed amendment was LOST.

Proposed amendment #3: that Synod requests the CTICR to build on its earlier work regarding the ordination of women and men to develop a draft doctrinal statement for GPC and the 19th Convention of Synod that presents:

- A theological basis for the ordination of women and men;
- *A theological basis for the ordination of men only that expands on the current teaching in the Theses of Agreement.*
- *A theological basis for why the ordination of women and men need not be church divisive.*
- And that GCC resource it.

The proposed amendment was LOST.

Resolution 2015:0216 was passed in its original wording.

2015:0217 RESOLVED that in the light of its teaching that only men be ordained, the church enter a period of careful theological reflection and pastoral work for the next synodical term to assist in maintaining its unity and harmony

2.3.2 *St Stephens Congregation, Adelaide: One Loving God, Two Hands study*
(see page 53 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0218 RESOLVED that in the next synodical term, Lutheran Community Care SA/NT be invited to revisit the study document 'One Loving God: Two Hands-sharing and caring in the light of our current culture', and that further studies and action plans are prepared, distributed and utilised throughout the church.

That the LCA Districts encourage and monitor the use of these resources.

2.3.3 *St Peter's Lutheran Congregation, Hobart: ALC Pastoral Training*
(see page 54 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0219 RESOLVED that General Convention support an examination of the creation and development of an additional ministry position that does not require completion of the full Australian Lutheran College (ALC) course for the person to be able to write and deliver sermons and to administer the Sacraments in situations outside those envisaged by the Specific Ministry Pastor Policy.

2.3.4 *St Peter's Lutheran Congregation, Hobart: Call of Pastors*
(see page 55 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0220 RESOLVED that General Convention support the conduct of a review of the LCA call process which will:

1. identify and examine potential new models for filling pastoral vacancies in congregations with a view to increasing efficiency, transparency and inclusion; and
2. include facilitated consultation with congregations as part of the research process.

2.3.5 *Bethesda Lutheran Church, Beenleigh: Digital Hymnbook*
(see page 56 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0221 RESOLVED that Proposal 2.3.5 be referred to the Commission on Worship.

2.4 Constitutional Matters

2.4.1 *Report: Standing Committee on Constitutions*
(see page 53 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0222 RESOLVED that the report of the Standing Committee on Constitutions be adopted.

2.4.2 *Australian Lutheran College Board Rules amendment*
(see page 58 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0223 RESOLVED that the new rules for the Board of Directors for Australian Lutheran College in the By-laws of the Church be adopted as follows:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE Adopted 2015

NAME

1. The name of the Board shall be BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE.

OBJECTS

2. The object of the Directors shall be to form the Board for the provision of the theological and educational training facility of the Church in accordance with the objects of the Company as contained in the constitution of the Company, Australian Lutheran College.

MEMBERSHIP

3. The Board shall consist of ten [10] members:
 1. the Bishop of the Church;
 2. two [2] pastors and two [2] lay members elected by the General Synod; and
 3. one [1] pastor and four [4] lay members appointed by General Church Council.
 The Principal of the College shall be a consultant.

DUTIES

4. In addition to the general duties of a board of the Church as laid down in Section VIII. G. of the By-laws of the Church, the duties of the Board shall be to ensure that the facility is equipped to
 1. prepare candidates to be pastors of the Church;
 2. prepare candidates to be teachers in the schools of the Church;
 3. prepare candidates for diaconal work in the Church;
 4. provide continuing and postgraduate studies in theology and education;
 5. provide education leading to awards and qualifications in theology and Christian service;
 6. undertake such other activities reasonably incidental thereto which promote the mission of the Church; and
 7. establish and maintain relationships with any relevant board or institution in the Church and its Districts and with Lutheran educational bodies overseas.

MEETINGS

5. The Board shall maintain a regular schedule of meetings. Any additional meetings shall be subject to the provisions of Section VIII. G. 7. of the By-laws of the Church.

2.4.3 Interpretation: Additional Definitions
(see page 60 of the Book of Reports)

2.4.3.1 LCA

2015:0224 RESOLVED that in the Constitution of the Church, a further definition be added as point (g) as follows:

- (g) '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 that the current point (g) be renumbered (h).

2.4.3.2 Districts

2015:0225 RESOLVED that in the By-laws of the Church, Constitution of the Districts, a further definition be added as point (h) as follows:

- (h) '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 that the current point (h) be renumbered (i).

2.4.4 Voting Terms

(see page 61 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0226 RESOLVED that the terms used in reference to voting in Article XII.2. of the Constitution of the Church be amended as follows (words to be removed – ~~strike through~~; words to be added – **bold**):

2. ~~Any proposal~~ **Notice of any such motion** to amend, alter, add to or repeal any of the rules shall be given on the agenda of the convention, and any motion to amend, alter, add or repeal shall require a two-thirds majority of all delegates registered at the convention.

2.4.5 LCA Pastors Transfer and Support Fund amendments

(see page 61 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0227 RESOLVED: that the By-laws of the Church, Rules of Funds, Pastors' Transfer and Support Fund, be amended as follows (words to be removed – ~~strike through~~; words to be added – **bold**):

NAME

1. The name of the Fund shall be **LCA PASTORS' TRANSFER AND SUPPORT FUND** ~~of the Lutheran Church of Australia.~~
4. The following provisions shall apply to all transfers, unless otherwise provided for in these rules or otherwise determined in particular cases by the General Church Council.
 1. The pastor concerned shall obtain quotes for the cost of removal from ~~at least three different firms of removalists.~~ **the preferred suppliers as advised by the Church.** The determination of the quote to be accepted shall be made by, ~~in the case of~~
 1. ~~a pastor transferring from one parish to another within a district – the Administrator of that District;~~
 2. ~~a pastor transferring from one district to another – the Administrator of the District the pastor is leaving;~~
 3. ~~graduate pastors and Australian Lutheran College staff – the Business Manager of Australian Lutheran College; and~~
 4. ~~overseas pastors returning to service in the Church – the Administrator of the District or the Business Manager of Australian Lutheran College, depending on who is receiving the pastor.~~ **the Office of the Bishop.**
 2. The travelling expenses of a pastor and family shall be borne by the Fund in the following manner:
 1. If not travelling by private car, economy fares shall be paid.
 2. If travelling by car, payment at the current rate per kilometre laid down in the Schedule of Salaries, the distance being reckoned by the shortest practicable route.
 3. Reasonable additional expenses incurred for living costs and accommodation during a long-distance transfer shall be paid at the discretion of ~~the respective District Administrator or the Business Manager of Australian Lutheran College, whichever is applicable.~~ **Office of the Bishop,** upon submission of a statement of expenses.
 3. The costs of travelling and removal shall be payable for transfer from the place of residence of the vacated charge to the place of residence of the next charge.
 4. There shall be a cap on the value of household goods covered by transit insurance through this Fund, with the amount set by the Commission on

Salaries every three [3] years and changed annually in line with the generic CPI figure in the interim years.

5. At the discretion of the ~~relevant district administrator or the Secretary of the Church,~~ **Office of the Bishop**, travel costs to a maximum of \$400 be paid for the relocation of a second car when a pastor relocates to a new position within the Church.
5. In the case of newly ordained pastors
 1. personal travel costs shall be payable from the place of residence at the time of ordination; and
 2. the costs of removal of personal belongings and pastoral equipment shall be payable from ~~Australian Lutheran College~~ **this Fund**.
6. In the case of pastors from overseas accepted into the service of the Church according to the due procedures of the Church, transfer costs shall be borne by the Fund in the following manner, ~~under the oversight of the Administrator of the District receiving the pastor or the Business Manager of Australian Lutheran College,~~ **under the oversight of the Office of the Bishop** ~~whichever is applicable:~~
 1. An air fare at economy rates or where available at excursion rates shall be paid from the town of residence or other approved place of embarkation for the pastor, spouse and each totally dependent child. In the case of a partially dependent child, payment of or towards the fare shall be subject to negotiation.
 2. The freight costs for the transport of personal belongings and pastoral equipment, generally by means other than by air and for an agreed weight or cubic measurement, shall be negotiated with the pastor according to the circumstances of each transfer.
 3. Approved fares or costs of travel to the place of embarkation and from the place of disembarkation shall be paid. Reasonable additional expenses for accommodation and meals may be paid at the discretion of the ~~respective District Administrator or the Business Manager of Australian Lutheran College,~~ **Office of the Bishop**, upon submission of a statement of expenses.

2.4.6 *High voting abstentions amendments* (see page 63 of the Book of Reports)

The seven parts of this motion all propose exactly the same change in each case.

2015:0228 RESOLVED that in Section VII. C. Procedure in Transacting Business, of the Constitution of the Church, clause 26 be replaced in the following form (words to be removed – ~~striketrough~~; words to be added – **bold**):

- ~~26. Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those delegates voting shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote have a casting vote, or refer the motion for further discussion. Where the number of those abstaining is considered to be too high, further discussion may take place and a further vote may be taken.~~
- 26. The Chairperson may determine when a vote is to be taken.**
 - 1. During a debate the Chairperson may seek an indication of readiness to vote. If there is an indication of a significant or high number of possible abstentions from voting by reason of indecision or by absence from the meeting, the Chairperson may decide to continue the discussion or defer the motion.**

2. Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those delegates voting shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote have a casting vote or refer the motion for further discussion.

2. FURTHER RESOLVED that in Section VII. The Synod. 3. Procedure in Transacting Business, of the By-laws of the Church – By-laws of the Districts, clause 26 (1) be replaced in the following form (words to be removed – ~~striketrough~~; words to be added – **bold**), and that the existing clause 26 (2) be renumbered to 26 (3):

- ~~26. Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those delegates voting shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote have a casting vote, or refer the motion for further discussion. Where the number of those abstaining is considered to be too high, further discussion may take place and a further vote may be taken.~~
26. The Chairperson may determine when a vote is to be taken.
 1. During a debate the Chairperson may seek an indication of readiness to vote. If there is an indication of a significant or high number of possible abstentions from voting by reason of indecision or by absence from the meeting, the Chairperson may decide to continue the discussion or defer the motion.
 2. Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those delegates voting shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote have a casting vote or refer the motion for further discussion.

3. FURTHER RESOLVED that in Article VIII Meetings, of the Model Constitution for Congregations, clause 7 be replaced in the following form (words to be removed – ~~striketrough~~; words to be added – **bold**):

- ~~7. Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those delegates voting shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote have a casting vote, or refer the motion for further discussion. Where the number of those abstaining is considered to be too high, further discussion may take place and a further vote may be taken.~~
7. The Chairperson may determine when a vote is to be taken.
 1. During a debate the Chairperson may seek an indication of readiness to vote. If there is an indication of a significant or high number of possible abstentions from voting by reason of indecision or by absence from the meeting, the Chairperson may decide to continue the discussion or defer the motion.
 2. Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those voting members casting a vote shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote have a casting vote or refer the motion for further discussion.

4. FURTHER RESOLVED that in Article VII Meetings, of the Model Constitution for Parishes, clause 6 be replaced in the following form (words to be removed – ~~striketrough~~; words to be added – **bold**):

- ~~6. Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those members voting shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote, have a casting vote, or refer the motion for further discussion. Where the number of those abstaining is considered to be too high, further discussion may take place and a further vote may be taken.~~
6. The Chairperson may determine when a vote is to be taken.
1. During a debate the Chairperson may seek an indication of readiness to vote. If there is an indication of a significant or high number of possible abstentions from voting by reason of indecision or by absence from the meeting, the Chairperson may decide to continue the discussion or defer the motion.
 2. Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those voting members casting a vote shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote have a casting vote or refer the motion for further discussion.

5. FURTHER RESOLVED that in Article VI Meetings, of the Model Constitution for a School – Parish, clause 6 be replaced in the following form (words to be removed – ~~striketrough~~; words to be added – **bold**):

- ~~6. Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those members voting shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote, have a casting vote, or refer the motion for further discussion. Where the number of those abstaining is considered to be too high, further discussion may take place and a further vote may be taken.~~
6. The Chairperson may determine when a vote is to be taken.
1. During a debate the Chairperson may seek an indication of readiness to vote. If there is an indication of a significant or high number of possible abstentions from voting by reason of indecision or by absence from the meeting, the Chairperson may decide to continue the discussion or defer the motion.
 2. Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those voting members casting a vote shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote have a casting vote or refer the motion for further discussion.

6. FURTHER RESOLVED that in Article VII Meetings, of the Model Constitution for a School – Association, clause 6 be replaced in the following form (words to be removed – ~~striketrough~~; words to be added – **bold**):

- ~~6. Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those members voting shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote, have a casting vote, or refer the motion for further discussion. Where the number of those abstaining is considered to be too high, further discussion may take place and a further vote may be taken.~~
6. The Chairperson may determine when a vote is to be taken.
1. During a debate the Chairperson may seek an indication of readiness to vote. If there is an indication of a significant or high number of possible abstentions from voting by reason of indecision or by absence from the meeting, the Chairperson may decide to continue the discussion or defer the motion.

2. Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those voting members casting a vote shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote have a casting vote or refer the motion for further discussion.

7. FURTHER RESOLVED that in Article VII Meetings, of the Model Constitution for a School - District, clause 6 be replaced in the following form (words to be removed – ~~striketrough~~; words to be added – **bold**):

26. ~~Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those members voting shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote, have a casting vote, or refer the motion for further discussion. Where the number of those abstaining is considered to be too high, further discussion may take place and a further vote may be taken.~~
26. The Chairperson may determine when a vote is to be taken.
 1. During a debate the Chairperson may seek an indication of readiness to vote. If there is an indication of a significant or high number of possible abstentions from voting by reason of indecision or by absence from the meeting, the Chairperson may decide to continue the discussion or defer the motion.
 2. Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those voting members casting a vote shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote have a casting vote or refer the motion for further discussion.

2.4.7 *Model Constitution for congregation amendments*
(see page 66 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0229 RESOLVED that the Model Constitution for a congregation be revised as follows:

MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR A CONGREGATION CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 The name of this Congregation is LUTHERAN CHURCH,
....., INCORPORATED.
- 1.2 In this Constitution and any By-laws made thereunder, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:
 - 1.2.1 'the Church' means the Lutheran Church of Australia Incorporated;
 - 1.2.2 'the District' means the Lutheran Church of Australia,
.....District Incorporated;
 - 1.2.3 'the Parish' means Lutheran Parish;
 - 1.2.4 'the Congregation' means Lutheran Church
Incorporated;
 - 1.2.5 'pastor' means any individual who is on the roll of pastors of the Church as described in Article 5 of the Constitution of the Church;
 - 1.2.6 'the Pastor' means the Pastor of the Congregation;
 - 1.2.7 'the Church Council' means the elected committee of the Congregation to administer the affairs of the Congregation;
 - 1.2.8 '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;

- 1.2.9 'financial year' means the year ending December 31;
- 1.2.10 words importing the singular number shall be deemed to include the plural number and vice versa where appropriate;
- 1.2.11 words importing the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine gender where appropriate;
- 1.2.12 'auditor' means a person having appropriate qualifications to examine and verify financial accounts and records.

ARTICLE 2. CONFESSION

- 2.1 The Congregation declares that it
 - 2.1.1 accepts without reservation the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as a whole and in all their parts, as the divinely inspired, written and inerrant Word of God, and as the only infallible source and norm for all matters of faith, doctrine and life; and
 - 2.1.2 acknowledges and accepts as true expositions of the Word of God and as its own confession all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, namely, the three Ecumenical Creeds: the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed; the Unaltered Augsburg Confession; the Apology of the Augsburg Confession; the Smalcald Articles; the Small Catechism of Luther; the Large Catechism of Luther; and the Formula of Concord.
- 2.2 The Congregation requires that all instruction and practice shall conform to the doctrinal basis laid down in the preceding Article 2.1 of this constitution.

ARTICLE 3. RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH

- 3.1 The Congregation, as a member of the Church and of the District,
 - 3.1.1 accepts the Constitution and By-laws of the Church and of the District;
 - 3.1.2 undertakes to participate in the work of the Church and of the District and to promote their Objects;
 - 3.1.3 agrees that where it cannot reach an amicable settlement on a question of ownership or control of any of its property, it shall in keeping with 1 Corinthians 6 make every effort to avoid action in the civil courts by first seriously seeking to settle any differences through the mediation and adjudication of the judicial system of the Church; and
 - 3.1.4 agrees to submit to the Bishop of the District any amendment, alteration, addition, or repeal which it may make from time to time to its Constitution and By-laws for determination by the Church Council of the District that the amended Constitution and By-laws remain in conformity with Article 4.1 of the Constitution of the Church.
- 3.2 In common with the Church, the Congregation regards unity in doctrine and its application in practice as the necessary prerequisite for church fellowship, and it rejects all forms of religious syncretism or unionism which are not in accord with the confessional position of the Church. It therefore adheres to the following principles:
 - 3.2.1 Lutheran pulpits are for Lutheran pastors only and in determining any exception the consent of the Bishop of the Church must be obtained.
 - 3.2.2 Lutheran altars are for Lutheran communicants only and in determining any exceptions the Pastor shall exercise conscientious judgment consistent with the confession of the Church and its pastoral guidelines.
- 3.3 In common with the Church, the Congregation regards as anti-christian any organisation or society, secret or open, which while practising forms of religion

does not confess faith in the Triune God and in the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour from sin, and which in teaching or in practice substitutes salvation by works for salvation in Christ.

ARTICLE 4. OBJECTS

- 4.1 The Objects of the Congregation are to
 - 4.1.1 glorify the Triune God in its worship and in its work;
 - 4.1.2 bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ through the proclamation of the Gospel in accordance with the Confession and practice of the Church;
 - 4.1.3 gather into the Congregation such persons as are, or desire to become, members of the Church for their edification through the Word and the Sacraments;
 - 4.1.4 help the members to dedicate their God-given spiritual, material and physical gifts to the service of their Lord;
 - 4.1.5 enable the members to reach out into the community in their daily lives and in their congregational activities as bearers of the Gospel;
 - 4.1.6 exercise discipline over its members in conformity with the Scriptures and the Confession of the Congregation;
 - 4.1.7 join with the Church and the District in building and extending the Kingdom of God; and
 - 4.1.8 acquire, dispose of or otherwise deal with real and personal property in the interest of the work of the Church and the Congregation.

ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 The Congregation shall consist of baptised, confirmed, communing, guest and voting members.
 - 5.1.1 BAPTISED MEMBERS are all those who
 - 5.1.1.1 have been baptised in the Congregation; or
 - 5.1.1.2 have been received as baptised members by transfer from another Congregation of the Church; or
 - 5.1.1.3 have been baptised in accordance with the institution of Christ and have placed themselves or have been placed under the spiritual care of the Congregation; or
 - 5.1.1.4 after instruction in the Christian faith and acceptance of it have been received into the Congregation by adult reception according to the rites and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.Towards these the Congregation recognises a continuing spiritual ministry so long as they remain in the community of the Congregation.
 - 5.1.2 CONFIRMED MEMBERS are all those baptised members who
 - 5.1.2.1 have been confirmed in the Congregation; or
 - 5.1.2.2 have been received as confirmed members by transfer from another Congregation of the Church; or
 - 5.1.2.3 after instruction in the Christian faith and acceptance of it have been received into the Congregation by adult reception according to the rites and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.
 - 5.1.3 COMMUNING MEMBERS are all those baptised members who
 - 5.1.3.1 are defined as confirmed members in the preceding Article 5.1.2 and who commune at least twice a year; or
 - 5.1.3.2 after instruction in the Sacrament of Holy Communion have been admitted to communion prior to confirmation and who commune at least twice a year.
 - 5.1.4 GUEST MEMBERS are those who, while absent from their home Congregation, regularly worship in the Congregation.

- 5.1.5 VOTING MEMBERS shall be persons who
 - 5.1.5.1 are both confirmed and communing members;
 - 5.1.5.2 accept the Constitution of the Congregation; and
 - 5.1.5.3 have reached the age of 18 years.

It shall be the duty of voting members to attend the meetings of the Congregation, and there shall be no voting by proxy. Any voting member whose right to partake of the Lord's Supper has been suspended by the Congregation as an act of church discipline is not entitled to exercise the right to vote while under such suspension.
- 5.1.6 The Congregation shall maintain a register of members and retain such records for preservation as the property of the Congregation and the Church.
- 5.2 UNDER SPIRITUAL CARE PEOPLE are those people with whom the Congregation is in contact and who are not defined in any of the above categories. Towards these, the Congregation recognises a duty of spiritual care.
- 5.3 The duties of members shall be to
 - 5.3.1 strive to remain true to the baptismal covenant;
 - 5.3.2 make diligent use of the Means of Grace, joining regularly in hearing the Word of God and partaking of the Lord's Supper;
 - 5.3.3 lead a Christian life in love, humility and peace, endeavouring through admonition, consolation and encouragement to edify one another;
 - 5.3.4 present their children for Holy Baptism in early infancy and diligently nurture them in the Christian faith in the home and in the schools provided by the Congregation;
 - 5.3.5 study the Scriptures in private and family devotions in the home;
 - 5.3.6 promote the unity and welfare of the Congregation as a family of God;
 - 5.3.7 express their gratitude to God for his material gifts and blessings by contributing regularly towards the financial support of the Congregation and of the Church as the Lord has prospered them;
 - 5.3.8 recognise and carry out their mission to the community in their daily lives and in the activities of the Congregation;
 - 5.3.9 minister to human need in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord in the spirit of Christian love and service;
 - 5.3.10 support the Pastor in all work in the Congregation and community through prayer and personal concern for the Pastor's spiritual and material welfare; and
 - 5.3.11 avoid holding membership in anti-christian societies.
- 5.4 Membership in the Congregation shall terminate when
 - 5.4.1 persons are received into membership in another congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church after having obtained a Letter of Transfer from the Congregation;
 - 5.4.2 persons join another church outside the fellowship of the Evangelical Lutheran Church;
 - 5.4.3 the whereabouts of persons are unknown and cannot be established, in which case the names of such persons shall be removed from the list of members by action of the congregational meeting;
 - 5.4.4 persons are excommunicated or exclude themselves.
- 5.5 Any action involving excommunication shall be determined according to the principles of Scripture contained in Matthew 18:15-20 and related passages.

Persons who refuse to accept Christian admonition and to discuss their case with the Congregation or its representatives thereby exclude themselves.

- 5.6 Upon termination of membership such members' right, title, interest or claim in, to, and upon any property of the Congregation shall cease and they shall have no claim to compensation for contributions made by them.
- 5.7 Responsibilities and Rights of Members
 - 5.7.1 Notwithstanding the responsibilities of members referred to in Article 5.3, members have responsibilities as required by the Act.
 - 5.7.2 Membership of the Congregation does not confer on a member any right, title or interest in any real or personal property of the Congregation.

ARTICLE 6. THE MINISTRY

- 6.1 The Congregation recognises and upholds the Office of the Ministry as the office divinely instituted for the public administration of the Means of Grace.
- 6.2 The Pastor of the Congregation shall be a man whose soundness in faith, aptness to teach, and other qualifications for office have been examined and approved by the Church in accordance with the Scriptures and Confessions of the Church regarding the public office of the ministry.
- 6.3 Unless otherwise stated, the duties of the Pastor shall be as contained in the Letter of Call and shall include the duty to
 - 6.3.1 preach the Word of God and administer the Holy Sacraments according to the Confession of the Congregation as prescribed in Article 2;
 - 6.3.2 comfort, instruct, reprove, admonish, and warn, both publicly and privately, the members of the Congregation as the Word of God directs in 2 Timothy 4:1-5;
 - 6.3.3 exercise pastoral oversight over all organisations and activities of the Congregation;
 - 6.3.4 live an exemplary life;
 - 6.3.5 visit the sick, the infirm, the destitute, and the afflicted, and to exercise pastoral care among the members of the Congregation;
 - 6.3.6 diligently instruct and train the young;
 - 6.3.7 equip and help the members to fulfil their Christian ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ and for outreach into the community;
 - 6.3.8 be mindful of the calling as a winner of souls, both within and without the Congregation;
 - 6.3.9 be responsible for ensuring the keeping and preservation of accurate congregational records;
 - 6.3.10 exercise as much as possible the right to attend the meetings of all committees and organisations of the Congregation; and
 - 6.3.11 submit a written pastoral report to the annual meeting of the Congregation.
- 6.4 The right of the Congregation to call a pastor shall be exercised, where applicable in association with other congregations
 - 6.4.1 in consultation with the Bishop of the District or the Bishop's deputy, and with regard to the regulations of the Church and of the District; and
 - 6.4.2 only at a meeting duly convened for this purpose and conducted according to the rules of the Church concerning calls and transfers.

ARTICLE 7. AUTHORITY AND POWERS

- 7.1 The Congregation as a body shall have power, as conferred by Section 25 of the Act, to administer and manage all its affairs by a majority of those voting members casting a vote unless otherwise specified by the Constitution.
- 7.1.1 These powers shall include without limitation the power to
- 7.1.1.1 acquire, hold, deal with and dispose of any real or personal property;
 - 7.1.1.2 administer any property on trust;
 - 7.1.1.3 open and operate bank accounts;
 - 7.1.1.4 invest its monies in any security in which trust monies may, by Act of Parliament, be invested, or in any other manner approved by the Congregation;
 - 7.1.1.5 borrow money upon such terms and conditions as the Congregation shall think fit;
 - 7.1.1.6 give such security for the discharge of liabilities incurred by the Congregation as the Congregation shall think fit;
 - 7.1.1.7 appoint agents to transact any business of the Congregation on its behalf;
 - 7.1.1.8 enter into any other contract, arrangement or understanding it considers necessary or desirable.
- 7.1.2 The Congregation, however, shall not be empowered to decide anything contrary to the Word of God and the Confession of the Congregation in Article 2, and any such decision shall be null and void. In matters of doctrine a decision shall be made only after careful study of the Word of God in accordance with Article 2.1.
- 7.2 The Congregation shall have the right to appoint teachers and other helpers and employ staff. It shall exercise this right, where applicable, in association with other congregations, in accordance with the regulations of the Church and of the District.
- 7.3 Officers or committees, whether elected or appointed by the Congregation, shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them, and whatever power may have been delegated to them may at any time be varied or revoked by the Congregation.
- 7.4 Any pastor, teacher or officer may be removed from office by the Congregation in Christian and lawful order in accordance with the rules of the Church, for any one [1] of the following causes:
- 7.4.1 persistent adherence to false doctrine; or
 - 7.4.2 scandalous life; or
 - 7.4.3 wilful and persistent neglect of official duties.
- In any such procedure voting shall be by ballot.
- 7.5 A staff member employed under the conditions of a particular employment arrangement may only be dismissed in accordance with the terms and conditions of that arrangement.
- 7.6 The establishment and conduct of all institutions and societies within the Congregation shall at all times be subject to the approval and supervision of the Congregation.

ARTICLE 8. MEETINGS

- 8.1 Annual General Meeting
 - 8.1.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation shall be held within five [5] months after the end of the financial year.
 - 8.1.2 The business to be conducted at the meeting shall include
 - 8.1.2.1 the presentation and receipt of the Chairperson's report;
 - 8.1.2.2 the presentation and receipt of the Pastor's report;
 - 8.1.2.3 the presentation and receipt of reports of any committees and auxiliaries of the Congregation;
 - 8.1.2.4 the presentation and adoption of the audited financial statements of the Congregation for the previous financial year; and
 - 8.1.2.5 any other matters listed on the agenda.
- 8.2 Budget and Elections General Meeting
 - 8.2.1 The Budget and Elections General Meeting of the Congregation shall be held prior to the end of the financial year.
 - 8.2.2 The business to be conducted at the meeting shall include
 - 8.2.2.1 the election of the officers and committees of the Congregation for the following year;
 - 8.2.2.2 the presentation and adoption of the budget for the next financial year; and
 - 8.2.2.3 any other matters listed on the agenda.
- 8.3 General Meetings
 - 8.3.1 The Congregation may conduct other general meetings as determined by the Congregation from time to time.
- 8.4 Special Meetings
 - 8.4.1 Special meetings may be called by
 - 8.4.1.1 the Pastor; or
 - 8.4.1.2 the Committee of Pastoral Assistants; or
 - 8.4.1.3 the Church Council.
 - 8.4.2 A special meeting shall be called by the Chairperson upon the written request of any ten [10] voting members.
 - 8.4.3 Details of the reason for the request for a Special Meeting must be made available in writing to the Chairperson of the Congregation.
- 8.5 Notice of Meetings
 - 8.5.1 Subject to any other provisions in this Constitution, notice of a meeting of the Congregation shall be given at any duly convened meeting of the Congregation, or by spoken, printed or electronic announcement to the Congregation at two [2] divine services preceding the meeting, the first announcement being at least one [1] week before the date of the meeting.
 - 8.5.2 The chief business to come before the meeting shall be announced at the same time that notice of such meeting is given.
 - 8.5.3 The scheduling of a special meeting shall not exceed one [1] calendar month from the date on which the initial request was received by the Chairperson.
- 8.6 Quorums

In addition to any other specific provisions concerning a quorum laid down in the Constitution, the following provisions shall apply:

 - 8.6.1 A quorum of one-seventh [1/7] of all voting members shall be required for the transaction of ordinary business.

- 8.6.2 A quorum of one-quarter [1/4] of all voting members shall be required for the
 - 8.6.2.1 calling of a pastor;
 - 8.6.2.2 calling or appointing a teacher or other salaried church worker;
 - 8.6.2.3 removal from office of a pastor, salaried church worker or officer;
 - 8.6.2.4 buying or selling of property; or
 - 8.6.2.5 undertaking of an unbudgeted financial commitment by the Congregation in excess of five percent [5%] of the annual budget.
- 8.6.3 In the event of there not being a quorum within thirty [30] minutes of the appointed starting time of a meeting of the Congregation, the meeting shall lapse and be rescheduled to occur within one [1] calendar month at a day, time and a venue decided upon by the voting members present.
- 8.6.4 If within thirty [30] minutes of the time appointed for the rescheduled meeting a quorum is not present, the members who are present may proceed only with the business on the agenda of that general meeting as if a quorum was present.
- 8.7 Voting at Meetings
 - 8.7.1 The Chairperson may determine when a vote is to be taken.
 - 8.7.1.1 During a debate the Chairperson may seek an indication of readiness to vote. If there is an indication of a significant or high number of possible abstentions from voting by reason of indecision or by absence from the meeting, the Chairperson may decide to continue the discussion or defer the motion.
 - 8.7.1.2 Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those voting members casting a vote shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote have a casting vote.
 - 8.7.2 Unless otherwise stipulated, the Chairperson shall ordinarily decide the manner of voting, whether by show of hands or by ballot, but the meeting may itself decide by special resolution the manner of voting to be adopted.
 - 8.7.3 It shall be the duty of every member entitled to vote to attend the meetings of the Congregation unless unable to do so.
 - 8.7.4 There shall be no voting by proxy at any meeting of the Congregation.
 - 8.7.5 All resolutions carried at a duly convened meeting of the Congregation shall be binding upon all members of the Congregation, whether present or absent, or refraining from voting, provided always that the required quorum was present.
 - 8.7.6 The conduct of the meetings shall, where applicable, be in accordance with the rules for transacting business adopted by the Church.
- 8.8 Agenda
 - 8.8.1 Items may be placed on the Agenda of any regular meeting of the Congregation by
 - 8.8.1.1 any voting member;
 - 8.8.1.2 any committee appointed by the Congregation;
 - 8.8.1.3 any organisation of the Congregation; and
 - 8.8.1.4 the Pastor(s).
- 8.9 Minutes of Meetings
 - 8.9.1 The Chairperson shall ensure that minutes of all resolutions and proceedings of any general meeting of the Congregation are kept and signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

- 8.9.2 All minute books, records, and correspondence of the Congregation, its officers and committees shall remain the property of the Congregation.

ARTICLE 9. OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATION**9.1 Officers of the Congregation**

- 9.1.1 The Congregation shall elect annually
- 9.1.1.1 a Chairperson;
 - 9.1.1.2 a Vice-Chairperson;
 - 9.1.1.3 a Secretary; and
 - 9.1.1.4 a Treasurer
- and such other officers and standing committees as it may from time to time determine.
- 9.1.2 The Congregation shall elect Synod Delegates according to the rules of the District who shall serve at the convention of the Synod of the District and for the period of the synodical term.

9.2 Duties**9.2.1 The Chairperson shall**

- 9.2.1.1 preside at meetings of the Church Council and the Congregation;
- 9.2.1.2 ensure that all elected and appointed officers and committees effectively carry out their assigned duties and generally encourage and cooperate with all office bearers;
- 9.2.1.3 ensure that an agenda is prepared for the meetings of the Church Council and the Congregation; and
- 9.2.1.4 submit a report to the Annual General Meeting of the Congregation.

9.2.2 The Vice-Chairperson shall

- 9.2.2.1 serve as chairperson in the absence or inability of the Chairperson to act, or at the request of the Chairperson; and
- 9.2.2.2 assume the office of Chairperson, when a vacancy occurs.

9.2.3 The Secretary shall

- 9.2.3.1 keep an accurate record of all proceedings of the Church Council and the Congregation;
- 9.2.3.2 attend to all correspondence unless it be delegated to another person;
- 9.2.3.3 receive all items and motions for the Agenda from the committees, auxiliaries and members of the Congregation at least two [2] weeks before any general meeting of the Congregation;
- 9.2.3.4 prepare an Agenda for each meeting of the Congregation and Church Council and ensure that it is distributed in time for the meeting;
- 9.2.3.5 ensure that a notice signifying the purpose and date of any special meeting is given to the Congregation in accordance with the requirement in Article 8.5.1; and
- 9.2.3.6 ensure that officers and committees are informed of any resolutions which affect their functions.

9.2.4 The Treasurer shall ensure that

- 9.2.4.1 an accurate record of receipts and payments is kept in the form required by the Congregation;
- 9.2.4.2 all accounts authorised by the Church Council or the Congregation are paid promptly;
- 9.2.4.3 all monies for Church and Parish purposes are remitted regularly;
- 9.2.4.4 progress reports on the finances of the Congregation for meetings of the Church Council and the Congregation are prepared;

- 9.2.4.5 a budget is prepared for the following financial year for presentation to the Congregation for adoption; and
- 9.2.4.6 financial records of the Congregation are submitted for audit as required by the Congregation.

9.3 Church Council

- 9.3.1 The Congregation shall appoint a committee of management, called the Church Council, which shall consist of
 - 9.3.1.1 the Chairperson of the Congregation;
 - 9.3.1.2 the Vice-Chairperson of the Congregation;
 - 9.3.1.3 the Secretary of the Congregation;
 - 9.3.1.4 the Treasurer of the Congregation; and
 - 9.3.1.5 representatives as determined from time to time, from pastoral assistants, committees, auxiliaries and other organisations of the Congregation.

The Pastor, by virtue of his office, shall attend all meetings of the Church Council.

9.4 Duties of the Church Council

- 9.4.1 The Church Council shall
 - 9.4.1.1 generally meet every three [3] months or more regularly as required;
 - 9.4.1.2 be responsible to the Congregation in all matters, including the interpretation of policy established by the Congregation;
 - 9.4.1.3 consider the general welfare of the Congregation and its program of activities and respond as required;
 - 9.4.1.4 supervise the management and operation of any committees, auxiliaries and other organisations of the Congregation to ensure their compliance with the Objects of the Congregation;
 - 9.4.1.5 receive reports from committees, auxiliaries and other organisations and make recommendations to the Congregation;
 - 9.4.1.6 act between meetings of the Congregation in cases of emergency; and
 - 9.4.1.7 fill casual vacancies until the next annual meeting.

9.5 Auditor

- 9.5.1 The Congregation shall elect ... (two [2]) Auditors annually who shall examine thoroughly the books of the Treasurer and vouch for their correctness or otherwise and advise on aspects of the Congregation's finances.

9.6 Officers and Committees

The election of officers and committees shall be undertaken in the following manner:

- 9.6.1 The Congregation shall appoint a Nominations Committee which shall consist of the Pastor, the Chairperson of the Congregation, a pastoral assistant and one [1] other person appointed by the Church Council.
- 9.6.2 The Nominations Committee shall
 - 9.6.2.1 consult all committees in good time to learn of possible vacancies and to solicit from the respective committees their nominations;
 - 9.6.2.2 receive from officers intending to decline re-election an indication of such intention in good time;

- 9.6.2.3 seek and receive nominations from members of the Congregation for all offices and committees of the Congregation;
- 9.6.2.4 nominate such persons as it considers suitable for the various offices and committees in addition to the nominations received but without the necessity of nominating more candidates than positions to be filled;
- 9.6.2.5 ensure that all nominees are eligible and willing to accept office; and
- 9.6.2.6 present a list of candidates for all positions to the meeting of the Congregation at which the elections are to be conducted.
- 9.6.3 Additional nominations, except for the position of pastoral assistant, may be made by any voting member at the meeting, provided that the consent of the person nominated has been obtained.
- 9.6.4 Where there are more nominations for any position than the required number to fill such position(s), an election by ballot shall be conducted.
- 9.6.5 The newly elected officers and committee members shall assume their duties at the beginning of the new financial year of the Congregation.
- 9.6.6 All voting members of the Congregation shall be eligible for positions on standing committees.
- 9.6.7 All members shall be eligible for appointment to such other committees and special duties as the Congregation may determine from time to time.
- 9.6.8 Unless otherwise specifically provided for in these rules, one-half or as near as possible to one-half of the members on standing committees or other designated committees shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- 9.6.9 Other appointees shall be elected annually.
- 9.6.10 No person shall ordinarily be a chairperson of more than one [1] standing committee at the same time.
- 9.6.11 The office of pastoral assistant is restricted to voting members over the age of ... (twenty five [25]) years.
- 9.6.12 The Congregation shall appoint such other officers, committees and persons and establish auxiliaries as need and occasion require for the proper conduct of its worship and the management of its affairs as prescribed or as determined from time to time by resolution of the Congregation.
- 9.6.13 All minute books, records, and correspondence of the Congregation, its officers and committees, shall remain the property of the Congregation.
- 9.6.14 The Pastor, by virtue of his office, shall have the right to attend all meetings of the committees.
- 9.7 Layreaders
 - 9.7.1 The Congregation shall appoint annually two [2] layreaders.
- 9.8 The Sunday School Superintendent
 - 9.8.1 The Sunday School teachers, in meeting, shall have the right to submit nominations for the position of Sunday School Superintendent to the Nominations Committee.
 - 9.8.2 The Superintendent shall be elected by the Congregation.
 - 9.8.3 The Sunday School teachers may appoint one [1] of their number to be the Deputy Superintendent to act in the absence or inability of the Superintendent.

- 9.9 The Committee of Pastoral Assistants
 - 9.9.1 The Congregation shall elect at least ... (one [1]) pastoral assistant for every ... (fifty [50]) confirmed members.
 - 9.9.2 A nomination for the position of pastoral assistant must be submitted in writing by any two [2] voting members to the Nominations Committee at least one [1] week before the meeting at which the elections are to be conducted. All nominations shall be submitted to the meeting together with any nominations by the Nominations Committee.
 - 9.9.3 Approximately ... (one-half / one-third) of the pastoral assistants shall retire annually.
 - 9.9.4 A pastoral assistant who is elected for a first term of office shall be installed in office at a divine service.
 - 9.9.5 The pastoral assistants shall assist the Pastor in his ministry and for this purpose they shall concern themselves with the spiritual life of the Congregation and its members by
 - 9.9.5.1 praying for and encouraging the Pastor, and caring for the spiritual, emotional, and physical health and welfare of the Pastor and the Pastor's family;
 - 9.9.5.2 visiting members and encouraging them in regular attendance at services, in the use of the Sacraments, in the support of the Congregation and the Church with their means and talents, in prayer, and in involvement in the mission of the Church;
 - 9.9.5.3 notifying the Pastor of sick and spiritually distressed members;
 - 9.9.5.4 assisting the Pastor in arranging for pulpit assistance, special services and guest speakers and helping to ensure that an attitude conducive to worship is maintained in the services; and
 - 9.9.5.5 being an example of Christian conduct and conversation, and observing confidentiality regarding all private matters.
- 9.10 The Property Committee
 - 9.10.1 The Congregation shall elect a Property Committee which shall consist of ... (three [3] / five [5]) members.
 - 9.10.2 The Property Committee shall
 - 9.10.2.1 ensure that the property, buildings and possessions of the Congregation are kept in good order;
 - 9.10.2.2 undertake minor repairs as necessary and report on actions taken to the Congregation;
 - 9.10.2.3 report major needs to the Congregation with recommended action;
 - 9.10.2.4 make annual inspections of all Congregation-owned property and buildings including the manse and its facilities and report its findings to the Congregation; and
 - 9.10.2.5 establish and maintain an up-to-date inventory of all Congregation-owned equipment.
- 9.11 Public Officer and Sealholders
 - 9.11.1 The Congregation shall appoint a Public Officer who shall hold office for such time as the Congregation decides.
 - 9.11.2 The Public Officer shall not be eligible for the position of auditor of the Congregation.
 - 9.11.3 The Congregation shall appoint three [3] voting members to be the Sealholders of the Congregation.
 - 9.11.4 The Seal may only be affixed to a document by resolution of the Congregation.

- 9.11.5 All documents requiring the affixing of the Seal shall be signed by the Chairperson or the Secretary of the Congregation and two [2] Sealholders.
- 9.11.6 The Seal shall be kept in the Congregation Office.

ARTICLE 10. CHURCH DISCIPLINE

- 10.1 The Congregation shall exercise church discipline in an evangelical manner in accordance with the procedure laid down in Matthew 18:15–17.
- 10.2 The stages of discipline are:
 - 10.2.1 In an endeavour to convince the erring member at fault, there shall be
 - 10.2.1.1 personal admonition; and, if necessary,
 - 10.2.1.2 admonition in the presence of witnesses; and, if necessary,
 - 10.2.1.3 admonition by the Congregation.
 - 10.2.2 Any member who is evidently impenitent and unheedingful of the admonition, shall be excluded from membership in the Congregation, through excommunication, pronounced by the Pastor as the called and ordained servant of the Word.
- 10.3 The purpose of all church discipline is to achieve reconciliation and restoration. This purpose is to be observed at all stages of the procedure.
- 10.4 If the stages of discipline cannot be carried out because the erring member refuses to submit to the discipline of the Congregation, self-exclusion shall be declared to have taken place.
- 10.5 The exercise of church discipline shall give due regard to the procedure adopted by the Church in its regulations in the Constitution of the Church under Article 9. Discipline, Adjudication and Appeals.

ARTICLE 11. DISSOLUTION

- 11.1 Any resolution for dissolution shall be made according to the following procedure:
 - 11.1.1 Notice of a motion to dissolve the Congregation shall be given to the members of the Congregation.
 - 11.1.2 The motion shall be presented to the Congregation only after the Bishop of the District has been consulted.
 - 11.1.3 At least thirty [30] days written notice of a meeting, specifying the intention to dissolve as a special motion, shall be given to all the voting members of the Congregation.
 - 11.1.4 The motion shall require a majority of three-quarters of all the voting members of the Congregation.
 - 11.1.5 The decision shall only become operative after the sanction of the Church Council of the District has been obtained.
 - 11.1.6 Once the decision has been made to dissolve the Congregation according to the above procedure, a date for dissolution shall be set contingent upon all matters pertaining to dissolution and the transference of all titles and other assets of the Congregation being effected according to law.
- 11.2 In the event of such dissolution, the Congregation may give indication regarding the use of its assets by the District and/or the Church. Where no such indication is given, if any surplus remains following the winding up of the Congregation, the surplus shall not be paid to or distributed amongst members, but be transferred to the District absolutely.

ARTICLE 12. BY-LAWS

- 12.1 The Congregation shall have power by a majority of those voting members casting a vote at a duly convened meeting, to make, amend, alter, add to or repeal, By-laws not inconsistent with these or any amended rules for the regulation of its proceedings and the management of its business and affairs and for giving effect to the rules.
- 12.2 Notice of the proposed amendment, alteration, addition or repeal shall either be given at a duly called meeting of the Congregation held at least seven [7] days earlier or be published to the Congregation on the two [2] immediately preceding Sundays.
- 12.3 The quorum for such a meeting is as prescribed for ordinary business.

ARTICLE 13. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 13.1 The Congregation shall have power by a two-thirds majority of those voting members casting a vote at a duly convened meeting, to amend, alter, add to or repeal these rules, except as hereinafter provided in Article 13. 4., and subject to the preceding Article 3.1.4.
- 13.2 Notice of the proposed amendment, alteration, addition or repeal shall be presented in writing and shall be read to the Congregation at a duly called meeting of the Congregation held at least fourteen [14] days earlier or be published to the Congregation on the two [2] immediately preceding Sundays.
- 13.3 The quorum for such a meeting shall be one-quarter of the members entitled to vote and the result of such a ballot shall be recorded in the minutes.
- 13.4 Article 2. and Article 13.4 of this Constitution shall be considered fundamental and shall not be amended, altered, added to or repealed so as to alter their intent and meaning.

Accepted by the Congregation on:

Signed:
Pastor/Chairperson

Signed:
Secretary

Accepted by the Lutheran Church of Australia, District Incorporated:
on.....

Signed:
Bishop

Signed:
Secretary

*2.4.8 Model Constitution for a parish amendments
(see page 81 of the Book of Reports)*

2015:0230 RESOLVED that the Model Constitution for a Parish be revised as follows:

MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR A PARISH CONSTITUTION**ARTICLE 1. NAME AND INTERPRETATION**

- 1.1 The name of this Parish is LUTHERAN PARISH INCORPORATED.
- 1.2 In this Constitution and any By-laws made thereunder, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:
- 1.2.1 'Church' means the Lutheran Church of Australia Incorporated;
 - 1.2.2 'District' means the Lutheran Church of Australia,
.....District Incorporated;
 - 1.2.3 'Parish' meansLutheran Parish Incorporated;
 - 1.2.4 'congregation' means any congregation of the Church;
 - 1.2.5 'member-congregation' means any congregation that is a member of the Parish;
 - 1.2.6 'pastor' means any individual who is on the roll of pastors of the Church as described in Article 5 of the Constitution of the Church;
 - 1.2.7 'Pastor' means the Pastor of the Parish;
 - 1.2.8 'Parish Council' means the elected committee of the Parish to administer the affairs of the Parish;
 - 1.2.9 '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;
 - 1.2.10 'financial year' means the year ending December 31;
 - 1.2.11 words importing the singular number shall be deemed to include the plural number and vice versa where appropriate;
 - 1.2.12 words importing the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine gender where appropriate;
 - 1.2.13 'auditor' means a person having appropriate qualifications to examine and verify financial accounts and records.

ARTICLE 2. CONFESSION

- 2.1 The Parish, consisting of congregations which are members of the Church, declares that it
- 2.1.1 accepts without reservation the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as a whole and in all their parts, as the divinely inspired, written and inerrant Word of God, and as the only infallible source and norm for all matters of faith, doctrine and life; and
 - 2.1.2 acknowledges and accepts as true expositions of the Word of God and as its own confession all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, namely, the three Ecumenical Creeds: the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed; the Unaltered Augsburg Confession; the Apology of the Augsburg Confession; the Smalcald Articles; the Small Catechism of Luther; the Large Catechism of Luther; and the Formula of Concord.
- 2.2 The Parish requires that all instruction and practice shall conform to the doctrinal basis laid down in the preceding Article 2.1 of this constitution.

ARTICLE 3. RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH

- 3.1 The Parish, as a member of the Church and of the District,
- 3.1.1 accepts the Constitution and By-laws of the Church and of the District;
 - 3.1.2 undertakes to participate in the work of the Church and of the District and to promote their Objects;

- 3.1.3 agrees that where it cannot reach an amicable settlement on a question of ownership or control of any of its property, it shall in keeping with 1 Corinthians 6 make every effort to avoid action in the civil courts by first seriously seeking to settle any differences through the mediation and adjudication of the judicial system of the Church; and
- 3.1.4 agrees to submit to the Bishop of the District any amendment, alteration, addition, or repeal which it may make from time to time to its Constitution and By-laws for determination by the Church Council of the District that the amended Constitution and By-laws remain in conformity with Article 4.1 of the Constitution of the Church.

ARTICLE 4. OBJECTS

- 4.1 The Parish, consisting of congregations which are members of the Church, has as its objects to
 - 4.1.1 assist its member-congregations in promoting their objects and to this end to
 - 4.1.1.1 call a pastor or pastors or church workers for the benefit of the Parish and the Church, and to determine the terms under which they shall serve with the Parish;
 - 4.1.1.2 hold, purchase or take on lease real and personal property, and to sell, exchange, mortgage, borrow, lease or build, and otherwise deal with all property as may from time to time be determined upon by the members of the Parish in accordance with the rules of the Parish; and
 - 4.1.1.3 appoint such office-bearers and representatives as the Parish may desire from time to time; and
 - 4.1.2 promote the objects of the Church within its sphere.

ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1. The Parish shall consist of the following congregations and others admitted according to the procedure in the following clause 5.2 and the voting members of member-congregations shall be the voting members of the Parish:
(Names of congregations)
- 5.2. Any other congregation which is a member of both the Church and the District may apply for membership in the Parish and shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting members present at a duly constituted meeting of the Parish provided that at least one [1] calendar month's notice of application for such membership shall have been given to all member-congregations of the Parish.
- 5.3. In the event of a projected withdrawal of a member-congregation from the Parish, a peaceful dismissal may be given only after the following steps have been taken:
 - 5.3.1 The advice and guidance of the District Bishop and/or District Church Council shall be sought.
 - 5.3.2 The position of the Pastor shall be clarified and resolved.
 - 5.3.3 All mutual obligations and any claim of the withdrawing member-congregation in respect of any property of whatsoever nature shall be given due consideration, and agreement on such obligations and/or claim shall be sought according to the principles of Christian love, and as determined at a duly constituted meeting of the Parish. If no satisfactory agreement is reached, the matter shall be referred for final decision according to the judicial system of the Church.

Unless otherwise determined the withdrawal shall take effect three [3] months after the peaceful dismissal has been granted.

- 5.4. If the Parish or a member-congregation of the Parish proposes to withdraw from membership in the Church, the procedure set out in the By-laws of the Church shall be followed.
- 5.5 Responsibilities and Rights of Voting Members
 - 5.5.1 Voting members of member-congregations have responsibilities as required by the Act.
 - 5.5.2 Membership of the Parish does not confer on a voting member any right, title or interest in any real or personal property of the Parish.

ARTICLE 6. THE MINISTRY

- 6.1 The Parish recognises and upholds the Office of the Ministry as the office divinely instituted for the public administration of the Means of Grace.
- 6.2 The Pastor of the Parish shall be a man whose soundness in faith, aptness to teach, and other qualifications for office have been examined and approved by the Church in accordance with the Scriptures and Confessions of the Church regarding the public office of the ministry.
- 6.3 Unless otherwise stated, the duties of the Pastor shall be as contained in the Letter of Call and shall include the duty to
 - 6.3.1 preach the Word of God and administer the Holy Sacraments according to the Confession of the Parish as prescribed in Article 2;
 - 6.3.2 comfort, instruct, reprove, admonish, and warn, both publicly and privately, the members of the Parish as the Word of God directs in 2 Timothy 4:1-5;
 - 6.3.3 exercise pastoral oversight over all organisations and activities of the Parish;
 - 6.3.4 live an exemplary life;
 - 6.3.5 visit the sick, the infirm, the destitute, and the afflicted, and to exercise pastoral care among the members of the Parish;
 - 6.3.6 diligently instruct and train the young;
 - 6.3.7 equip and help the members to fulfil their Christian ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ and for outreach into the community;
 - 6.3.8 be mindful of the calling as a winner of souls, both within and without the Parish;
 - 6.3.9 be responsible for ensuring the keeping and preservation of accurate congregational records;
 - 6.3.10 exercise as much as possible the right to attend the meetings of all committees and organisations of the Parish; and
 - 6.3.11 submit a written pastoral report to the annual meeting of the Parish.
- 6.4 The Parish shall exercise the right of calling a pastor
 - 6.4.1 in consultation with the Bishop of the District or the Bishop's deputy, and with regard to the regulations of the Church and of the District; and
 - 6.4.2 only at a meeting duly convened for this purpose and conducted according to the rules of the Church concerning calls and transfers.
- 6.5 All calls shall be in writing, signed by at least two representatives duly appointed by each member-congregation of the Parish, and attested by the Bishop of the District.

Notification of the call and the forwarding of the Letter of Call are the responsibility of the Bishop of the District.

- 6.6 The Pastor shall have the pastoral oversight of all activities of any committee or organisation within the Parish.

ARTICLE 7. AUTHORITY AND POWERS

- 7.1 The Parish as a body shall have power, as conferred by Section 25 of the Act, to administer and manage all its affairs by a majority of those voting members casting a vote unless otherwise specified by the Constitution.
- 7.1.1 These powers shall include without limitation the power to
- 7.1.1.1 acquire, hold, deal with and dispose of any real or personal property;
 - 7.1.1.2 administer any property on trust;
 - 7.1.1.3 open and operate bank accounts;
 - 7.1.1.4 invest its monies in any security in which trust monies may, by Act of Parliament, be invested, or in any other manner approved by the Parish;
 - 7.1.1.5 borrow money upon such terms and conditions as the Parish shall think fit;
 - 7.1.1.6 give such security for the discharge of liabilities incurred by the Parish as the Parish shall think fit;
 - 7.1.1.7 appoint agents to transact any business of the Parish on its behalf;
 - 7.1.1.8 enter into any other contract, arrangement or understanding it considers necessary or desirable.
- 7.1.2 The Parish, however, shall not be empowered to decide anything contrary to the Word of God and the Confession of the Parish in Article 2, and any such decision shall be null and void.
- 7.2 The Parish shall have the right to appoint teachers and other helpers and employ staff. It shall exercise this right, where applicable, in association with other congregations, in accordance with the regulations of the Church and of the District.
- 7.3 Officers or committees, whether elected or appointed by the Parish, shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them, and whatever power may have been delegated to them may at any time be varied or revoked by the Parish.
- 7.4 Any pastor, teacher or officer may be removed from office by the Parish in Christian and lawful order in accordance with the rules of the Church, for any one [1] of the following causes:
- 7.4.1 persistent adherence to false doctrine; or
 - 7.4.2 scandalous life; or
 - 7.4.3 wilful and persistent neglect of official duties.
- In any such procedure voting shall be by ballot.
- 7.5 A staff member employed under the conditions of a particular employment arrangement may only be dismissed in accordance with the terms and conditions of that arrangement.
- 7.6 The establishment and conduct of all institutions and societies within the Parish shall at all times be subject to the approval and supervision of the Parish.
- 7.7 Nothing herein contained shall affect the present ownership by individual member-congregations of any property.

- 7.8 The Parish shall endeavour to assist any member-congregation to carry out any program approved by the Parish or by the Church. It shall not have any power over any purely internal administration, conduct of worship or local ministry program of its member-congregations.

ARTICLE 8. MEETINGS

8.1 Annual General Meeting

- 8.1.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Parish shall be held within five [5] months after the end of the financial year.
- 8.1.2 The business to be conducted at the meeting shall include
- 8.1.2.1 the presentation and receipt of the Chairperson's report;
 - 8.1.2.2 the presentation and receipt of the Pastor's report;
 - 8.1.2.3 the presentation and receipt of reports of any committees and auxiliaries of the Parish;
 - 8.1.2.4 the presentation and adoption of the audited financial statements of the Parish for the previous financial year; and
 - 8.1.2.5 any other matters listed on the agenda.

8.2 Budget and Elections General Meeting

- 8.2.1 The Budget and Elections General Meeting of the Parish shall be held prior to the end of the financial year.
- 8.2.2 The business to be conducted at the meeting shall include
- 8.2.2.1 the election of the officers and committees of the Parish for the following year;
 - 8.2.2.2 the presentation and adoption of the budget for the next financial year; and
 - 8.2.2.3 any other matters listed on the agenda.

8.3 General Meetings

- 8.3.1 The Parish may conduct other general meetings as determined by the Parish from time to time.

8.4 Special Meetings

- 8.4.1 Special meetings may be called by
- 8.4.1.1 the Pastor; or
 - 8.4.1.2 the Parish Council.
- 8.4.2 A special meeting shall be called by the Chairperson upon the written request of any ten [10] voting members.
- 8.4.3 Details of the reason for the request for a Special Meeting must be made available in writing to the Chairperson of the Parish.

8.5 Notice of Meetings

- 8.5.1 Subject to any other provisions in this Constitution, notice of a meeting of the Parish shall be given at any duly convened meeting of the Parish, or by spoken, printed or electronic announcement to the member-congregations at two [2] divine services preceding the meeting, the first announcement being at least one [1] week before the date of the meeting.
- 8.5.2 The chief business to come before the meeting shall be announced at the same time that notice of such meeting is given.
- 8.5.3 The scheduling of a special meeting shall not exceed one [1] calendar month from the date on which the initial request was received by the Chairperson.

8.6 Quorums

In addition to any other specific provisions concerning a quorum laid down in the Constitution, the following provisions shall apply:

- 8.6.1 A quorum of one-seventh [1/7] of all voting members shall be required for the transaction of ordinary business.
- 8.6.2 A quorum of one-quarter [1/4] of all voting members shall be required for the
 - 8.6.2.1 calling of a pastor;
 - 8.6.2.2 calling or appointing a teacher or other salaried church worker;
 - 8.6.2.3 removal from office of a pastor, salaried church worker or officer;
 - 8.6.2.4 buying or selling of property; or
 - 8.6.2.5 undertaking of an unbudgeted financial commitment by the Parish in excess of five percent [5%] of the annual budget.
- 8.6.3 In the event of there not being a quorum within thirty [30] minutes of the appointed starting time of a meeting of the Parish, the meeting shall lapse and be rescheduled to occur within one [1] calendar month at a day, time and a venue decided upon by the voting members present.
- 8.6.4 If within thirty [30] minutes of the time appointed for the rescheduled meeting a quorum is not present, the members who are present may proceed only with the business on the agenda of that general meeting as if a quorum was present.

8.7 Voting at Meetings

- 8.7.1 The Chairperson may determine when a vote is to be taken.
 - 8.7.1.1 During a debate the Chairperson may seek an indication of readiness to vote. If there is an indication of a significant or high number of possible abstentions from voting by reason of indecision or by absence from the meeting, the Chairperson may decide to continue the discussion or defer the motion.
 - 8.7.1.2 Unless otherwise stipulated a majority of those voting members casting a vote shall decide the motion and, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall in addition to a deliberative vote have a casting vote.
- 8.7.2 Unless otherwise stipulated, the Chairperson shall ordinarily decide the manner of voting, whether by show of hands or by ballot, but the meeting may itself decide by special resolution the manner of voting to be adopted.
- 8.7.3 It shall be the duty of every member entitled to vote to attend the meetings of the Parish unless unable to do so.
- 8.7.4 There shall be no voting by proxy at any meeting of the Parish.
- 8.7.5 All resolutions carried at a duly convened meeting of the Parish shall be binding upon all members of the Parish, whether present or absent, or refraining from voting, provided always that the required quorum was present.
- 8.7.6 The conduct of the meetings shall, where applicable, be in accordance with the rules for transacting business adopted by the Church.

8.8 Agenda

- 8.8.1 Items may be placed on the Agenda of any regular meeting of the Parish by
 - 8.8.1.1 any voting member;
 - 8.8.1.2 any committee appointed by the Parish;
 - 8.8.1.3 any organisation of the Parish; and
 - 8.8.1.4 the Pastor(s).

8.9 Minutes of Meetings

- 8.9.1 The Chairperson shall ensure that minutes of all resolutions and proceedings of any general meeting of the Parish are kept and signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.
- 8.9.2 All minute books, records, and correspondence of the Parish, its officers and committees shall remain the property of the Parish.

ARTICLE 9. OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Officers of the Parish

- 9.1.1 The Parish shall elect annually
 - 9.1.1.1 a Chairperson;
 - 9.1.1.2 a Vice-Chairperson;
 - 9.1.1.3 a Secretary; and
 - 9.1.1.4 a Treasurerand such other officers and standing committees as it may from time to time determine.
- 9.1.2 The Parish shall elect Synod Delegates according to the rules of the Church who shall serve at the Convention of the Synod of the Church and for the period of the synodical term.

9.2 Duties

- 9.2.1 The Chairperson shall
 - 9.2.1.1 preside at meetings of the Parish Council and the Parish;
 - 9.2.1.2 ensure that all elected and appointed officers and committees effectively carry out their assigned duties and generally encourage and cooperate with all office bearers;
 - 9.2.1.3 ensure that an agenda is prepared for the meetings of the Parish Council and the Parish; and
 - 9.2.1.4 submit a report to the Annual General Meeting of the Parish.
- 9.2.2 The Vice-Chairperson shall
 - 9.2.2.1 serve as chairperson in the absence or inability of the Chairperson to act, or at the request of the Chairperson; and
 - 9.2.2.2 assume the office of Chairperson, when a vacancy occurs.
- 9.2.3 The Secretary shall
 - 9.2.3.1 keep an accurate record of all proceedings of the Parish Council and the Parish;
 - 9.2.3.2 attend to all correspondence unless it be delegated to another person;
 - 9.2.3.3 receive all items and motions for the Agenda from the committees, auxiliaries and members of the Parish at least two [2] weeks before any general meeting of the Parish;
 - 9.2.3.4 prepare an Agenda for each meeting of the Parish and Parish Council and ensure that it is distributed in time for the meeting;
 - 9.2.3.5 ensure that a notice signifying the purpose and date of any special meeting is given to the Parish in accordance with the requirement in Article 8.5.1; and
 - 9.2.3.6 ensure that officers and committees are informed of any resolutions which affect their functions.
- 9.2.4 The Treasurer shall ensure that
 - 9.2.4.1 an accurate record of receipts and payments is kept in the form required by the Parish;
 - 9.2.4.2 all accounts authorised by the Parish Council or the Parish are paid promptly;

- 9.2.4.3 all monies for Parish and Parish purposes are remitted regularly;
- 9.2.4.4 progress reports on the finances of the Parish for meetings of the Parish Council and the Parish are prepared;
- 9.2.4.5 a budget is prepared for the following financial year for presentation to the Parish for adoption; and
- 9.2.4.6 financial records of the Parish are submitted for audit as required by the Parish.

9.3 Parish Council

- 9.3.1 The Parish shall appoint a committee of management, called the Parish Council, which shall consist of
 - 9.3.1.1 the Chairperson of the Parish;
 - 9.3.1.2 the Vice-Chairperson of the Parish;
 - 9.3.1.3 the Secretary of the Parish;
 - 9.3.1.4 the Treasurer of the Parish; and
 - 9.3.1.5 representatives, as determined from time to time, from each member-congregation and other committees or organisations of the Parish.

The Pastor, by virtue of his office, shall attend all meetings of the Parish Council.

9.4 Duties of the Parish Council

- 9.4.1 The Parish Council shall
 - 9.4.1.1 generally meet every six [6] months or more regularly as required;
 - 9.4.1.2 be responsible to the Parish in all matters, including the interpretation of policy established by the Parish;
 - 9.4.1.3 consider the general welfare of the Parish and its program of activities and respond as required;
 - 9.4.1.4 supervise the management and operation of any committees, auxiliaries and other organisations of the Parish to ensure their compliance with the Objects of the Parish;
 - 9.4.1.5 receive reports from committees, auxiliaries and other organisations and make recommendations to the Parish;
 - 9.4.1.6 act between meetings of the Parish in cases of emergency; and
 - 9.4.1.7 fill casual vacancies until the next annual meeting.

9.5 Auditor

- 9.5.1 The Parish shall elect ... (two [2]) Auditors annually who shall examine thoroughly the books of the Treasurer and vouch for their correctness or otherwise and advise on aspects of the Parish's finances.

9.6 Officers and Committees

The election of officers and committees shall be undertaken in the following manner:

- 9.6.1 The Parish shall appoint a Nominations Committee which shall consist of the Pastor, the Chairperson of the Parish and a representative of each member-congregation.
- 9.6.2 The Nominations Committee shall
 - 9.6.2.1 consult all committees in good time to learn of possible vacancies and to solicit from the respective committees their nominations;
 - 9.6.2.2 receive from officers intending to decline re-election an indication of such intention in good time;

- 9.6.2.3 seek and receive nominations from members of the Parish for all offices and committees of the Parish;
- 9.6.2.4 nominate such persons as it considers suitable for the various offices and committees in addition to the nominations received but without the necessity of nominating more candidates than positions to be filled;
- 9.6.2.5 ensure that all nominees are eligible and willing to accept office;
- 9.6.2.6 present a list of candidates for all positions to the meeting of the Parish at which the elections are to be conducted.
- 9.6.3 Additional nominations may be made by any voting member at the meeting, provided that the consent of the person nominated has been obtained.
- 9.6.4 Where there are more nominations for any position than the required number to fill such position(s), an election by ballot shall be conducted.
- 9.6.5 The newly elected officers and committee members shall assume their duties at the beginning of the new financial year of the Parish.
- 9.6.6 All voting members of the Parish shall be eligible for positions on standing committees.
- 9.6.7 All members shall be eligible for appointment to such other committees and special duties as the Parish may determine from time to time.
- 9.6.8 Members of standing committees shall be elected annually.
- 9.6.9 No person shall ordinarily be a chairperson of more than one [1] standing committee at the same time.
- 9.6.10 The Parish shall appoint such other officers, committees and persons and establish auxiliaries as need and occasion require for the proper conduct and management of its affairs as prescribed or as determined from time to time by resolution of the Parish.
- 9.6.11 All minute books, records, and correspondence of the Parish, its officers and committees, shall remain the property of the Parish.
- 9.6.12 The Pastor, by virtue of his office, shall have the right to attend all meetings of the committees.
- 9.7 The Property Committee
 - 9.7.1 The Parish shall elect a Property Committee which shall consist of ... (three [3] / five [5]) members.
 - 9.7.2 The Property Committee shall
 - 9.7.2.1 ensure that the property, buildings and possessions of the Parish are kept in good order;
 - 9.7.2.2 undertake minor repairs as necessary and report on actions taken to the Parish;
 - 9.7.2.3 report major needs to the Parish with recommended action;
 - 9.7.2.4 make annual inspections of all Parish-owned property and buildings including the manse and its facilities and report its findings to the Parish; and
 - 9.7.2.5 establish and maintain an up-to-date inventory of all Parish-owned equipment.
- 9.8 Public Officer and Sealholders
 - 9.8.1 The Parish shall appoint a Public Officer who shall hold office for such time as the Parish decides.
 - 9.8.2 The Public Officer shall not be eligible for the position of auditor of the Parish.
 - 9.8.3 The Parish shall appoint three [3] voting members to be the Sealholders of the Parish.

- 9.8.4 The Seal may only be affixed to a document by resolution of the Parish.
- 9.8.5 All documents requiring the affixing of the Seal shall be signed by the Chairperson or the Secretary of the Parish and two [2] Sealholders.
- 9.8.6 The Seal shall be kept in the Parish Office.

ARTICLE 10. DISCIPLINE, ADJUDICATION AND APPEALS

- 10.1 The exercise of church discipline shall give due regard to the procedure adopted by the Church in its regulations in the Constitution of the Church under Article 9. Discipline, Adjudication and Appeals.

ARTICLE 11. DISSOLUTION

- 11.1 Any resolution for dissolution shall be made according to the following procedure:
 - 11.1.1 Notice of a motion to dissolve the Parish shall be given to the member-congregations of the Parish.
 - 11.1.2 The motion shall be presented to the member-congregations only after the Bishop of the District has been consulted.
 - 11.1.3 At least thirty [30] days written notice of a meeting, specifying the intention to dissolve as a special motion, shall be given to all the voting members of the Parish.
 - 11.1.4 The motion shall require a majority of three-quarters of all the voting members of the Parish.
 - 11.1.5 The decision shall only become operative after the sanction of the Church Council of the District has been obtained.
 - 11.1.6 Once the decision has been made to dissolve the Parish according to the above procedure, a date for dissolution shall be set contingent upon all matters pertaining to dissolution and the transference of all titles and other assets of the Parish being effected according to law.
- 11.2 In the event of such dissolution, the Parish may give indication regarding the use of any parish-owned assets by the District and/or the Church. Where no such indication is given, if any surplus remains following the winding up of the Parish, the surplus shall not be paid to or distributed amongst members, but be transferred to the District absolutely. Any assets of the member-congregations are not subject to this clause.

ARTICLE 12. BY-LAWS

- 12.1 The Parish shall have power by a majority of those voting members casting a vote at a duly convened meeting, to make, amend, alter, add to or repeal, By-laws not inconsistent with these or any amended rules for the regulation of its proceedings and the management of its business and affairs and for giving effect to the rules.
- 12.2 Notice of the proposed amendment, alteration, addition or repeal shall either be given at a duly called meeting of the Parish held at least seven [7] days earlier or be published to the member-congregations on the two [2] immediately preceding Sundays.
- 12.3 The quorum for such a meeting is as prescribed for ordinary business.

ARTICLE 13. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 13.1 The Parish shall have power by a two-thirds majority of those voting members casting a vote at a duly convened meeting, to amend, alter, add to or repeal these rules, except as hereinafter provided in Article 13.4, and subject to the preceding Article 3.1.4.

- 13.2 Notice of the proposed amendment, alteration, addition or repeal shall be presented in writing and shall be read to the Parish at a duly called meeting of the Parish held at least fourteen [14] days earlier or be published to the member-congregations on the two [2] immediately preceding Sundays.
- 13.3 The quorum for such a meeting shall be one-quarter [1/4] of the members entitled to vote and the result of such a ballot shall be recorded in the minutes.
- 13.4 Article 2. and Article 13.4 of this Constitution shall be considered fundamental and shall not be amended, altered, added to or repealed so as to alter their intent and meaning.

Accepted by the Parish on:

Signed:
Pastor/Chairperson

Signed:
Secretary

Accepted by the Lutheran Church of Australia, District Incorporated:
on.....

Signed:
Bishop

Signed:
Secretary

2.4.9 *Dissolution clauses* (see Page 92 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0231 RESOLVED that in the Constitution of the Church, an article entitled 'Dissolution' be added as Article 11 and the current Articles 11 and 12 be renumbered 12 and 13 as follows:

11. DISSOLUTION

- 11.1 Any resolution for dissolution or amalgamation shall be made according to the following procedure:
- 11.1.1 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 three-quarters of all the registered delegates of the General Synod.
- 11.2 In the event of any action for dissolution or amalgamation, the Church shall determine any action for the transfer or disposal of the assets by the Church to another body of a similar confessional nature. Such determination shall be made by a special motion and shall be taken in conjunction with any such action.

- 11.3 The Church shall take all steps required to implement the special resolution for action under this clause, including the making of changes required in respect of incorporation under the Act and/or other relevant legislation.

2015:0232 RESOLVED that in the By-laws of the Church, Constitution of the Districts, Article XI be replaced as follows (words to be removed – ~~strike-through~~; words to be added – **bold**):

ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION

1. ~~For dissolution initiated by~~
 1. ~~the Church:~~ The Church in consultation with the District Church Council and/or its Synod shall outline the reasons and purposes for such a proposal to a General Synod for approval.
 2. ~~the District:~~ The District through its Synod shall outline the reasons and purposes for its dissolution to the General Church Council. Upon agreement, the General Church Council shall present a proposal and subject to the agreement as required in the Constitution of the Church, Article IX. 1, submit the proposal to a General Synod for approval.
2. ~~Any decision for dissolution shall be made according to the following procedure:~~
 1. ~~Notice of a motion to dissolve the District shall be given to the delegates of the General Synod.~~
 2. ~~At least thirty [30] days written notice of a General Synod, specifying the intention to dissolve as a special motion, shall be given to the delegates of the General Synod.~~
 3. ~~The motion must be passed at a duly constituted General Synod by a majority of three-quarters of all the registered delegates of the General Synod.~~
3. ~~In the event of such dissolution, the District shall recommend to General Synod the use or disposal of the assets.~~

ARTICLE 11. DISSOLUTION

- 11.1 Changes to the prescribed geographical area of the District, dissolution of the District, or an amalgamation of the District with one or more other Districts or with the Church or changes to the legislative or governance structure of the Church affecting the District shall be determined according to the procedure set out in this article.

11.2 Action initiated by the Church

- 11.2.1 For any action referred to in the preceding clause 11.1 initiated by the Church, the General Church Council, in consultation with the District Church Council and its Synod, shall outline the reasons, purposes and procedure for such a proposal and make a recommendation to the District Synod. Upon an in principle agreement, the matter shall proceed to a General Synod for approval.
- 11.2.2 Any decision for any action referred to in the preceding clause 11.1 shall be made by the Church according to the following procedure:
 - 11.2.2.1 Notice of a motion specifying such action shall be given to the delegates of the General Synod.
 - 11.2.2.2 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.
 - 11.2.2.3 The motion must be presented at a duly constituted General Synod and shall require a majority of three-quarters of all the registered delegates of the General Synod.

11.2.3 Once a decision has been determined by the Church according to the preceding clause 11.2.2 it shall be communicated to the District which shall then take the following action:

11.2.3.1 Notice of a motion specifying the action shall be given to the delegates of the District Synod.

11.2.3.2 At least thirty [30] days written notice of a District Synod, specifying the action to be taken as a special motion, shall be given to the delegates of the District Synod.

11.2.3.3 The motion must be presented at a duly constituted District Synod and shall require a majority of three-quarters of all the registered delegates of the District Synod.

11.2.3.4 The special resolution shall be submitted to the General Church Council.

11.3 Action initiated by the District

11.3.1 For any action referred to in the preceding clause 11.1 initiated by the District, the District shall outline the reasons, purposes and procedure for such a proposal to the General Church Council for consultation prior to presentation to the District Synod.

11.3.2 Following such consultation as described in the preceding clause 11.3.1, any outline of the reasons and purposes for dissolution shall be made by the District according to the following procedure:

11.3.2.1 Notice of a motion specifying the action shall be given to the delegates of the District Synod.

11.3.2.2 At least thirty [30] days written notice of a District Synod, specifying such action as a special motion, shall be given to the delegates of the District Synod.

11.3.2.3 The motion must be presented at a duly constituted District Synod and shall require a majority of three-quarters of all the registered delegates of the District Synod.

11.3.2.4 The special resolution shall be submitted to the General Church Council.

11.3.3 Upon agreement, the General Church Council, subject to the provisions in the Constitution of the Church, Article IX. 1, shall submit the proposal to a General Synod for approval according to the procedure in the preceding clause 11.2.2.

11.4 Any recommendation or motion for dissolution of the District must address the transferring of the surplus assets of the District to either the Church or another district of the Church.

11.5 The District Synod shall take all steps required to implement the special resolution for action under this clause, including the making of changes required in respect of incorporation under the Act and/or other relevant legislation.

2.5 Late Proposal

2.5.1 *Continuation of Lay-Reader Resources (Natimuk Lutheran Parish)*
(see page 96 of the Book of Reports)

2015:0233 RESOLVED that the LCA continue to provide regular on-line access to suitable sermons for congregational lay readers to use.

The reports following were received by convention as referred to at Item 1.1 on page 22.

2.6 Pastoral Ministry

*2.6.1 Report: Board for Support of Pastoral Ministry
(see page 165 of the Book of Reports)*

2.7 Suomi Conference

*2.7.1 Report: Suomi Conference
(see page 167 of the Book of Reports)*

3. LAY MINISTRY

3.1 Report: Board for Lay Ministry

*3.2 Financial Report: Board for Lay Ministry
(see page 168 of the Book of Reports)*

4. AGED CARE

4.1 Report: Board for Lutheran Aged Care Australia

*4.2 Financial Report: Board for Lutheran Aged Care Australia
(see page 174 of the Book of Reports)*

5. CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

5.1 Report: Board for Children, Youth and Family Ministry

*5.2 Financial Report: Board for Children, Youth and Family Ministry
(see page 179 of the Book of Reports)*

6. MISSION

6.1 Report: Board for Mission

*6.2 Financial Report: Board for Mission
(see page 185 of the Book of Reports)*

6.3 Report: Interim Board for Local Mission

*6.4 Financial Report: Interim Board for Local Mission
(see page 198 of the Book of Reports)*

6.5 Report: Lutheran Bible Translators Australia

*6.6 Financial Report: Lutheran Bible Translators Australia
(see page 203 of the Book of Reports)*

7. THEOLOGY

*7.1 Report: Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations
(see page 206 of the Book of Reports)*

8. SOCIAL QUESTIONS

8.1 *Report: Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions*
(see page 210 of the Book of Reports)

8.2 *Report: Lutherans for Life*
(see page 212 of the Book of Reports)

9. WORSHIP

9.1 *Report: Commission on Worship*
(see page 213 of the Book of Reports)

10. MEDIA MINISTRY

10.1 *Report: Board for Media Ministry*

10.2 *Financial Report: Board for Media Ministry*
(see page 218 of the Book of Reports)

11. ARCHIVES

11.1 *Report: Board of Lutheran Archives*

11.2 *Financial Report: Board of Lutheran Archives*
(see page 227 of the Book of Reports)

12. AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

12.1 *Report: Board of Australian Lutheran College*

12.2 *Financial Report: Australian Lutheran College Ltd*

12.3 *Financial Report: LCA Student Assistance Fund*
(see page 233 of the Book of Reports)

13. LUTHERAN EDUCATION

13.1 *Report: Board for Lutheran Education Australia*

13.2 *Financial Report: Lutheran Education Australia Ltd*
(see page 240 of the Book of Reports)

14. ABORIGINAL MINISTRY

14.1 *Report: Finke River Mission Board*

14.2 *Financial Report: Finke River Mission Board*
(see page 247 of the Book of Reports)

15. WORLD SERVICE

15.1 *Report: Australian Lutheran World Service*

15.2 *Financial Report: Australian Lutheran World Service*
(see page 253 of the Book of Reports)

16. GENERAL FINANCE

- 16.1** *Report: Finance, Audit and Risk Committee*
(see page 266 of the Book of Reports)
- 16.2** *Financial Report: Lutheran Church of Australia Inc.*
- 16.3** *Financial Report: LCA Subscriptions*
(see page 270 of the Book of Reports)
- 16.4** *Report: Loan Management Committee*
(see page 282 of the Book of Reports)
- 16.5** *Report: Commission on Salaries*
(see page 283 of the Book of Reports)
- 16.6** *Report: Lutheran Laypeople's League*
- 16.7** *Financial Report: Lutheran Laypeople's League*
(see page 285 of the Book of Reports)
- 16.8** *Financial Report: LCA Provident Fund*
- 16.9** *Financial Report: LCA Pension Fund*
- 16.10** *Financial Report: LCA Pastors Transfer and Support Fund*
- 16.11** *Financial Report: LCA Levy Fund*
- 16.12** *Financial Report: LCA Car Grant Fund*
- 16.13** *Financial Report: LCA Insurance Fund*
(see page 289 of the Book of Reports)
- 16.14** *Report: LCA Nominees*
(see page 295 of the Book of Reports)

17. AUXILIARIES

- 17.1** *Report: Lutheran Men of Australia*
(see page 298 of the Book of Reports)
- 17.2** *Report: Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia*
(see page 292 of the Book of Reports)
- 17.3** *Report: Lutheran Women of Australia*
(see page 302 of the Book of Reports)

18. ELECTIONS OF OFFICIALS AND GENERAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**18.1 Election of Bishop**

No election was required at this Synod as Bishop Henderson was elected for two synodical terms at the 2013 Convention of Synod.

18.2 Election of Assistant Bishop

Dr Andrew Pfeiffer was announced to the Synod as the sole candidate standing from nominations previously received by General Pastors Conference.

2015:1801 RESOLVED that additional nominations for the position of LCA Assistant Bishop be received from Convention.

There were no further nominations and Dr Pfeiffer was therefore elected as the new LCA Assistant Bishop.

Synod applauded the announcement and Dr Pfeiffer was installed at the closing service on Sunday morning.

18.3 Election of General Church Council

Pastor at large: Greg Priebbenow

Lay person at large: Ms Faye Schmidt

19. BOARDS PARTIALLY ELECTED BY SYNOD**19.1 Board of Directors Australian Lutheran College Ltd**

Pastors: David Gogoll, Robert Paech

Lay members: Mrs Susan Kloeden, Mr David Dreckow

19.2 Board for Mission

Pastor: Peter Hage

Lay members: Mr Steven Wilksch, Mr Chey Mattner

19.3 Board for Lutheran Archives

Pastor: Dr Greg Lockwood

Lay members: Dr Lois Zweck, Ms Larissa Helbig, Mr Everard Leske

19.4 Board for Media Ministry

Pastor: Ben Hentschke

Lay members: Mr Des Kalisch, Ms Michelle Shepherd

19.5 Board for Lay Ministry

Pastor: Steven Liersch

Lay members: Ms Nicky Lennon, Mrs Kelly Johnstone, Mr Kym Wallent

19.6 Board for Lutheran Aged Care Australia

Pastor: Gordon Wegener
 Lay member: Mrs Colleen Fitzpatrick

19.7 Board of Directors Lutheran Education Australia Ltd

Pastor: Thomas Bohmert
 Lay member: Mrs Tania Nelson

19.8 Commission on Salaries

Pastor: John O'Keefe
 Lay members: Mr Allen Kupke, Mrs Karen Doecke

19.9 Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations

Pastor: Fraser Pearce
 Lay member: Dr Pauline Simonsen

19.10 Commission on Worship

Pastor: Adrian Kitson
 Lay member: Mr Alan Collyer

19.11 Standing Committee on Constitutions

Pastors: Wally Schiller, Timothy Ebbs
 Lay members: Mrs Margaret Koch, Mr David Dreckow

19.12 Finke River Mission Board

Pastor: Robin Zadow
 Lay members: Mr Tim Stollznnow, Mr Chris Pfeiffer

19.13 Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions

Pastors: Tim Kowald, Christian Fandrich
 Lay members: Mrs Helen Lockwood, Dr Tanya Wittwer,
 Mrs Kimberley Pfeiffer, Dr Cathryn Hamilton

19.14 Lutherans for Life Committee

Pastor: Joshua Pfeiffer
 Lay member: Mrs Chelsea Pietsch

20. CLOSING FORMALITIES

20.1 Next Convention

Bishop Mark Lieschke extended an invitation to Synod to gather in NSW in 2018.

20.2 Vote of thanks

On behalf of the General Church Council, Dr Gillian Heintze and Rev Avito Da Costa conveyed thanks to the hosts and the many organisers, volunteers and staff involved in the running of the 2015 Synod. Retiring members of Boards were farewelled and new members of Boards acknowledged.

Bishop Mark Lieschke thanked and acknowledged the work of retiring General Church Council members, Dr Gillian Heintze and Rev Avito Da Costa, and presented each with a gift. Special thanks were also conveyed to the retiring Assistant Bishop, Rev Greg Pietsch, and he was also presented with a gift.

In closing the meeting, Bishop John Henderson thanked delegates for their attendance and participation in proceedings. He further thanked the many visitors in the chapel for their attendance and engagement throughout the week.

20.3 Close of Convention

Bishop Henderson declared the Eighteenth General Convention of Synod closed during the concluding service on Sunday, 4 October 2015.

