

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 three [3] parish pastors; and
 - 5.1.2 four [4] lay 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 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 the weekly worship of God's people;
 - 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 Up to two [2] consultants 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 in the light of 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 advise the Church in the selection and use of appropriate media for worship;
 - 6.1.4 evaluate and, where appropriate, endorse resources and materials for corporate Christian worship and all ecclesiastical supplies in consultation with the relevant Church bodies;
 - 6.1.5 offer guidance and assistance to the Bishops in regard to synodical worship services;
 - 6.1.6 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;
 - 6.1.7 oversee any subsidiary bodies that are under its oversight; and
 - 6.1.8 establish working groups to carry out specific duties approved by the Commission, under Terms of Reference developed by the Commission.
- 6.2 The Commission shall carry out specific duties through working groups 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 In fulfilment of this, the Commission shall
- 6.3.1 delegate assignments;
 - 6.3.2 receive reports;
 - 6.3.3 coordinate the work of the working groups, especially in areas of overlap; and
 - 6.3.4 review the work of the working groups and provide the approved orders and resources for distribution to the Church, or for reception by the Church as appropriate.
- 6.4 Each working group shall consist of six [6] members:
- 6.4.1 one [1] member of the Commission;
 - 6.4.2 five [5] additional members of the congregations of the Church.
- 6.5 The working groups.
- 6.5.1 The Commission shall appoint the members of the working groups from nominations received by the Standing Committee on Nominations and may coopt additional members to serve on any working group.
 - 6.5.2 Each working group shall elect a convenor from its members.
 - 6.5.3 Each working group shall provide regular reports to the Commission or as requested.
- 6.6 The working group on Liturgics shall
- 6.6.1 enrich the worship life of the Church by studying the history, theology and practice of worship, especially in Lutheran Churches;

- 6.6.2 prepare worship orders and resources for use in the Church in its congregations, institutions, auxiliaries and homes;
- 6.6.3 receive and evaluate other worship orders and resources prepared elsewhere in the Church; and
- 6.6.4 assist the Commission in the promotion of sound Lutheran practice in worship within the Church.
- 6.7 The working group on Music and Song shall
 - 6.7.1 prepare and offer to the Church musical settings of the Divine Service, other liturgical orders, festivals, minor services and devotional prayer;
 - 6.7.2 prepare and offer suitable supplemental music, such as preludes and postludes, for use in the worship life of the Church;
 - 6.7.3 examine and recommend suitable choir materials;
 - 6.7.4 advise, support and train worship leaders in the appropriate use of music instrumentation in worship;
 - 6.7.5 assist the Commission in the promotion of appropriate music and the encouragement of musical servant leadership in the worship life of the Church;
 - 6.7.6 offer training, support and advice in the use of technology and its use in the worship life of the Church;
 - 6.7.7 examine and recommend music from various traditions and styles for use in the worship life of the Church;
 - 6.7.8 offer indexes and usage suggestions for the public worship of the Church according to seasonal, festive and catechetical themes;
 - 6.7.9 further develop music and song resources in digital form and on-line resourcing of the Church in its worship; and
 - 6.7.10 maintain a catalogue of resources that reflect the collective memory of the Church.
- 6.8 The working group on Visual Arts shall
 - 6.8.1 promote the design and use of art forms in worship including
 - 6.8.1.1 ecclesiastical architecture;
 - 6.8.1.2 vestments, wall hangings, paraments, banners and other textile appointments;
 - 6.8.1.3 sculptures, carvings, floral art and forms of three-dimensional art; and
 - 6.8.1.4 pictorial art, stained and coloured glass, and digital projected images;
 - 6.8.2 offer encouragement and guidance to individuals and groups dedicated to the promotion of the visual arts in worship;
 - 6.8.3 encourage and promote artists within the Church; and
 - 6.8.4 maintain a register of competent artists willing to accept commissions for art works for use in worship.

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 Board 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.