

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA**

**SEVENTEENTH REGULAR  
CONVENTION OF SYNOD**

**Adelaide Entertainment Centre  
Port Road, Hindmarsh**

**and**

**Immanuel College  
Morphett Road, Novar Gardens,  
South Australia**

**Sunday 21 to Wednesday 24 April 2013**

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## *Delegates*

### ROLL CALL OF GENERAL SYNOD DELEGATES

^ Alternate for General Synod delegate who is unable to attend

\* Absent

### GENERAL CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Rev Dr	Mike	Semmler
Secretary of the Church	Rev	Neville	Otto
New South Wales President and e President of the Church	Rev	Mark	Lieschke
New South Wales District Lay Representative	Mr	David	Menzel
New Zealand President	Rev	Mark	Whitfield
Queensland President	Rev	Noel	Noack
Queensland Lay Representative	Mr	Michael	Stolz
South Australia/Northern Territory	Rev	David	Altus
South Australia/Northern Territory Lay Representative	Mr	Mel	Zerner
toria Lay Representative	Mr	Tim	Wiebusch
toria President	Rev	Greg	Pietsch
Western Australia	Mr	Volker	HopfmueLLer
Pastor Member at large	Rev	Avito	da Costa
Lay Member at large	Dr	Gillian	Heintze

### SYNOD OFFICIALS CONSULTANTS CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS

LCA Business Manager	Mrs	Debbie	Venz
Assistant to the President	Ms	Larissa	Helbig
West Australia President	Rev	Greg	Pfeiffer
Chair Constitutions Committee	Mr	David	Dreckow
Chair Board for Mission	Dr	Loyd	Fyffe
Chair Nominations Committee	Mrs	Margaret	Koch
Chair Board for Lay Ministry	Mr	Chris	Pfeiffer
Chair Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions	Dr	Robert	Pollnitz
Editor the Lutheran	Mrs	Rosie	Schefe
Electoral Officer	Rev	Wally	Schiller
Chair Commission on Theology and Inter Church Relations	Rev Dr	Jeff	Silcock
Chair Finke River Mission Board	Mr	Tim	Stollznöw
Executive Director Youth and Family Ministry	Mrs	Jodi	Brook
Principal Australian Lutheran College	Rev	John	Henderson
Executive Officer Suomi Conference	Rev	Jorma	Jormakka
Chair Commission on Salaries	Mr	Allen	Kupke
Archivist	Mr	Lyall	Kupke
Exec Editor The Lutheran	Ms	Linda	Macqueen

## *Delegates*

Executive Director Lutheran Education Australia	Mr	Stephen	Rudolph
Executive Officer LCA	Mr	Peter	Schirmer
Past President of the Church	Rev Dr	Lance	Steicke
Director appointee Lay Ministry	Mr	Nevin	Nitschke
Director Media Ministry	Rev	Richard	Fox
Director Media Ministry	Rev	Richard	Mau
Chair Commission on Worship	Rev	Greg	Pietsch
Chair Board of Directors Australian Lutheran College	Rev	David	Gogoll
Chair Board for Media Ministry	Mr	Ian	Liddell
Chair Board of Directors Lutheran Education Australia	Mrs	Ann	Mitchell
Chair Board for Archives and Research	Rev	Peter	Pfitzner
Chair Board for Support to Pastoral Ministry	Rev	David	Eckermann
Chair Board for youth and Family	Mr	Tim	Wiebusch
Chair Committee on Scholarships	Rev	Malcolm	Bartsch
Executive Secretary Australian Lutheran World Services	Mr	Chey	Mattner

### DELEGATES

#### *Lutheran Church of New Zealand*

Auckland Botany Chinese			
Auckland Mountainside	Mr	Simon	Lieschke
Bay of Plenty			
Christchurch	Mrs	Beverley	Hentschel*
Hamilton	Mrs	Jill	Hobden
Hawkes Bay			
Kawerau			
Manawatu	Dr	Pauline	Simonson
Marton			
Wanganui			
Upper Moutere	Mrs	Haidee	Jantezki
Wairarapa			
Wellington			
Whakatane			

#### *New South Wales (including Australian Capital Territory)*

Albury St Lukes	Mr	John	McClelland
Bankstown - Liverpool	Ms	Ann	Butler
Bass Hill Southern Cross Finnish	Mr	Juri	Perendi
Belconnen Holy Cross	Mr	Tony	von Brandenstein
Burrumbuttock	Mr	Ian	Pertzel
Campbelltown Good Shepherd	Mr	Graham	Andrews
Canberra Holy Trinity Finnish			
Canberra-Queanbeyan	Mr	Ronald	Falkenberg^
	Mr	Ross	Harding*
Central Coast			
Central West	Mr	Grant	Weckert



## *Delegates*

Coffs Harbour			
Cooma			
Epping St Marks	Dr	Eli	Cronje
Gilgandra-Dubbo		Ingeborg	Ramisch-Baker
Henty	Ms	Jeannie	Kenney
Illawarra/South Coast	Ms	Anna	Zoljan
Lavington	Mr	Chey	Mattner
Leeton- Griffith			
Moree	Mr	Andrew	Doering
Narraweena Redeemer	Ms	Dorothea	Preis
Newcastle and Hunter District	Mrs	Maureen	Macpherson
Port Macquarie St Peters	Mrs	Marie	Harmann
Springwood Our Saviour			
St Marys St Pauls	Mr	Martin	Vanags
Sutherland Good Shepherd	Dr	Alison	Short
Sydney St Pauls	Mr	Ian	Pietsch
Tamworth – Gunnedah			
Temora			
Tuggeranong Good Shepherd	Mrs	Judy	Temme
Wagga Wagga	Dr	Ken	Albinger^
Wagga Wagga	Mr	Malcolm	Kohlhagen
Walla Walla			
West Wyalong			
Woden Valley Immanuel	Ms	Betty	Meyer
<i>Queensland</i>			
Alberton	Mr	Ian	Rossmann
Beau Logan	Ms	Daphne	Oppermann*
Beenleigh Bethesda	Mr	Nevan	Janetzki
Bethania	Mr	John	Oppermann
Biloela	Mr	Trevor	Kucks
Brassall			
Brisbane City St Andrews	Mr	Silke	Moolman*
Brisbane City St Andrews	Mr	Odd Steinar	Dybvad Raneng^
Buderim	Mr	Norm	Auricht
Buderim	Mrs	Ruth	Geitz
Bundaberg	Mrs	Christine	Heinrich
Caboolture St Pauls	Mr	Ross	Krieg
Cairns	Dr	Harald	Ebersbach
Caloundra	Mr	Alan	Krugur*
Corinda St Johns	Mr	Benjamin	Lyons
Crows Nest	Mrs	Jenny	Gersekowski
Eight Mile Plains	Rev	Norman	Bergen
Emerald	Mr	Robin	Jaensch
Everton Hills Prince Of Peace	Mrs	Sharryn	Cook
Fassifern			
Gladstone St Martins	Mrs	Carolyn	Murdoch
Glasshouse			
Gold Coast (Tallebudgera) St	Ms	Judy	Hembrow

## *Delegates*

Andrews			
Goombungee MacLagan	Mrs	Judy	Hartwig
Gympie			
Hervey Bay St James	Mr	Selwyn	Brindley
Hope Vale	Mr	Llyod	Bambie
Hope Vale	Mr	David	Spanagel
Indooroopilly St Peters	Mr	Bruce	Lockwood
Ingham-Mission Beach			
Ipswich	Mrs	Eunice	Steinhardt
Kingaroy			
Living Word Ashmore	Mr	Ken	Fischer
Lockyer Valley (Gatton Ministry Area)	Mrs	Christine	Matthias
Lockyer Valley (Laidley)			
Lowood	Mr	Hayden	Spanagel
Mackay District	Mrs	Marie	Robke
Maryborough Childers	Ms	Enid	Buckland
Middle Park Good News	Mrs	Sue	Kloeden
Mount Gravatt	Mr	Brian	Wandel
Mount Isa			
Murgon			
Murrumba Downs Living Faith	MS	Liz	Winderlich
Nambour	Ms	Corinna	Schimakk
Noosa Good Shepherd	Mr	Stephen	Wenke
Northern Rivers			
Nundah St Pauls	Mrs	Sandra	Dawson
Oakey	Mr	Mark	Carter
Pittsworth	Mrs	Annie	Pfeffer
Redcliffe Grace	Mrs	Kay	Jaunais
Redlands			
Rosedale Our Saviour	Ms	Margit	Hubbers
	Mrs	Judy	Powell
Rockhampton			
Rosewood District	Mr	John	Holznagel
South West Queensland (Chinchilla)	Mrs	Heather	Kleidon
South West Queensland (Dalby)	Mr	Wayne	Horrigan
South West Queensland (Wandoan Ministry Area)			
Southport Trinity Qld	Mr	Raija	Mccappin
Tingalpa/Mt Cotton	Ms	Christina	Broadley
Toowoomba Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship	Mrs	Lois	Sanders
Toowoomba Good Shepherd	Mr	Klaus	Merretz
Toowoomba Living Grace			
Toowoomba Redeemer	Mr	John	Schulz
Toowoomba St Pauls	Mr	Ed	Szabo
Toowoomba Trinity			
Toowoomba-Cornerstone	Mrs	Hazel	Weis
Townsville	Ms	Shelley	Koch

## *Delegates*

Wilsonton-Glencoe	Mr	Chris	Grieshaber
Woolloongabba Nazareth	Mr	Eric	Parups
Woolloongabba Nazareth Finnish	Mr	Markus	Silvola
Wujal Wujal			
Yarraman			
<i>South Australia and Northern Territory</i>			
Aberfoyle Park Our Saviour	Mr	Shannon	Hood
Adelaide Bethlehem	Mrs	Thais	Hodge
	Ms	Lisa	Thiele^
Adelaide Deaf Community	Rev	John	Hoopmann
Adelaide Finnish	Mrs	Paula	Simpanen
	Mr	Urpu	Wilhelmsson
Adelaide German	Mr	Peter	Fleig
Adelaide St Stephens	Mrs	Ruth	Prescott
	Ms	Tanya	Wittwer
Aldinga			
Alice Springs NT	Mrs	Lyn	Schultz
Angaston	Ms	Helen	Fiebiger
Balaklava	Mr	Terry	Neumann
Barmera-New Residence	Mr	Benjamin	Schober
Berri	Mr	Eric	Semmler
Bethany-Tabor	Mrs	Shannon	Schuster
Bethany-Tabor	Mr	Graham	Semmler
Birdwood Holy Cross	Mr	Max	Ronan
Blackwood St Peters	Mrs	Pam	Thiele
Blair Athol St Paul	Mr	John	Belcher
Bordertown	Mr	David	Graetz
Bridgewater Grace	Ms	Margaret	Hunt
Brinkworth	Mr	Andrew	Wilkins
Carlsruhe- Saddleworth	Mrs	Christine	Schmaal
Ceduna			
Central Eyre Peninsula			
Clare Blyth	Mrs	Heidi	Mirtschin
Cleve	Mrs	Cathy	Giersch
Coonalpyn	Mrs	Jan	Kaesler
Cummins	Mr	Hartley	Modra*
Darwin Top End NT	Mr	Trevor	Ziersch
Dernancourt St Johns	Mr	Mervyn	Wagner*
Dernancourt St Johns	Mrs	Catherine	Hardy^
Elizabeth			
Eudunda	Mr	Joshua	Schiller
Ferryden Park St Paul	Mrs	Lorraine	Kempf
Finke River/Hermannsberg			
Freeling	Mr	Ray	Winterfield
Gawler Immanuel			
Gawler Zion			
Glandore-Underdale	Mr	Philip	Minge
Glenelg St Paul	Ms	Ursula	Franck

## *Delegates*

Glynde St Andrew	Ms	Petra	Williams
Glynde Zion	Ms	Helene	Schulz
Golden Grove	Mr	Christiaan	Hersevoort
Goolwa			
Greenock	Mr	Trevor	Waldhuter
	Mr	John	Schild^
Hahndorf St Michaels			
Hahndorf St Pauls	Ms	Coral	Gallasch
Hallett Cove Good Shepherd	Mr	Neville	Dolling
Hampstead Holy Trinity	Mr	Mark	Kleinig
Hope Valley Trinity	Mr	John	Oldman
Kangaroo Island (Kingscote)	Ms	Lynlee	Heinrich
Kapunda	Mr	Ian	Sarson
Kingston			
Lameroo	Mrs	Marilyn	Pickett
Light Pass Immanuel	Mr	Glen	Graetz
Light Pass Strait Gate	Mr	Murray	Klemm
Lobethal	Ms	Verity	Colyer
Loxton	Mr	Ronald	Munchenberg*
Loxton St Peters	Mr	Kelvin	Burgemeister
Lyndoch	Mr	Edgar	Schild
Magill Pilgrim	Mr	Garry	Wedding
Maitland	Mr	Paul	Schulz
Mannum-Palmer	Mr	Richard	Hein
	Mr	Russell	Male
Mawson Lakes			
McLaren Vale St Pauls	Mr	Colin	Eckert
Morphett Vale Calvary	Mr	Rob	Wiltshire
Mount Barker St Mark	Mrs	Christine	Lockwood
Mount Compass			
Mount Gambier St Martins	Mr	Roger	Jericho
Murray Bridge Christ Church	Mr	Graham	Schubert
Murray Bridge Holy Cross	Mr	Peter	Heintze
Naracoorte	Mr	Paul	Schenscher
North Adelaide Immanuel	Mrs	Margaret	Mayer
Novar Gardens Immanuel	Mr	Louis	Fischer
Nuriootpa			
Nuriootpa St Petri	Mrs	Heather	Kurtz*
Onkaparinga	Mr	James	Kerber
Para Vista Good Shepherd	Mr	Keith	Kemp
Para Vista Good Shepherd	Mr	Jim	Materne
Paringa	Mrs	Lorraine	George
Pasadena Trinity	Mr	Theodor	Prucha
Pinnaroo	Mr	Les	Schutz*
Port Lincoln			
Port Pirie	Mr	David	Burger
Renmark	Mr	Dennis	Hentschke*
Robertstown	Ms	Deborah	Myers

## *Delegates*

Roxby Downs			
Salisbury	Mrs	Lyn	Benger
Seaford	Mr	Keith	Eckert
Semaphore	Mr	Neville	Grosse
Southern Flinders	Mr	Trevor	Roocke*
Southern Yorke Peninsula			
St Peters Fullarton	Mr	Craig	Hall
Strathalbyn	Mr	Malcolm	Twartz
Swan Reach	Mr	Alan	Reynolds
Tailem Bend	Ms	Dianne	Woidt
Tanunda Langmeil	Mr	Donald	Ross
Tanunda St Johns	Mr	Stephen	Radke
Tanunda St Pauls	Mr	Roger	Both
Tea Tree Gully St Johns	Mr	Simon	Wilksch*
	Mrs	Ruth	Olsen^
Unley St Johns	Mr	Rodney	Schwarz
	Mrs	Karen	Tromans
Victor Harbor	Mrs	Ruth	Jericho
Waikerie	Mr	Denis	Paschke
	Mrs	Joyleen	Paschke
Warradale	Ms	Pauline	Fryers^
Whyalla			
Woodville	Mr	Richard	Schmidt
Yalata	Mr	Malcolm	Willcocks*
<i>Victoria</i>			
Ballarat			
Bendigo	Ms	Tanya	Mikhail*
Box Hill St Pauls	Mr	Eldon	Eckermann
Box Hill St Pauls	Mr	Dinu	Stamatescu
Dimboola Jeparit	Mr	Lou	Reichenbach
Doncaster Ivanhoe	Rev	Phil	Haar
	Mrs	Faye	Schmidt^
Footscray			
Geelong	Ms	Jacinda	Linke
Gippsland			
Goulburn Murray	Mr	Leon	Tepper
Grampians	Mr	John	Simpkin
Greensborough			
Grovedale			
Hamilton,		Rex	Wedding
Hobart St Peters	Mrs	Vera	Clay
Horsham	Mrs	Leonie	Hateley
Horsham	Mr	Martin	Lieschke
Melbourne North West	Mrs	Judith	Mattner
Melbourne South Eastern	Mr	James	Luk
Melbourne Outer Eastern	Mr	Mal	Wegener
Melbourne St Johns Southgate,	Ms	Jill	McGrath-Berra
Mildura Holy Trinity	Mr	Colin	Gaulke

## *Delegates*

Minyip/Warracknabeal	Mr	Kevin	Morrow
Moorabbin/Dandenong	Mr	Michael	Jang
Murtoa St Johns	Mr	Peter	Jorgensen
Natimuk	Mr	John	Kosch*
Nhill	Mr	Andrew	Bothe
	Mr	Kevin	Hedt
	Ms	Gwenda	Morris
North Geelong	Mr	Graeme	Huf
North Tasmania	Mr	Geoff	Starick
Nundawading and Waverley	Mrs	Denise	Muschamp
Portland-Heywood Multi-site	Mr	Robert	Menzel
Rainbow	Mrs	Karen	Koning
Ringwood/Knox	Mr	Volker	Lange
Rosebud			
Swan Hill			
Swan Hill St Paul	Mrs	Isa	Hamann
Tabor	Mr	Marcus	Rentsch
Tarrington	Mr	Noel	Mibus*
Traralgon			
Wangaratta			
Warrnambool	Mr	Jim	Sawyer
Werribee-Altona	Mrs	Leanne	Miller*
Wodonga	Mr	Paul	Vogelsang

### *Western Australian*

Albany St Pauls	Mrs	Judith	Pech
Bunbury Ocean Forest	Mr	Murray	Pfitzner
Canna	Ms	Maya	Kraj-Krajewski*
Clarkson			
Dalyellup			
Duncraig Concordia	Mr	Lester	Dreckow
Esperance Kalgoorlie Boulder			
Geraldton Hope	Ms	Christiane	Lisske
Katanning Narrogin	Mr	Adrian	Roocke
Morawa			
Morley Bethlehem	Mrs	Roslyn	Zadow
Parkwood St Luke	Mrs	Anne	Smyth
Perth	Mr	Graeme	Lienert*
Rockingham/Mandurah	Mrs	Monika	Tropiano

### *Pastor Delegates*

#### *New Zealand*

Rev Christopher Janetzki	Rev Jonathon Kummerow
New South Wales	
Rev Robert Bartholomaeus	Rev Dr David Grulke
Rev John Borchert	Rev Steve Hibbard
Rev Joel Cramer	Rev Ernie Kiss
Rev Adam Eime	Rev Darren Kupke
Rev Michael Grosas	Rev Martti Paananen

## *Delegates*

Rev Hans Peethala  
Rev Jason Sander

Rev Mark Schultz  
Rev Tim Zanker

### *Queensland*

Rev Christopher Bartholomaeus  
Rev Boyd Brieze  
Rev Noel Burton  
Rev Sam Davis  
Rev Mark Demmer  
Rev Dr Noel Due  
Rev Rob Edwards  
Rev Christian Fandrich  
Rev Brenton Fiedler  
Rev Gregory Graham  
Rev Mark Hampel  
Rev James Haak  
Rev William Heidrich  
Rev Michael Jarick  
Rev Stuart Kleinig

Rev Reid Matthias  
Rev Steve Maas  
Rev Michael Mayer  
Rev Michael Neldner  
Rev John O'Keefe  
Rev Rob Paech  
Rev Joshua Pfeiffer  
Rev Greg Priebbenow  
Rev Lester Reinbott  
Rev Lionel Rohrlach  
Rev Paul Smith  
Rev Vaughn Spring  
Rev Jim Strelan  
Rev Paul Thiele  
Rev Matthew Thomas

### *South Australian and Northern Territory*

Rev Julian Bayha  
Rev Wayne Boehm  
Rev Thomas Bohmert  
Rev Robert Borgas  
Rev Ron Buchold  
Rev David Eckermann  
Rev Paul Fielke  
Rev Richard Fox  
Rev Anthony Fox  
Rev John Gerhardy  
Rev David Gogoll  
Rev Dale Gosden  
Rev Mark Hansen  
Rev Paul Hannola  
Rev Geoffrey Havelberg  
Rev Ben Hentschke  
Rev Tom Hoffmann  
Rev Philip Joppich  
Rev Adrian Kitson  
Rev Tristan (Fin) Klein  
Rev Tim Klein  
Rev Vernon Kleinig  
Rev Tim Kowald  
Rev Geoff Kuchel  
Rev Steven Liersch  
Rev Rolf Lungwitz  
Rev Keith McNicol  
Rev Eugene Minge

Rev Ben Mogg  
Rev Dr Steen Olsen  
Rev Greg Page  
Rev Fraser Pearce  
Rev Malcolm Pech  
Rev Benjamin Pfeiffer  
Rev Leslie Pfeiffer  
Rev Matthias Prenzler  
Rev David Preuss  
Rev Athol Pukallus  
Rev Dan Rooney  
Rev Leon Rosenberg  
Rev Nigel Rosenzweig  
Rev Rob Schubert  
Rev Stephen Schultz  
Rev Kevin Spilsbury  
Rev Michael Steicke  
Rev John Strelan  
Rev Dr John Thiel  
Rev Stephen Trautwein  
Rev Detlev Vosgerau  
Rev Allan Wain  
Rev James Winderlich  
Rev Rodney Witmitz  
Rev Kevin Wood  
Rev Robin Zadow  
Rev Richard Zweck

### *Victoria*

Rev Matt Anker  
Rev Andrew Bettison

Rev Mark Blackwell  
Rev Andrew Brook

## *Delegates*

Rev Timothy Ebbs  
Rev Peter Ghalayini  
Rev John Heidenreich  
Rev Paul Kerber  
Rev Greg Koch  
Rev Sean McMaughan  
Rev Wayne Muschamp  
Rev Raymond Pace

### *West Australia*

Rev Mike Fulwood  
Rev Adrian Kramer

### *Australian Lutheran College*

Rev Dr Stephen Haar  
Rev Dr Peter Lockwood  
Rev Dr Andrew Pfeiffer

### *Emeriti*

Rev David Christian  
Rev Dr John Kleinig

### *School Principals*

Mr Mark Doecke, NSW  
Mr Mick Emmett, VIC  
Mr Robert Hoff, SA  
Mr Kevin Richardson, SA  
Mrs Janelle Turner, QLD  
Mr Adrian Wiles, QLD

Rev Thomas Pietsch  
Rev Richard Schwedes  
Rev Mark Vainikka  
Rev Stephen van der Hoek  
Rev David Wear  
Rev John Weier  
Rev Mark Winter

Rev Kim Kuchel  
Rev Andre Meyer

Rev Stephen Pietsch  
Rev Dr Dean Zweck

Rev Dr Greg Lockwood



## **1. PRELIMINARIES**

### **1.1. Opening of Convention of Synod**

President Semmler declared open the Seventeenth Regular Convention of Synod 2013 at the opening service held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre on Sunday 21 April 2013.

### **1.2. Endorsements**

#### **1.2.1. Minute Secretaries**

Janise Fournier, Coordinator; Rev's Perry Hart, James Leach, Sam Modra,  
Greg Page, Kees Sturm

#### **1.2.2. Publicity Officers**

Linda Macqueen, Rosie Scheffe, David Mau,

#### **1.2.3. Committee for Verification of Minutes**

Dr Pauline Simonsen, Rev Kevin Spilsbury

#### **1.2.4. Electoral Committee**

Revs Wally Schiller, Mark Blackwell

### **1.3. Welcome to Convention**

- Dr Semmler welcomed first time delegates attending Synod.
- Dr Semmler welcomed new pastors to Synod.
- Mr Kevin Richardson, Principal of Immanuel College, welcomed those attending Synod to the campus.

### **1.4. District Welcome**

Rev David Altus, President, SA/NT District LCA, on behalf of the church family in South Australia, welcomed those attending Synod to South Australia.

### **1.5. Roll Call and Apologies**

Dr Semmler announced that there were 398 delegates registered for Convention

Apologies were received from:

#### *Pastors*

- Rev John Davison, Hamilton, New Zealand
- Rev Nathan Hedt, LCA Vic District
- Rev Bruce Hohnberg, Coffs Harbour NSW
- Rev Stephen Jaensch, Emerald, Qld
- Rev Kym Mills, Naracoorte, SA
- Rev Ray Morris, Alice Springs, NT
- Rev Mike Pietsch, LCA SA/NT District — on secondment in Canada
- Rev Gus Schutz, Horsham, Vic
- Rev Dr Andrew Ruddell, Rainbow, Vic
- Rev Mathew Ker, Temora, NSW

#### *Lay People*

- Mr Brian Grosser, Wangaratta Parish, NSW
- Ms Jill Hobden, St Matthews, Hamilton, New Zealand, for lateness
- Mr John Holznagel, Rosewood, Qld

Dr Semmler announced that a quorum was present

### **1.6. Greetings were received from:**

1. Rev Dr Robert Bugbee, President LCC, who extended greetings from Lutheran Church Canada (LC-C)
2. Rev Dr Ralph Mayan, former President LC-C (in absentia)
3. Bishop Willem Simarmata, who extended greetings from Huria Kristen Batak Protestant (HKBP), and Mrs Hen Simarmata; Bishop Simarmata presented the Church with a traditional commemorative ulos, depicting the logo of the HKBP and

LCA 175 Anniversary, and requested prayers for Indonesian Christians in the face of Islamic persecution.

4. Bishop Giegere Wenge Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea and Mrs Lucy Wenge
5. Rev Dr William Chang, Asia, Pacific, Middle East, Holy Land representative, Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
6. Mr Ridwin Purba, Indonesia Education Secretary, LWF
7. Rev Tara Curlewis, General Secretary, National Council of Churches of Australia
8. Mr Kevin Richardson, Principal, Immanuel College, who extended a welcome to the campus
9. The Most Reverend Jeffrey Driver, Anglican Archbishop of Adelaide (in absentia)
10. Fr Philip Marshall, Vicar General, Catholic Diocese of Adelaide (in absentia)
11. His Excellency Kevin Scarce, Governor of South Australia (in absentia)
12. The Honourable Kate Ellis, Federal Member for the Division of Adelaide (in absentia)
13. The Honourable Jay Weatherill, Premier of South Australia (in absentia)
14. The Honourable Stephen Marshall, Leader of the Opposition, South Australia (in absentia)
15. The Honourable Rachel Sanderson, State Member of Parliament for Adelaide
16. The Leipzig Mission (in absentia)

Rev Dr Mike Semmler asked the representatives of other churches to pass on greetings from the LCA to their churches.

#### **1.7. Associated Activities**

Lutheran Women of Australia met at Immanuel College from 18 to 19 April 2013 under the theme 'When the heart goes out . . . a deed follows' with some 400 in attendance. The New South Wales based committee for the next triennium was elected: President, Tanna Mackenzie; Vice President, Jenny Bartholomaeus; Secretary, Dorothea Preis; Treasurer, Meryl Packer; Extra Member, Carolyn Kiss.

General Pastors Conference met at Concordia College, Highgate from 16 to 19 April 2013 with Rev Mark Lieschke as chair.

#### **1.8. Synod Offering**

The Synod offering of \$50,872 was received and will be shared between the LCA African appeal and support for LCA theological and pastoral training programmes.

Church Resources raised \$1600 during convention at their Barista stand selling 700 cups of coffee; proceeds were donated to ALWS.

#### **1.9. Worship Services**

##### **1.9.1. Sunday 21 April**

##### **Adelaide Entertainment Centre**

- Liturgist Rev Dr Michael Semmler
- Guest Preacher Rev Greg Seltz, Speaker of Lutheran Hour Ministries, USA
- Sermon Text 1 John 4:9–12

##### **1.9.2. Monday 22 April**

##### **Morning Devotion**

- Preacher Rev David Altus
- Sermon Text Romans 5:8;

##### **1.9.3. Monday 22 April**

##### **Evening Devotion—In Memoriam Service**

- Liturgist/Preacher Rev Dr Michael Semmler
- Sermon Text Romans 8:35–39

Those who have died during last Synodical term were remembered as candles were lit:

**Pastors:** Theodore (Elmore) Harms, Theodore P Harms, Allan Heppner, Vincent Jarick, Kevin D Kuchel, Everard Leske, Theodore Mackenzie, Stan Mibus, Clement Minge, John Paech, John Pfitzner, Voitto (Vic) Pokela, Romans Reinfelds, Gordon Ruwoldt, Victor

## Preliminaries

Schubert, Barry Schwarz, Howard Smith, Lloyd Spike, Colin Temme, Trevor Wantama, Kenneth Woidt, Paul Zweck, Norman Minge

**Wives of Pastors:** Mavis Fischer-Brooks, Margaret Hampel, Phyllis Jaensch, Dawn Klein, Jean Musinskis, Ellen Neldner, Elvira Obst, Margaret Renner, Maud Rosendale, Val Schwarz, Anna Velebir

**Lay People:** Ken Haeuske, Adrienne Jericho, Ray Schutz, Jennifer Wagner

### 1.9.4. Tuesday 23 April Morning Devotion

- Liturgist Rev Greg Pfeiffer
- Rite of Affirmation for Bishop elect Rev Dr Michael Semmler, assisted by Rev Neville Otto and Presidents
- Guest Preacher Rev Dr William Chang
- Sermon Text 1 John 4:7–10

### 1.9.5. Tuesday 23 April Evening Devotion

- Devotion leader Ms Jo Jones
- Text John 3:16

### 1.9.6. Wednesday 24 April Morning Devotion

- Liturgist Rev Noel Noack
- Guest Preacher Rev Dr Robert Bugbee
- Sermon Text Ephesians 5:1–2a

### 1.9.7. Wednesday 24 April Closing Service

- Liturgists Rev Matthias Prenzler  
Rev Dr Michael Semmler
- Preacher Rev Dr Michael Semmler
- Sermon Text 1 Thessalonians 3:12
- Installation Rite General Church Council
- Closing Rite 17th Synodical Convention of the LCA

## 1.10. Adoption of Minutes

- 20130101 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Sixteenth Regular Convention of Synod be adopted.

## 1.11. Late Proposals

- 20130102 **RESOLVED** that Synod place on the Agenda Late Proposal:  
That the LCA engages in a comprehensive campaign to promote vocational paths (pastor, lay-worker, teacher) within our church.

*Immanuel Lutheran Church, Buderim, QLD*

- 20130103 **RESOLVED** that Synod place on the Agenda Late Proposal:  
That Synod authorises the GCC to appoint an appropriate committee or persons to undertake a study on its behalf into the causes of the recent upsurge in violence against Christians in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) in order to educate LCA congregations and members with a view to raising awareness so that we stand in solidarity with our persecuted and afflicted brothers and sisters in prayer and action.

*St Martin's Congregation, Mannum, SA*

- 20130104 **RESOLVED** that Synod place on the Agenda Late Proposal:  
That the LCA gives priority attention to the nurture and equipping of pastors for the leadership of team ministries in all congregations, particularly including those which do/or could operate in close mission partnership with Lutheran schools, care or other agencies.

*Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Rochedale, Qld*

## *Preliminaries*

- 20130105 **RESOLVED** that Synod place on the Agenda Late Proposal:  
That Synod encourages the Commission on Worship to give priority to creating and maintaining a list of recorded music sites available from the internet and other sources suitable for providing recorded music for accompanying singing in worship services when no musicians are available and in the eventuality that no suitable music is available to give consideration to the best means of providing this music. Funding should be budgeted for this project to go ahead.

*Trinity Lutheran Church, Pasadena, SA*

- 20130106 **RESOLVED** that Synod place on the Agenda Late Proposal:  
That this Convention reaffirms the LCA's biblical position on abortion.

*St Andrews Congregation, Glynde, SA*

- 20130107 **RESOLVED** that Synod place on the Agenda Late Proposal:  
That this Convention asks the College of Presidents to seek joint action with other Christian churches and relevant agencies, aiming for a reduction on the abortion rate.

*St Andrews Congregation, Glynde, SA*

The late proposals were not addressed at Convention and were referred to GCC for action (see item 20132701)

### **1.12. Acclamations**

The following acclamations acknowledging the work of individuals who have served the Church were made during Convention:

- The work of Trevor Ruthenberg as Executive Officer of the Church was recognised with acclamation.
- The service of Rev Jorma Jormakka as Executive Secretary of the Suomi Conference over more than 20 years was recognised with acclamation.
- Rev Richard Mau's many years of service as Director of Lutheran Media Ministry were recognised with acclamation.
- Thanks were given to God for the creative and productive work of Ms Linda Macqueen as Editor of *The Lutheran*; this was recognised with acclamation.
- The work of Mr Lyall Kupke as Archivist for many years was recognised with acclamation.
- Mr Peter Schirmer's work as Executive Secretary for ALWS over many years was recognised with acclamation and a standing ovation.

### **1.13. Farewell to Rev Dr Michael Semmler**

Dr Semmler, on his own behalf and that of his family, thanked Synod for the farewell presentation on Tuesday (23 April 2013) evening.

## **2. ADMINISTRATION AND PASTORAL**

### **2.1. Report: President Of The Church**

*(see page 89 of The Book of Reports)*

20130201 **RESOLVED** that the report of the President of the Church be adopted.

### **2.2. Report: General Church Council**

*(see page 101 of The Book of Reports)*

20130202 **RESOLVED** that the report of the General Church Council be adopted.

#### **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**

Peter Schirmer, Executive Officer of the Church, outlined the actions the Church has taken in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

#### **2.2.1. Approval of The Strategic Direction**

*(see pages 236–237 of The Book of Reports)*

20130203 **RESOLVED** that Convention approve the Strategic Direction 2013–2018 as a catalyst for action.

#### **2.2.2. Approval Of The Governance Framework**

*(see page 238 of The Book of Reports)*

20130204 **RESOLVED** that General Church Council, consistent with the Strategic Direction of the LCA—especially regarding improving our ‘Governance and Leadership capability’ and being ‘good stewards of our available resources’—undertake a review of the current governance and administrative structures of the LCA including at the National level, District level, Boards, Commissions, Councils and Agencies during the next Synodical term.

#### **2.2.3. Report: President Or Bishop?**

*(see page 255 The Book of Reports)*

20130205 **RESOLVED** that in the Constitution of the Church, the word ‘President(s)’ be substituted with the word ‘Bishop(s)’ and the word ‘Vice-President’ be substituted with the word ‘Assistant Bishop’ in the following cases:

(a) *In Article VII. 2. (f) and (h):*

2. The General Synod shall consist of
  - (a) lay delegates of the congregations;
  - (b) pastor delegates;
  - (c) the members of the General Church Council;
  - (d) all executive officers who are serving the Church, unless already eligible under 2. (a), (b), or (c);
  - (e) chairpersons of Boards unless already eligible under 2. (a), (b), (c), or (d);
  - (f) all ~~Presidents~~ **Bishops** unless already eligible under 2. (a), (b), (c), or (d);
  - (g) one [1] secondary and one [1] primary school principal elected from each region of Lutheran Education Australia by the principals of that region;
  - (h) past ~~Presidents~~ **Bishops** of the Church; and
  - (i) three [3] pastors emeriti nominated by the General Church Council who shall comprise the voting members.

(b) *In Article VII. 10. (a) and (b):*

10. A special convention of the General Synod

*Administration and Pastoral (including constitutional)*

- (a) may be convened by the ~~President~~**Bishop** with the consent of the General Church Council; or
  - (b) shall be convened by the ~~President~~**Bishop** at the request of the General Church Council or of a District of the Church in synod assembled.
- (c) *In Article VIII. 1. (a) and (b):*
- 1. The Officials of the Church shall be a ~~President~~**Bishop** and an ~~Vice-President~~**Assistant Bishop**. They shall be elected for a term of office determined by the Church. The ~~President~~**Bishop** and **the Assistant Bishop** shall be pastors of the Church.
- (d) *In Article VIII. 3. (1) (a), (b), (d), (e) and 4.:*
- 3. (1) The Church shall have a General Church Council which shall consist of
    - (a) the ~~President~~**Bishop** and the ~~Vice-President~~**Assistant Bishop**;
    - (b) the ~~President~~**Bishops** of the New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Northern Territory, and Victorian Districts of the Church;
    - (c) one [1] lay member from the New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Northern Territory, and Victorian Districts of the Church, elected by the Synod of the respective District;
    - (d) one [1] member each from the Western Australia District and the Lutheran Church of New Zealand, who shall be either their ~~President~~**Bishop** or a lay member; and
    - (e) two [2] members at large elected by the General Synod: one [1] ordained and one [1] lay, unless both the Western Australia District and the Lutheran Church of New Zealand are represented by their ~~President~~**Bishops**, in which case it shall be two [2] lay members.
  - 4. The Church shall have a College of ~~President~~**Bishops**. The composition and duties shall be as prescribed by the By-laws.
- (e) *In Article XI. 2.:*
- 2. Where a convention determines, without prior notice on the agenda of a proposal to amend, alter, add to or repeal a By-law, to deal with any such matter, the ~~President~~**Bishop** may use absolute discretion to defer consideration thereof and voting thereon until the next day.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that

- (1) in the By-laws of the Church, the word 'President(s)' be substituted with the word 'Bishop(s)' and the word 'Vice-President' be substituted with the word 'Assistant Bishop' in the following cases (list references only – no full wording references):
  - (a) Section IV. 1; Section IV. 1. (e); Section IV. 2.; Section IV. 3. (a), (b), (c) and (d); Section V. A. 1. (d); Section V. A. 2. (3) and (4); Section V. A. 4. (1); Section V. A. 5. (1) and (2); Section V.A. 6. (1), (2) and (3); Section V.A. 7; Section V. C. 1., 2., 3., 4. and 5.; Section V. C. 6. (1) and (2); Section V. C. 7., 8. and 9.; Section V. D. (ii); Section V. D. 7.; Section V. D. 8. (1) and (3); Section V. D. 9., 11. and 12.; Section V. D. 15. (2) (b) and (c); Section V. D. 15. (3) (a) and (c); Section V. D. 15. (3) (f) (v); Section V. D. 15. (3) (h) and (i); Section V. F. 3. (1) and (2); Section VII. A. 4.; Section VII. A. 5. (1) and (2); Section VII. C. 1. and 25.; Section VII. D. 1.; Section VII. D. 1. (1) and (2); Section VII. D. 1. (3); Section VII. D. 1. (3) (a) and (d); Section VII. D. 1. (4); Section VII. D. 1. (4) (a), (b) and (e); Section VII. D. 2. and 4.; Section VII. D. 7. (3); Section VII. D. 8. (4); Section VII. D. 9.; Section VII. D. 11. (b); Section VII. D. 13; Section VII. E. 4.; Section VII. F. 1. (6); Section VIII. A. 9. (1); Section VIII. A. 9. (1), (a) and (b); Section VIII. B. 1.; Section VIII. B. 1. (1); Section VIII. B. 1. (1) (c), (d), (e), (g) and (i); Section VIII. B. 1. (2); Section VIII. B. 1. (3) (a) and (b); Section VIII. B. 1. (3) (b) (i) and (iii); Section VIII. B. 2.; Section VIII. B. 2. (a), (b), (c) and (d); Section VIII. C. 1. (a), (e) and (f); Section VIII. D. 1. (i); Section VIII. D. 2. (1) (c); Section VIII. D. 4. (1); Section VIII. D. 4. (2) (c); Section VIII. F.; Section VIII. F. 1., 2. and 3.; Section VIII. F. 3. (b); Section VIII. F. 4.; Section VIII. G.

- 4.; Section VIII. G. 11. (h); Section IX. 3. (1); Section X. B. 3., 4. and 5; Section X. C. 2. (1) (b), (c); Section X. C. 2. (4) and (5); Section X. C. 7. (1) and (2); Section X. C. 8. (a), (c), (d) and (e); Section X. C. 9. (a); Section X. C. 10.; Section X. C. 11 (1), (2) and (4); Section X. C. 21.; Section X. C. 30. (b); Section X. C. 31. (1) (c); Section X. C. 31. (2) (c); Section X. C. 54. (d); Section X. C. 58. (1) (ii); Section X. C. 60. (b).
- (2) in the By-laws of the Church, Section VIII. B. 1. (1) (j) and (k), the words 'presidential report' be substituted with the words 'report of the Bishop'.
- (3) in the By-laws of the Church, Section VIII. B. 2. (b), the words 'presidential duties' be substituted with the words 'duties of the Bishop'.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that in the By-laws of the Church – Constitution of the Districts, the word 'President(s)' be substituted with the word 'Bishop(s)' and the word 'Vice-President' be substituted with the word 'Assistant Bishop' in the following cases:

(a) *In Article VII. 9. (a) and (b):*

9. A special convention of the Synod
- (a) may be convened by the ~~President~~**Bishop** with the consent of the Church Council;
- (b) shall be convened by the ~~President~~**Bishop** at the request of the Church Council.

Notice of a special convention stating its purpose shall be given to the members of the Synod by the Secretary as laid down in the By-laws Part B.

(b) *In Article VIII. 1. and 2.:*

1. The Officials of the District shall be a ~~President~~**Bishop**, one or more ~~Vice-Presidents~~**Assistant Bishops**, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. They shall be elected for a term of office determined by the District. The ~~President~~ **Bishop** and ~~Vice-Presidents~~**Assistant Bishops** shall be pastors of the Church in the District.
2. The District shall have a Church Council, which shall consist of the ~~President~~**Bishop**, ~~Vice-President~~**Assistant Bishop** or ~~Vice-Presidents~~**Assistant Bishops**, Secretary, and as many other members as it may determine in By-laws Part B. The Church Council shall have authority between the Synods to make decisions within the limits prescribed in the By-laws.

(c) *In Article XII. 3.:*

3. Where a convention determines, without prior notice on the agenda of a motion to amend, alter, add to or repeal a By-law, to deal with any such matter, the ~~President~~**Bishop** has absolute discretion to defer consideration thereof and voting thereon until the next day.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that

- (1) in the By-laws of the Church – By-laws Part A of the Districts, the word 'President(s)' be substituted with the word 'Bishop(s)' and the word 'Vice-President(s)' be substituted with the word 'Assistant Bishop(s)' in the following cases (list references only – no full wording references):  
Section IV. 1.; Section IV. 1. (e); Section IV. 2.; Section IV. 3. (1), (2), (3) and (4); Section V. 2. (f); Section VII. 3. (1), (25); Section VII. 3. (26) (2); Section VII. 4.; Section VII. 4. (1), (2) and (3); Section VII. 4. (3) (a) and (d); Section VII. 4. (4); Section VII. 4. (4) (a) and (b); Section VII. 5.; Section VIII. 1.; Section VIII. 1. (2) (a) and (b); Section VIII. 1. (2) (b) (i) and (iii); Section VIII. 2.; Section VIII. 2. (a), (b) and (c); Section VIII. 3.; Section VIII. 3. (a) and (c); Section IX. 2. (c).
- (2) in the By-laws of the Church, Section VIII. 2. (b), the words 'presidential duties' be substituted with the words 'duties of the Bishop'.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that in the By-laws of the Church – Model Constitution for Congregations, the word 'President(s)' be substituted with the word 'Bishop(s)' in the following cases:

- (a) *In Article III. 1. (d):*  
(d) agrees to submit to the ~~President~~**Bishop** of the District any amendments, alterations, additions, or repeals 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 IV. 1. of the Constitution of the Church.
- (b) *In Article VII. 4. (a):*  
4. The right of the Congregation to call a pastor shall be exercised, where applicable in association with other congregations  
(a) in consultation with the ~~President~~**Bishop** of the District or the ~~President's~~**Bishop's** deputy, and with regard to the regulations of the Church and of the District; and
- (c) *In Article X. 1. (2):*  
(2) The motion shall be presented to the congregation only after the ~~President~~**Bishop** of the District has been consulted.  
**FURTHER RESOLVED** that in the By-laws of the Church – Model Constitution for Parishes, the word 'President(s)' be substituted with the word 'Bishop(s)' in the following cases:
- (a) *In Article IV. 3. (1):*  
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:  
(1) The advice and guidance of the ~~President~~**Bishop** and/or District Church Council shall be sought.
- (b) *In Article V. 1. (a) and 2.:*  
1. The Parish shall exercise the right of calling a pastor  
(a) in consultation with the ~~President~~**Bishop** of the District or the ~~President's~~**Bishop's** deputy, and with regard to the regulations of the Church and of the District; and  
(b) only at a meeting duly convened for this purpose and conducted according to the rules of the Church concerning calls and transfers.  
2. 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 ~~President~~**Bishop** of the District. Notification of the call and the forwarding of the Letter of Call are the responsibility of the ~~President~~**Bishop** of the District.
- (c) *In Article IX. 1. (2):*  
(2) The motion shall be presented to the Parish only after the ~~President~~**Bishop** of the District has been consulted.
- (d) *In Article XI. 5.:*  
5. The Parish agrees to submit to the ~~President~~**Bishop** of the District any amendments, alterations, additions, or repeals 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 IV. 1. of the Constitution of the Church.

#### **2.2.4. Report on the Election of The President of the Church**

*(see page 240 of The Book of Reports) (see also 2.6.7)*

20130206 **RESOLVED** that this matter be tabled until next Convention of Synod.

#### **2.2.5. Alternative Routes to Ordination**

*(see page 250 of The Book of Reports)*

20130207 **RESOLVED** that Convention endorse the report from the College of Presidents 'Pathways to Ministry in the Lutheran Church of Australia: An Overview'



**2.2.6. Specific Ministry Pastors**

*(see page 245 of The Book of Reports)*

20130208 **RESOLVED** that

1. Convention receives from the College of Presidents the document: 'Specific Ministry Pastor Program'.
2. Convention adopt the 'Specific Ministry Pastor Policy' as listed in the report as being the policy of the Church in developing men for Word and Sacrament ministry in specific situations.
3. The necessary changes are made to the Constitution and By-laws of the Church.
4. Convention encourages the ongoing development of procedures in line with the new policy.

**2.2.7. Standing Committee on Scholarships—Proposal to Disband**

20130209 **RESOLVED** that the Standing Committee on Scholarships be disbanded; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the rules of this Committee at Part B20 of the By-laws of the Church, be deleted and that the responsibilities of the Committee be transferred to the General Church Council; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the name of this Board be removed from the By-laws of the Church, Section VIII. G. The Boards of the Church, 2. (s).

**2.3. Development of the North Adelaide Property**

**Approval of The Redevelopment of the North Adelaide Property**

*(see pages 24 – 26 of The Book of Reports)*

**The PROPOSAL** to amend this resolution to:

'Be it resolved that Synod acknowledges receipt of the North Adelaide Redevelopment Concept and authorises General Church Council to oversight the detailed master planning of the project, then reports for a special vote of delegates after information is disseminated' was **LOST**.

20130210 **RESOLVED** that: Synod endorses the North Adelaide Redevelopment concept and authorises GCC to oversight the detailed master planning, satisfying itself that:

1. There is endorsement of the final design by LCA ministries involved in the redevelopment;
2. The redevelopment demonstrates financial viability;
3. The key risks to the project have been identified and appropriate management strategies are developed to mitigate those risks;
4. There is a suitable legal structure to protect the interests of the Church, and meet legislative requirements;
5. Appropriate agreements with other ministries involved in the redevelopment project are negotiated and in place
6. Sufficient independent due diligence has been incorporated within the master planning process to evaluate that the above criteria have been met.
7. The final design:
  - 7.1. Addresses the issues facing LCA Ministries caused by inadequate and ageing facilities
  - 7.2. Provides a precinct that means the long term needs of the LCA ministries enabling them to effectively serve the Church and the wider community
  - 7.3. Generates capital to fund new LCA facilities and provide ongoing revenue to support the work of the Church, consistent with its objects and priorities

## **2.4. Report: Consensus on Women's Ordination Dialogue Group**

*(see page 111 of The Book of Reports)*

Advice on this matter was received from General Pastors Conference (GPC) by the report to General Convention of the following resolution passed at General Pastors Conference:

*General Pastors Conference advised General Convention:*

- *that GPC recognises the extended time taken to resolve the ordination question in the Church and the frustration being felt at this;*
- *that we also recognise that Convention has proposals before it requesting the ordination of women as well as men and that certain preparations be made for this (Agenda 2.5.1);*
- *that we recognise that Convention has not been provided with study materials or theological guidance in relation to these proposals;*
- *that in this context GPC supports the proposal from General Church Council in relation to Convention Agenda 2.4, that is:*

*General Pastors recommended the following proposals: that the Church*

- 1. receives the progress report of the Ordination Dialogue Group;*
- 2. supports continued study of the matter of hermeneutics (the interpretation of scripture) arising from the October 2011 symposium on this topic;*
- 3. supports study of what consensus means, for the sake of unity in the LCA as a confessional church;*
- 4. requests General Church Council to ensure that a report with recommendations be presented to both General Pastors Conference and the next Synodical Convention and that General Pastors Conference gives recommendation to Synod.*
- 5. and that GPC encourages godly and biblically-based discussion in the Church during the coming Synodical term in relation to the ordination question and asks the College of Presidents to ensure that appropriate study material is provided to the Church.*

*[end of report from General Pastors Conference]*

Agenda item 2.4 was tabled to enable open discussion on the question of the ordination of both men and women in light of proposals brought by congregations at 2.5.1. After that discussion the proposal from General Church Council was lifted from the table and adopted, as follows:

**20130211 RESOLVED** that the Church:

1. receives the progress report of the Ordination Dialogue Group;
2. supports continued study of the matter of hermeneutics (the interpretation of scripture) arising from the October 2011 symposium on this topic;
3. supports study of what consensus means, for the sake of unity in the LCA as a confessional church;
4. requests General Church Council to ensure that a report with recommendations be presented to both General Pastors Conference and the next Synodical Convention and that General Pastors Conference gives recommendation to Synod.

## **2.5. Proposals from Districts and Congregations**

### **2.5.1. Ordination of Women**

*(see page 29 of The Book of Reports)*

As General Convention passed the resolution under item 2.4, further discussion on item 2.5.1 was closed under Section VII.C Rule 18 of the LCA Constitution and By-Laws (Procedure in Transacting Business, printed in back of Book of Reports).

### **2.5.2. Galesburg Rule Amendment**

**20130212 RESOLVED** that this matter be referred to General Church Council.

### **2.5.3. Theses of Agreement**

**20130213 RESOLVED** that this matter be referred to General Church Council

#### **2.5.4. Review Membership Criteria**

- 20130214 **RESOLVED** that General Church Council in consultation with CTICR, the committee for constitutions, congregations and other relevant bodies, review the membership criteria that appears in the model constitution relating to member, especially in relation to communing members, as the current description does not encourage a healthy approach to discipleship for people to grow in their relationship with God or other believers; and that the review, along with any recommendations, be dealt with at the next national synod.

#### **2.5.5. Promotion of Vocational Paths in the LCA**

- 20130215 **RESOLVED** that this matter be referred to General Church Council

#### **2.5.6. Lutheran Church of Australia—Full Membership in the Lutheran World Federation**

- 20130216 **RESOLVED** that this matter be referred to the Commission on Theology and Inter Church Relations.

#### **2.5.7. Equipping Pastors for Team Ministry**

- 20130217 **RESOLVED** that this matter be referred to General Church Council.

### **2.6. Constitutional Matters**

#### **2.6.1. Report: Standing Committee on Constitutions**

*(see page 113 of The Book of Reports)*

- 20130218 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Standing Committee on Constitutions be adopted

#### **2.6.2. Majority Voting**

- 20130219 **RESOLVED** that the terms used in reference to voting in the Constitution of the Church, the Districts and the various models be amended as follows (words to be removed – ~~strike-through~~; words to be added – **bold**):

(a) Article XII 2. of the Constitution of the Church:

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

#### **2.6.3. Definitions of Districts – Amended Name**

- 20130220 **RESOLVED** that Section IX 1. (f) of the By-laws of the Church be amended as follows (words to be removed – ~~strike-through~~; words to be added – **bold**):

- (f) LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NEW ZEALAND as the New Zealand District, comprising the ~~Dominion~~ **sovereign nation** of New Zealand;

#### **2.6.4. Addition of Sentence on High Voting Abstentions**

*(The 7 parts of this motion all propose exactly the same change in each case.)*

- 20130221 **RESOLVED** that in Section VII. C. Procedure in Transacting Business, of the Constitution of the Church, the following sentence be added to clause 26 (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.**

- 20130223 **RESOLVED** that in Section VII. The Synod. 3. Procedure in Transacting Business, of the By-laws of the Church – By-laws of the Districts, the following sentence be added to clause 26. 1. (words to be added – **bold**)
26. (1) 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.**
- 20130224 **RESOLVED** that in Article VIII Meetings, of the Model Constitution for Congregations, the following sentence be added to clause 7 (words to be added – **bold**)
7. 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.**
- 20130225 **RESOLVED** that in Article VII Meetings, of the Model Constitution for Parishes, the following sentence be added to clause 7 (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.**
- 20130226 **RESOLVED** that in Article VI Meetings, of the Model Constitution for a School – Parish, the following sentence be added to clause 7 (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.**
- 20130227 **RESOLVED** that in Article VII Meetings, of the Model Constitution for a School – Association, the following sentence be added to clause 8 (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.**
- 20130228 **RESOLVED** that in Article VII Meetings, of the Model Constitution for a School - District, the following sentence be added to clause (8) (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**

**2.6.5. Definition of Voting Members—Congregation**

20130229 **RESOLVED** that the Model Constitution for a congregation, Article V. Membership, 1. (5) be amended as follows (words to be added – **bold**):

- (5) VOTING MEMBERS shall be **persons who**  
(a) **are both** confirmed and communing members;  
(b) **accept the Constitution of the Congregation; and**  
(c) **meet the voting requirements stipulated in the By-laws.**

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.

**2.6.6. Rules for Transacting Business—Amendment**

20130230 **RESOLVED** that Section VII. The Synod of the By-laws of the Church – By-laws Part A of the District, clause 3. (1) be amended as follows (words to be deleted: ~~striketrough~~; words to be added: **bold**):

3. (1) The business of a convention of the District Synod shall be chaired by the President, or at the President's request, the **First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President or, with the consent of the Convention, a lay person may be elected.** ~~If they are unable to act, the convention shall elect its own Chairperson.~~

**2.6.7. Election of President—Constitutional Changes (See also 2.2.4)**

20130231 **RESOLVED** that this matter be tabled until next Convention of Synod.

**2.6.8. Addition of Indemnity—Amendment**

20130232 **RESOLVED** that Article VI Authority and Powers, in the Constitution of the Church, be amended as follows (words to be removed – ~~strike through~~; words to be added – **bold**):

5. The Church shall have power to acquire, accept, hold, dispose of, lease, let, mortgage or otherwise deal with real and personal property and any estate or interest in real and personal property and to give ~~guarantees~~ **any guarantee or indemnity with or without security solely or jointly with any other corporation or natural person for the payment of money or the performance of any contract, obligation or undertaking by any person, firm, corporation or association** as it may deem necessary for the effective promotion of any or all its activities.

**2.6.9. Board of Directors of Australian Lutheran College —Revised Rules**

20130233 **RESOLVED** that this matter be referred to General Church Council

**2.6.10. Board for Lutheran Education Australia—Revised Rules**

20130234 **RESOLVED** that the revised rules for this Board (as distinct from the Constitution for the Company, Lutheran Education Australian Ltd) be amended as follows (words to be removed—~~striketrough~~; words to be added—**bold**):

**BOARD FOR LUTHERAN EDUCATION AUSTRALIA**

*Revised 2003, 2006 & 2013*

**NAME**

1. The name of the Board shall be BOARD FOR LUTHERAN EDUCATION AUSTRALIA

## **OBJECTS**

2. The objects of the Board shall be to promote Lutheran schools at pre-primary, primary, and secondary levels as agencies of Christian education in the Church, and to give guidance in the development and coordination of the educational program of the Church in this field.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

3. The Board shall consist of seven [7] members:
  - (a) one [1] pastor and one [1] lay member elected by the General Synod; and
  - ~~(a) — one [1] pastor and three [3] lay members appointed by the General Church Council; and~~
  - (b) one [1] representative from each of the regions of Lutheran Education Queensland, Lutheran Education South Eastern Region, and Lutheran Schools Association SA/NT/WA, appointed by the General Church Council upon nomination by the respective region according to the procedure laid down in Section VII. G. 4. of the By-laws of the Church; ~~and~~
  - ~~(c) — two [2] lay members appointed by General Church Council.~~
  - ~~(d) — The executive Director of Lutheran Education Australia who shall be an ex-officio, non voting member; and~~
  - ~~(e) — the three regional directors as shall be consultants to the Board.~~

**In addition to the members of the Board, the following shall attend meetings:**

  - (a) the Executive Director of Lutheran Education Australia; and**
  - (b) the Regional Directors.**

## **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 pursue the objects as laid out in the following clause 5.**
  - ~~(a) — formulate statements of policy on matters relating to Lutheran schools for consideration and adoption by the Church, and to have general oversight of the implementation of such policies;~~
  - ~~(b) — monitor the development and growth of schools in the Church in consultation with the Districts, and to consult with Districts and advise on the coordination of the planning and development of schools;~~
  - ~~(c) — promote the preparation and recruitment of teachers for service in Lutheran schools, and to collaborate with Australian Lutheran College in matters relating to pre-service and in-service study courses or programs;~~
  - ~~(d) — assist Districts and governing bodies of schools in matters of staffing and to that end assess staffing needs, maintain records on teachers in service, collate information concerning other available personnel and consult with teachers and calling bodies;~~
  - ~~(e) — initiate and promote Scripture curriculum development, working in cooperation with the Australian Lutheran College and the schools; to recommend Scripture curricula for use in schools; and to promote curriculum evaluation in other subject areas and assist schools in matters relating to curriculum in general;~~
  - ~~(f) — serve as a resource agency, and to that end
    - ~~(i) — keep abreast of current issues affecting Lutheran schools and evaluate them;~~
    - ~~(ii) — collect, evaluate and disseminate information relating to education in general;~~
    - ~~(iii) — initiate studies and research projects in any area it deems necessary; and~~
    - ~~(iv) — promote and facilitate the sharing of resources by schools;~~~~
  - ~~(g) — provide information on all relevant school matters and to make recommendations when necessary
    - ~~(i) — to the General Church Council; and~~~~

- ~~(ii) to the Districts and the governing bodies of the schools;~~
  - ~~(h) establish and maintain relationships in matters affecting Lutheran schools~~
    - ~~(i) with the Commonwealth Government and its education agencies;~~
    - ~~(ii) with the National Council of Independent Schools Associations, the Catholic Commission for Education, and other similar educational bodies;~~
    - ~~(iii) with Lutheran educational bodies overseas; and~~
    - ~~(iv) with any relevant board or institution in the Church and its Districts.~~
- 5. The principal object of the Board is to set strategic direction and establish the overall policy environment for the schools of the church and as such it shall**
  - (a) promote Lutheran schools as agencies of Christian education;**
  - (b) uphold and safeguard the confessional teachings of the Church, especially as these relate to the nature, purpose and program of schools;**
  - (c) provide strategic leadership and support for the schools of the Church in those matters designated as national areas of responsibility as agreed from time to time;**
  - (d) formulate national policy that gives direction to Lutheran schools as agencies of Christian education of the Church;**
  - (e) promote, support and ensure the implementation of approved policy and associated procedures in the schools, working through regional structures;**
  - (f) work in close co-operation with the Church, in particular with the regional organisational arms of Lutheran education and other appropriate departments of the Church;**
  - (g) represent Lutheran schools and regions nationally to the Church, its departments, committees and auxiliaries, and to Australian Lutheran College;**
  - (h) research, make approaches, represent and act on behalf of regions and schools in relation to the Commonwealth government, its departments and government authorities and political parties, respond to Commonwealth government directives and initiatives relating to education and associated matters, and provide representation to national educational bodies where strategic and appropriate;**
  - (i) develop co-operative working relationships with other sectors of education at national level;**
  - (j) approve the establishment of new schools and change in function of existing Lutheran schools in consultation with the regions;**
  - (k) develop, coordinate and evaluate the national curriculum in Christian Studies for Lutheran schools, develop resources for, and promote and support the implementation of the Christian Studies curriculum in schools through regional authorities and/or officers;**
  - (l) ensure that recruitment and staffing strategies, and leadership development programs are in place to meet the needs of Lutheran schools, that accreditation requirements in accordance with policies of the Church are implemented, and that a staff database is maintained and national conferences convened to promote the welfare of those who work in Lutheran schools;**
  - (m) ensure income for the operation of the Board by means of annual levies or other means from Lutheran schools;**
  - (n) undertake, develop and maintain key relationships with international Lutheran schools and education systems, considering compatibility with the Church's international relationships and programs, and the global focus of Lutheran schools; and**
  - (o) undertake other activities related to those matters designated as national areas of responsibility or as agreed with the regions.**

#### **MEETINGS**

6. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at least once a year. Any additional meetings shall be subject to the provisions of Section VIII. G. 7. of the By-laws of the Church.

#### **2.6.11. Pastors Transfer and Support Fund—New Rules**

20130235 **RESOLVED** that the rules for this new Fund, which was set up following Synod 2009, be adopted as follows:

#### **PASTORS TRANSFER AND SUPPORT FUND**

##### **Adopted 2013**

##### **NAME**

1. The name of the Fund shall be PASTORS TRANSFER AND SUPPORT FUND of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

##### **OBJECTS**

2. The objects of the Fund shall be to provide finances for
  - (a) transfer of a pastor when taking up a charge in the Church;
  - (b) supply in vacancy to provide a parish with pastoral services during a vacancy;
  - (c) support and care of pastors in the form of funding for leave, medical and counselling costs needed to address stress-related problems arising from a pastor's service or vocational situation; and
  - (d) professional development of pastors and other in-service training designed to improve the will-being of pastors and avoid stress-related problems arising from their service.

##### **TRANSFER**

3. (1) Monies from the Fund shall be used to cover transfer costs for
  - (a) a newly-ordained pastor of the Church who is entering upon his first charge in the Church;
  - (b) a pastor of the Church who is transferring from one charge in the Church to another;
  - (c) a pastor who moves from a school/college to a parish; or
  - (d) a pastor who, not having been a member of the Church has been received into the ministry of the Church and is entering upon his first charge in the Church.
- (2) Monies from the Fund will not be used to cover transfer costs for
  - (a) a pastor who moves from a parish to schools/colleges as these are the responsibility of schools/colleges; and
  - (b) a pastor who moves to and from a seconded position outside of the Church.
- (3) The Fund will cover the cost of
  - (a) travel costs for the pastor and his family and the cost of relocating household goods and personal effects necessary for living
  - (b) the transfer of a widow and family of a pastor who dies while in active service of the Church, their household goods and personal effects necessary for living.

##### **PAYMENTS FOR TRANSFERS**

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 determination of the quote to be accepted shall be made by, in the case of
    - (a) a pastor transferring from one parish to another within a district – the Administrator of that District;
    - (b) a pastor transferring from one district to another – the Administrator of the District the pastor is leaving;
    - (c) graduate pastors and Australian Lutheran College staff – the Business Manager of Australian Lutheran College; and



*Administration and Pastoral (including constitutional)*

- (d) 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.
- (2) The travelling expenses of a pastor and family shall be borne by the Fund in the following manner:
  - (a) If not travelling by private car, economy fares shall be paid.
  - (b) 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.
  - (c) 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, 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 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, 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
  - (a) personal travel costs shall be payable from the place of residence at the time of ordination; and
  - (b) the costs of removal of personal belongings and pastoral equipment shall be payable from Australian Lutheran College.
- 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, 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, as applicable, upon submission of a statement of expenses.
- 7. In the case of pastors of the Church in service overseas the Fund shall bear the costs of transfer within Australia of an ordained missionary of the Church who has been in service overseas under the Board for Mission and who is entering upon a charge in the Church. The Secretary of the Church shall have authority to negotiate with that Board regarding the application of the provisions of the Fund.

**VEHICLE TRANSFER ALLOWANCE FOR PASTORS TRANSFERRING  
TO OR FROM NEW ZEALAND**

- 8. When a pastor transferring to or from New Zealand does not transport a motor vehicle as part of his personal belongings, the Fund shall compensate the pastor with a lump-sum payment, the amount of which is to be set from time to time by the Commission on Salaries.

**SUPPLY IN VACANCY**

9. (1) During a vacancy in a parish the Fund shall bear the cost of
  - (a) the salary and applicable allowances payable to a locum tenens who is serving on a full-time basis, provided that such amount shall not exceed two-thirds of the amount received from the parish;
  - (b) the remuneration for services conducted by theological students or retired pastors and their travelling expenses to the parish, at the rate determined from time to time;
  - (c) the travelling expenses to the parish of pastors serving the parish as arranged under the supervision of the President of the respective District.
- (2) The parish shall be responsible for travelling expenses within the parish at the rate normally paid to its pastor. If the visiting pastor is eligible for a higher rate, the difference between the normal rate and such higher rate shall be an expense of the Fund.
10. In exceptional circumstances, on the advice of a District President and in consultation with the Secretary of the Church, the Fund may bear the cost of the expenses of providing pastoral care through a lay person.

**SUPPORT AND CARE**

11. Monies from this Fund may be used to cover costs associated with the care and treatment of pastors for stress-related issues arising from their work in and for the Church in their called position, subject to the availability of adequate monies for this purpose as determined from time to time by the Secretary of the Church.
12. Monies from the Fund will be made available only after the President of the District in which the pastor is serving or the Chairperson of the Board to which he is responsible reaches agreement with the Secretary of the Church that the issue or condition is attributable to the exercise of his call.
13. Under normal circumstances funding will be made available only after the relevant President or Chairperson is in receipt of a medical certificate or formal medical advice relating to the health of the pastor concerned.
14. All claims shall be net of reimbursements received through the pastor's private medical insurance.
15. Claims for funding shall be
  - (a) made to the Secretary of the Church through the respective District or departmental office;
  - (b) signed by the District President or relevant Board Chairperson; and
  - (c) accompanied by evidence that a claim has been submitted and reimbursement received from a medical insurer or by a statement that the pastor is not insured.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

16. Monies can be accessed from this Fund for
  - (a) national or district professional development initiatives for pastors aimed at caring for and developing personal skills and abilities that will enhance their ministry and help minimise the risk of them developing stress-related illnesses; and
  - (b) contract support services such as might be required to carry out a program of individual personal appraisals of pastors.Monies allocated under this professional development provision may be used to engage external providers or trainers to cover costs associated with putting in place professional development initiatives for pastors.
17. Monies for professional development expenditure shall only be made available when authorised by the College of Presidents.
18. Monies from this Fund will not be available to cover the travel costs of pastors attending professional development programs provided by the Church. However, they may be used to defray or cover travel, accommodation and related costs where a pastor is advised by his District President or Board Chairperson, with the agreement of the

Secretary of the Church, to attend an externally-provided course or event aimed at ensuring his well-being.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

19. The term 'charge in the Church' shall include all
  - (a) parishes within the Church;
  - (b) fields of labour under the control of boards which are responsible to the Church, including the boards administering Aboriginal mission fields but excluding the Board for Mission;
  - (c) fields of labour under the control of committees which are responsible to Districts, but excluding the schools/colleges of the Districts; and
  - (d) full-time offices and positions in institutions under the jurisdiction of the Church or its boards, or under the jurisdiction of a District or its committees.
20. (1) The term 'vacancy' shall generally comprise the period between the dates when payment to the outgoing pastor is complete and when payment to the incoming pastor is commenced, subject however to any variations the District Church Council or the General Church Council may determine.
- (2) When an outgoing pastor is paid for annual leave on vacating a parish, the period of such leave shall not constitute part of the vacancy.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

21. The Fund shall be administered by the Secretary who shall submit to each regular convention of the General Synod a statement on the administration of the Fund.
22. The monies of the Fund shall be handled in the following manner:
  - (1) Each District shall receive from the parishes of that District all monies payable by them to the Fund, and shall pay from such monies
    - (a) the cost of serving vacant parishes in the respective District; and
    - (b) the expenses incurred in transferring a pastor to a charge in the Church.
  - (2) Each District shall submit to the Central Treasury Service quarterly statements of the moneys of the Fund.
  - (3) The Central Treasury Service shall maintain a consolidated record of all moneys of the Fund.
  - (4) To ensure that all Districts have sufficient working Funds in hand, the Central Treasury Service may transfer moneys held in this Fund to a District as necessary.
  - (5) At the end of each quarter the amounts held in credit by each District, less an amount of not more than the actual expenditure in the previous quarter, shall be remitted to the Central Treasury Service.
  - (6) Any credit in the Fund at the end of the year shall be retained in the Fund for subsequent use.

#### **INCOME OF THE FUND**

23. During a vacancy the parish shall make payments into the Fund which are assessed on the current basic salary plus car allowances payable to its pastor, as follows:
  - (1) Initially, monthly payments of an amount equal to ninety per cent [90%] of the above.
  - (2) After six [6] monthly payments as laid down in clause 23. (1), the amount paid each month shall be an amount equal to seventy per cent [70%] of the above.
  - (3) After twelve [12] monthly payments as laid down in clause 23. (1) and (2), the amount paid each month shall be an amount equal to fifty per cent [50%] of the above for the remainder of the term of that vacancy.
24. The provisions of Clause 23 shall apply to any vacancy, whether in a single or multi-pastor parish.
25. In the case of the parish experiencing financial difficulty considered to be due to the vacancy the Secretary of the Church shall, on the advice of the relevant District President or Board, have power to remit in full or in part payments due under clauses 23 (1), (2) and (3).

26. The Secretary of the Church shall advise the General Church Council of any necessity to place annually on the budget of the Church such sums as is necessary to provide additional moneys sufficient for the administration of the Fund.

**2.6.12. LCA Special Ministry Fund—New Fund Rules**

20130236    **RESOLVED** that the rules for this new Fund be adopted as follows:

**LCA SPECIAL MINISTRY FUND**

**Adopted 2013**

*Preamble: This Fund was established by the LLL Board for the purpose of providing funding for ministry projects within the LCA. The Board has allocated a capital amount to the LLL Special Purposes Permanent Fund and the interest earned through lending these funds is paid on an annual basis into an LLL deposit account called the LCA Special Ministry Fund.*

**NAME**

1. The name of the Fund is LCA Special Ministry Fund.

**OBJECT**

2. The object of the Fund is to provide grants for specific ministry projects within the Church which could not normally be undertaken using funds from the Church or District budgets.

**APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING**

3. Applications for grants may be made by the Church, departments of the Church, Districts or departments of the Districts.
4. Applications for grants from the LCA Special Ministry Fund account are received and approved by the LCA Special Ministry Fund committee.
5. All applications must be endorsed by either the General Church Council or the relevant District Church Council.
6. Subject to clause 7, the maximum grant available through this Fund is \$10,000.
7. Any request for a grant in excess of \$10,000 must be submitted to the General Church Council for endorsement, and to the LLL Board for information.
8. The proposed project must demonstrate how it will benefit the ministry and mission of the wider church beyond local congregation or parish boundaries and will be ultimately directed toward the transformation of people's lives in Christ.

**REPORTING**

9. Applicants given grants shall provide annual reports to the General Church Council and a report at the conclusion of the project. Such reports shall summarise the progress of the project, together with details of the successes and those aspects which did not succeed as planned.

**ADMINISTRATION**

10. The Fund shall be administered by the LCA Special Ministry Fund committee and report to the General Church Council and the LLL.
11. Membership of the committee will consist of
  - (a) the Missions Director of the Church;
  - (b) the Chief Executive Officer of the LLL;
  - (c) one [1] representative from the College of Presidents;
  - (d) one [1] representative from the Board for Lutheran Education Australia; and
  - (e) one [1] representative from the Board for Lay Ministry.
12. The accounting and servicing of the Fund shall be undertaken by the LLL.

**RECEIPTS**

13. The Fund may accept donations from members of the church, congregations, auxiliaries and others.

**2.6.13. LCA Insurance Fund—New Fund Rules**

20130237 **RESOLVED** that the rules for this new Fund be adopted as follows:

**LCA INSURANCE FUND**

**Adopted 2013**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

1. The aim of the Fund is to serve the Church by providing quality, cost effective insurance products, expertise and service.

**PURPOSE**

2. The purpose of the Fund is to serve the Church by administering the insurance portfolio for the Church and its auxiliaries. Through the Fund the Church is to ensure that personnel, buildings, contents and activities of the church are appropriately protected by insurance. This protection will be provided through a broad range of insurance covers designed to meet the specific needs of the organisations of the Church. The covers will be purchased on a bulk basis so as to minimise costs to the individual organisations of the Church that insure through the Fund.

**OBJECTS**

3. The objects of the Fund are to
  - (a) provide and maintain, and as necessary broaden, an insurance package in consultation with an insurance Broker that will provide a comprehensive range of cover, adequate limits within the cover, and competitive premiums;
  - (b) provide support, expertise and service to the Church so that insurance requirements are met;
  - (c) build up a reserve so that the Fund can pay claims, re-insurance costs, administration costs and provide flexibility for self-insurance;
  - (d) act as an agent to the Broker in arranging contracts of insurance and annual re-insurance;
  - (e) periodically place the insurance portfolio under a tender process to ensure that the Fund has the best insurance products, service and premiums in the market;
  - (f) help the Church and its related organisations insure its property for realistic replacement values and make the Church aware of the importance of risk management; and
  - (g) ensure that accurate records are kept, claims are paid promptly and annual accounts are produced and submitted for auditing purposes.

**ADMINISTRATION**

4. The Lutheran Laypeople's League of Australia Incorporated will administer the Fund on behalf of the Church.

**2.6.14. Loans from the Lutheran Laypeople's League of Australia Inc. – Revised Rules**

20130238 **RESOLVED** that the revised rules for Loans be adopted as follows:

**LOANS FROM THE LUTHERAN LAYPEOPLE'S LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA INC.**

**Adopted 2013**

**PREAMBLE**

1. The Lutheran Laypeople's League of Australia Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as 'the League'), has in its constitution that the purpose of the League shall be 'to provide aid to the Lutheran Church of Australia Inc. (hereinafter referred to as 'the Church'), in business and financial matters';
2. The prime source of funds available for loans by the League to entities within the Church is depositors' funds. The Board of the League has constitutional responsibility

to ensure that these funds are at all times properly managed, safeguarded and not placed at any unreasonable risk of loss. Therefore, loan rules of the Church must support the Board of the League in safeguarding its funds.

3. The following rules have been drawn up as a result of consultation between the Board of the League and the General Church Council of the Church.

#### **PURPOSE OF LOANS**

4. The purpose of loans provided by the League shall be to provide finance for the provision of resources to aid the ongoing mission of the Church.

#### **LOAN REPAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY**

5. In the first instance the borrower is responsible for repaying the loan.
6. If the borrower defaults, then it is the responsibility of the respective District of the Church, subject to the District having provided the guarantee, to ensure that repayments are made in accord with agreements made when the loans were approved.
7. If the District in its own right is unable to make arrangements for the loan to be repaid, then a written application for assistance shall be submitted by the District to the General Church Council. The final responsibility, in the case of both District-based and national church loans, for ensuring that the loan is repaid to the League rests with the General Church Council.

#### **LOAN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

8. The General Church Council of the Church shall appoint a Loan Management Committee consisting of six [6] members
  - three [3] members nominated by the General Church Council;
  - three [3] members nominated by the League; and
  - the President of the Church or his appointee shall be an ex officio member.
  - The Chairperson shall be appointed by the General Church Council.
9. Members shall be elected for a term of six [6] years with two [2] members (one nominated by the General Church Council and one nominated by the League) retiring each two years with retiring members being eligible for reappointment
10. The duties of the Loan Management Committee shall be to
  - consider, assess and approve loan applications in accord with the rules as determined by the Church;
  - monitor all loan movements to ensure that all borrowers are adhering to their loan repayment agreements;
  - ensure that each District Church Council receives periodic reports on loan movements for all borrowers under its jurisdiction;
  - require the District Church Councils, and where appropriate the General Church Council, to report on borrowers that have not adhered to their loan repayment agreements;
  - ensure that District Church Councils take appropriate action in resolving, to the satisfaction of the Loan Management Committee, the difficulties of borrowers that have not adhered to their loan repayment agreements so that loans are repaid in an appropriate time;
  - attend to any other matters and take any other action that may be necessary from time to time;
  - determine whether, and if so, what level and what form of security shall be provided to the League for the loan; and
  - ensure that all documentation is properly finalised prior to an approved loan being drawn down
11. The League shall provide administrative assistance to the Loan Management Committee.

#### **GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES**

12. Applications for loans from the League may be made by

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- congregations, parishes, committees, institutions, boards and auxiliaries of the Church or of a District of the Church; or
  - the Church or a District of the Church.
13. The general policy regarding the approval and ongoing management of loans shall be determined by the General Church Council in consultation with the League.
  14. Applications shall be made on the form required by the Loan Management Committee and shall be submitted to the respective District Church Council through its relevant department, or the General Church Council. The relevant Church Council shall consider the information provided with the application and, having satisfied itself that all the conditions set out in this document, or as amended from time to time, have been met, may endorse the application. In the event that the relevant Church Council endorses the loan under conditions that varied from the original application, the relevant Church Council must inform and seek agreement from the applicant for such changes. Once the documentation is complete, the relevant Church Council shall forward the application with its endorsement, to the Chief Executive Officer of the League.
  15. The relevant Church Council shall advise the applicant of its endorsement of the application.
  16. Applications shall be collated by the Chief Executive Officer of the League for presentation to and consideration by the Loan Management Committee.
  17. The Loan Management Committee shall ensure that all the criteria have been satisfied and all conditions have been met.
  18. In carrying out its duties, the Loan Management Committee may at the cost to the applicant
    - request whatever information and documentation it deems necessary to satisfy itself as to the affordability and viability of projects presented in applications for funding by the Church through the League; and
    - engage external expertise through consultancies or similar in the event that it believes such input is necessary to effectively analyse submissions or information submitted in relation to any project for which loan support is being sought.
  19. The outcome of the application will be advised by the Loan Management Committee.
  20. The Chief Executive Officer of the League shall report, if required, to each regular meeting of the Loan Management Committee on the level of available funds, taking into account the League's policy on the amount to be withheld for reserves.
  21. The Loan Management Committee shall determine priorities for funding loans and in doing so, may seek the advice of the General Church Council.
  22. Applications for access to the Board for Lutheran Education Australia Special Loan facility shall follow the same procedure as for a normal League loan.
  23. Projects for which an application is lodged shall not proceed until notification of the result of the application is advised by the Loan Management Committee.
  24. These General Rules and Procedures may be varied from time to time by the General Church Council, having first consulted with the League.

**CONDITIONS**

25. The following conditions shall apply to all applications
  - All loans must be fully matched with League deposits for the duration of the loan. It is the responsibility of the borrower to promote and raise the necessary matching deposits. The borrower may consult with the League in regard to the raising of matching deposits. Any diversion from this policy shall require the approval of the General Church Council.
  - The maximum borrowings for any new project shall not exceed 80% of the written down value of the property assets (land and building improvements) of the borrower plus the value of the proposed project. This is to ensure that the borrower has at least 20% equity to undergird the project. Any project which is deemed a 'green fields' mission project and is supported by a formal resolution of, and guarantee from, the relevant District of the Church and formally

### *Administration and Pastoral (including constitutional)*

approved by the General Church Council, shall still be subject to an independent external assessment, but will not be required to meet the 20% equity provision.

- The Loan Management Committee shall have the right at any time to require a borrower to provide a first mortgage or other appropriate security to the Church, to secure a loan.
- Submission of the application by the applicant body shall be supported by a declaration of the resolution adopted at a duly constituted meeting of the body concerned.
- Endorsement by the relevant District Church Council shall include a guarantee of repayment and shall indemnify the League against any loss in the event of default by the borrower.
- Applicants will need to demonstrate their ability to repay the loans on terms as determined by the General Church Council from time to time. Loan repayments shall be quarterly or more frequently and within the useful life of the asset.
- All prospective applicants as defined in Clause 5.1 of the General Rules and Procedures above shall deposit funds with the League. Previous and/or current support of League deposits and the existence of commercial investments will be taken into account when considering approval of applications.
- Audited financial statements for at least the two [2] years prior to the date of the loan application, and budget projections or a business plan for at least the following three [3] years, shall be submitted with all applications. At any time during the term of the loan, the Loan Management Committee may request from the borrowing body a copy of the audited financial statements (carried out by an auditor with appropriate qualifications) together with a copy of the auditor's report, and borrowers shall provide that information immediately when requested.
- Applicants must demonstrate that the extra financial commitment to repayment of the loan will not be detrimental to their Synodical financial support.
- These conditions may be varied from time to time by the Loan Management Committee, having first consulted with the League.

### **Procedures – Loan Management Committee**

26. The Loan Management Committee shall

- meet at any time as required to consider loan applications for approval or any other action as determined to be appropriate;
- satisfy itself that all loan applications before it meet all conditions and that District endorsement has been provided in accord with the conditions for loans;
- be able to refer any matter back to the relevant District for clarification or for further explanation;
- refer to the Board of the League, for the Board's consideration and advice, any application which it believes could jeopardise the funds of the League;
- where it has any doubt, seek any other information which it needs to satisfy itself that the borrower is able to adhere to the conditions of the loan;
- consult with any other persons as necessary to obtain further information to satisfy itself that the loan conditions can be met;
- take any other action to secure the funds of the League; and
- have the power to delegate its functions with the agreement of the League and the General Church Council.

### **LOAN MONITORING PROCEDURE**

27. At the end of each calendar year, and at other times as requested, the Chief Executive Officer of the League shall provide to the Loan Management Committee, loan repayment summaries showing the status of loans at the end of the year and the movements during that year.



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28. For guidance the Chief Executive Officer of the League may highlight those borrowers that have not adhered to the agreed repayment rates and over which the League has some concern.
29. The Chief Executive Officer of the League shall keep a record of all delinquent loans, as determined by the Loan Management Committee from time to time, and shall issue the Committee with regular reports on these loans until a satisfactory repayment performance is evident.
30. The Loan Management Committee shall follow up any loans over which it has concerns, with the respective borrower and the District Church Council of which the borrower is a member. The relevant District Church Council has the responsibility to investigate and seek an explanation from the borrower and forward that together with its own comments to the Loan Management Committee within a period of three [3] months. Where the borrower is having difficulty in meeting the agreed repayments, the relevant District Church Council shall take action to ensure that arrangements which are satisfactory to the Loan Management Committee are made for future repayments.
31. The Loan Management Committee shall receive reports from District Church Councils and take any action necessary to satisfy itself that debts, including interest, are being repaid satisfactorily and that suitable arrangements are in place where a borrower has defaulted.
32. The Loan Management Committee shall issue a report on all loans to the Board of the League and to the General Church Council where there has been a default in repayment. In particular, it shall highlight any loan matters over which it has serious concerns and which have not been satisfactorily resolved.

**DISPUTES**

33. An applicant disputing the decision of the Loan Management Committee may apply to the General Church Council of the Church via the relevant District Church Council for reconsideration. Any decision by the General Church Council shall be made after reference to the Loan Management Committee and shall be final.

**LEAGUE PRUDENTIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

34. If at any time, the Chief Executive Officer or Chairperson of the League is of the opinion that League funds may be or may become in jeopardy, the Chief Executive Officer or Chairperson of the League shall report to the Loan Management Committee with recommendations. If the Chief Executive Officer or the Chairperson of the League is not satisfied with the decision on the report, the Chief Executive Officer or Chairperson of the League shall report to the President of the Church for directions, and, at his discretion, the General Church Council.

**2.6.15. Suomi Conference – Amendment of Rules**

- 20130239    **RESOLVED** that the rules of the Suomi Conference be amended as follows (words to be removed – ~~strike through~~; words to be added – **bold**):

**CONSTITUTION SUOMI CONFERENCE, LCA**

Adopted 1986 Revised 2013

**INTERPRETATION**

This Constitution and the By-laws shall be interpreted according to the definitions contained in the Constitution of the Lutheran Church of Australia Incorporated. Specifically, this Constitution says that

- (a) "the Conference" means the Suomi Conference, Lutheran Church of Australia
- (b) "the Church" means the Lutheran Church of Australia Incorporated;
- (c) "the Pastor" includes pastors of the Lutheran Church of Australia and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland who are serving congregations in Australia.

**I. NAME**

## *Administration and Pastoral (including constitutional)*

1. The name of this association is: SUOMI CONFERENCE, LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.
2. The Conference is a sub-committee of the General Church Council.

### **II. OBJECTS**

The Objects of the Conference are to

- (a) promote the objects of the Church among member congregations;
- (b) glorify the Triune God in all its work and activities;
- (c) promote and support ministry among people who identify themselves as Finnish in Australia and New Zealand;
- (d) cultivate Finnish Lutheran heritage and Finnish culture **in so far as it advances order to promote** the work of the Church;
- (e) promote good stewardship among Finnish congregations so that they accept responsibility for the support of local ministry and the wider work of the Church;
- (f) cooperate in the publication of the periodical "Suomi-**Newspaper**" and other printed **and electronic** material that will best serve the Church in extending the Gospel of Jesus Christ among Finnish-speaking people;
- (g) encourage Church-wide activities that serve member congregations;
- (h) facilitate partnerships between Finnish and English-speaking congregations by which people of Finnish origin may be retained in the Church and integrated into the wider ministry of the Church; and
- (i) encourage and assist Finnish-speaking people to pursue a vocation in the Church, such as pastors, lay workers, teachers and other Church workers.

### **III. MEMBERSHIP**

1. The membership of the Conference shall consist of Finnish congregations that are members of the Church as defined in the Constitution of the Church in Article IV. 1.
2. The Executive Committee of the Conference may grant associate membership to the Conference to **congregations of the Church involved in Finnish ministry in their area and** small Finnish Lutheran groups which do not fall within the definition of members of the Church as found in the Constitution of the Church in Article IV. 1.
3. Associate members shall have observer status within the Conference.
4. A member or an associate member that terminates membership in the Conference or whose membership is terminated by action of the Conference shall have no claim on the Conference or on the property or funds of the Conference.

### **IV. RELATION TO THE CHURCH**

1. The Conference submits itself in all matters to the supervision of the Church and accepts without reservation the Constitution and By-laws of the Church and its Districts.
2. The Chairperson of the Conference shall report annually to the Church through the General Church Council. The report shall include the following:
  - (1) An overview of the activities of the Conference that have occurred since the last report including a roll-call of member congregations and their present status.
  - (2) An overview of the activities of the Conference that are to occur during the next reporting period.
  - (3) An overview, including recommendations, of significant future matters requiring consideration, examination or action.

### **V. OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATION**

1. The Conference shall have a committee of management, called the Executive Committee, ~~consisting of the pastors and full-time lay workers who serve member congregations, and one (1) lay person elected by each member congregation. which shall consist of nine [9] members:~~
  - (a) **two [2] pastors of those serving member congregations;**

- (b) **five [5] lay members elected from nominations made by member congregations;**
- (c) **one [1] pastor and one [1] lay member appointed by the General Church Council.**

~~2. The Church shall appoint one (1) pastor and one (1) lay person to serve as members of the Executive Committee.~~

- 2. **The Executive Officer shall be appointed by the General Church Council of the Church from nominations made by the Suomi Conference.**
- 3. The Conference shall elect from the members of the Executive Committee a Chair~~man~~**person**, a Vice-Chair~~man~~**person**, a Secretary, and a Treasurer at each regular general meeting. The Chair~~man~~**person** and the Vice-Chair~~man~~**person** shall be pastors.
- 4. The Executive Committee shall carry out the resolutions of the Conference, and shall have authority between the regular general meetings of the Conference to make decisions within the limits prescribed by the By-laws.
- 5. The Conference shall appoint such other committees and officers as it may from time to time deem necessary for the carrying out of its Objects, and shall prescribe their duties.

#### **VI. MEETINGS**

- 1. A regular general meeting of the Conference shall be held annually at such time and place as the Conference or the Executive Committee shall decide.
- 2. Notice of such meeting shall be given to the member congregations by the Chair~~man~~**person** at least six [6] weeks prior to the meeting.
- 3. A special general meeting of the Conference may be convened by the Chair~~man~~**person** with the consent of the Executive Committee and shall be convened by the Chair~~man~~**person** at the request of the Executive Committee.
- 4. Notice of a special general meeting stating its purpose shall be given to the member congregations by the Chair~~man~~**person** at least six [6] weeks prior to the meeting.
- 5. Each member congregation shall be entitled to appoint up to five [5] delegates, one [1] of whom shall be the pastor, to a general meeting of the Conference. Only one [1] of the congregation's delegates shall have the right to vote.
- 6. Associate members shall be entitled to appoint one [1] representative who shall have the right to speak but not the right to vote at a regular or special general meeting of the Conference.

#### **VII. DISSOLUTION**

- 1. The Conference shall apply to the General Church Council for permission to dissolve when membership of the Conference is less than three [3] congregations.
- 2. A proposal to dissolve the Conference shall require a two-thirds majority of the voting members ~~in the member congregations entitled to vote.~~ **present at the conference.**
- 3. In the event of dissolution, the Conference may give indication regarding the use of its assets by the Church.
- 4. Where no such indication is given, they shall be transferred to the Church absolutely.

#### **VIII. BY-LAWS**

- 1. The Conference shall have power, ~~by majority vote of the quorum prescribed in the By-laws for the transaction of ordinary business,~~ **by majority of those voting members present**, to make, repeal, alter or amend 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.
- 2. Notice of any such change shall either be given at a duly called meeting of the Conference held at least seven [7] days earlier or be published to the Congregation on the two [2] immediately preceding Sundays.

## **IX. ALTERATIONS TO CONSTITUTION**

1. The Conference at a regular general meeting or at a special general meeting may amend, alter, add to, or repeal any of the rules, except Articles IV. and IX., which shall be considered fundamental and unalterable in their intent and meaning.
2. Notice of amendments, alterations, additions or repeals shall be given on the agenda of the meeting, and any such amendments, alterations, additions, or repeals shall require two-thirds majority of the total number entitled to vote according to Article VI. 5.

*Revised Draft agreed to by the Suomi Conference, January 2010.*

### **2.6.16. Scholarship Fund Rules—Amendments Following Disbanding of Committee**

20130240 **RESOLVED** that the rules of the Scholarship Fund at Part C03 of the By-laws of the Church, be amended as follows:

#### **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*Adopted 1978, revised 2006 & 2013*

##### **NAME**

1. The name of this Fund shall be SCHOLARSHIP FUND of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

##### **OBJECTS**

2. The objects of the Fund shall be to grant scholarships to qualified pastors and lay people to undertake post-graduate study or advanced training, to better equip them for service within the Church.

##### **ADMINISTRATION**

3. The Scholarship Fund shall derive its income from special gifts and the interest on endowments and investments in addition to an annual amount allotted from the budgetary funds of the Church.
4. The Scholarship Fund shall be administered by the ~~Standing Committee on Scholarships~~ **General Church Council**.
5. The objects of the Fund shall be carried out by means of short-term scholarships (hereinafter referred to as study grants) of up to one year's duration. In extenuating circumstances, the possibility of extension may be considered by the ~~Standing Committee on Scholarships~~ **General Church Council**.

##### **AWARDS**

6. The ~~Standing Committee on Scholarships~~ **General Church Council**
  - (a) shall determine any specific conditions and the term applicable to a particular study grant;
  - (b) may at its discretion determine that no study grant be awarded; and
  - (c) may at its discretion require a personal appearance of the candidates.
7. If the holder of a study grant does not comply with the terms and conditions under which the study grant was awarded, the ~~Standing Committee on Scholarships~~ **General Church Council** may call upon the recipient to show cause why the study grant should not be terminated, and may terminate it if it is not satisfied with the cause shown.

##### **AVAILABILITY**

8. Study grants shall be made available on conditions determined by the ~~Standing Committee on Scholarships~~ **General Church Council** from time to time.
9. The maximum term for a study grant shall be one [1] year. Any extension of the original term shall require an application stating the special circumstances, shall only be granted at the discretion of the ~~Standing Committee on Scholarships~~ **General Church Council**, and shall not exceed the length of the original term.

##### **APPLICATION**

10. (1) Application for a study grant may be made by the Board or Council or Institution directly responsible to the Church for the particular area of study or training.
- (2) Boards or Councils or Institutions of the Church may nominate a specific person to be considered for a particular study grant.
- (3) Application may be made by a person who on his or her own initiative wishes to undertake specialised study or training.
11. (1) Application shall be made on the official forms.
- (2) The following shall accompany every application:
  - (a) an outline of the proposed course of study or training program and its perceived benefits for the Church, and an estimate of its costs;
  - (b) a brief autobiography;
  - (c) a certificate of health from a legally qualified medical practitioner;
  - (d) a recent photograph;
  - (e) a report from the nominating board/council, or in the case of an application under the preceding clause 10. (3) the names and addresses of three [3] referees;
  - (f) copies of academic records, diplomas, and degrees; and
  - (g) particulars of practical experience in the service of the Church.
12. All applications shall be lodged with the ~~Standing Committee on Scholarships~~ **General Church Council** by the specified date published in the official organ of the Church.

#### **PROVISIONS**

13. (1) The amount of any study grant shall be determined by the ~~Standing Committee on Scholarships~~ **General Church Council** on the basis of an assessment of the costs and of available finance.
- (2) A study grant is to be used solely for defraying costs incurred in pursuing a specific program of study or training and for no other purpose.
- (3) No provision shall be made under a study grant for the family of an applicant.
- (4) A study grant may as applicable provide for the following:
  - (a) fees payable at the relevant institution;
  - (b) approved travel costs;
  - (c) approved housing and living allowance;
  - (d) book allowance; and
  - (e) any factor deserving special consideration.
- (5) Where grants are given to meet course fees, such fees shall normally be paid directly to the institution, not to the recipient of the grant.
- (6) Where monies are paid directly to a grant holder for a good reason (e.g. in the case of studies or training abroad), all funds not used are to be returned to the ~~scholarship committee~~ **Scholarship Fund**.
14. On completion of their study program all beneficiaries are required to give a written report to the ~~Standing Committee on Scholarships~~ **General Church Council**, detailing benefits received from the program.
15. Recipients of study grants are required to contract themselves to serve the Church for a minimum period of twice the length of the grant tenure. Failure to meet this obligation requires the applicant to reimburse the Scholarship Fund pro rata for the length of the period not fulfilled.

#### **2.6.17. Lutheran Bible Translators Australia—Amended Terms of Reference**

20130241 **RESOLVED** that the rules for Lutheran Bible Translators Australia be amended as follows (words to be removed – ~~striketrough~~; words to be added – **bold**):

#### **GUIDELINES FOR TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS AUSTRALIA**

*(Original guidelines for Lutheran Bible Translators Australia were adopted by General Church Council in 1979 and formally endorsed at General Synod in September 1981 at Indooroopilly.)*

*Adopted 1986 Handbook  
Revised 2013*

## **I. DEFINITION**

1. Lutheran Bible Translators Australia (LBTA) is an organisation within the ~~Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA)~~ **to help** in the translating and disseminating of the Holy Scriptures and operates under the Board for Mission of the Church.
2. ~~Lutheran Bible Translators Australia consists of three categories of membership, namely~~
  - (i) ~~Missionary — its members not having voting rights, but being the representatives of LBTA as workers in the field and supported through LBTA. This could include Associate Membership.~~
  - (ii) ~~Supporting — its members having no voting rights, but who have pledged to support the work of LBTA by prayer and by financial and other contributions.~~
  - (iii) ~~Administrative — its members to be appointed by the LCA as is the current procedure to direct/control the affairs of LBTA and to be responsible to the Board for Mission.~~

## **II. AIMS**

2. ~~3.~~The primary purpose of LBTA shall be to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ and/or to strengthen their faith specifically through linguistic, literacy and Bible translation work and related tasks.

## **III. STRUCTURE**

3. ~~4.~~The affairs of LBTA shall be under the direction of the committee set up by the Church ~~for this purpose~~ **to promote the aims of LBTA.** ~~LBTA~~ **The committee** shall be responsible to **and report** to the Board for Mission of the Church. The committee shall comprise
  - (a) ~~the Chairman of the Board for Mission or his deputy;~~
  - (b) ~~the Director of the Board for Mission;~~
  - (c) ~~one [1] other member of the Board for Mission appointed by the Board for Mission; and~~
  - (d) **at least two [2] and not more than eight [8] members of the Church at large from nominations made by LBTA in consultation with the Board for Mission and appointed by the General Church Council. in consultation with the Board for Mission;**
  - (e) ~~a representative from Australian Lutheran College appointed by the General Church Council in consultation with the Board for Mission;~~
  - (f) ~~such other members as may be appointed from time to time by the General Church Council on the recommendation of the Board for Mission, either as full members or on a consultative basis; and~~
  - (g) ~~a consultative member appointed by Lutheran Bible Translators Incorporated.~~**In addition to the members of the committee, the following may attend meetings of the committee as a consultant:**
  - (a) **the Director of the Board for Mission or a nominee of the Director.**
4. ~~5.~~Office bearers.
  - (1) The committee shall appoint a ~~Chairman~~ **person** and a Secretary from its own ranks and a Treasurer who may be coopted on a consultative basis from outside of the committee.
  - (2) Appointed committee members shall hold office for a synodical period or as otherwise deemed necessary and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

- (3) The office-bearers shall perform the functions usually associated with such positions and shall be assisted in their ~~executive~~ capacity by the Director and office staff of the Board for Mission as determined from time to time.
- ~~(4) The Executive shall consist of the Chairman and Secretary of the committee and the Director of the Board for Mission.~~
- (54) Meetings of the committee shall be held at least twice annually.

#### **IV. FUNCTION**

5. ~~6.~~ The duties of the committee shall be to
- (a) ~~administer the affairs of LBTA;~~ promote the cause of Bible translation;
  - (b) recruit and support personnel of LBTA; **administer the affairs of LBTA;**
  - (c) ~~provide training and other preparation for personnel of LBTA;~~ recruit and support suitably qualified personnel for literacy and translation work in keeping with the aims of LBTA;
  - (d) ~~promote the cause of Bible translation;~~ ensure there is adequate training, preparation and support for personnel of LBTA;
  - (e) encourage and stimulate financial support for the ~~Bible translating program of the Church~~ **work of LBTA;**
  - (f) seek out potential **new** areas of service;
  - (g) liaise with relevant Boards and/or Committees of the Church; ~~and~~
  - (h) cooperate with Lutheran Bible Translators Incorporated and Wycliffe Bible Translators and liaise with other agencies and persons involved in the translation and/or distribution of Scriptures as determined by the committee from time to time.
  - (h) cooperate with other organisations who have similar aims to LBTA and liaise with them in translation, publishing and/or distribution of Holy Scripture and related material;
  - (i) encourage co-operation with partner Churches;
  - (j) report in writing on the progress of the work and financial activity of the committee to the Board for Mission following each meeting of the committee; and
  - (k) report in person to a meeting of the Board for Mission annually.

#### **V. REVIEW**

6. The Board for Mission shall conduct a review of the activity and operations of the committee against the governance terms of reference and the strategic initiatives of both the Church and the Board for Mission in a timely manner prior to each General Synod.

### **2.7. Support for Pastoral Ministry**

#### **2.7.1. Report: Board for Support to Pastoral Ministry**

*(See Page 115 of the Book of Reports)*

- 20130242 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Board of Support for Pastoral Ministry be adopted.

#### **2.7.2. Board for Support to Pastoral Ministry – Membership Amendment**

- 20130243 **RESOLVED** that the rules for the Board for Support to Pastoral Ministry be amended as follows (words to be removed – ~~strike through~~; words to be added – **bold**):

#### **BOARD FOR SUPPORT TO PASTORAL MINISTRY**

*Approved 2000*

*Revised 2013*

#### **NAME**

1. The name of the Board shall be BOARD FOR SUPPORT TO PASTORAL MINISTRY.

## **OBJECT**

2. The object of the Board is to promote the well-being of pastors and their families, especially at critical times.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

3. The Board shall consist of six [6] members:
  - (a) two [2] pastors and four [4] lay members appointed by the General Church Council; ~~and~~.
  - ~~(b) the President and Secretary of the Church as consultants.~~**In addition to the members of the Board, the following may attend meetings of the Board as consultants:**
  - (a) the President of the Church; and**
  - (b) a representative of the School of Pastoral Theology of Australian Lutheran College.**

## **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
  - (a) seek reports from the President and the College of Presidents on matters relating to the support of pastoral ministry;
  - (b) develop and provide resources to support pastors and their families in their personal lives, especially at critical times;
  - (c) develop and provide resources to support the pastor in ministry in both parish and non-parish situations;
  - (d) develop and prepare materials to assist pastors, their families and congregations as they move through all actions of the call process;
  - ~~(e) receive reports from the Secretary of the Church on matters relating to the calling of pastors;~~
  - (fe) liaise with Australian Lutheran College for the well-being of seminarians and pastoral candidates and their families as the need arises;**
  - (gf) liaise with other boards of the Church as the need arises; and**
  - (hg) advise and make recommendations to the General Church Council about issues or concerns relating to the well-being of pastors and their families.**

## **MEETINGS**

5. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at least twice a year. Any additional meetings shall be subject to the provisions of Section VIII. G. 7. of the By-laws of the Church.

## **3. SAFE PLACE**

### **3.1. Report: Safe Place Committee**

*(see page 117 of The Book of Reports)*

- 20130301 **RESOLVED** that the final report of the Safe Place Committee be adopted.
- 20130302 **RESOLVED** that Synod express its thanks to those who have worked in the District and National Safe Place Committees, recognising that this area of responsibility is now in the Professional Standards Unit.

## **4. LAY MINISTRY**

### **4.1. Report: Board for Lay Ministry**

*(see page 119 of The Book of Reports)*

- 20130401 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Board for Lay Ministry be adopted.



## **5. AGED CARE**

### **5.1. Report: Board for Lutheran Aged Care Australia**

*(see page 122 of The Book of Reports)*

20130501 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Board for Lutheran Aged Care Australia be adopted.

### **5.2. Increased Pastoral Care Professional Development**

20130502 **RESOLVED** that

1. All Pastoral Carers in Lutheran aged care facilities undertake an initial course in pastoral care (e.g. a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education), and a spiritual care and ageing unit through Australian Lutheran College (ALC) or other local accepted educator; and Lay Chaplains also undertake a unit on a basic understanding of Lutheran theology through ALC;
2. All pastoral carers in Lutheran aged care facilities achieve 20 hours per annum professional development, including regular pastoral supervision (i.e. reflection on pastoral practice with an accredited pastoral supervisor);
3. Each District and employing facility be encouraged to support and monitor this ongoing professional development.

## **6. YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY**

### **6.1. Report: Board for Youth and Family Ministry**

*(see page 126 of The Book of Reports)*

20130601 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Board for Youth and Family Ministry be adopted.

### **6.2. Board for Children, Youth and Family Ministry – Amended Rules**

20130601 **RESOLVED** that the rules for the Board for Children, Youth and Family Ministry be amended as follows (words to be removed – ~~striketrough~~; words to be added – **bold**):

#### **BOARD FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY**

*Approved 2000, amended 2003*

##### **NAME**

1. The name of the Board shall be BOARD FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY.

##### **OBJECTS**

2. In its commitment to strengthening **Children, Youth and Family** Ministry in the Church, through the encouragement of ~~such youth~~ ministry in the Districts by seeking to foster partnerships between District ~~Youth~~ ministry networks and providing collaborative ~~youth~~ ministry efforts, the Board shall work according to the Biblical mandate to
  - (a) help Christian **children**, young people **and families** live in their baptism and grow to maturity in Christ (Romans 6:3–14);
  - (b) help **children**, young people **and families** hear Jesus' call and follow him in the way of obedience, both to God and in love and service to other people (Matthew 16:24–27; Matthew 5:43–48);
  - (c) recognise and exercise relationships within the body of Christ and building relationships with other **children**, young people **and families** (1 Corinthians 12:1–27; Psalm 133);
  - (d) help **children**, young people **and families** participate in the mission and ministry of the church to the world (Matthew 28:18–20);

### *Aged Care and Youth and Family*

- (e) help **children**, young people **and families** serve others, particularly the disadvantaged, poor and the powerless (Colossians 3:12–17; Matthew 25:34–40); and
- (f) advocate for servant leadership (Philippians 2:1–11).

### **RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH**

- 3. **All activities and programs of the Board shall be consistent with and in conformity to the Constitution of the Church.**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- ~~3. The Board shall normally consist of six [6] members:~~
  - ~~(a) the District Youth Directors or equivalent;~~
  - ~~(b) one [1] pastor appointed by the General Church Council on the recommendation of the Board.~~
- 4. **The Board shall consist of seven [7] members appointed by the General Church Council after consultation with the existing Board:**
  - (a) a chairperson;**
  - (b) four [4] members involved in children, youth and family ministry as follows:**
    - (i) one [1] pastor;**
    - (ii) one [1] member with expertise in children, youth and family ministry;**
    - (iii) one [1] member who is a practitioner in children and family ministry;**
    - (iv) one [1] member who is a practitioner in youth ministry;**
  - (c) two [2] members with the following skill set requirements;**
    - (i) one [1] member with strategic planning expertise; and**
    - (ii) one [1] member with business/administration expertise.**
- ~~5. 4. Consultants and Executive Officers may be recommended to the General Church Council. Their terms of reference, including financial responsibilities, shall receive prior approval from the General Church Council. They shall be non-voting members.~~  
**The Board may make recommendations to the General Church Council for the appointment of consultants and executive officers. The terms of reference, including any financial responsibilities, shall be determined by the General Church Council in conjunction with such appointments.**

### **DUTIES**

- ~~6. 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, the duties of the Board shall be to~~
  - ~~(a) recommend national **children**, youth **and family** ministry policies;~~
  - ~~(b) suggest, develop and facilitate specific programs and resources;~~
  - ~~(c) develop strategies for children, youth and family ministry;~~
  - ~~(d) assist **in children**, youth **and family** ministry development;~~
  - ~~(e) review and monitor the program directions of the Church;~~
  - ~~(f) assist with collaborative efforts **between Districts**;~~
  - ~~(g) act as a national clearing house **point of reference** for **children**, youth **and family** ministry;~~
  - ~~(h) develop and maintaining connections with other ministry bodies of the Church;~~
  - ~~(i) develop and maintaining connections ecumenically both on a local and international level; and~~
  - ~~(j) advocate nationally for young people **children**, youth **and families** and **children**, youth **and family** ministry.~~

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

- ~~7. 6. The Board shall be responsible to the General Church Council and shall~~
  - ~~(a) provide a written report to each General Church Council meeting **or as requested by General Church Council**;~~
  - ~~(b) participate in the Board's budget preparation and financial planning with the ~~Secretary~~ **Executive Officer** of the Church; and~~

- (c) be responsible for meeting its financial commitments, and be accountable to the ~~Secretary~~ **Executive Officer** of the Church for its financial management.

### MEETINGS

8. ~~7.~~ Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at least twice a year. Regular ~~telephone conferences or similar~~ **communication** shall be maintained. Any additional meetings shall be subject to the provisions of Section VIII. G. 7. of the By-laws of the Church.

### 6.3. Proposals from Board For Children, Youth and Family Ministry

#### 6.3.1. Support for Youth Camping

20130603 **RESOLVED** that General Convention strongly encourages each District to provide funding to enable appropriate support to Youth Camping Ministry in the form of part-time camping ministry co-ordinators and camping leadership development.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that each congregation and parish of the LCA support camping ministry by releasing pastors to participate, providing lay support and by providing financial support for leaders and campers to participate in camping ministry.

#### 6.3.2. Taking Faith Home

20130604 **RESOLVED** that Congregations of the LCA be encouraged to access the free resource Taking Faith Home as a way of supporting households in growing in faith together.

## 7. MISSION

### 7.1. Report: Board for Mission

(see page 132 of *The Book of Reports*)

- Note correction on page 139: LCA congregational partnerships, second dot point, add '/kindergarten project'

20130701 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Board for Mission be adopted.

### 7.2. Board for Local Mission

20130702 **RESOLVED** that Convention approve a trial of the Board for Local Mission notwithstanding the LCA Governance Review.

20130703 **RESOLVED** that an interim Board for Local Mission be established with the following terms of reference:

#### INTERIM BOARD FOR LOCAL MISSION

##### NAME

1. The name of the Board shall be the INTERIM BOARD FOR LOCAL MISSION

##### OBJECTS

2. The Objects of the Board are to
  - (a) nurture a growing missional culture in the Church; and
  - (b) promote, resource and coordinate within the Church participation in the Triune God's mission to Australia and New Zealand in bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to all people. (John 20:21-23; see also Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20)

##### MEMBERSHIP

3. The Board consists of the following:
  - (a) two [2] representatives, at least one of whom shall be a lay person, from each District of the Church, nominated by the respective District Church Council and elected by District Synod;
  - (b) the Mission Director or equivalent of the Church;

## *Mission*

- (c) the Mission Director or equivalent of each District of the Church; and
- (d) a member of the College of Presidents nominated by the College of Presidents and appointed by the General Church Council.

The Board may appoint other consultants or observers as necessary to fulfil its Objects and Duties.

- 4. The executive of the Board shall be
  - (a) the chairperson of the Board;
  - (b) the Mission Director or equivalent of the Church;
  - (c) the Mission Director or equivalent of each District of the Church; and
  - (d) up to two [2] other Board members appointed by the Board.

## **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, the duties of the Board shall be to
  - (a) support the articulation of the goals of the Church for the enhancement of local mission;
  - (b) work with the districts to equip and assist every congregation and other ministries and agencies of the Church to carry out its mission to its local community, through
    - (i) articulation of good mission practice by study of missiology and society and culture;
    - (ii) identification and assessment of the lessons from the practical experience of mission within the Church, as well as the results of formal study and research;
    - (iii) facilitation of sharing of mission lessons learned as well as from the findings of formal study and research, including innovative approaches to mission;
    - (iv) development and provision of appropriate missional resources to congregations and other ministries and agencies of the Church; and
    - (v) training programs that build mission capacity of individuals, and congregations and other ministries and agencies of the Church;
  - (c) foster cooperation between all departments and agencies of the Church to support a consistent approach to mission activity within and by the Church;
  - (d) work in close cooperation with the Board for Mission to ensure an appropriate integration and/or distinction of tasks between the two mission boards of the Church;
  - (e) support the work of the districts and their congregations and other ministries and agencies of the Church as they respond to emerging mission opportunities and challenges, such as represented in ethnic groups, areas of social and economic disadvantage and the like;
  - (f) assist districts and congregations and other ministries and agencies of the Church through the identification of new mission possibilities and, where feasible, support their establishment with advice and mobilisation of resources;
  - (g) manage the Church Planting Grants Program of the Church, and any other financial mission support mechanisms that may be established from time to time;
  - (h) be responsible for the recruitment and management of Mission Coordinators, volunteers and other staff who may be appointed from time to time by the Board to further its Objects and Duties;
  - (i) coordinate effective communication of the work of the Board, including through appropriate media such as the website of the Church;
  - (j) liaise with, the mission departments of other Lutheran churches, denominations and ecumenical mission agencies to mutually support each other in the task of mission of the church universal; and
  - (k) carry out such other duties as may be assigned or required by the College of Presidents or the General Church Council.

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD**

- 6. The functions of the Board shall be to
  - (a) approve annual plans to guide its work, consistent with its Objects and Duties;

- (b) submit to the General Church Council an annual budget for its operations;
- (c) appoint advisory groups to advise and support the work of the Board;
- (d) approve policies and guidelines which are relevant to its Objects and Duties;
- (e) approve funding recommendations of the Executive;
- (f) receive and approve reports from the Executive and any other Advisory Groups that are established from time to time;
- (g) approve, or recommend for approval, formal documents and publications for distribution within the Church;
- (h) approve the recruitment of personnel to further the objects of the Board;
- (i) appoint consultants and observers to the Board; and
- (j) consider any matters that may be directed to it by the Executive.

#### **FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

- 7. The functions of the Executive of the Board shall be to
  - (a) prepare annual work plans for approval by the Board;
  - (b) prepare an annual budget for approval by the Board;
  - (c) be responsible for the financial management and performance of the Board;
  - (d) manage the recruitment of paid staff and/or engagement of volunteers or short term consultants, to monitor their performance, and provide support as required;
  - (e) manage funding schemes for which it has responsibility, in accordance with the approved guidelines, and this shall include
    - (i) receiving and making recommendations on applications;
    - (ii) following up reports;
    - (iii) initiating remedial action when necessary;
    - (iv) undertaking periodic evaluations of such schemes; and
    - (v) providing reports to the Board for its consideration;
  - (f) meet annually with the executive of the Board for Mission to discuss points of overlapping responsibility and to ensure integration of activities;
  - (g) prepare reports for relevant bodies, including the General Synod, the General Church Council and the District Church Councils;
  - (h) ensure that any activities of the Secretariat are carried out in line with the duties assigned to it; and
  - (i) undertake matters that may be referred to it by the Board from time to time.

#### **FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT**

- 8. A Secretariat may be established to support the Board in carrying out its Objects and Duties.

#### **MEETINGS**

- 9.
  - (a) The Board shall normally meet twice a year.
  - (b) The Executive of the Board shall meet at least three times a year.
  - (c) Any additional meetings shall be subject to the provisions of Section VIII. G. 7. of the By-laws of the Church.

### **8. THEOLOGY**

#### **8.1. Report: Commission on Theology and Inter Church Relations (CTICR)**

*(see page 153 of The Book of Reports)*

- 20130801    **RESOLVED** that the report of the Commission on Theology and InterChurch Relations be adopted.

#### **8.2. Report: Prophecy in the Church**

*(see page 269 of The Book of Reports)*

- 20130802    **RESOLVED** that the report on Prophecy in the Church be received.

**8.3. Report: Human sexuality: key issues today**

*(see page 283 of The Book of Reports)*

20130803 **RESOLVED** that the report on Human Sexuality:” key issues today be received.

**8.4. Presentation of Living Word, Living Tradition**

Dr Dean Zweck presented to Dr Semmler (representing the Church) a copy of the most recent document produced by the Lutheran-Catholic dialogue: Living Word, Living Tradition.

**9. SOCIAL QUESTIONS**

**9.1. Report: Committee on Social and Bioethical Questions**

*(see page 147 of The Book of Reports)*

20130901 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Committee on Social and Bioethical Questions be adopted.

**10. WORSHIP**

**10.1. Report: Commission on Worship**

*(see page 150 of The Book of Reports)*

20131001 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Commission on Worship be adopted.

**10.2. Five Songs of Faith**

Rev Greg Pietsch presented to Dr Semmler a copy of the “Five Songs of Faith” Book and CD of new Service with Communion songs, composed and written by Simon Schmidt, winner of a liturgy competition.

Rev Adrian Kitson performed three of the new songs: Lord have Mercy, Lamb of God and the Gloria.

**11. MEDIA MINISTRY**

**11.1. Report: Board for Lutheran Media Ministry**

*(see page 154 of The Book of Reports)*

20131101 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Board for Lutheran Media Ministry be adopted.

**11.2. Use of Media to Share the Gospel**

20131102 **RESOLVED** that Synod urge congregations, groups, and individuals to continue to use and support Lutheran Media Ministry to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and build bridges into the community through media.

**12. ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH**

**12.1. Report: Board of Archives and Research**

*(see page 159 of The Book of Reports)*

20131201 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Board for Archives and Research be adopted.

**12.2. Board of Archives and Research – Revised Rules**

20131202 **RESOLVED** that the rules for the Lutheran Archives Fund be amended as follows (words to be removed – ~~strike through~~; words to be added – **bold**):

**BOARD OF ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH**  
**BOARD OF LUTHERAN ARCHIVES**  
*Adopted 1986 Handbook, revised 2000 & 2013*

**NAME**

1. The name of the Board shall be BOARD OF **LUTHERAN ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH**.

2.

### OBJECTS

3. The objects of the Board shall be to
  - (a) manage the **Lutheran** Archives of the Church as the official repository of historical material relating to **the records** of the Church, its officers, boards, institutions and congregations;
  - (b) receive and file all statistical returns required by the Church;
  - (c) serve as the official research agency for the Officials and Boards, both Synodical and District, in all cases of data or information required from statistics, records, or the history of the Lutheran Church in Australasia;
  - (~~db~~) foster throughout the Church the preservation of historical material **relating to the Church** and to encourage all sections of the Church to deposit such material in **the Lutheran Archives of the Church; and**
  - (~~ec~~) promote interest in the history of the Church, and encourage historical research and publication of articles on historical subjects; ~~and.~~
  - (f) make available for research purposes to students of the history of the Church or any part of it the material in the Archives.

### MEMBERSHIP

4. The Board shall consist of six [6] members:
  - (a) one [1] pastor and three [3] lay members elected by the General Synod; and
  - (b) one [1] pastor and one [1] lay member appointed by the General Church Council.

### 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, the duties of the Board shall be to
  - (a) operate ~~an~~ **Lutheran Archives and Library, an Office of Statistics, a Museum, and a Research Division** **and oversee its various activities, including its finances;**
  - (b) act as the coordinating centre for all historical material and to receive all records and other material of historical value when they become of no further functional use in the Districts **determine the collection policy;**
  - (c) determine, in consultation with the Board or Official concerned, the Destruction Schedule for materials received, and to provide for the destruction or retention of materials in accordance with the Schedule **act as a facilitator with the departments of the Church and with congregations in the appropriate management of their records;**
  - (d) acquire or purchase such historical material and objects as it deems necessary and to accept donations and loans of historical material on behalf of the Church;
  - (e) ~~produce~~ **maintain** catalogues and inventories of all material held by ~~the Board~~ **Lutheran Archives**, suitably classified, numbered and arranged for security and convenient reference;
  - (f) ~~provide any necessary regulations~~ **establish** rules and procedures relating to the use of **and access to** material deposited in ~~the~~ **Lutheran Archives;**
  - (g) publish and evaluate the statistics of the Church;
  - (~~hg~~) maintain in good condition buildings and equipment provided for the archival material;
  - (~~ih~~) recommend and promote the preservation of places, buildings and monuments of historical interest and value to the ~~Lutheran~~ Church; and
  - (j) encourage the establishment of a District Committee for Archives in each District of the Church to serve as its agent in the promotion of the objects of the Board in the respective District.
  - (i) **promote within the Church and the broader community the nature and extent of the archival collection and encourage researchers to make use of the collection;**

- (j) provide support and encouragement for the Archivist, staff and volunteers; and
- (k) appoint an Archivist and other staff.

#### **MEETINGS**

- 6. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at least quarterly. Any additional meetings shall be subject to the provision of Section VIII. G. 7. of the By-laws of the Church. The Board shall meet at least half-yearly, or whenever the Chairperson or two members deem a meeting necessary.

#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

- 7. The Board shall have an executive officer who shall be the Archivist in accordance with the provisions of Section VIII. H. of the By-laws of the Church. The Archivist shall perform duties in accordance with the duty statement prepared by the Board.

#### **REPOSITORY**

- ~~6. The Archives includes the material related to the history of Lutheranism in Australia such as~~
  - ~~(a) records, documents, of the Church, of church bodies amalgamated in the Church, and of bodies linked significantly to the history of the Church;~~
  - ~~(b) records, documents, of each synodical District;~~
  - ~~(c) pamphlets, tracts, and other printed matter of a similar nature, referring to doctrine, history, expansions, of the Church;~~
  - ~~(d) minutes, minute books, correspondence, constitutions and other documents of Church Boards and Committees, officials, pastors, teachers, other church workers, institutions and organisations within the Church (when these are no longer in current use);~~
  - ~~(e) periodicals, newsletters, bulletins, published by congregations or parishes;~~
  - ~~(f) photographs, films and tapes relating to church buildings, personalities, and celebrations and other photos, films and tapes of historical interest;~~
  - ~~(g) papers, printed programs of dedications, ordinations, installations, jubilee booklets, other programs put out by synodical institutions, congregations or organisations;~~
  - ~~(h) plans, blueprints, designs, of churches, colleges and other Synodical or District property; and~~
  - ~~(i) any other manuscripts and literature of archival value and interest.~~
- ~~7. The Library includes the following:~~
  - ~~(a) books pertaining to the history of the Church and Churches in Australia, their Districts and congregations, and other books of historical interest;~~
  - ~~(b) books and literature pertaining to the European background of the Lutheran immigrants to Australia;~~
  - ~~(c) periodicals published by the Church or by societies or organisations within the Church, or by Churches in affiliation with the Church;~~
  - ~~(d) books published by the Church or used in the Church, such as Liturgy, Hymn-books, Synodical Reports, Almanacs;~~
  - ~~(e) books belonging to people prominent in the history of Lutheranism in Australia, especially where signatures, marginal notes and under-linings are contained;~~
  - ~~(f) books and magazines illustrative of Lutheran usages in home, school, college, seminary; and~~
  - ~~(g) any other books or materials pertaining to Lutheranism in Australia, or throwing light on activities in which the Church or its members have been or are engaged.~~
- ~~8. The Museum will include the following:~~
  - ~~(a) artefacts illustrative of national, social, economic, religious conditions, customs and practices, pertinent to the history of Lutheranism in Australia;~~
  - ~~(b) artefacts having to do with Lutheran missionary endeavours;~~



- ~~(c) artefacts belonging to people significant in the history of the Church and its missions;~~
  - ~~(d) in general all material of an artefact nature which helps to tell the story of Lutheranism in Australia in the past and the present.~~
9. ~~All completed records, correspondence, and other material of officers, boards, councils, committees, departments of the Church and its Districts shall be transferred to the Archives.~~
10. ~~The records and other historical material of institutions, boards, councils, committees, departments and congregations that are disbanding shall be transferred to the Archives for preservation and future reference.~~
11. ~~Congregations and parishes are invited to entrust their old record books and documents to the safekeeping of the Archives with the assurance that such material will at all times be available for reference by the pastor or any accredited representative of the congregation.~~
12. ~~The Board shall be authorised to approach through the Archivist any organisation or individual within the Church for a copy, gratis, of anything published by them or for any material in their possession, which would be of historical interest or value to the Church Archives.~~

### **STATISTICS**

13. ~~The Statistician shall be appointed by the General Church Council after consultation with the Board of Archives and Research.~~
14. ~~The Board shall appoint a Sub-Committee on Statistics, consisting of the Statistician and two other members including an Assistant Statistician, who need not be members of the Board.~~
15. ~~The duties of the Statistician, in consultation with the Archivist and in association with the Sub-Committee on Statistics, shall be to~~
- ~~(a) gather the annual statistics of the parishes and the Districts of the Church, as well as of the boards, committees, and Institutions of the Church, and its Districts;~~
  - ~~(b) gather information regarding the contributions of the parishes for budget, non-budget and home purposes and, in consultation with the Secretary of the Church and the treasurers of the Districts, to collect and file copies of the financial reports of the Church and the Districts and of boards and committees;~~
  - ~~(c) tabulate and publish such statistics as determined by the Board in consultation with the General Church Council;~~
  - ~~(d) file the statistics so that they are available for research and record survey purposes;~~
  - ~~(e) prepare the forms to be used in collecting the necessary and desired statistical information; and~~
  - ~~(f) issue instructions in keeping with the decisions of the Board and to give advice to the pastors of the Church and others responsible for the lodging of statistical returns.~~

## **13. AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE**

### **13.1. Report: Board of Directors of Australian Lutheran College**

*(see page 162 of The Book of Reports)*

20131301     **RESOLVED** that the report of the Australian Lutheran College be adopted.

## **14. STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **14.1. Report of Standing Committee on Scholarships**

*(see page 171 of The Book of Reports)*

20131401     **RESOLVED** that the report of the Standing Committee on Scholarships be adopted.

## **15. LUTHERAN EDUCATION**

### **15.1. Report: Board for Lutheran Education Australia**

*(see page 173 The Book of Reports)*

- 20131501 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Board for Lutheran Education Australia be adopted.
- 20131502 **RESOLVED** that the matter of the separate incorporation of Lutheran Education Australia Limited be referred to GCC for review.

## **16. ABORIGINAL MISSIONS**

### **16.1. Report: Finke River Mission Board**

*(see page 181 of The Book of Reports)*

- 20131601 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Finke River Mission Board be adopted.

### **16.2. Finke River Mission – Revised Board Membership**

- 20131602 **RESOLVED** that the rules for the Finke River Mission Board be amended as follows (words to be removed – ~~strike-through~~; words to be added – **bold**):

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

3. The Board shall consist of eight [8] members:
  - (a) one [1] pastor and two [2] lay members elected by the General Synod; and
  - (b) ~~two one [21]~~ **three** ~~four [34]~~ **four** lay members appointed by the General Church Council.
4. The General Church Council shall have the right to appoint persons with special qualifications to act as required as consultants at meetings of the Board

## **17. WORLD SERVICE**

### **17.1. Report: Australian Lutheran World Service**

*(see page 183 of The Book of Reports)*

- 20131701 **RESOLVED** that the report of Australian World Service be adopted.
- 20131702 **RESOLVED** that MRL Group be appointed as ALWS independent auditor for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2015.

## **18. TERTIARY MINISTRY**

### **18.1. Report: Commission on Tertiary Ministry**

*(see page 193 of The Book of Reports)*

- 20131801 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Commission on Tertiary Ministry be adopted.

### **18.2. Affirmation of Tertiary Ministry**

- 20131802 **RESOLVED** that the LCA recognise and affirm tertiary ministry as an important part of the work of the LCA and encourage districts without a tertiary ministry focus to stimulate work in this area.

## **19. GENERAL FINANCE**

### **19.1. Financial reports—LCA Inc Income and Expenditure 2009–2011**

*(see page 195 of The Book of Reports)*

- 20131901 **RESOLVED** that the Financial Reports be adopted.

## **20. LOAN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **20.1. Report: Loan Management Committee**

*(see report on page 202 of The Book of Reports)*

20132001 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Loan Management Committee be adopted.

## **21. SALARIES**

### **21.1. Report: Commission on Salaries**

*(see report on page 202 of The Book of Reports)*

20132101 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Commission on Salaries be adopted.

## **22. LUTHERAN LAYPEOPLE'S LEAGUE (LLL)**

### **22.1. Report: Lutheran Laypeople's League**

*(see page 206 of The Book of Reports)*

20132201 **RESOLVED** that the report of the Lutheran Laypeople's League be received.

### **22.2. Financial Statement: Lutheran Laypeople's League**

20132202 **RESOLVED** that the financial statement of the Lutheran Laypeople's League be received.

The work of LLL and its board was recognised by acclamation and a standing ovation.

## **23. FUNDS OF THE CHURCH**

*(see page 214 - 220 of The Book of Reports)*

### **23.1. Report: LCA Provident Fund**

20133101 **RESOLVED** that the report of the LCA Provident Fund be received.

### **23.2. Report: LCA Pensions Fund**

20132302 **RESOLVED** that the report of the LCA Pensions Fund be received.

### **23.3. Report: LCA Transfer and Support Fund**

20132303 **RESOLVED** that the report of the LCA Pastors Transfer and Support Fund be received.

### **23.4. Report: LCA Levy Fund**

20132304 **RESOLVED** that the report of the LCA Levy Fund be received.

### **23.5. Report: LCA Car Grants Fund**

20132305 **RESOLVED** that the report of the LCA Car Grants Fund be received.

### **23.6. Report: LCA Insurance Fund**

20132306 **RESOLVED** that the Report of the LCA Insurance Fund be received.

### **23.7. Report: LCA Nominees**

20132307 **RESOLVED** that the report of LCA Nominees be received.

## **24. GENERAL**

The following reports were received.

### **24.1. Report: Lutheran Men of Australia**

20132401 **RESOLVED** that the report of Lutheran Men of Australia be adopted.

**24.2. Report: Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia**

20132402    **RESOLVED** that the report of the Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia be adopted.

**24.3. Report: Parish/Pastoral Care Nursing**

20132403    **RESOLVED** that the report of Parish/Pastoral Care be adopted.

**24.4. Report: Lutheran Women of Australia**

20132404    **RESOLVED** that the report of Lutheran Women of Australia be adopted.

**24.5. Report: Lutherans for Life**

20132405    **RESOLVED** that the report of Lutherans for Life be adopted.

**25. ELECTION OF OFFICIALS AND GENERAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

25.1. Election of Bishop:                      **Rev John Henderson**

25.2. Election of Assistant Bishop        **Rev Greg Pietsch**

25.3. Election General Church              **Rev Avito da Graca Costa**  
    **Dr Gillian Heintze**

**26. ELECTIONS**

**26.1. Board of Directors Australian Lutheran College Ltd**

Pastors:    D Gogoll, S Schultz  
Lay Members:                                      Mrs S Kloeden, Mr D Dreckow

**26.2. Board for Mission**

Pastor:    N Hedt  
Lay Members:                                      Ms A Synott, Mr S Wilksch

**26.3. Board for Archives**

Pastor:    G Lockwood  
Lay Members:                                      Ms L Helbig, Mr E Leske, Dr L Zweck

**26.4. Board for Media Ministry**

Pastor:    B Hentschke  
Lay Members:                                      Mr D Kalisch, Ms M Shepherd, Mrs J Petering

**26.5. Board for Lay Ministry**

Pastor:    K Spilsbury  
Lay Members:                                      Mr S Schuster, Ms K Johnston, Mr K Wallent

**26.6. Board for Lutheran Aged Care**

Pastor:    G Wegener  
Lay Member:                                        C Fitzpatrick

**26.7. Board of Directors Lutheran Education Australia Ltd**

Pastors:    M Greenthaner  
Lay Members:                                      Mrs T Nelson

**26.8. Commission on Salaries**

Pastor:    J O'Keefe  
Lay Members:                                      Mr A Kupke, Ms K Doecke

## *Closing*

### **26.9. Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations**

Pastor: F Pearce  
Lay Members: Dr P Simonsen

### **26.10. Commission on Worship**

Pastor: A Kitson  
Lay Members: Ms T Skene

### **26.11. Standing Committee on Constitutions**

Pastors: T Ebbs, W Schiller  
Lay Members: Mr D Dreckow, Mrs M Koch,

### **26.12. Standing Committee on Scholarships**

Committee was disbanded by convention and no election was required

### **26.13. Finke River Mission Board**

Pastors: R Schutz  
Lay Members: Mr T Stollznow, Mr C Pfeiffer

### **26.14. Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions**

Pastors: C Fandrich, R Kowald  
Lay Members: Dr R Pollnitz, Mrs H Lockwood, Mr T Huckel, Dr T Wittwer

## **27. CLOSING FORMALITIES**

20132701 **RESOLVED** that all unfinished business be referred to General Church Council.

### **27.1. Next Convention**

20132702 **RESOLVED** that the invitation by New South Wales District to host next convention be referred to General Church Council.

### **27.2. VOTE OF THANKS**

Volker Hopfmueller and Emma Graetz extended a vote of thanks to all who contributed to the successful planning and running of this General Convention of Synod.

Kevin Richardson, Principal of Immanuel Lutheran College, for allowing LCA to conduct Convention of Synod at Immanuel.

### **27.3. CLOSE OF CONVENTION**

The President of the Church declared the Seventeenth General Convention of Synod closed during the concluding service on Wednesday, 24 April 2013.