



# Section 10

## 2019 Convention of Synod

Constitutions Committee Report

# Constitutions Committee Report

***Hebrews 13:8***

***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever***

Dear Friends in Christ

Due to the changes in our Church It feels like an end of an era, a change of the guard!

The ancient philosopher Heraclitus, coined the phrase “nothing endures but change”. At least that is how it is known to most westerners. What a contrast to the Bible verse chosen here. Our District Constitutions Committee has an important task and indeed has worked hard to fulfil its duty this year, as every other year in the past by our not forgotten brothers and sisters in Christ. We currently have six members, but operated most of the year with only five. We are still searching for a Pastor member.

Since the last report, we have worked on reviewing 34 Constitutions & By-laws for:

- Congregations - 27, and
- Parishes – 7

Of these, 10 Congregations and 2 Parishes have been completed so far.

In addition, we modified the latest LCA model Constitutions for:

- Unincorporated Parish
- Incorporated Parish
- Unincorporated Congregation – Single Point
- Incorporated Congregation – Single Point
- Unincorporated Congregation – Parish Member
- Incorporated Congregation – Parish Member

But, by far the biggest job was to review the District By-laws part B in their entirety. As this is a function of the Committee designed with a purpose. That purpose is two-fold. On the one hand, we reflect the correlation of the rules and the Objects of the Church and on the other, their practical application and compliance.

As change is inevitable, the Committee seeks ‘divine wisdom’ to advise Congregations and the District and, when fitting, indeed the LCA on Constitutional matters. This ‘wisdom’ is always available when we begin our meetings with the ‘word of God’ and applying the filter of love and collaboration to our thorough processes. I feel a great need to publicly thank the champions on the team for their thorough work, their dedication, their objectivity and above all, their heart of service. In this time deprived world in which we live, their contribution is simply priceless.

This year, Synod will be receiving the proposed changes to the LCAQD Governance of mainly the Departments of the District. I can assure you all, it was a massive collaborative effort and was handled by very competent church members. The Constitutions Committee undertook the By-laws review to ensure the new District structure is supported by the By-laws. The good news, is when Synod adopts the proposed Governance changes you, the Synod, can rely on

the By-laws to be easy to read, transparent and reliable. But they also make it easy to adopt new changes as may be required.

Any of the team of the Constitutions Committee who may be at Synod will be only too happy to answer any questions or take onboard any comments.

I pray God surrounds us with his Mercy, Grace and Wisdom before, during and after Synod that the work that we do is to His glory and peace among us.

Your servant in Christ

Andrew