**COMMISSION ON WORSHIP**

**Terms of Reference**

**1. NAME**

The Commission on Worship, referred to as “the Commission”.

**2. RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH**

The Commission is an advisory committee to the College of Bishops and shall fulfil its responsibilities in keeping with the Constitution and the policies of the Church.

**3. PURPOSE**

The Commission shall

3.1 prepare materials for worship as requested by the Church, College of Bishops or the General Church Board; and

3.2 give guidance, in conformity with sound Lutheran principles, in the theology and practice of Lutheran worship to the Church, its pastors, congregations, institutions, auxiliaries and other organisations.

**4. AUTHORITY**

4.1 The Commission has no decision-making authority.

4.2 The Commission may speak for the Church on issues of worship and/or publish statements and documents on these matters, following approval by the College of Bishops or the General Church Board.

**5. MEMBERSHIP**

5.1 The Commission shall consist of seven [7] members:

5.1.1 at least three [3] pastors, of which at least two [2] pastors are serving in parish ministry; and

5.1.2 four [4] lay Voting Members of congregations of the Church.

5.2 The pastors and lay members shall be appointed by the General Church Board on recommendations from the Standing Committee on Nominations in consultation with the College of Bishops.

5.3 The Commission shall consist of members with a sound understanding of Lutheran practice in worship**,** and with relevant skills, qualifications and experience in one or more of the following areas:

5.3.1 the capacity to shape the content of the liturgy of the Church and support its practical and appropriate use in worship;

5.3.2 experience in the use of

5.3.2.1 hymns and songs for community singing;

5.3.2.2 the dramatic arts; and

5.3.2.3 visual arts;

5.3.3 skills in creating, editing and publication of worship resources;

5.3.4 experience in strategic planning; and

5.3.5 the ability to participate in dialogue around music, song, liturgy and the arts.

5.4 The membership shall include a mix of backgrounds and perspectives which, together with the skills, qualifications and experience, will enable the Commission to fulfil its role.

5.5 The Chairperson shall be appointed by the College of Bishops.

5.6 A Bishop appointed by the College of Bishops shall be an ex officio member of the Commission.

5.7 **C**onsultants may be appointed by the College of Bishops to contribute specialised knowledge that is not available among the membership when addressing specific issues.

**6. RESPONSIBILITIES**

6.1 The Commission shall

6.1.1 evaluate trends and aspects of public worship guided by sound Lutheran principles;

6.1.2 inform, advise, and give guidance to the Church and its pastors, congregations, institutions, boards and auxiliaries in matters of worship;

6.1.3 cultivate in the Church an appreciation of the Lutheran principles of worship and provide appropriate teaching resources of same;

6.1.4 advise the Church in the selection and use of appropriate resources for worship;

6.1.5 evaluate and, where appropriate, endorse resources and materials for corporate Christian worship and all ecclesiastical supplies in consultation with the relevant Church bodies;

6.1.6 offer guidance and assistance to the Bishops in regard to synodical worship services;

6.1.7 study liturgical movements and developments in Australia and abroad, and for this purpose, establish contact with worship commissions or their equivalent in other Lutheran Churches and in other Christian Churches at home and abroad.

6.1.8 ensure the maintenance of and ready access to a catalogue of resources that reflects the collective memory of the Church.

6.2 The Commission shall establish working groups with Terms of Reference developed by the Commission, to carry out specific duties approved by the Commission. These working groups are as follows:

6.2.1 The working group on Liturgics;

6.2.2 The working group on Music and Song; and

6.2.3 The working group on Visual Arts.

6.3 Each working group shall consist of:

6.3.1 one [1] member of the Commission, appointed by the Commission, to coordinate the working group, and;

6.3.2 additional members appointed by the coordinator as necessary to complete projects.

6.4 Each working group shall provide regular reports to the Commission, and The Commission shall for its review.

6.5 The working group on Liturgics shall

6.5.1 enrich the liturgical life of the Church by studying the history, theology and practice of worship, especially in Lutheran Churches;

6.5.2 prepare liturgical orders, rites and resources for use in the Church in its congregations, institutions, auxiliaries and homes;

6.5.3 receive and evaluate liturgical orders, rites and resources prepared elsewhere in the Church; and

6.5.4 assist the Commission in the promotion of sound Lutheran liturgical practice within the Church.

6.6 The working group on Music and Song shall

6.6.1 prepare and offer to the Church musical settings of the Divine

Service, other liturgical orders, festivals, and minor services.

6.6.2 prepare and offer suitable additional music, such as traditional and

contemporary preludes and postludes, for use in the worship life of

the Church;

6.6.3 examine and recommend suitable choir and music group materials

6.6.4 advise, support and train worship leaders in the appropriate use of

music instrumentation in worship;

6.6.5 assist the Commission in the promotion of appropriate music and

the encouragement of musical leadership in the worship life of the

Church;

6.6.6 offer training, support and advice in the use of technology and its

use in the worship life of the Church;

6.6.7 examine and recommend music from various traditions and styles

for use in the worship life of the Church;

6.6.8 offer indexes and usage suggestions for the public worship of the

Church according to seasonal, festive and catechetical themes;

6.6.9 further development of music and song resources in digital form and

on line resourcing of the Church in its worship;

6.**7** The working group on Visual Arts shall

6.**7**.1 promote the design and use of art sacred and liturgical art in all forms including but not limited to

6.7.1.1 ecclesiastical architecture;

6.7.1.2 textile appointments including vestments, paraments, banners, etc;

6.7.1.3 two dimensional traditional forms- drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, calligraphy, illumination, mosaics, frescoes, etc;

6.7.1.4 three dimensional forms such as floral art, sculpture, carpentry, carving, creative textiles, bookmaking, site specific installations etc.

6.7.1.5 digital forms- digital art, graphic design, photography, videography, animation etc.;

6.7.2 encourage and promote creative people within the Church;

6.7.3 develop educational resources and training for the Church on the technical aspects and design processes involved in creating Visual Arts.

6.7.4 assist in the education of pastoral students through annual presentations on aspects of Visual Arts in the Church;

6.7.5 maintain a register of competent artists and other creative people willing to accept commissions for art works for use in worship.

6.7.6 provide advice and suggestions on the visual elements of worship for LCA events and projects such as synod, ordination, etc.

6.7.7 the Working Group may also produce resources related to the Visual Arts for use on the Worship Planning Page and in other Commission on Worship projects.

**7. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS AND REPORTING**

7.1 Meetings shall be convened by the Chairperson.

7.2 It is at the discretion of the Commission to meet face-to-face, by electronic means, or by other means of communication.

7.3 Email correspondence may be used for the distribution of minutes, advisory information or approval of documentation.

7.4 The minutes of the meetings of the Commission shall be submitted to the College of Bishops.

7.5 An annual report of the activities of the Commission and any subsidiary bodies shall be submitted to the College of Bishops.

**8. REVIEW**

8.1 The Terms of Reference for the Commission shall be reviewed during each Synodical term.

8.2 Any changes to the Terms of Reference shall be approved by the General Church Board on recommendation of the College of Bishops, upon review by the Standing Committee on Constitutions.