



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

OF AUSTRALIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN TERRITORY

BOOK OF REPORTS

49TH DISTRICT CONVENTION OF SYNOD

THE HOPE WE HAVE

1 PETER 3:15

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*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.
Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you
to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with
gentleness and respect.*

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)





**LUTHERAN
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN TERRITORY

WELCOME & HOUSEKEEPING

Welcome to the Book of Reports

In reading the 2021 Book of Reports for the Lutheran Church of Australia, SA-NT District I hope you will be encouraged at how the life of the church has continued, even through the obstacles posed by COVID-19. Every worshipping community and ministry arm of the church was impacted, and all responded admirably to the challenges faced. In fact, opportunities to reach out with the good news of Jesus grew. We thank God for that. Together we discovered that with Christ there is always reason for hope, a hope we are called to share with the world.

As we come to the Convention of Synod you will see on the agenda several proposals from congregations that are of a pastoral and theological nature. We encourage you to familiarise yourselves with the background and foundational documents to which they refer, and to consider them carefully, together with your pastors and members as you are able. Since time at convention will be limited, we need to have an informed and focused debate on these and other proposals to be put to synod.

We trust that coming together physically at convention this year will be a blessing in itself and look forward to seeing delegates once again as we come before our Lord to consider his work among and through us.

Bishop David Altus

Program

Saturday 15th May

7.45 am	Check-in open. Coffee van available
8.30 am	Opening worship
9.00 am	Business session includes presentation by Bishop John Henderson
10.10 am	Morning tea
10.40 am	Business session
12.30 pm	Lunch
1.10 pm	Business session
2.45 pm	Afternoon tea
3.20 pm	Business session
5.30 pm	Closing devotion

Sunday 16th May

7.45 am	Check-in open. Coffee van available
8.30 am	Worship with holy communion
10.00 am	Morning tea
10.30 am	Business session & presentations including presentations from SA-NT District Bishop and district ministries
12.20 pm	Lunch
12.55 pm	Business session including presentations by SA-NT district ministries
3.30 pm	Closing worship
4.00 pm	Convention close

Rules for Transacting Business at Synodical Conventions

These rules are an extract of the District Constitution, By-Laws Part B, which deal with *Entitlement to Speak and Vote and Procedure in Transacting Business*.

1. Who can submit matters for discussion at convention?

1. Congregations or parishes
2. Standing committees or councils of the District, provided the matter is within the terms of reference of the group
3. The Pastors' Conference
4. The District Church Council or its Executive
5. The General Church Board or its Executive

2. Roles, responsibilities and opportunities for delegates during convention

1. Delegates present to convention any proposal their congregation/parish has placed on the agenda
2. While delegates will be aware of their congregation's attitudes, they will be responsible for voting according to their assessment of the debate at Convention
3. Delegates may use the opportunity at convention to network with other delegates in areas of mission and ministry, which could assist their congregation

3. How is the quorum determined?

One-half plus one of those entitled to vote make up the quorum.

For the purposes of establishing the quorum, the following are **not** included:

1. Pastors who are called to the LCA Churchwide Office
2. Pastors at Australian Lutheran College
3. Pastors called to District education communities
4. Pastors emeriti

4. Who can speak at convention?

1. All delegates
2. Consultants
3. The Bishop of the LCANZ
4. Chairpersons of standing committees and councils of the District
5. Visitors, with the permission of the chairperson

5. Who can vote at convention?

1. Elected lay delegates
2. Elected school principal delegates
3. Pastors of the District
4. SA-NT District Church Council members
5. SA-NT District Administrator
6. Team Leader of the Children and Families, Youth and Young Adults Department
7. Director of Lutheran Education SA, NT and WA
8. Chief Executive Officer of Lutheran Community Care
9. Chaplaincy Ministry Coordinator
10. Chairperson of standing committees and councils of the District

What rules are followed in transacting business?

1. Chairperson's role and responsibilities

1. The business of Convention is chaired by the District Bishop, unless he asks the First Assistant Bishop, the Second Assistant Bishop or a lay person to take the chair, with the approval of the convention
2. If the Chairperson wishes to not act as chairperson for the business at any stage during convention, the First Assistant Bishop, the Second Assistant Bishop or an appointed lay person can act as chair
3. If a lay person is appointed as chairperson, that person will not have voting rights, unless appointed as a delegate by their congregation
4. The chairperson ensures that a quorum is present for the transaction of business
5. Deference shall be paid to the chairperson's authority. All present must be seated whenever the chairperson speaks, and the chairperson must be heard without interruption, except when a point of order is raised
6. The chairperson can call attention to continued irrelevance or tedious repetition on the part of a speaker, and may direct the speaker to stop speaking
7. The chairperson can speak briefly for the purpose of providing information
8. The chairperson may provide instructions for presenters and those wishing to speak to proposals
9. The chairperson shall give opportunity for speakers for and against a motion or an amendment to be heard
10. If disorder arises, the chairperson may announce an adjournment of the convention, and by that action the convention is immediately adjourned for a period of not more than 30 minutes
11. The Convention may be adjourned by the chairperson if a proposal to adjourn is received from the floor and is approved accordingly by delegates

2. Proposals and reports to convention

1. All proposals on the agenda must be placed before the convention for discussion and decision, unless the proposer withdraws the proposal (with the consent of the convention)
2. All reports published in the Book of Reports (and supplements) are regarded by the convention as having been received
3. The mover of any motion is permitted to speak for a maximum of **five (5) minutes**. The limit for other speakers is a maximum of **three (3) minutes**, unless there is a resolution from convention granting extra time.
4. Any rules relating to time limits and the number of times a person can speak can be suspended by the ruling of the chairperson or by a majority decision of the convention
5. No motion or amendment can be discussed or voted on until it has been moved and seconded by a delegate.
6. Proposals coming from reports of councils and standing committees of the District are considered to have been moved and seconded
7. Matters of conscience and doctrine will have precedence over other proposals

3. Voting at convention

1. A motion shall be decided by a show of voting cards unless a secret ballot is required by the chairperson or requested by a delegate and granted by resolution of the convention
2. If there is a disagreement about the result of a vote, a recount or a second vote can be requested
3. Unless otherwise stipulated, a simple majority will decide a motion. However, if the votes are equal, the chairperson (only if the Bishop, First or Second Assistant Bishop is chairing the meeting at that time), in addition to having a deliberative vote, will have a casting vote, or may refer the question for further consideration by convention.
A non-delegate chairperson has neither a deliberative or casting vote.

4. Speaking at convention

1. People wishing to speak, after being called upon by the chairperson, shall stand and address the chair, providing their name and congregation or entity represented
2. The speaker is not to be interrupted, unless a point of order is raised
3. Those taking part in the debate will be limited to one speech on a proposal, except to clear up a misunderstanding or to exercise a right of reply, unless the convention grants permission.
4. If, in the opinion of any delegate, an irregularity in procedure occurs the delegate may immediately, without asking permission from the chair, rise to a "point of order", and shall be heard straight away. The delegate must explain the point of order clearly and briefly, without introducing new matters. The chairperson shall decide either to uphold or disallow the point raised, and the decision shall not be debated, unless there is an appeal against the ruling of the chairperson
5. Debate on a motion or an amendment may be closed if a delegate proposes that voting take place immediately. However, the chairperson, believing that the proposal has not been sufficiently discussed, may refuse to accept the motion
6. Those who have signified their intention to speak before moving the closure of debate may be given the right to speak at the discretion of the chairperson

5. Superseding and referral

1. A motion may be superseded for that particular convention by the acceptance of any of the following motions:
 1. that the debate be adjourned
 2. that the convention proceeds to the next business
2. Any proposals before the convention may be referred to a special committee for study and report to the convention by:
 1. the District Church Council prior to the sessions
 2. the convention during sessions

6. Amendments to proposals and motions

1. Only one amendment to a motion shall be before the chair at any one time. After that amendment has been accepted or rejected, another may be moved. Notice of a further amendment may be given at any time
2. Proposers of amendments shall present the amendment to the chairperson in writing, if requested
3. Every amendment must be relevant to the motion to which it refers
4. A right of reply is allowed only to the mover of the original motion. It concludes the debate unless there are one or more amendments, in which case it may be exercised at the conclusion of the debate on the first amendment

5. Seconded amendments are new motions, and those who have spoken to the motion are permitted to speak again.
6. As a general rule, motions and amendments will be read before a vote is taken and the chairperson shall, if necessary, briefly explain their meaning.
7. No motion may be brought forward which is the same in substance as a proposal which has already been resolved by the convention, except if a motion calling for reconsideration is received by the chairperson. If the motion to reconsider the proposal is carried by the convention, the previous vote is cancelled, and the original proposal is again before the convention. A proposal may be reconsidered only once at the same convention.
8. No formal motion may be moved or seconded by anyone who has moved, seconded or spoken to the motion or any amendment
9. If the mover and seconder of a motion request, the motion or amendment may be withdrawn with the approval of the convention

Any of these standing orders may be suspended if two-thirds of the delegates present consent.

The District shall not be bound by any statements or plans contained in a report, but only by specific resolutions on matters arising from reports and carried by the convention.

7. Delegate responsibilities after convention

1. Delegates will receive a summary report of the convention
2. Delegates have the responsibility to report to their congregation or entity and leadership team any major decisions and significant information from reports given and statements made at convention
3. During the following years, delegates share information about District mission and ministry initiatives.
4. Delegates may be requested to provide advice to the District Church Council and participate in out of convention voting processes

Instructions for asking questions or making comments during business sessions

1. Any delegate wishing to ask a question will raise their hand whilst remaining seated.
2. A staff member will provide that person with a numbered card.
3. Person number 1 will make their way to the microphone and wait to be directed to ask their question. The chair will also request the next number to make their way to the microphone and be ready to ask their question.
4. The speaker will announce their name and congregation they are representing then proceed to ask their question or make their comment.
5. Please ensure that you adhere to social distancing requirements if lining up to speak at the microphone.
6. At the conclusion of your question please place your numbered card in the box provided and follow the floor markings to return to your seat.
7. As there will be limited opportunities for delegates to ask questions or comment on a proposal, please be considerate when raising your hand for a numbered card and please try to be concise with your comment or question. We especially encourage those delegates who have not previously spoken at convention to have an opportunity to be heard.



PROPOSALS

Proposals

Proposal 1 - Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VIII, Sections G, I and B. (1) of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: The 2018 District Convention of Synod resolved to disband a number of District departments and committees and this resolution is updating the District Constitution to reflect all the changes that had been previously approved by the Synod.

G. Standing Committees

The Standing Committees of the District are as follows:

- ~~I. DEPARTMENT FOR ADMINISTRATION~~
 - ~~1 Constitutions Committee~~
 - ~~2 Nominations Committee~~
 - ~~3 Electoral Committee~~
 - ~~4 Committee on Discipline and Adjudication~~
- ~~II. DEPARTMENT FOR AGED CARE~~
 - ~~1 Lutheran Aged Care Council~~ **Committee**
 - ~~2 Constitution of Riverview Lutheran Homes, Loxton~~
 - ~~3 Constitution of Tanunda Lutheran Home~~
- ~~III. DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS~~
 - ~~1 Council for Children and Families; Youth and Young Adults~~
- ~~IV. DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY CARE~~
 - ~~1 Lutheran Community Care Council~~
- ~~V. DEPARTMENT FOR MISSION~~
 - ~~1 Council for Mission~~
 - ~~2 Aboriginal Ministry SA~~
- ~~VI. DEPARTMENT FOR CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES~~
 - ~~1 Council for Chaplaincy Ministries~~

~~III. DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS~~

~~COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS~~

- ~~1 Membership: The Team shall consist of nine (9) members with at least one (1) member to be a pastor:~~
 - ~~(a) seven (7) to be elected by Synod;~~
 - ~~(b) two (2) to be appointed by Church Council.~~
- ~~2 Duties: The duties of the Team shall be to:~~
 - ~~(a) provide supervision for the Director of Children and Families; Youth and Young Adults, being responsible for the overall program of the Director, the operational framework of children and families; youth and young adults ministry within the District and concerned with the general welfare of the Director;~~

- ~~(b) work with congregations and the District to develop ministry with young people and their families;~~
- ~~(c) coordinate children and families; youth and young adults related activities in the District;~~
- ~~(d) work in close cooperation with the LCA Board for Youth Ministry and other Lutheran groups as appropriate;~~
- ~~(e) supply information and bring recommendations to the Church Council regarding children and families; youth and young adults ministry;~~
- ~~(f) submit, in conjunction with the Director of Children and Families; Youth and Young Adults, an annual report to Church Council, which shall present the report to Synod in years when Synod is to be in session.~~
- ~~(g) ——— submit reports and budgets as required to the Church Council in conjunction with the Director of Children and Families; Youth and Young Adults;~~
- ~~(h) meet bi monthly, or when called by the Chairperson.~~

~~V. DEPARTMENT FOR MISSION COUNCIL FOR MISSION~~

~~1—Membership~~

- ~~(a) The Council for Mission shall consist of eight (8) members with at least one (1) member a pastor:~~
 - ~~(i) four (4) members to be elected by Synod;~~
 - ~~(ii) four (4) members to be appointed by Church Council.~~

~~2—Duties~~

- ~~(a) The duties of the Council shall be to:~~
- ~~(b) be responsible for the implementation of the Department for Mission's current mission statement as printed in Policy Statements of the District D12;~~
- ~~(c) support and be concerned with the general welfare of the Assistant Bishop for Mission;~~
- ~~(d) submit an annual report to the Church Council for presentation to Synod;~~
- ~~(e) submit a budget for the ensuing twelve months to the Church Council;~~
- ~~(f) meet as a rule, every month, or when called by the Chairperson.~~

~~VI. DEPARTMENT FOR CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES~~

~~1) —Purpose~~

- ~~——— To be the compassionate presence of Jesus in institutions, organisations and workplaces in the Lutheran Church of Australia SA/NT District.~~

~~2) —Vision~~

- ~~——— To support and grow a vital and effective Chaplaincy Ministry of the District with dedicated and caring chaplains by encouraging meaningful partnerships with local Lutheran communities or other partnerships as appropriate in support of the needs of our wider community.~~

~~3) Objects~~

- ~~a) Oversight: to provide spiritual oversight of the various areas of chaplaincy ministry;~~
- ~~b) Pastoral Care: to provide an environment where chaplains are cared for, encouraged and supported;~~
- ~~c) Supervision: to ensure and develop support structures relevant to the specific chaplaincy bodies and for individual chaplains;~~
- ~~d) Recruitment Support: to promote the ministry and mission opportunities in the various areas of chaplaincy in the District, and provide assistance in the recruitment of new chaplains;~~
- ~~e) Training: in consultation with Australian Lutheran College, Grassroots, and other training bodies, develop lines of training applicable to the needs of chaplains and the institutions and organisations they serve;~~
- ~~f) Expand: to look for and develop new opportunities of chaplaincy ministry in the District in partnership with local Lutheran communities;~~
- ~~g) Liaison with Institutions: to ensure that the chaplaincy ministries provided meet the needs of the institutions being served;~~
- ~~h) Accountability to the Church: to represent chaplaincy ministries to the District by maintaining effective communication and mutual accountability with the District and so ensure a good working relationship with the church;~~
- ~~i) Wider Christian Community: to relate to and communicate with other denominations, para-church bodies and local fraternals;~~
- ~~j) Professional Standards: to oversee the development and promotion of professional standards of chaplains, appropriate to the circumstances of the institutions being served.~~

~~4) Membership~~

~~The Council for Chaplaincy Ministries shall consist of seven (7) members with at least one (1) member to be a pastor, to be elected by Synod.~~

~~5) Duties:~~

~~The duties of the Council shall be to:~~

- ~~(a) testify to the love of Jesus Christ by ministering to people who have special social, mental and physical needs;~~
- ~~(b) recommend for appointment by the Church Council, such chaplains and counsellors as are necessary to service the needs of the various Health Services, Correctional Services, Tertiary Institutions, and other Institutions or bodies assigned to its care;~~
- ~~(c) ensure that chaplains and counsellors are adequately trained to serve in this special ministry;~~
- ~~(d) co-operate with the appropriate Mission and Community Care Committees of the District and other Community Care agencies;~~
- ~~(e) develop and extend the activity of the Church in this work in accordance with available personnel and finance;~~
- ~~(f) receive written reports from those under its supervision as deemed necessary;~~
- ~~(g) submit an annual report to the Church Council for submission to Synod;~~

- ~~(h) submit a budget of estimated expenditure for the ensuing year to the Church Council, which shall present the report to Synod in years when Synod is to be in session.~~
- ~~(i) meet at least quarterly, or when called by the Chairperson.~~

DIRECTOR FOR CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES

1) ~~Purpose of the Role~~

~~Director for Chaplaincy Ministries is under the Department for Chaplaincy Ministries. The Director's role is to ensure that the Department for Chaplaincy Ministries purpose and vision is developed and fulfilled.~~

2) ~~Accountability~~

~~The Director shall:~~

- ~~a) Work in close consultation and cooperation with, and under the general oversight of the District Bishop.~~
- ~~b) Be under the direct supervision of the Council for Chaplaincy Ministries which shall be responsible for the overall program of the Director, and shall be concerned about his welfare.~~

3) ~~Responsibilities~~

~~The Director for Chaplaincy Ministries will focus on five key areas~~

~~i) Support, Oversight and Pastoral Care, through:~~

- ~~a) Forming, developing, and empowering partnerships with key stakeholders.~~
- ~~b) Ensuring structures are in place to provide pastoral care of chaplains.~~
- ~~c) Encouraging and empowering chaplains within their 'community' roles.~~
- ~~d) Maintaining regular contact with chaplains to provide guidance and pastoral support.~~
- ~~e) Identifying and addressing pastoral needs with chaplains for the benefit of all concerned.~~
- ~~f) Becoming involved in new chaplaincy opportunities.~~

~~ii) Promotion, Recruitment, Training and Development, through:~~

- ~~a) Communicating a passion for chaplaincy ministry within the SA/NT District.~~
- ~~b) Identifying and developing individuals for chaplaincy roles.~~
- ~~c) Raising the profile of chaplaincy ministry, chaplains, and the groups they serve.~~
- ~~d) Ensuring chaplains have the necessary skills to provide quality chaplaincy ministry.~~
- ~~e) Ensuring all chaplains have a plan for their personal development.~~
- ~~f) Ensuring chaplains are engaging in relevant educational and professional development opportunities.~~
- ~~g) Supporting key stakeholders in the recruitment of new chaplains.~~

~~iii) Communication and Relationships, through:~~

- ~~a) Forming effective and meaningful partnerships that benefit chaplains and their communities.~~

- ~~b) Engaging in dialogue with individuals, groups, agencies and communities with different issues, backgrounds and needs.~~
- ~~e) Increasing the profile of the Department for Chaplaincy Ministries.~~
- ~~d) Forming relationships and networks that support chaplaincy ministries.~~
- ~~e) Communicating effectively with all key stake holders, chaplains, and the communities they serve, using a variety of media.~~
- ~~iv) New Opportunities, Partnerships, Innovation, and Strategic Goals, through:~~
 - ~~a) Encouraging involvement and partnerships with Lutheran communities.~~
 - ~~b) Networking with chaplaincy leaders from other disciplines, Districts, and denominations.~~
 - ~~c) Exploring new and innovative approaches to chaplaincy ministry.~~
 - ~~d) Providing opportunities for sharing and testing insights and issues, in Church and non-church settings, pertaining to chaplaincy ministries and the practical, social, ethical and theological implications these raise.~~
- ~~v) Governance, Management and Administration, through:~~
 - ~~a) Understanding the expectations of the reporting process to the Council for Chaplaincy Ministries and the District Church Council.~~
 - ~~b) Participating in key leadership opportunities within the Lutheran Church of Australia.~~
 - ~~c) Participate regularly in South Australia Leaders Team (SALT) meetings.~~
 - ~~d) Ensuring all required standards, regulations and qualifications are complied with.~~
 - ~~e) Dealing with all matters of concern in a prompt, professional and efficient manner.~~
 - ~~f) Ensuring all necessary reporting is undertaken and that the Department operates within budgetary allocations.~~
 - ~~g) Discussing significant or urgent concerns and opportunities with the Chairperson of the Council for Chaplaincy Ministries and/or the District Bishop.~~

~~DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS~~

~~1) Appointment~~

- ~~a) The Director of Children and Families; Youth and Young Adults shall be appointed by the Church Council in consultation with the committees of the Department of Children and Families; Youth and Young Adults.~~
- ~~b) The Director shall be appointed for a probationary period to be determined by the Children and Families; Youth and Young Adults Team, after which the appointment shall be confirmed or terminated by the Church Council on the recommendation of the Children and Families; Youth and Young Adults Team.~~
- ~~c) In consultation with the Children and Families; Youth and Young Adults Team, the appointment may be terminated by either the Director or the Church Council provided that three (3) months notice is given. In the case of false doctrine, ungodly life or gross neglect of duty, (see District Constitution, Article X 1 [b]) the appointment may be terminated by the Church Council at its discretion.~~

~~2) Relationship to the District Bishop.~~

~~The Director shall work in close consultation and co-operation with, and be under the general oversight of, the Bishop.~~

~~3) Duties~~

~~The Director shall:~~

- ~~(a) work with congregations in the District to promote the nurturing of healthy and faithful children, young people and families who are committed to Christ and a life of service in God's world.;~~
- ~~(b) coordinate children and families; youth and young adults related activities in the District;~~
- ~~(c) provide support and encouragement to full time and part time youth workers, utilising the gifts and skills of these workers in the overall youth ministry of the District;~~
- ~~(d) work in close cooperation with LCA Board for Youth Ministry and other groups as appropriate and participate as a member of the SA Heads of Churches Schools Ministry Group;~~
- ~~(e) offer new vision and models for ministry with children young people and their families;~~
- ~~(f) facilitate training of volunteers and professionals in children and families; youth and young adult ministry;~~
- ~~(g) provide consultation and resources to individuals, families and congregation;~~
- ~~(h) be under the supervision of the Children and Families; Youth and Young Adults Team;~~
- ~~(i) report to the Children and Families; Youth and Young Adults Team bi-monthly and as required;~~
- ~~(j) attend meetings of the Church Council as invited, to act as a consultant;~~
- ~~(k) in conjunction with the Children and Families; Youth and Young Adults Team, submit an annual report to Church Council for presentation to Synod;~~
- ~~(l) in conjunction with the Children and Families; Youth and Young Adults Team, submit reports and budgets to Church Council as required.~~

Proposal 2 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VIII, Section II of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: The Aged Care Committee have changed their function and role over the years, particularly in light of the LCA Ministry for the Ageing Department, and this proposal clarifies their role.

~~II. DEPARTMENT FOR AGED CARE~~

LUTHERAN AGED CARE ~~COUNCIL~~ **COMMITTEE**

Preamble

Our gracious God brings people to faith in Christ, a faith which is to be active in love (Gal 5:6). Our care for ~~elderly~~ **ageing** people should, therefore, be an expression of God's love and of our love and respect for them. Our desire is that they know Christ as their Saviour, grow in faith in him, serve him here, and finally be with him in heaven.

1 Objects

To carry out our ministry to the ~~aged~~ **ageing**, the Aged Care ~~Council~~ **Committee** will strive to:

- (a) promote and support the ministry of care to the ~~elderly~~ **with the ageing** in the District;
- (b) advise the District Church Council on aged care matters and help the District to implement an effective ministry to the ~~elderly~~ **ageing**;
- (c) encourage and support congregations and aged care organisations within the District in their efforts to minister to ~~elderly~~ **ageing** members of the District Church and the wider community;
- (d) encourage and assist members of the Church to prepare and equip themselves for this important ministry of the Church.

2 Membership

The Council

(1) The Council shall consist of ~~ten (10)~~ **four (4)** members.

(2) Membership shall comprise

~~(a) one (1) pastor and three (3) lay members elected by Synod;~~

~~(b) one (1) pastor, three (3) lay members and two (2) other members appointed by District Church Council from nominations submitted by the Aged Care Council.~~

(3) ~~At least two (2) of those appointed by District Church Council~~ **Ideally all members** shall be directly involved in aged care ministry in congregations and/or in aged care organisations within the District.

(4) ~~One (1) of the pastors~~ **The pastor** shall be a pastor who serves an aged care organisation within the District.

3 Duties

The duties of the Council shall be to:

- (a) receive the Lutheran Church of Australia's Aged Care Policy and administer it as appropriate within the District;
- ~~(b) promote and disseminate the District Aged Care Policy to congregations and aged care organisations of the District;~~

- (c) offer advice and resources to, and assist in the resolution of problems where appropriate in, aged care organisations and congregations in the District;
- (d) encourage cooperation between aged care organisations in the District and in the LCA **and encourage organisations and local congregations to co-minister to the ageing;**
- ~~(e) promote the role of Australian Lutheran College in equipping people for ministry to the elderly;~~
- ~~(f) encourage the education of staff of aged care organisations in the Christian approach to aged care;~~
- ~~(g) encourage and support ministries with elderly ageing people at the congregational level by helping pastors to keep informed about aged care developments and the needs of the elderly ageing; and by assisting congregations in their ministry to the elderly;~~
- ~~(h) receive annual reports from aged care organisations directly responsible to the District, or under the auspices of the District;~~
- (i) submit an annual report to the Church Council, ~~which shall~~ and present the report to Synod in years when Synod is to be in session.

Proposal 3 - Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District, as required by the LCA General Convention of Synod 2018

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following constitution changes be approved, as required by the LCA General Convention of Synod of 2018 (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: The LCA General Convention of Synod made a number of changes to the LCA Inc constitution, which incorporates the model constitution for the Districts. The LCA SA-NT District are now required to implement these amendments into the District Constitution as outlined below.

The changes being:

- Change of name from General Church Council to General Church Board
- Additional interpretation clause
- Amendment to the Membership clause
- Amendment to the Objects clause

LCA Standing Committee on Constitutions have provided this information to the District for inclusion in the Book of Reports.

Item 1: Change from General Church Council to General Church Board

All instances of 'General Church Council' have been replaced with 'General Church Board' as outlined below:

Article 11. DISSOLUTION

- 11.1 Changes to the prescribed geographical area of the District, dissolution of the District, or an amalgamation of the District with one or more other Districts or with the Church or changes to the legislative or governance structure of the Church affecting the District shall be determined according to the procedure set out in this article.
- 11.2 Action initiated by the Church
- 11.2.1 For any action referred to in the preceding clause 11.1 initiated by the Church, the General Church ~~Council~~ **Board**, in consultation with the District Church Council and its Synod, shall outline the reasons, purposes and procedure for such a proposal and make a recommendation to the District Synod. Upon an in principle agreement, the matter shall proceed to a General Synod for approval.
- 11.2.2 Any decision for any action referred to in the preceding clause 11.1 shall be made by the Church according to the following procedure:
- 11.2.2.1 Notice of a motion specifying such action shall be given to the delegates of the General Synod.
- 11.2.2.2 At least thirty [30] days written notice of a General Synod, specifying such action as a special motion, shall be given to the delegates of the General Synod.
- 11.2.2.3 The motion must be presented at a duly constituted General Synod and shall require a majority of three-quarters of all the registered delegates of the General Synod.
- 11.2.3 Once a decision has been determined by the Church according to the preceding clause 11.2.2 it shall be communicated to the District which shall then take the following action:

- 11.2.3.1 Notice of a motion specifying the action shall be given to the delegates of the District Synod.
- 11.2.3.2 At least thirty [30] days written notice of a District Synod, specifying the action to be taken as a special motion, shall be given to the delegates of the District Synod.
- 11.2.3.3 The motion must be presented at a duly constituted District Synod and shall require a majority of three-quarters of all the registered delegates of the District Synod.
- 11.2.3.4 The special resolution shall be submitted to the General Church ~~Council~~ **Board**.

11.3 Action initiated by the District

- 11.3.1 For any action referred to in the preceding clause 11.1 initiated by the District, the District shall outline the reasons, purposes and procedure for such a proposal to the General Church ~~Council~~ **Board** for consultation prior to presentation to the District Synod.
- 11.3.2 Following such consultation as described in the preceding clause 11.3.1, any outline of the reasons and purposes for dissolution shall be made by the District according to the following procedure:
 - 11.3.2.1 Notice of a motion specifying the action shall be given to the delegates of the District Synod.
 - 11.3.2.2 At least thirty [30] days written notice of a District Synod, specifying such action as a special motion, shall be given to the delegates of the District Synod.
 - 11.3.2.3 The motion must be presented at a duly constituted District Synod and shall require a majority of three-quarters of all the registered delegates of the District Synod.
 - 11.3.2.4 The special resolution shall be submitted to the General Church ~~Council~~ **Board**.
- 11.3.3 Upon agreement, the General Church ~~Council~~ **Board**, subject to the provisions in the Constitution of the Church, Article 9.2, shall submit the proposal to a General Synod for approval according to the procedure in the preceding clause 11.2.2.

- 11.4 Any recommendation or motion for dissolution of the District must address the transferring of the surplus assets of the District to either the Church or another district of the Church.
- 11.5 The District Synod shall take all steps required to implement the special resolution for action under this clause, including the making of changes required in respect of incorporation under the Act and/or other relevant legislation.

Article 12. BY-LAWS

- 12.1 The District through its Synod may petition the Church or its General Church ~~Council~~ **Board** to amend, alter, add to or repeal any of the By-laws of the District Part A.
- 12.2 The District shall have the power at a convention of the Synod to make By-laws Part B not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-laws of the Church, and 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, and it may amend, alter, add to or repeal such By-laws from time to time.

- 12.3 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 Bishop has absolute discretion to defer consideration thereof and voting thereon until the next day.

Article 13. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 13.1 The District, through its Synod, in accordance with the procedure laid down in the By-laws of the Church may petition the Church or its General Church ~~Council~~ **Board**, to amend, alter, add to or repeal any of the rules, except Article 2. and Article 13.1 of the Constitution, which shall be considered fundamental and unalterable in their intent and meaning.
- 13.2 Notice of any motion to amend, alter, add to or repeal any of the rules shall be given on the agenda of the convention, and any such motion shall require a two-thirds majority of all the registered delegates at the convention, unless the motion relates to an amendment, alteration, addition or repeal already approved or recommended by General Synod or General Church ~~Council~~ **Board** of the Church, in which case the motion shall require a majority of those voting.

Section 7. THE SYNOD

- 7.1 Lay delegates shall be voting members of the congregation.
- 7.2 The following shall be entitled to submit matters for discussion at the convention of the Synod of the District:
- 7.2.1 any congregation;
 - 7.2.2 any parish;
 - 7.2.3 any Standing Committee, Council , and Commission of the District, provided the matter is within its terms of reference;
 - 7.2.4 the Pastors' Conference;
 - 7.2.5 the Church Council , or its Executive; or
 - 7.2.6 the General Church ~~Council~~ **Board** of the Church, or its Executive.

Section 8. OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATION

- 8.5 The Treasurer shall
- 8.5.1 perform those duties generally incumbent upon such an office, and as prescribed in the By-laws Part B;
 - 8.5.2 forward to the Secretary of the Church at such times as shall be determined by the General Church ~~Council~~ **Board**, all moneys for the Treasury of the Church; and
 - 8.5.3 forward annually to the Secretary of the Church a financial statement of all receipts and expenditure of the District.
- The Executive Secretary, where appointed, shall perform these duties.

Item 2: Addition of interpretation clause

This addition was made to the Constitution of the Church.

Article 1. NAME AND INTERPRETATION

- 1.2.3 **'Evangelical Lutheran Church' is a generic reference to churches throughout the world which proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as understood and confessed in the Book of Concord of 1580;**

Item 3: Membership of bodies not formally constituted as congregations

The Constitution of the Church was modified to allow for additional bodies to apply to the Church for membership of the Church in the same way as a congregation.

Article 4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 The membership of the District shall include congregations of baptised members. Such congregations shall
- 4.1.1 accept and hold the Confession of the Church;
 - 4.1.2 accept the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church and the District;
 - 4.1.3 submit a Constitution and By-Laws acceptable to the Church and the District; and
 - 4.1.4 undertake to participate in the work of the Church and the District and to promote their Objects.
- Such member congregations shall be recorded in the official Roll of Congregations of the District and shall exercise their membership rights in accordance with the representation requirements outlined in the following Article 7.2.1.
- 4.2 The District shall consist
- 4.2.1** of the congregations which are members of the Church in the area of the District; **and**
 - 4.2.2 other bodies in the area of the District which are accepted as members of the Church pursuant to Article 4.2 of the Constitution of the Church.**

Item 4: Change to Objects clause

The Constitution of the Church was modified to included a remodelled object at 3.1.14.

Article 3. OBJECTS

- 3.1 The District accepts the Objects of the Church and shall promote them within its assigned area. These Objects are to
- 3.1.1 fulfil the mission of the Christian Church in the world by proclaiming the Word of God and administering the Sacraments in accordance with the Confession of the Church laid down in the preceding Article 2.;
 - 3.1.2 unite in one body Evangelical Lutheran congregations in Australia and New Zealand for the more effective work of the Church;
 - 3.1.3 promote and maintain true Christian unity in the bond of peace;
 - 3.1.4 ensure that preaching, teaching, and practice in the Church are in conformity with the Confession of the Church;
 - 3.1.5 provide pastors and teachers and other church workers for service in the Church and its congregations, and for this purpose to establish and maintain institutions for their training;
 - 3.1.6 encourage every congregation to carry out its mission to its local community;

- 3.1.7 establish, develop and support new congregations where it is not possible for individual congregations to do so;
- 3.1.8 support and cooperate with selected churches in other lands as they seek to carry out their mission;
- 3.1.9 dialogue with other Christian church bodies;
- 3.1.10 establish and maintain schools and other institutions and to foster all other means whereby the members of the congregations receive Christian education;
- 3.1.11 cultivate uniformity in worship, ecclesiastical practice and customs in accord with the principles laid down in Article X. of the Formula of Concord;
- 3.1.12 publish, procure, and distribute literature compatible with the Confession and principles of the Church;
- 3.1.13 minister to human need in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord in the spirit of Christian love and service, and provide institutions and agencies for this purpose; and
- ~~3.1.14 take such action as is necessary for the protection of the congregations, pastors, teachers and other church workers in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights.~~
- 3.1.14 maintain and promote a culture of care in all areas of the Church and its activities, so that all people, especially the vulnerable such as children and the aged, are protected against any form of spiritual, emotional, physical and sexual abuse by ensuring that**
 - 3.1.14.1 appropriate governance and leadership structures are in place;**
 - 3.1.14.2 policies and procedures are appropriately prescribed;**
 - 3.1.14.3 a culture of safety and care for children and all people is actively encouraged and practiced; and**
 - 3.1.14.4 the well-being of congregations, pastors, teachers and other church workers in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights is supported and promoted.**

Proposal 4 - Amendment To The LCA Theses Of Agreement

Submitted by Adelaide St Stephen's Lutheran Church

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that, in the interests of good order and the unity and well-being of the Church, the SA-NT District recommend to the 2021 LCA/NZ general convention that Theses of Agreement 6.11,1 be removed from the Theses of Agreement.

The LCANZ teaches that 'the Theses of Agreement are always under the authority of the Word of God, and therefore there must always be a readiness to submit them to the critical scrutiny of God's Word and accordingly confirm them, or amend or repudiate them when further study of God's Word shows them to be inadequate or in error'.² This statement has given the Church the freedom to study closely the teaching that only men may be ordained during the past three decades.

However, the protracted period of theological reflection regarding ordination, on the basis of the Scriptures, has failed to resolve the differences in teaching that are all too evident in the Church. In the Theses of Agreement (Theses of Agreement 1, 'Principles governing Church Fellowship' (DSTO, page A2, 4.c), the Church clearly states that 'there are some things hard to be understood in Holy Writ (2 Peter 3:16); and no doctrine can be based on Scripture passages that are not clear, especially if no light is thrown on them by clear passages'.

Those who formulated the Church's foundational documents agreed in advance how to deal with doctrinal differences that might emerge in the new Church. They stipulated that if the Church fails to reach 'agreement on the basis of God's Word' on a doctrinal matter after 'combined, prayerful examination of the passage or passages in question', neither of the 'divergent views' may be 'promulgated as the *publica doctrina* (public teaching) of the Lutheran Church, as laid down in the Confessions', if it lacks clear scriptural support, if it violates the central Lutheran teaching of justification by God's grace through faith in Christ, or if it runs counter to the Church's public teaching on the doctrine in question, in this case the ministry.³

- Neither those who support the ordination of both women and men and those who support the Church's teaching have been able to persuade *the whole Church* that their position alone has clear scriptural support, even though both make such a claim.
- Neither group has persuaded *the whole Church* that their position alone upholds the central Lutheran teaching of justification by God's grace through faith in Christ, even though both make the claim.
- Neither position has persuaded *the whole Church* that their stance alone is faithful to the Lutheran Confessions' teaching on the public ministry, even though both make the claim.

¹ Theses of Agreement 6.11 reads: Though women prophets were used by the Spirit of God in the Old as well as in the New Testament, 1 Cor. 14:34,35 and 1 Tim. 2:11-14 prohibit a woman from being called into the office of the public ministry for the proclamation of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments. This apostolic rule is binding on all Christendom; hereby her rights as a member of the spiritual priesthood are in no wise impaired. 'Theses on the Office of the Ministry', paragraph 6.11; *Doctrinal Statements and Theological Opinions*, LCA/NZ, page A17.

² 'The Permanent Status of the Theses of Agreement', *Doctrinal Statements and Theological Opinions*, LCA/NZ (DSTO), page A31

³ 'Principles governing Church Fellowship', DSTO, pages A2-A3. The relevant section of this document is paragraph 4, quoted in full in the Appendix (below).

The Church's 'combined, prayerful examination' of the relevant passages has not led to 'agreement on the basis of God's Word' on the ordination issue. And it seems unlikely that further discussion and debate will lead to a breakthrough, given the firmly entrenched positions that have emerged. Therefore, strictly speaking, neither of the divergent exegetical conclusions that have been in evidence since the start of the prolonged debate—male-only ordination and the ordination of both men and women—meets the criteria for being promulgated as an essential part of the whole Church's teaching on the ministry. According to the principles of TA 1.4 (see Appendix), both positions should be regarded as acceptable theological opinions that can be held without dividing the Church.

The LCA/NZ already has a teaching on the office of the ministry that avoids the divergent conclusions that have surfaced in the debate in our circles. It is articulated in Articles 5 and 14 of the Augsburg Confession and Theses of Agreement 6.1-10. This teaching states that God has instituted the ministry so that people can be brought to saving faith and nurtured in the faith through the proclamation of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments (AC 5). And the ministry requires an orderly process of call and ordination (AC 14).

To obtain such faith God instituted the office of the ministry, that is, provided the Gospel and the sacraments. Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit, who works faith, when and where he pleases, in those who hear the Gospel. And the Gospel teaches that we have a gracious God, not by our own merits but by the merit of Christ, when we believe this (Augsburg Confession 5); and,

It is taught among us that nobody should publicly teach or preach or administer the sacraments in the church without a regular call (AC 14).

The emphasis of these statements on the ministry from the Confessions is rightly placed on the office, not on the gender, of those who fill the office. Removing the paragraph in the Theses of Agreement that prohibits women's ordination does not require a new Lutheran teaching on the ministry, different from the one that is articulated in the Confessions (above).

With both groups united in their commitment to the Confessions' teaching on the ministry, it would be a wise course of action for the Church to affirm this one unchanging teaching that Lutherans have inherited from the time of the Reformation, and leave congregations⁴ free to call as their pastor the one they believe will best serve with them in their mission, from those who are qualified for the office, ordained and endorsed by the Church.

Removal of Theses of Agreement 6.11, which is sanctioned by the Church's foundational documents, allows both those who are conscience bound to support the ordination of both women and men, and also those who are conscience bound to reject the ordination of both men and women to share common ground on the Lutheran doctrine of the ministry, and it frees the LCA to adopt a middle way that respects and honours the consciences of those who take either position.

The removal of Theses of Agreement 6.11 would in no way impinge on the right of congregations to call the pastor of their choosing, whether they be male or female. Reaffirming Augsburg Confession 5 and 14 and Theses of Agreement 6.1-10 as the documents that give the LCA's teaching on the ministry gives the freedom and flexibility that befits a

⁴ Including other calling bodies such as aged care services and schools.

gospel-centred teaching and a gospel-centred Church. And it would contribute to the peace and unity of the Church.

Appendix 'Principles governing church fellowship', TA 1.4; DSTO, A2-A3

4. (a) We believe that where differences in teaching and practice exist or arise between Churches uniting, these differences are to be removed by willingly submitting to the authority of the Word of God. Where a difference in teaching or practice is a departure from the doctrine of the Bible, such difference cannot be tolerated, but must be pointed out as an error, on the basis of clear passages of Holy Writ; and if the error is persisted in, in spite of instruction, warning, and earnest witness, it must at last lead to a separation.

(b) We believe that all doctrines of Holy Writ are equally binding; nevertheless, not all things in Scripture are of the same importance, when viewed from the centre and core of the Scriptures, Christ and justification by Him through faith.

(c) We admit that there are some things hard to understand in Holy Writ, 2 Peter 3:16; but no doctrine can be based on Scripture passages that are not clear, especially if no light is thrown upon them by clear passages.

(d) Differences in exegesis that do not affect doctrine are not church divisive.

(e) In case of differences in exegesis that affect doctrine, agreement on the basis of God's word must be sought by combined, prayerful examination of the passage or passages in question.

If this does not lead to agreement, because no unanimity has been reached on the clarity of the passage or passages in question and hence on the stringency and adequacy of the Scriptural proof, divergent views arising from such differences of interpretation are not divisive of church fellowship, providing that there be the readiness in principle to submit to the authority of the Word of God, and providing that

- (i) Thereby no clear Word of Scripture is denied, contradicted or ignored;
- (ii) Such divergent views in no wise impair, infringe upon, or violate the central doctrine of Holy Scripture, justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ;
- (iii) Nothing is taught contrary to the *publica doctrina* of the Lutheran Church as laid out in its Confessions;
- (iv) Such divergent views are not propagated as the *publica doctrina* of the Church and in no wise impair the doctrine of Holy Writ.

Proposal 5 - LCA SA-NT District Assistant Bishop for Mission call extension

Submitted by SA-NT District Church Council

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that District Church Council recommend to the District Convention of Synod 2021 that the call to Pastor Stephen Schultz be extended for a further four years until the end of 2025.

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: A Review of Ministry of Pastor Stephen was conducted in early 2021, with various organisations and people across the LCA being surveyed on a number of areas around Stephen's call, including his ministry, his relationships within the LCA and more.

A meeting was held between District Church Council representatives and Pastor Stephen to review the results of this survey. On reflection:

- We thank God for Stephen's God-given talents that have been a blessing to all who engage with him in this challenging role.
- Respondents identified key affirmative areas as:
 - Stephen's ability to listen and understand the other person's point of view
 - flesh out issues and suggest meaningful options; and
 - to assist and engage with all members of the team in the District office, in particular his contribution to a constructive working relationship with Bishop David Altus.

District Church Council recommend the extension of Pastor Stephen's call for a further four-year period but Stephen has asked that he be placed on the available to call list after two years. This does not imply that he will accept a call away from the role if received, however it would allow God to place before him any other opportunities that the Church may discern.

Proposal 6 - Tea Tree Gully Proposal 1

Submitted by Tea Tree Gully Lutheran Church

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that the LCA SA-NT District Synod propose to the 2021 LCA/NZ general convention that Clause 3.2 in the Model Constitution for Congregations be replaced by the following:

The congregation accepts the pastoral guidelines for responsible communion practice in the LCA. The pastor and congregation agree to seek the district bishop's approval for any proposal for the public proclamation of the Word in the divine service by others than those normally authorised to do so in the LCA.

The current clause says

Article III "Relationship to the Church", Clause 3.2 of the LCA Model Constitution for Congregations:

3.2 In common with the Church, the Congregation regards unity in and the application in practice of doctrine as the necessary prerequisite for church fellowship, and rejects all forms of religious syncretism or unionism which are not in accord with the confessional position of the Church. The Congregation therefore adheres to the following principles:

3.2.1 Lutheran pulpits are for Lutheran pastors only and in determining any exception the consent of the Bishop of the Church must be obtained; and

3.2.2 Lutheran altars are for Lutheran communicants only and in determining any exceptions the Pastor shall exercise conscientious judgment consistent with the confession of the Church and its pastoral guidelines.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL:

1) **It better reflects the current policy of the LCA on Responsible Communion Practice**

The policy of the LCA on communion participation is now defined in the policy on *Responsible Communion Practice* (adopted by General Pastors' Conference in 1990). This takes a more nuanced approach than the clause in the model constitution.

2) **It states the current process for authorising other preachers in LCA worship services**

The current clause suggests that any Lutheran pastor is welcome to preach at our services. This is not the case. Our current policy requires approval from the district bishop.

3) **We are Ecumenical but not Syncretistic**

We are not abandoning our confession in favour of another, but engaging with other Christians as Lutherans whose confession is clearly defined, also in our constitutions. The current clause muddies these waters by its narrow focus and dated language.

4) **What the clause communicates is not what we want to say**

The wording in the model constitution needs to be clear so that what a detached reader understands is what we actually want to say. That is not the case with the present wording.

5) **It is therefore a hindrance to the mission of the Church in our context**

The impact of this clause on the mission of the Church makes it an urgent issue. The current wording sends the wrong message that our main focus is on being exclusive rather than

welcoming others. While it is no doubt true that few members read their constitution, when a new one is adopted or alterations are made it becomes an issue.

6) The SA-NT District Pastors proposed this same change to General Synod in June 2012

After discussing this over three conferences our District Pastors resolved to propose this amended wording to the LCA General Synod. It was on the agenda for the 2013 synod, but was never discussed because of a shortage of time. Synod therefore referred it as 'unfinished business' to General Church Council, and nothing more was done about it.

Proposal 7 - Tea Tree Gully Proposal 2

Submitted by Tea Tree Gully Lutheran Church

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that the LCA SA-NT District Synod propose to the 2021 LCA/NZ general convention that Clauses 5 and 10 in the Model Constitution for Congregations be amended as follows:

5.5 Any action involving excommunication shall be determined according to ~~the Scriptural~~ principles of ~~Scripture contained in Matthew 18:15-20 and related passages~~. Persons who refuse to accept Christian admonition and to discuss their case with the Congregation or its representatives thereby exclude themselves.

10. CHURCH DISCIPLINE

10.1 The Congregation shall exercise church discipline in an evangelical manner ~~in accordance with the procedure laid down in Matthew 18:15-17.~~

~~10.2 The stages of discipline are:~~

~~10.2.1 In an endeavour to convince the erring member at fault, there shall be:~~

~~10.2.1.1 personal admonition; and, if necessary~~

~~10.2.1.2 admonition in the presence of witnesses; and, if necessary,~~

~~10.2.1.3 admonition by the Congregation.~~

10.2. Any member who is evidently impenitent and unheeding of ~~the~~ admonition, shall be excluded from membership in the Congregation, through excommunication, pronounced by the Pastor as the called and ordained servant of the Word.

10.3 The purpose of all church discipline is to achieve reconciliation and restoration. This purpose is to be observed at all stages of ~~the procedure~~ a process of discipline.

10.4 If ~~the stages~~ a process of discipline cannot be carried out because the erring member refuses to submit to the discipline of the Congregation, self-exclusion shall be declared to have taken place.

10.5 The exercise of church discipline shall give due regard to the procedure set down in the Constitution of the Church under Article 10. Discipline, Adjudication and Appeals and any other provisions in the by laws and policies of the Church.

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL:

1) Specific references to Matthew 18 distort the overall message of Scripture regarding Christian discipline.

The Bible has a great deal to say about how we relate to one another in love, justice, protecting the vulnerable and settling disputes among us. When Matthew 18:15-17 is described as the procedure that must be used as a three-stage process, this negates everything else Scripture says.

2) The application of Matthew 18:15-20

This may be a helpful passage when there is a dispute between two adults, who are roughly equal in terms of power, standing and ability. When that is not the case, it allows the stronger party to prolong any abuse and try to manipulate the situation. For example, if a pastor has been acting in an abusive manner, it is unreasonable to expect a vulnerable parishioner to admonish the pastor privately before 'escalating' the issue and laying a complaint. As it stands this clause protects perpetrators of abuse.

- 3) Our rules should not enable offenders to use loopholes to avoid accountability or prolong their abuse.

The way this is written says that it applies to all situations of church discipline, so as ridiculous as it sounds, this allows an adult who has sexually abused a 15 year old to argue that the victim first needs to come to him/her alone, before telling anyone else. That allows all manner of pressure to be put on the victim and is neither consistent with the law of the land, nor LCA Professional Standards and Safe Place policies and procedures. We need to learn from the 'institutional abuse' royal commission and be careful what is in our rules. The LCA already has excellent policies and procedures. This amendment allows them to operate.

Proposal 8 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VII, Section A of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: The church has a number of publications and communication channels and communicates with its members in a variety of ways. The amendment provides for these methods of communication.

Auxiliaries are requested to report to the regular convention, which is held biennially.

A. The Convening of Synod

1. The regular convention of the District shall ordinarily be held in May or as near as possible to that time as arranged by the Church Council and the inviting congregation or congregations.
2. Notice of a regular convention shall be published by the District Administrator in ~~the~~ **an** official publication of the Church at least three (3) months before the appointed date.
3. Notice of a special convention shall be published by the District Administrator in ~~the~~ **an** official publication of the Church at least four (4) weeks before the date of such convention.
4. The Agenda, setting out details of the matters to be dealt with at the regular convention of the District, and Reports of Councils and Standing Committees shall be forwarded by the District Administrator to all delegates at least three (3) weeks before the date of such convention. Late proposals in writing and handed to the District Administrator before the first business session may be accepted by the convention and placed on the Agenda. At its discretion Synod may admit new business during the days of the convention.
5. The Agenda for a special convention shall be forwarded to all delegates at least one (1) week before the date of such convention. At its discretion Synod may admit new business during the sessions of the convention.
6. Each accredited Auxiliary of the Church within the District shall submit ~~an annual~~ **a** report of its activities to the regular convention of the District through the Church Council.

Proposal 9 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VII, Section E of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: There was no provision for electronic voting in this section and it is now required as the technology is available to enable this method of voting. In addition, the constitution did not reflect current practices.

~~E. Method of Voting Between Conventions~~

When, pursuant to Article VII, Clause 10 of the Constitution, the Church Council decides that a matter of urgency shall be referred to the delegates of the District for determination, the following procedure shall apply:

- 1 Information fully setting out the pro and contra shall be forwarded through the Bishop's office to all delegates. Delegates should, except in very urgent circumstances, consult with their respective congregations.
- 2 Voting shall be by ballot on the ballot paper provided. **Alternatively, voting can be by electronic means provided that the necessary safeguards are in place to ensure the validity of the vote.**
- 3 The ballots cast shall be returned separately by each delegate to the District Administrator ~~in an envelope provided~~. The date and hour of closure shall be stipulated by the Bishop. The District Administrator shall place all ballots, unopened, in a ballot box for safe keeping.
- 4 A committee of not more than three (3) members shall be appointed by the Church Council to count the votes. ~~This committee shall include at least the past chairperson of the Electoral Committee or the Chairperson's deputy.~~ The Committee shall meet at the time of the closing of the ballot to ~~place all ballots without scrutiny into a pile~~ after which all votes shall be counted.
- 5 The result of the ballot shall be conveyed by the committee to the Bishop who shall determine whether the official announcement to the District, indicating the number of votes cast in the affirmative and in the negative, shall be made in ~~the~~ **an** official publication of the Church or in a separate ~~circular~~ **communication**.

Proposal 10 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VIII, Section A of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: Processes and governance requirements have changed over the years and the current wording did not reflect these changes.

A. General Rules

1. Members of the Church Council shall not be eligible for any other elected position in the District, unless otherwise determined by convention. Other persons may be elected to not more than two (2) Standing Committees.
2. The initial term of office of the Bishop of the District shall be four (4) years, and he shall be eligible for re-election for one or more two (2) year terms.
 - (a) With the exception of the Bishop, the term of office of Officials of the District shall be two (2) years.
 - (b) The term of office of members of Church Council and Standing Committees elected by Synod shall be two (2) years unless otherwise specified in these By-laws, or determined by resolution of Synod. Retiring members are eligible for re election.
 - (c) The term of office of members of Standing Committees appointed by the Church Council shall be two (2) years, unless otherwise specified in these By-laws. Retiring members are eligible for re election.
 - (d) ~~There shall be no limit to the number of terms which the~~ Officials of the District, members of Standing Committees, and Executive Officers of the District may serve **a maximum of five terms. District Church Council will have the authority to approve an additional one term.**
 - (e) Any person appointed to fill a casual vacancy in an elective position shall hold office until the next regular convention of the District, when an election shall be held to fill the office for the unexpired term.
 - (f) Unless otherwise specified, the term of office of all newly elected Officials, Officers and Members of Standing Committees shall commence at the close of the convention at which they are elected.
 - (g) **If possible, there** ~~There~~ shall be no more than two (2) members of the governing body who are Christians other than from the Lutheran Church on each of the school and aged care boards resulting in no more than twenty (20) per-cent of the number of the board.
3. No parish shall have majority representation on any Standing Committee of the District, although majority representation on localised committees may be permitted.
4. Salaried Executive Officers and persons permanently employed by a Standing Committee of the District shall not be members of the Standing Committee under which they serve. Salaried Executive Officers shall not be members of Church Council.
5. The spouse of a salaried executive officer or person permanently employed by ~~a Standing Committee~~ of the District shall not be a member of the Standing

Committee/Board/Council under which such an executive officer or permanently employed person serves.

6. The election of an official of the District to a full-time office in the Church shall render vacant the previously held office in the District.
7. Positions held on Councils and Standing Committees of the District shall be deemed to be vacant upon the acceptance of a Call by a pastor to another District or upon the transfer of membership by a laymember to another District, unless the Church Council determines otherwise.
8. Any official, officer or committee member who ceases to hold membership in a congregation of the Church shall automatically cease to hold such position.
9. The District shall have the right to abolish any office or committee it has established.
10. All official books, records and correspondence of the officials, officers and committees of the District shall remain the property of the District.
11. Reports ~~and audited financial statements, where applicable,~~ shall be submitted by officials, officers, and committees ~~and commissions by January 15th or by such other date~~ fixed by the District Administrator in order to be available at the regular convention.

Proposal 11 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VIII, Section B of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: The role of the Bishop has changed over the years and the current wording did not reflect the current position.

B. The Bishop

1. The Bishop shall serve for an initial term of four (4) years, and shall be eligible for re-election.
2. In addition to what is laid down in the By-laws Part A, the duties and rights of the Bishop shall include the following: To:
 - (a) make the necessary final arrangements for all conventions of the District in conjunction with the District Administrator;
 - (b) preside at meetings of the Church Council, or ask the Church Council to elect one of its members to preside at such meetings;
 - (c) preside at conventions of the District **or appoint a person to act in that role**;
 - (d) present the Bishop's report to the regular convention of the District;
 - (e) ~~see~~ **ensure** that all resolutions of conventions of the District are carried out;
 - (f) represent the District in an official capacity whenever and wherever necessary, or to appoint a deputy;
 - ~~(g) arrange for the serving of vacant parishes;~~
 - ~~(h) consult with the Church Council on pastors to be recommended to Call meetings;~~
 - (i) attend meetings of congregations or parishes convened for the purpose of calling a pastor, or to appoint a deputy, and as a rule to preside;
 - (j) provide for the installation of pastors into new charges;
 - ~~(k) arrange for the ordination of candidates for the Ministry who have been called to serve in the District in consultation with the parish concerned;~~
 - (l) exercise with discretion the official right to attend the meetings of any committee or auxiliary of the District;
 - (m) receive reports from Zone ~~Counsellors~~ **Leaders**, to advise them in their duties, and to enlist their co-operation in the promotion of the work of the Church and the District;
 - (n) make official visits to congregations and parishes;
 - (o) veto any resolution or action of a committee or auxiliary which contravenes the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Constitution or By-laws of the Church and District, or directions of any convention of the District after consultation with the Church Council;
 - (p) serve as a member of the Pastors' Conference Planning Committee.

Proposal 12 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article X of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: Each of these entities have updated their constitutions and in some instances their name has been updated and corrected. Lutheran Community Care have been added to this list as they have become separately incorporated.

ARTICLE X – DISTRICT SUPERVISED ORGANISATIONS

The District shall have supervisory and/or election powers in relation to the following organisations:

1. Riverview Lutheran Rest Home (Loxton) **Inc** as prescribed in its Constitution ~~per articles 2; 7(a),(b),(c); 8(i),(j); 9; 10(e); 11; 12 and 13.~~
2. Tanunda Lutheran Home Incorporated as prescribed in its Constitution ~~per articles 2; 7(a),(b),(c); 8(i),(j); 9; 11 and 14~~
3. Concordia College Incorporated (Highgate) **Inc** as prescribed in its Constitution ~~per articles 6(a),(b),(c),(d); 7(b)i (1),(2); 7(d); 9(a)ii (1),(4); 11(a); 11(b)ii; 11(b)iv (2),(3); 11(b)xiii; 11(b)xiv; 11(b)xix; 13(b)bii; 13(e); 20(a)iii and 21(b).~~
4. Immanuel College Incorporated (Novar Gardens) as prescribed in its Constitution ~~per articles 4; 6(b),(c); 7(a),(b),(c); 9(g); 9(h) v; 9(k); 11i,v,vi,x,xii,xiv,xv,xix,xx; 12(a) (3); 13(c) ii; 13(d),(e); 17 and 18.~~
5. Lutheran Schools Association **Education** of SA, NT & WA Incorporated as prescribed in its Constitution ~~per articles IV; IX 7(e); IX 9; X(a); XVIII 2(a),(b),(c),(f),(j),(l),(m),(p); XIX 1 (2) (a),(c); XX 3(b); XX 4; XXI 1; XXIII 2 and XXVIII.~~
6. **Lutheran Community Care Inc as prescribed in its Constitution.**

Proposal 13 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VIII, Section H of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: This section is being updated to match current practices and requirements of the District.

H. General Rules Governing Standing Committees

- ~~1 The Bishop of the District shall arrange for the appointment of a convener who shall convene the first meeting of the committee after the regular convention of the District.~~
- 2 At its first meeting after the regular convention of the District each committee shall appoint a chairperson and a secretary and such other officers and such sub-committees as are deemed desirable and necessary, unless such powers are vested in the Church Council or other body.
- 3 The duties of the chairperson of a committee shall be to:
 - a) arrange, together with the secretary, for meetings of the committee;
 - b) preside at meetings of the committee;
 - c) see that all resolutions of the committee are carried out;
 - d) see that the annual report is prepared and approved by the committee for submission to the Church Council and the regular convention of the District.
- 4 The duties of the secretary of a committee shall be to:
 - a) notify all members of meetings of the committee;
 - b) keep a faithful **true and accurate** record of all ~~minutes~~ **meetings**;
 - c) receive and attend to all correspondence, unless otherwise determined by the committee;
 - d) draw up an agenda for committee meetings.
- ~~5 The duties of the treasurer of a committee shall be to:~~
 - ~~a) keep a true record of all moneys received;~~
 - ~~b) make payments authorized by the committee;~~
 - ~~c) furnish statements of receipts and expenditure at each meeting of the committee;~~
 - ~~d) submit an audited statement of income and expenditure and, where applicable, a balance sheet to the regular convention of the District.~~
- 6 In the absence of the chairperson of a committee the vice chairperson shall preside; or, if there be no vice-chairperson, a chairperson shall be appointed by the committee for that meeting.
- 7 One-half of the members of a committee shall constitute a quorum.
- 8 A special meeting, desired by any two (2) members of a committee, shall be called by the secretary of the committee within fourteen (14) days of receiving a written request, giving reasons, such reasons being communicated to all members of the committee.
- 9 A member of a committee who is absent for two (2) consecutive meetings without good reason shall forfeit membership on such committee. However, any member who will be absent for a period of six (6) months or more shall resign as a member of that committee and the committee shall inform the Church Council.
- 10 A committee shall furnish members of the Church Council with complete minutes of meetings.
- ~~11 A committee responsible for the management and maintenance of buildings owned by the District shall ensure that such buildings are adequately covered by insurance. The advice of the District Administrator shall be sought.~~

- 12 A committee shall obtain the sanction of the Church Council before making any financial appeal in the District.
- ~~13 A committee shall obtain the sanction of the Church Council before using money provided for a specific budget item for any other purpose.~~
- ~~14 A committee shall indicate the amounts not expended from budget receipts during the past financial year when submitting its budget for the following year(s).~~
- ~~15 Unless otherwise provided for by the District, a committee shall appoint an auditor, subject to the approval of the Church Council.~~
- ~~16 A committee shall submit an annual report and an audited statement of receipts and expenditure and balance sheet, if applicable, to the District Administrator prior to the regular convention of the District.~~
- 17 A sub-committee may be established for the supplying of particular needs of a committee. The committee shall have general supervision over its sub-committee.
- ~~18 A member of the committee shall not enjoy any unfair business advantage by virtue of the position held on the committee.~~
- 19 The Church Council shall have power to appoint, at the request of any committee of the District, such consultants as the Church Council deems necessary for the effective operation of the work of that committee. Any such consultants shall not be eligible to vote or hold office.
- 20 Any proposal to appoint an honorary member of a committee shall be submitted to the Church Council for decision. Any such honorary member shall have consultative status.
- 21 No council or committee of the District shall enter into or increase any financial commitment or overdraft limit without the express permission and prior approval of the Church Council.
- ~~22 A committee shall consult with the Church Council in regard to the use of profits from trading or the possible investment of any funds entrusted to its control.~~

Proposal 14 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VIII, Section I of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: The Constitutions Committee recommended a reduction in the number of committee members and this was endorsed by DCC. The role of the committee is being updated to reflect current practices and requirements.

I. DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES

~~I. DEPARTMENT FOR ADMINISTRATION~~

CONSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

- 1 Membership. The committee shall consist of ~~seven (7)~~ **five (5)** members with at least one (1) member to be a pastor:
 - (a) the District Administrator; and
 - (b) ~~six (6)~~ **four (4)** members elected by Synod.
- 2 Duties. The duties of the Committee shall be to:
 - (a) examine all reports and overtures to Synod that involve changes or amendments to the Constitution of the District or which in any manner affect the By-laws, with respect to their content, wording, and agreement with the Constitution and By-laws of the District
 - (b) give guidance on constitutional matters at the conventions of the District;
 - (c) interpret in cases of controversy the Constitution and By-laws of the District and resolutions of Synod, which interpretation shall be binding until and unless Synod in convention decides otherwise;
 - ~~(d) revise the Synodical Handbook after each convention of Synod and to bring it into harmony with the resolutions or changes adopted by Synod;~~
 - ~~(e) review constantly the administrative structure of the District and the functions of its committees with a view to improving their efficiency and co-ordination, and to report such findings to the Church Council;~~
 - (f) examine new, revised, amended or changed Constitutions and By-laws of congregations and parishes, schools, aged home and other similar institutions to ensure that they are in harmony with the Constitution and By-laws of the District;
 - (g) advise congregations and parishes of any changes it may deem necessary in their constitutions or By-laws;
 - (h) file a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of each congregation and parish, schools, aged homes and other similar **entities**; ~~institutions together with all amendments, and to keep a record of all decisions and recommendations made;~~
 - (i) approve Constitutions and By-laws of congregations and parishes, schools, aged homes and other similar institutions and to submit them to the Church Council for endorsement and to the Bishop and District Administrator for their signature;
 - (j) report ~~annually~~ **as required** to the Church Council.

Proposal 15 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VIII, Section I, Part V, of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: This section is being updated to match current practices and requirements of the District.

ABORIGINAL MINISTRY SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1 Objects.

The objects of the Committee shall be to ~~organise, supervise, encourage and extend the preaching of the Gospel of Christ to Aboriginal people at Ceduna, Oak Valley, Koonibba, Yalata, Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Port Augusta, Coober Pedy, the wider Adelaide area and any other areas of South Australia, and to promote the general welfare of Aboriginal people~~ equip Aboriginal people to extend the good news of Jesus among their people in the SA-NT District.

2 Membership.

The Committee shall consist of up to ~~ten (10)~~ **five (5)** members with at least one (1) member to be a pastor:

- (a) ~~six (6)~~ **four (4)** elected by Synod;
- (b) ~~four (4)~~ **one (1)** to be appointed by Church Council;
- (c) when possible the Committee shall include Aboriginal members and/or consultants;
- (d) the Assistant Bishop for Mission and the District Administrator shall be consultants to the Committee.

3 Duties.

The duties of the Committee shall be to:

- (a) ~~undertake~~ **encourage** ministry **with and** among Aboriginal people in South Australia **the District** in accordance with the policies of the Church;
- (b) **consult with and support the Assistant Bishop for Mission in:**
 - (i) **calling**, appointing or transferring pastors **serving in areas supported by AbMinSA**; ~~in consultation with the Bishop of the District;~~
 - (ii) **calling and employment or** appoint ~~or conclude the services of church workers and other staff members as required, and to engage casual or contract workers;~~
- (c) ensure that new staff receive adequate orientation prior to entering a field of work;
- (d) arrange for regular visitation of the fields, ~~monitoring and~~ providing for the well-being of **those involved in lay and ordained ministry**; ~~both the fields and the Committee employed workers;~~
- (e) ~~monitor the~~ **advocate for positive** financial and other physical arrangements of each field, including **maintained** housing ~~and maintenance~~ for workers, **where appropriate**;
- (f) ~~ensure that each field under the Committee's supervision develops its own goals, and forwards these to the Committee;~~
- (g) receive regular reports from the fields and workers **in order to more adequately encourage and support ministry in and with the Aboriginal communities**; ~~and to conduct an annual review of each field on the basis of its goals, suggesting directions for future ministry;~~

- (h) ~~arrange for annual in-service education for all workers~~ **encourage and assist workers to attend relevant training opportunities;**
- (i) ~~supervise and administer property entrusted to its care;~~
- (j) ~~establish~~ **encourage (if appropriate)** ministry support teams in all areas to facilitate appropriate working together of people in the local area;
- (k) maintain liaison with other ~~boards~~ **entities** engaged in Aboriginal ministry in matters of common concern;
- (l) identify, assess and act on issues of concern to Aboriginal people as they touch our ministry in rural and urban areas;
- (m) **locate suitable people and resources for use in the development of cross-cultural understanding in local congregations;**
- (n) consult with the Bishop of the District to negotiate with the Government in matters of Aboriginal welfare and to cooperate with it according to the policies of the Church;
- (o) ~~facilitate~~ **encourage and support** the training of Aboriginal leaders, **both men and women, in consultation with local communities;**
- (p) submit an annual report to the Church Council, ~~which shall~~ **and** present the report to Synod ~~in years when Synod is to be in session.;~~
- (q) meet at least quarterly or when called by the chairperson.

Proposal 16 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article X, Clause B. (1) of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: It is not appropriate to have position descriptions for executive roles of other incorporated entities included in the constitution of the District.

~~DIRECTOR OF LUTHERAN SCHOOLS~~

~~1) Appointment~~

- ~~a) The Director of Lutheran Schools shall be appointed by the Church Council in consultation with the Lutheran Schools Association.~~
- ~~b) The Director shall be appointed for a probationary period to be determined by the Lutheran Schools Association, after which the appointment shall be confirmed or terminated by the Church Council on the recommendation of the Lutheran Schools Association.~~
- ~~c) The appointment may be terminated by either the Director or the Church Council provided that three months notice is given. In the case of false doctrine, ungodly life or gross neglect of duty, (see District Constitution, Article X, 1. (b)), the appointment may be terminated by the Church Council at its discretion.~~

~~2) Relationship to the District Bishop~~

~~The Director shall work in close consultation and co-operation with, and be under the general oversight of, the Bishop~~

~~3) Duties~~

~~In general, the duties of the Director shall be to assist the Lutheran Schools Association to carry out its duties. More specifically, the Director shall:~~

- ~~a) be under the direct supervision of the Lutheran Schools Association, which shall be responsible for the overall program, and be concerned with the general welfare, of the Director;~~
- ~~b) be a spokesperson for the District on matters affecting schools in accord with the stated policies of the Church and District, and in consultation with the District Bishop;~~
- ~~c) attend meetings of the Church Council as a consultant;~~
- ~~d) act as an adviser and a resource person to the Committee, the schools and the District, assist in co-ordinating work in the field of education in the District, and to this end regularly visit the schools in the District;~~
- ~~e) keep the Lutheran Schools Association informed about what is happening in schools in the District and of decisions and trends that could affect them;~~
- ~~f) submit such reports as are required by the Lutheran Schools Association and the Church Council.~~

~~DIRECTOR OF LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CARE~~

~~4) Appointment~~

- ~~g) The Director of Lutheran Community Care shall be appointed by the Church Council in consultation with the Lutheran Community Care Council.~~

~~h) The Director shall be appointed for a probationary period to be determined by the Lutheran Community Care Council, after which the appointment shall be confirmed or terminated by the Church Council on the recommendation of the Lutheran Community Care Council.~~

~~i) The appointment may be terminated by either the Director or the Church Council provided that three months' notice is given. In the case of false doctrine, ungodly life or gross neglect of duty (see District Constitution, Article X, 1 (b)), the appointment may be terminated by the Church Council at its discretion.~~

~~5) Relationship to the District Bishop~~

~~The Director shall work in close consultation and co-operation, and be under the general oversight of, the Bishop.~~

~~6) Duties~~

~~The Director shall:~~

~~a) be under the direct supervision of the Lutheran Community Care Council which shall be responsible for the overall program, and be concerned with the general welfare, of the Director;~~

~~b) attend meetings of the Lutheran Community Care Council as a consultant;~~

~~c) attend meetings of appointed sub-committees at their request or when attendance would be helpful;~~

~~d) ensure that workers in social welfare receive adequate orientation, support and leadership;~~

~~e) visit congregations in order to inform them of the various aspects of the welfare work of the Church and to assist them in rendering service in a particular area or for a specific cause;~~

~~f) engage in a continuing program of professional study and research in the areas of spiritual, mental, social and physical welfare in conjunction with the Lutheran Community Care Council and in consultation with the Board of Welfare Ministry;~~

~~g) foster good relationships with the Government and with welfare agencies of other Churches;~~

~~h) report to the Lutheran Community Care Council on the advisability of establishing, organizing, co-ordinating, centralizing or decentralizing counselling facilities and welfare centres, and advise in regard to appointing full-time or part-time workers and engaging voluntary workers and auxiliaries;~~

~~i) prepare materials for the promotion of welfare work in the District including suggestions as to how such projects could be financed.~~

~~j) carry out duties in the realisation that the Director of Lutheran Community Care is at all times bound by the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; and committed to a genuine, loving compassion for and understanding of other people in their needs, joys and sorrows;~~

~~k) submit such reports as are required by the Lutheran Community Care Council, its sub-committees and the Church Council.~~

Proposal 17 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VII, Section D of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: The number of standing committees and councils in the LCA SA-NT District has been reduced and therefore the number of nominations and elections required has similarly been reduced.

D. Nominations and Elections

1. The Method of Nominating and Electing the Bishop and Assistant Bishops - is as laid down in By-laws Part A VII 3,4.
2. The Method of Nominating and Electing the Members of the Church Council
 - (1) The nomination and election of the members of the Church Council shall be conducted according to the procedures laid down for general elections, except that the second reading of these nominations and the election of candidates shall precede the second reading of nominations to the Standing Committees of the District.

3. The Nominations Committee

Membership.

The Committee shall consist of ~~six (6)~~ **four (4)** members: one (1) pastor, and ~~five (5)~~ **three (3)** laymembers, to be appointed by the Church Council. Appointments are for a two (2) year term.

Duties.

The duties of the Committee shall be:

- (a) to seek nominations with relevant information from congregations ~~through an announcement in the official publication of the Church and/or by District newsletters, by circular;~~
- (b) to make additional nominations at its discretion;
- (c) to ensure that sufficient nominations are made to fill all vacancies;
- (d) to ensure that the consent of nominees has been received and that they are eligible for office;
- (e) ~~where an election is necessary~~ to supply to the convention in a duplicated statement relevant information regarding nominees, ~~such as congregational membership, address, age, occupation or profession, specific experience, qualifications.~~

General Provisions.

The following provisions shall apply to nominations for any elected office or position on a Standing Committee of the District, ~~except in those cases where the right of nomination has been delegated to a particular body:~~

- (a) Nominations, indicating the consent of the nominee, may be forwarded by any congregation to the Nominations Committee.
- (b) Suggested nominations may be made by the Bishop of the District and by Standing Committees for consideration by the Nominations Committee.
- (c) During the days of the convention, up to the close of nominations, any two (2) delegates may submit a further nomination, which shall be signed by the proposer and seconder, and shall indicate the consent of the nominee.

- (d) The Nominations Committee is not bound to accept all nominations received, with the exception of the nominations for the offices of Bishop and Assistant Bishops.
- (e) Retiring office-bearers and retiring members of councils and committees, eligible for re-election, shall be nominees.

Procedures.

The following procedures shall be followed:

- (a) The election of the Bishop and/or Assistant Bishops shall be completed before the first reading of nominations for all other elective offices of the District.
- (b) The election of the members of the Church Council shall be completed before the second reading of nominations to the Standing Committees of the District.
- ~~(c) A duplicated list of nominations for the Standing Committees of the District shall be distributed to the delegates.~~
- ~~(d) One session shall elapse between the first and second reading of nominations for the Standing Committees.~~
- ~~(e) Where a new office or committee is created, the time of closure for such nominations may be extended by the Bishop and the elections be held later accordingly.~~
- ~~(f) Nominations for the filling of casual vacancies shall be clearly indicated and shall be separated from vacancies caused by effluxion of time.~~

4. The Electoral Committee

Membership.

The Committee shall consist of ~~two (2) pastors~~ **one (1) pastor** and one (1) lay member, appointed by the Church Council to be assisted by additional members as appointed by the supporting congregation to carry out the duties required.

Duties.

The duties of the Committee shall be:

- (a) to conduct the elections at the regular convention of the District;
- (b) in consultation with the chairperson of the Nominations Committee to prepare ballot papers, ~~approved by the Bishop,~~ for the elections;
- (c) to count the votes according to the preferential system, unless the rules of the District otherwise prescribe the procedure for voting;
- (d) to announce the result as soon as possible at a time determined by the chairperson of the convention;
- (e) to keep an accurate record of the results of all elections;
- (f) to retain all ballot papers until the close of the convention.

General Provisions.

The following provisions shall be followed:

- (a) The election of Officials, Councils and Standing Committees shall be by preferential ballot.
- ~~(b) The candidates shall be listed on the paper in two groups, namely: nominations by the Nominations Committee and sitting members; nominations by congregations and by two (2) delegates.~~
- (c) The order of the names in each group shall be determined by lot.

- (d) In the event of an equality of votes in any election the Bishop, or the Bishop's deputy for the time being, may give a casting vote. If the Bishop is a candidate in any such election the issue shall be decided by another ballot.
- (e) In the event of an election being challenged, the Committee shall deliver to the Bishop the ballot papers used in that particular election for re-checking by a special commission consisting of not more than five (5) members elected by the convention.

Proposal 18 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VIII, Section E and F of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: The role of the Finance Consultant has changed over time and the constitution no longer accurately reflects the current requirements of the position. Further, the role of the Auditor has been updated to reflect current practices.

E. Financial Administration

1. The Synod shall, on the recommendation of the Church Council, appoint a qualified Finance Consultant, as a member of the Church Council for a term expiring at the next Synod.
2. The financial management of the District shall be carried out by the District Administrator and the Finance Consultant in accordance with the resolutions of Synod, and where no directions have been given by Synod, in accordance with the instructions of Church Council.
3. The District Administrator and the Finance Consultant shall:
 - (a) review the general financial policy of the District, and where appropriate, make recommendations to the Church Council;
 - (b) examine the financial position of the District on a regular basis during the year including a comparison of actual income and expenditure to budget, and make recommendations accordingly to the Church Council;
 - ~~(c) receive from Standing Committees their proposed budgets for the following Church financial year, negotiate amendments with any committee if necessary, and make recommendations to the Church Council regarding their adoption;~~
 - (d) examine proposals placed before them by District Committees for projects involving major capital expenditure, and make recommendations to the Church Council regarding their financial viability, and the amount of capital to be expended;
 - (e) examine proposals placed before them involving requests for LLL loans or capital grants, and in accordance with LLL and LCA guidelines/rules, make recommendations to the Church Council;
 - ~~(f) annually review the audited financial statements, and periodically review the accounting procedures of:~~
 - ~~(i) committees which administer moneys allotted to them by the District, and~~
 - ~~(ii) other District committees, and where appropriate make recommendations to the Church Council;~~
 - (g) ensure that effective accounting and internal control procedures are used in the finances of the District, oversee the preparation of, and review the financial statements of the District;
 - (h) arrange for the auditing of the financial records and statements of the District, and submit nomination(s) to the Church Council for the auditor(s) of the District;
 - ~~(i) arrange in consultation with the Church Council and the relevant District committee, visits to congregations as required;~~

- (j) review, on a regular basis, the following assets and liabilities of the District:
 - (i) ~~SA District properties~~ **Properties held in the name of LCA SA&NT District Holdings Ltd**
 - (ii) District Office furniture and equipment
 - ~~(iii) loans to congregations from the Church Extension Fund~~
 - (iv) bank accounts and any other investments
 - (v) funds held for District purposes
 - (vi) any other funds, and where appropriate, make recommendations to the Church Council;
- (k) review, on a regular basis, all LLL loans for loan arrears ~~and earmarked deposit shortfalls,~~ and after investigation, make recommendations to the Church Council;
- ~~(l) make recommendations for the use of District funds as matching deposits on LLL loans, and review the allocation of such matching deposits on a regular basis;~~
 - ~~(vii) examine requests placed before them for Letters of Comfort or other forms of security by the District to financial institutions, and make recommendations to the Church Council;~~
 - ~~(viii) review, on a regular basis, any Letters of Comfort or other forms of security to ensure that they are current and appropriate.~~

F. The Auditor

- 1 The Church Council shall appoint one (1) or more auditors, who shall perform those duties which are laid down in these By-laws or are required by the District Administrator.
- 2 The duties of the Auditor shall include the following:
 - (a) see that the books and accounts of the District are kept in the form and manner required by the ~~District Administrator~~ **Church Council**;
 - ~~(b) conduct a continuous audit of the books and accounts of the District, to audit the annual statements of account and balance sheet, and report thereon;~~
 - (c) audit the books and accounts of any fund under the control of the District when required by ~~the District Administrator or~~ the Church Council.

Proposal 19 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VIII, Section I of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: District Church Council have not appointed this committee for many years. The constitution does provide for DCC to appoint this committee if required. If the committee is listed in the constitution it must be appointed for each synodical period and this committee is not required to be a permanent committee of the District. The Statistician role has changed dramatically over the years and the duties listed are not something that are currently being completed.

~~COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE AND ADJUDICATION~~

- ~~1. The provisions governing the Committee on Discipline and Adjudication shall be.~~
 - ~~(1) The Committee on Discipline and Adjudication of each District shall consist of three (3) pastors and two (2) lay members elected by the Synod of the respective District from nominations submitted by the Church Council. Two (2) pastors and two (2) lay members shall be similarly elected as first and second alternates respectively.~~
 - ~~(2) Appointment shall be for two (2) years, but shall be automatically terminated by a transfer to another District. Any vacancy shall be filled by the respective alternate next in line, and any vacancy in the position of an alternate shall be filled for the unexpired term by the respective Church Council.~~
 - ~~(3) The Chairperson and Secretary of the Committee on Discipline and Adjudication shall be appointed by the Church Council of the respective District.~~
 - ~~(4) The Committee on Discipline and Adjudication shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine a Complaint which is laid following a hearing by an Investigating Committee of the respective District.~~
 - ~~(5) The Committee on Discipline and Adjudication shall have appellate jurisdiction over an Appeal which is lodged against a finding by an Investigating Committee of the respective District.~~

THE STATISTICIAN

Duties

- ~~1. The duties of the Statistician shall be to:~~
 - ~~(a) receive annually the statistical returns of congregations, preaching places and Institutions of the District, as well as of other institutions served by pastors of the District;~~
 - ~~(b) file statistics so that they are available for research and record purposes, and to evaluate them as required;~~
 - ~~(c) collect and file copies of the annual Financial Statements and Balance Sheets, where applicable, of the District and of its Councils, Committees and Institutions, in consultation with the District Administrator of the District;~~
 - ~~(d) tabulate and publish such statistics as are determined by the Convention of the District, or by the Church Council;~~

- ~~(e) give advice as requested to pastors of the District and others responsible for lodging statistical returns;~~
- ~~(f) work in close co-operation with the Statistician of the Church, particularly in advising him of any necessary corrections to statistical returns received from within the District;~~
- ~~(g) submit an annual report to the Church Council , which shall present the report to Synod in years when Synod is to be in session.~~

Proposal 20 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VII, Section I, IV of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: Lutheran Community Care are a separately incorporated entity and it is therefore, no longer appropriate for their constitution to be included in the LCA SA-NT District Inc constitution.

~~IV. DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY CARE LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CARE COUNCIL~~

~~1. NAME~~

~~The name of the Council is LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CARE COUNCIL.~~

~~2. INTERPRETATION~~

~~For the purposes of this Constitution:-~~

- ~~(a) "the Church" means: The Lutheran Church of Australia Incorporated~~
- ~~(b) "the District" means: The Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory District Incorporated:~~
- ~~(c) "District Church Council" or "DCC" means: the Church Council of The Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory District Incorporated:~~
- ~~(d) "Synod" means: the Synod of the District:~~
- ~~(e) "LCC" means: Lutheran Community Care:~~
- ~~(f) "the Board" means: LCC Board:~~
- ~~(g) "the Council" of LCC shall have the same status and meaning as "the Board":~~
- ~~(h) "the Chairperson" means: the person elected or acting as the Chairperson of the Board:~~
- ~~(i) "the Deputy Chairperson" means: the person elected or acting as the Deputy Chairperson of the Board:~~
- ~~(j) "the Secretary" means: the person elected or acting as the Secretary the Board:~~
- ~~(k) "Consultant" means: a non-voting member of the Board:~~
- ~~(l) "Committees" means: committees appointed by the Board to assist the Board with specific aspects of the governance of LCC:~~
- ~~(m) "CEO" means: the Chief Executive Officer of LCC.~~

~~2 MISSION~~

~~The Mission of LCC, as the Church's not for profit agency, is to support the Church in expressing Christ's love through care to those in need within South Australia and the Northern Territory.~~

~~3—VISION AND OBJECTS~~

~~The Vision of LCC is that its work will result in the development of “Strong caring communities inspired by the love of God”.~~

~~This Vision will be achieved through LCC:~~

- ~~(a) delivering services for vulnerable families and individuals, including mental health, financial counselling and anti-poverty programs. These services will—~~
 - ~~i. Benefit local communities within the District's area of responsibility:~~
 - ~~ii. Be responsive to the changing needs of the community but at the same time be preventative in nature:~~
 - ~~iii. Be delivered through strong partnerships with Lutheran Congregations and other relevant organisations:~~
 - ~~iv. Help empower congregations and local communities to ensure the solutions provided by the services are sustainable.~~
- ~~(b) gaining recognition with the District, Congregations, governments, and the not for profit and corporate sectors as a provider of high quality services:~~
- ~~(c) being a well respected, high profile social advocacy voice which impacts attitudes and helps achieve action on social issues:~~
- ~~(d) being a responsive, well managed and governed organisation regarded as a caring, professional body with a highly motivated, valued and supported team of volunteers and staff working in harmony to provide services to meet the needs of others:~~
- ~~(e) ensuring that as a not for profit organisation the availability of reliable and sustainable resources for the delivery of services and the systems needed for efficient and effective service delivery are maximised.~~

~~4—RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH AND THE DISTRICT~~

- ~~(a) LCC shall cooperate with the relevant boards and committees of the Church and the District, and report as required.~~

~~5—MEETINGS OF LCC~~

- ~~(a) The Board shall normally meet monthly or at a minimum meet bi-monthly.~~
- ~~(b) Special Meetings of the Board may be called by the Chairperson, and shall be called at the request of two (2) or more Directors.~~
- ~~(c) Notice of Special Meetings of the Board shall be given to Board members together with an outline of the proposed business, not less than seven (7) days before the meeting.~~

- ~~(d) A quorum for meetings of the Board shall consist of a simple majority of Board members.~~
- ~~(e) The Chairperson shall ordinarily decide the manner of voting, whether by show of hands, by secret ballot, by email or postal ballot, but the meeting may also decide itself, by resolution, the manner of voting to be adopted.~~
- ~~(f) All resolutions carried at a properly constituted meeting of the Board shall be binding provided that the required quorum was present.~~
- ~~(g) All resolutions adopted via email or postal ballot shall be binding provided a simple majority has voted in favour of the proposal.~~
- ~~(h) The Chairperson shall have a deliberative and a casting vote in the event of a tied vote.~~
- ~~(i) There shall be no voting by proxy.~~

~~6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS~~

- ~~(a) The governance of LCC shall be entrusted to and exercised by the Board.~~
- ~~(b) The Board shall comprise of eight (8) members:~~
 - ~~(a) four (4) of whom, including one (1) pastor of the Church, shall be elected by the Synod; and~~
 - ~~(b) four (4) of whom shall be appointed by the DCC.~~
- ~~(c) LCC may identify and recommend potential appointees with the necessary mix of skills and experience for consideration and election by Synod and DCC.~~
- ~~(d) The Board may include in its membership Christians other than from the Church in such numbers that will result in no more than twenty (20) per cent of the number on the Board being non-Lutheran.~~
- ~~(e) The Board may invite other people as needed to attend meetings of the Board as consultants who shall have speaking but not voting rights.~~
- ~~(f) The Board shall elect a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Treasurer from among their membership.~~
- ~~(g) The Board shall appoint a Secretary.~~

~~7 FINANCE~~

- ~~(a) The funds of LCC shall be used in pursuance of the objects of LCC in such manner as the Board determines, subject always to any direction that may have been given by LCC.~~
- ~~(b) No dividends, bonus, or profit shall be payable to members of the Board.~~

- ~~(c) LCC shall operate an account with a bank or other financial institution approved by the Board, into which all money received by LCC shall be paid as soon as possible.~~

~~8 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD~~

- ~~(a) The Board shall:~~

- ~~(a) select and recommend appointment by the District of the Chief Executive Officer (the "CEO") who shall be responsible for the implementation of approved policies, strategic direction and the day to day management of LCC.~~
- ~~(b) monitor the performance of the CEO against predetermined criteria and provide support to the CEO, develop and introduce a succession plan for the position of CEO.~~
- ~~(c) ensure that appropriate policies on key issues are in place which are in keeping with current legislation, are regularly reviewed and updated and that the resources of LCC are applied solely to achieving the Mission of LCC.~~
- ~~(d) determine, implement and maintain the necessary system or systems to control and govern LCC.~~
- ~~(e) work closely with the CEO to develop and implement a Strategic Plan for LCC, monitor progress and achievements, and regularly review and update the plan and make available to the CEO, to the extent possible, the resources needed to achieve the Strategic Plan.~~
- ~~(f) ensure that risks to which LCC is exposed are clearly identified and that suitable processes are in place to manage those risks.~~
- ~~(g) appoint committees as needed (with a sunset provision) to assist with the work of the Board and monitor the performance and achievement of purposes of such committees.~~
- ~~(h) determine and review "Delegations of Authority" to the CEO and, as recommended by the CEO, key staff.~~
- ~~(i) ensure that induction training is provided to all new Board Members and regular up-date information and training sessions are conducted on governance and other key issues for all members.~~
- ~~(j) ensure that the CEO and all staff are provided with Pastoral Care and Spiritual Guidance.~~

~~9 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER~~

- ~~(a) The CEO shall:~~

- ~~(a) be responsible to the Board, through its Chairperson, for the implementation of all policies, the Strategic Plan and the day to day management of LCC in accordance with a Board approved detailed Position Specification and delegations.~~

~~(b) ensure that in delivering high quality services and programs, LCC will work in partnership with congregations and other ministries of the Church; in co-operation with government departments and, where appropriate, in partnership with other agencies within the community services sector.~~

~~(c) attend meetings of the Board as a consultant.~~

~~10 ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS~~

~~(a) LCC shall have the power at a duly convened and properly constituted meeting of the Board to vote on proposals to amend, alter, add to or repeal this constitution, except as hereunder provided, and, if approved by a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote, forward the proposals to the appropriate District authority for approval.~~

~~(b) Notice of the proposed amendment, alteration, addition to or repeal shall be presented in writing with the notice of meeting.~~

~~(c) Any alteration is deemed to have been made on the date of approval of the alteration by the District.~~

~~11 NON-CONTINUANCE~~

~~(a) In the event of the non-continuance of LCC, the Board shall request the District that any assets remaining after the satisfaction of all of LCC's liabilities or debts be given or transferred to an institution or institutions affiliated with the Church which provides services and programs to those in need and which is a Public Benevolent Institution that has been approved under Section 78 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936, or equivalent legislation.~~

~~12 BY LAWS~~

~~(a) LCC shall have the power at a duly convened and properly constituted meeting of the Board to vote on proposals to make, amend, alter, add to or repeal By-Laws, except as hereunder provided, and, if approved by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote, forward the proposals to the appropriate District authority for approval.~~

~~(b) LCC shall have the power to make, amend, alter, add to or repeal By-Laws not inconsistent with this Constitution, for the regulation of the proceedings and management of the business and affairs of LCC and for giving effect thereto.~~

~~(c) Notice of such proposed change shall be given either at a prior duly called meeting of LCC or be published with the notice of meeting.~~

Proposal 21 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VII, Section J of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: The Disaster and Relief Fund is an internal fund which has no specified rules of operation or taxation requirements and is therefore no longer required to be in the constitution. Please note that the District will continue to administer a Disaster and Relief Fund.

The Zinnbauer Memorial Home Fund is a fund operated by the LLL and is in no way connected to the District's Zinnbauer Fund. The District has no control over the Zinnbauer Memorial Home Fund and it is therefore no longer required to be in the District constitution.

J. ADDITIONAL RULES ~~DISASTER AND RELIEF FUND~~

~~1 Name:~~

~~The name of this Fund is: Lutheran Disaster and Relief Fund.~~

~~2 Aims and Objects~~

~~The Aims and Objects of the Fund are to:~~

- ~~(a) raise and disburse moneys for the relief of distress;~~
- ~~(b) assist people who have been disadvantaged by natural disaster such as flood, fire, cyclone, etc.;~~
- ~~(c) give relief to those who have needs due to distress or any other emergency.~~

~~3 Control~~

- ~~(a) The Fund shall be controlled by the Church Council of the Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory District Incorporated hereafter called 'The Church Council'.~~
- ~~(b) All receipts and payments shall be made from the Fund which shall keep separate books of account.~~

~~4 Dissolution~~

~~In the event of dissolution of the Fund any moneys held at the time shall be disbursed as follows:~~

- ~~(a) to people in need at the discretion of the Church Council (see Aims and Objects);~~
- ~~(b) in the event of there being no such case at the time to some charity approved by the Taxation Department on the recommendation of the Church Council.~~

ZINNBAUER MEMORIAL HOME FUND

~~1) Name~~

~~The Fund shall be called the 'Zinnbauer Memorial Home Fund'.~~

~~2) Aim and Purpose~~

~~The aim and purpose of this Fund is to commemorate the noble, self-sacrificing service over many years by Pastor Alfred Freund Zinnbauer and his wife Helga, to newcomers to Australia after the Second World War.~~

~~3) Form of Memorial~~

~~Depending upon the amount of money raised the Memorial shall, in connection with the Hope Valley Lutheran Homes, take the form of:~~

- ~~(a) A Hostel for elderly single people and some married couples who are generally independent but require some care and are unable to meet entry costs.~~
- ~~(b) (and/or) Independent Living Units for those unable to meet entry costs.~~
- ~~(c) (and/or provide) furnishings and equipment for Hostels or Units.~~
- ~~(d) (and/or provide for) maintenance and repairs of such Hostels or Units.~~

~~4) Source of Funds~~

- ~~(a) Donations—unsolicited gifts received from time to time in honour of Pastor and Mrs Zinnbauer.~~
- ~~(b) In Memoriam Gifts—gifts made to the Fund in lieu of flowers by people at the occasion of a funeral.~~
- ~~(c) Appeals—organized appeals to people chiefly of ethnic origin, who came to know and love Pastor and Mrs Zinnbauer.~~
- ~~(d) Legacies and Bequests—contributions to the Fund in the form of money, investments or property provided in the wills of people who held Pastor and Mrs Zinnbauer in high regard.~~
- ~~(e) Projects—by groups or individuals working in aid of the Fund, projects such as the collection of paper and scrap, trading tables, etc.~~
- ~~(f) Grants—representation to be made to the governments of countries and churches in those countries from which honours were bestowed upon Pastor Zinnbauer: German, Austrian and Australian.~~

~~5) Trustee for the Fund~~

~~Lutheran Homes Inc. will establish a 'Zinnbauer Memorial Home Fund Account' to be held in trust and from which payments will be made as authorised according to Clause 6.~~

~~6) Payments from the Fund~~

~~Payments will be made to Hope Valley Lutheran Homes for approved projects only after consultation with and approval by the authorized representatives of the Bethlehem German Congregation. There is to be ongoing consultation between Lutheran Homes Inc. and the Bethlehem German Congregation. All payments must continue to have the approval of Bethlehem German Congregation or, in the event of the congregation ceasing to exist, the Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory District, Incorporated.~~

~~7) Order of Preference for Admittance to Accommodation Provided from the Fund~~

- ~~(a) Immigrants to Australia after the Second World War.~~
- ~~(b) Financially disadvantaged persons—the poor and needy.~~
- ~~(c) Lutheran.~~
- ~~(d) Others.~~

~~8) Tax Deductibility of Donations~~

~~To be tax deductible donations of \$2.00 and over to the Fund must be unfettered, that is, they must be unconditional. Donors will not have automatic right to accommodation and care at Hope Valley Lutheran Homes because of having contributed to the Fund; however, they will be free to apply for admittance to Hope Valley Lutheran Homes when needed.~~

~~9) Generally~~

~~It is expected that people who live in Hostels or Units at Hope Valley Lutheran Homes abide by the rules of Hope Valley Lutheran Homes and live a clean and decent life, live peaceably, avoid strife or discord, and are not noisy or addicted to drink or drugs. If trouble occurs because of failure of people to live decently a caution is given and if they continue to offend they are required to leave the Village.~~

Proposal 22 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article IX of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – strikethrough and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: This section is being updated to reflect current practices and requirements of the District.

ARTICLE IX—THE ZONES

~~1 The Zone Committee~~

- ~~(a) A committee, consisting of two (2) pastors and two (2) laymembers, shall be elected by each Zone Conference.~~
- ~~(b) Committee members shall serve for a term of two (2) years. One (1) pastor and one (1) laymember shall retire each year, but shall be eligible for re-election.~~
- ~~(c) It shall be the duty of the Committee to render assistance to the Zone Counsellor as required.~~

2 The Zone Conference **Gathering**

- (a) The Zone Conference shall **Gathering may** be convened by the Zone Counsellor **Pastor** in consultation with the Bishop of the District **with assistance from other members of the Zone.**
- ~~(b) The Conference shall meet at least once a year being chaired by the Zone Counsellor or by the Zone Counsellor's deputy.~~
- (c) All members of the Zone shall have the right to attend the Zone Conference **Gathering**; but voting rights shall be restricted to voting members of the congregations in the Zone.
- ~~(d) The Zone Conference shall have the authority to:~~
 - ~~i) submit recommendations to the member congregations;~~
 - ~~ii) submit recommendations to the Church Council;~~

3 Meeting of Zone Counsellors **Pastors**

The Bishop of the District shall **may** convene a meeting of Zone Counsellors ~~at least once a year~~ **Pastors annually.**

Proposal 23 – Updates to the Constitution of the LCA SA-NT District Inc

PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VIII, Section D of the LCA SA-NT District Constitution By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~ and words to be added – **bold**).

REASONS FOR PROPOSAL: The 2018 SA-NT District Convention of Synod approved a reduction in the number of pastors serving on District Church Council and the removal of the clause relating to the Council for Mission.

Since then, DCC have recommended a reduction in the number of laymembers in line with current governance practices being implemented throughout the Church.

D. The Church Council

1. The Church Council shall consist of ~~twelve (12)~~ **nine (9)** members: the Bishop, the First Assistant Bishop, the Second Assistant Bishop, ~~three (3)~~ **one (1)** additional pastors and ~~six (6)~~ **five (5)** laymembers. The ~~three (3)~~ **one (1)** additional pastors and ~~five (5)~~ **four (4)** of the additional laymembers shall be elected by the Synod and one (1) laymember, being a qualified Finance Consultant shall be appointed by the Synod, on the recommendation of the Church Council.
2. The Church Council shall normally meet monthly or as called by the Bishop whenever deemed necessary, and when three (3) members of the Church Council request a meeting such meeting shall be held within three (3) weeks.
3. In addition to its sphere of responsibility and authority as outlined in the By-laws Part A, the Church Council shall:
 - (a) be responsible for the overall program, supervise the work, and be concerned with the general welfare, of the District Administrator;
 - (b) arrange in consultation with the inviting congregation or congregations the time and place for the regular convention of the District and for any special convention of the District;
 - (c) fill any vacancy in any office or on any committee, except when such vacancy occurs within two (2) months of the next regular convention of the District;
 - (d) remove any office-bearer or committee-member from office if, in its considered judgment, the said member becomes incapable or unworthy of office, and fill the vacancy thus created until the next regular convention of the District;
 - (e) receive, between the conventions of the District, an incoming pastor as a pastor of the District;
 - ~~(f) liaise with the Council for Mission and relevant parishes for the reorganisation of parish boundaries and/or creation of new parishes;~~
 - (g) act as Sealholders;
 - (h) approve any alterations to the By-laws Part B of the District or the rules governing any standing committee, fund, policy or terms of reference of the District made necessary by any resolution of the District Synod, after receiving advice from the Constitutions Committee.

Celebrating our District Ministries



Employees at Hahndorf St Paul's Lutheran Homes celebrating Aged Care Employee Day



Celebrating the Melbourne Cup at Murray Bridge Lutheran Homes



Residents at Lobethal Valley of Praise delivering scones to the Village



Year 11 Agriculture students at Faith Lutheran College getting their hands dirty making wine in the College's Mengler View winery



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Reports from District Ministries

LCA SA-NT District Bishop Report

This time last year we had no idea what the next 12 months would bring. We can be very thankful that we have come through the COVID-19 pandemic as well as we have as a country, although for some families and businesses the cost has still been very high. While restricted in our movements and ability to come together in worship we have still been able to worship God, in fact we have been able to extend ministry beyond church walls. Members cared for each other and others in their communities in new ways. No doubt you are still evaluating what to retain and what to return to in order to best live out your calling as God's people in your own contexts, but there is no substitute for being physically together as the Lord calls us to be.

While some have questioned the receipt of JobKeeper and other support, the District would have been in difficulty without it along the way, and while it more than supported us last year the next few years remain financially uncertain. Be assured that our advice to all congregations was to only apply for JobKeeper if the criteria were met legitimately. I am grateful that the government generously included the church in its support, and DCC wrote to the Prime Minister expressing our thanks. Financial stability last year meant we could focus on ministry stability, which was a good thing.

Leaders of Christian Churches SA stayed in contact with the Deputy Chief Health Officer in SA last year and the Premier's Office with respect to the compliance requested of churches. Be assured we presented a united witness, prayerful encouragement, and raised questions of concern in common with them, expressing our needs on your behalf. Most congregations seem to be functioning relatively freely in the current environment.

The pastorate:

After responding to the challenges of last year admirably, many pastors and leaders are tired, especially mentally. This is also observed by other denominational leaders. Don't underestimate the impact of last year, individually and collectively, on pastors and lay-leaders. A number of pastors have had to take leave at short notice for health reasons in the first part of this year. Please watch over each other, be considerate of each other and respond in godly ways to each other.

Restrictions around ministry changed quickly last year and necessary decisions had to be made by pastors and leaders as best we could "on the run". Resuming ministry locally has been "bumpy" in some parishes, as some have wanted to stay with what were originally temporary initiatives, while others have wanted to resume what once was done and has been missed. This has led to some relationship tensions. This is understandable and I encourage you to listen carefully to one another, honour each other and consider each other's needs, taking the time and care needed when it comes to change.

The support and development of pastors is being strengthened over time together with LCA Church Worker Support. Professional Supervision is being embraced by a growing number of pastors, to their blessing. Appropriate annual reviews are being considered and templates are being developed for you, ultimately replacing the current review process. The LCA Employee Assistance Program is also now available to pastors.

The LCA is finding it harder to call pastors for specialist ministries such as in schools and FRM. The College of Bishops are considering how we might meet this and other challenges relating to the supply of pastors. The Lay-Preaching course developed by ALC at the request of the College of Bishops may serve the church well in some places where there is special need and suitable lay-preachers. Where a pastor can no longer be called there is always the possibility of a local layman being identified and prepared to become a Specific Ministry Pastor in that place. Our Assistant Bishop for Mission is increasingly engaged in realignment / different ministry strategy discussions.

Ministries:

District ministries continue to give witness to Christ, sharing his hope in their communities. We continue to monitor the changes made at the 2018 Synod, however last year was abnormal in many respects and hence had to be evaluated differently. The leaders of District Ministries meet bi-monthly for networking and support. John Van Ruth, CEO of Lutheran Disability Services, has recently joined this group.

DCC is working on articulating our relationship with LESNW for clarity, good relationship and to avoid unnecessary duplication, especially with respect to loan approvals. Our Assistant Bishop for Mission and our Pastor for Chaplaincy Ministries had their reviews recently and these will be reported on at Synod. Aged care continues to come under closer government scrutiny and our entities have been faithful in alerting us to any aberrations. Thankfully they have been few. Faithful chaplaincy continues to be provided to people in hospitals and prisons (increasingly regulated environments), however we are conscious that some of those currently serving may not be doing so for much longer. Blueprint Ministries continued in creative online ways and young people have responded to opportunities to meet once again for face-to-face camps and activities now that we can move around and gather more freely. District Ministries collaborated with respect to disaster relief and we particularly acknowledge the contribution of Lutheran Care in this area.

Backing it all up are the wonderful administration team members, who see their own work as a ministry of service to you too, freeing you in big and small ways to focus on the ministry of the gospel. It is a joy to work with Stephen Schultz, Assistant Bishop for Mission, and to be supported by Tim Klein and Eugene Minge as 1st and 2nd Assistant Bishops.

There is much reason for joy and hope about the ministries being conducted in our District. We may not always trumpet them, but we get on with them on your behalf in the name of Christ, believing they make a difference.

The Northern Territory:

Leaders of the Church's ministry arms in Central Australia are coming together every few months, including indigenous voices for mutual support and to discern new and better ways of ministering and overseeing the work in Central Australia. We initiated these conversations a few years ago but they are taking on a life of their own which has greater potential in my view. Please pray for these gatherings which could one day eventually include a Central Australia "mini synod" with more indigenous presence and voices. The question of local oversight is high on the agenda right now and the District may need to consider our capacity to support that financially. Overseeing the centre from Adelaide is not ideal.

I am grateful that God has provided a graduate pastor for Darwin (graduate Joseph Theodorsen) and that pastor Robin Zadow has given Alice Springs 12 months before he retires

while the congregation seeks a longer term pastor. It is good to see a pastor and his wife willing to go on a faith and life adventure and offer their experience at the end of full time ministry. Finding pastors willing to serve in Alice Springs or as FRM Support Workers has proved challenging in recent years and we are needing to reconsider our model of ministry in the Centre. Lay people are encouraged to express interest in serving in the Centre in a variety of ways.

A safe church.....

Thank you for your diligence in working together to provide a safe church for all. You will be hearing more about the National Child Safety Standards in the future and some of our congregations are involved in piloting what has been developed by the LCA. I am conscious of the need to comply with increasing regulation of our life together (all for good reasons), when capacity to do that at local level is limited, and energy for ministry can be impacted.

Synod needs to know that there have been several determinations made in relation to the National Redress Scheme involving District entities. DCC are always informed of these. No doubt there will be more.

Of concern has been that in some instances congregations have not allowed the LCA Professional Standards team to enact the LCA required procedures with respect to a Person of Concern. This means the District is not meeting our obligation to the LCA with respect to child protection. Synod needs to be aware of this reality. In several cases, years of negotiating, meeting and urging have not resulted in PSD being allowed to even meet with a Person of Concern. While DCC would want to affirm that local people are taking these matters seriously and addressing them as they see fit, DCC regards this as insufficient to fulfil our synodical obligation, and synod need to be made aware of this reality and potential risk. Both local and PSD input are vital in developing management plans. Sidelineing PSD is unacceptable in our view. I raise this without prejudice but as part of District Church Council and my own oversight responsibility and concern towards synod.

Be clear that our aim is not for exclusion but responsible inclusion if at all possible. For that to happen PSD need to be able to undertake their LCA approved procedures. Improvements are continually being made by the LCA and no doubt the LCA review being completed will lead to more refinement for the sake of good process and the care of all. We need to be walking together as synod in this and we urge your cooperation.

Respectfully submitted
Pastor David Altus
Bishop LCA SA-NT District

"The Hope we Have"

"Honour Christ and let him be the Lord of your life.
Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope."
1 Peter 3:15 (CEV)

COVID certainly changed the way District Church Council functioned but did not diminish the hope we have – nor the demands of governance for our district. We continued to meet, albeit differently. After consideration of alternatives to meeting face-to-face DCC settled on TEAMS, a function of Office 365. We could still see and hear each other but missed the full dimension of meeting in the same room. As the months of COVID progressed and rules were relaxed we met in varying combinations of in-person and online. Overall, we were able to continue our monthly afternoon meetings.

DCC continued to work to ensure that the programs and policies of the Church and the District were carried out.

Serving Members of DCC in this synodical term: Judy Jaensch, Helen Martul, Craig Hall, Ben Schubert, Andrew Vanderwal (Pastor), Stephen Kroker (Finance Consultant), Bishop David Altus, 1st & 2nd Assistant Bishops Tim Klein and Eugene Minge, Assistant Bishop for Mission Pastor Stephen Schultz (as a consultant) and Angela Rogers (Minute Secretary).

We are a diverse group of people that bring a combined wisdom to bear on the decisions and conversations of our Council. I remain thankful to the Lord for each one and invite the Synod to give thanks to the Lord for the work of all District councilors and administrative staff who have served during this term.

Retiring DCC Members: We acknowledge Eric Marschall, who resigned early in his term to follow a new pathway, Craig Hall who has retired after years of serving among us and Pastor Eugene Minge who has accepted a call to serve in the Victorian District. These members have all served on DCC with grace and wisdom. Thank you Eric, Craig and Eugene. You blessed us all with your willing service. The Lord bless you with peace as you journey ahead.

District Personnel: As I reported last year, decisions of the District Church Council are both informed and enacted by the District ministry teams and District Office staff, and so DCC notes with thanks the ongoing work of the Bishop's Executive Assistant, Michelle Storie, District Administrator Angela Rogers, the work of the Blueprint Ministries team and every other member of staff who serve faithfully with diligence and grace.

I pay tribute to the Blueprint Team who responded to the COVID shutdowns and limitations with innovative approaches to keep the hope and vision for camping ministry alive. Also to AbMinSA who have remained faithful and constant in difficult and changing times.

Pastor Peter Miller continues in chaplaincy ministry. He regularly visits hospital patients – especially country people in city hospitals. COVID impacted this ministry too and we are thankful for the work not just of Pastor Peter, but those others who continued to serve as best they could under the COVID limitations. We look forward to chaplaincy ministry being fully restored.

David Biar, our District Professional Standards Officer, supports in assisting to resolve and manage Professional Standards issues.

Constitutional Changes: These were due to be discussed at last year's synod. They now sit before us as matter of conversation and decision for this year's synod.

Elections: Thank you for endorsing our proposal to hold over elections scheduled for last year's synod until this year. This has enabled continuity through some very challenging times.

Our Pastor's Conference will bring nominations for executive officers - Bishop, 1st and 2nd Assistant Bishops - to synod.

Executive: The DCC executive - Bishop David, Assistant Bishops Tim and Eugene and Assistant Bishop for Mission Stephen met between meetings as needed and provided support for our Bishop.

Some Key Matters and Challenges Before Us: An ongoing challenge was to maintain synodical relationships with minimal face to face contact. We are thankful to our administrative staff for their outstanding commitment to keeping in touch with congregations and their needs. This included learning and bringing new communication technologies to bear across the church.

During this term, the significant refurbishment of the District Office was completed – including a new meeting room incorporating technology that enables online meetings.

We have been working toward a memorandum of understanding that will help us develop and clarify our relational procedures with LESNW.

Relating with various ministry arms of the church such as LCC (now Lutheran Care), Lutheran Disability Care, and aged care facilities has been a regular feature of our meetings. They too are going through significant change and challenges. While we had been working with LDS and LC toward a merger, you will be aware that has not happened. Due to changing circumstance the two groups have not merged. You will hear more of this in their reports to synod.

Professional Standards Department procedures have been changing in the light of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This has meant that we as a church have had to review current practices, including specific historic and current circumstances in congregations. This is not an easy realm, especially where long term arrangements have been in place. It is DCC's responsibility to oversee this process on behalf of the wider LCA NZ. We value and affirm the work done by congregations and continue to hope that we can work collaboratively in the light of the new guidelines and procedures developed by PSD in response to the royal commission.

Finally: In the face of changes we have been through and finding new ways of going about our tasks, our hope is in the Lord. In Him and through Him, all things are possible. And so, we remain as people of hope - calm in the face of turmoil, confident in the face of uncertainty and courageous in the face of fear. We are called to be the calm, confident and courageous presence of Christ in the world!

We thank you, the members of the LCA SA-NT District for your patience and support as we travel this road together.

Please continue to remember DCC in your prayers as together we seek to discern the Lord's purposes in our service to the SA-NT District of the Lord's church, all for the sake of the Kingdom of God!

Pastor Tim Klein
Chair
District Church Council

Refocusing

It is customary in a report of this kind to present the statistics of the College – the enrolment numbers, the staffing levels and the building projects. However, schools are not a bunch of numbers they are made up of real people with real passions and needs and learning styles and diverse interests and backgrounds and cultural heritages. Consequently, my report will focus on the 'heart and soul' of the College more so than the 'heroics and statistics'.

By any measure 2020 was an extraordinary year. While we had to continue with the 'ordinary' activity of life we had to do so in extraordinary ways.

With over 2.5 million people dead and many millions more suffering health effects from the COVID-19 pandemic it is with gratitude to God that we reflect on the fact that Australia has been largely shielded from the catastrophic health crises evident in so many countries. Apart from the health impacts of COVID-19 a secondary consequence of the pandemic has been the economic and financial impacts to individuals, corporations and countries alike – indeed no one has escaped the consequences in some form as a result of this pandemic, Concordia College included.

One of the better things to arise from the effects of the current pandemic is the desire of many to refocus on what is important. At Concordia this has been the case with renewed focus on student, staff and community health and wellbeing. In addition, we have doubled our efforts in the area of financial and other support to families in need at this time. And, as individuals and families in our College community struggle, even suffer, our focus on pastoral care and worship and witness to Jesus as Saviour has come into clearer and sharper focus; for just as COVID-19 has touched us all, no one escapes the touch of original sin and its dire consequences. Time is short and we at Concordia have been sharply focused on what is important.

A second positive outcome as a result of the events of last year has been the extraordinary collaboration, support and team approach to finding or constructing solutions to unexpected problems. A fine example was delivering a full curriculum during a year of restrictions and lockdowns via online learning and at very short notice. I can report that there has been a wonderful resilience in the College community that has resulted in many forms of adaptation and innovation that will serve us well into the future.

In short, during 2020 the need to work as a team across the whole campus was never more needed; never more practised; and the benefits of the continued roll out of our amalgamation of the St John's campus and the Concordia campus program, begun 5 years ago, never more appreciated.

Rejoicing

Despite all of the disruptions of COVID-19 Concordia gives thanks to God for:

- the blessings of health and safety of staff and students
- the opportunity to deliver a near to full learning program last year
- high levels of teaching and learning engagement
- a less than expected financial impact resulting from COVID-19



- full or near capacity student enrolment in all year levels (1255 total enrolment)
- extraordinary leadership from our Principals Michael Paech (St John's Campus) and Paul Weinert (Concordia Campus) and the wider Leadership and Finance teams
- focussed spiritual leadership from Pastors Dale Gosden (College) and Andrew Brook (St John's Unley)
- the education team rolling out our innovative *Unlocking Futures* learning pedagogy initiative
- the well-being project research team as they address critical issues for both students and staff around wholeness and being fully well, including spiritual connectedness
- diligent commitment to governance matters

Repositioning

The extraordinary events of 2020 also precipitated an even more heightened focus on the elements of our Strategic Plan, "Towards 2025", highlights of which include:



1. Lead in Learning: the continuing roll out of the 'Unlocking Futures' learning framework across the whole College; the appointment of additional learning leaders across the Concordia Campus in order to optimize teacher student engagement.

2. Strengthen Christian Identity: actively exploring closer ties and ministry opportunities with our local congregation(s) and faith communities.

3. Connecting Community: deepening community connections and engagement across the whole College; continued rollout of the amalgamation project (phase 2) involving a significant change in our leadership structure at the College; dedicated work from our alumni and communications officers to connect with past, present and future Concordia scholars; reconnecting with our overseas students following the closure in 2020 of international student borders.

4. Promote Wellbeing: continuing to develop an evidence-based, research-driven understanding of wellbeing for all students and staff; a heightened recognition of the extraordinary value and worth that our extraordinary God places on each member of our community – summed up succinctly in the new College tag line.

5. Secure Our Future: exercising stewardship through financial sustainability; targeted and programmed provision and upgrading of learning facilities - planning, drawings and loan applications are well underway for the expansion to triple streaming and redevelopment of the St John's Campus as well as the provision of a new adequately sized gymnasium. Building of these projects is planned to commence in July 2021 for completion December 2022.

Finally, the College continues to focus on ways to walk with education partners, parents and caregivers and the Church to provide our students with rich and engaging learning experiences in the Lutheran education tradition.

Respectfully submitted
Dr Loyd R Fyffe
Chair, Concordia Board

Immanuel College

2020 was an extraordinary year, dominated by the unanticipated, difficult, but unavoidable impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic from March onwards.

On behalf of Immanuel College Council, I thank our community stakeholders for their unwavering support of Immanuel during this challenging period. Council is most appreciative of the outstanding leadership shown by the Principal and his executive team, the adaptability of teachers and professional staff, and the adaptability, cooperation and support of students and parents.

At the outset, the College's response to COVID-19 was positive and consistent with the seriousness of the impacts. Our approach was focused on supporting families as much as possible, while continuing to appropriately sustain and develop Immanuel offerings for the future. Clear, ongoing communication with parents and students was a key response component which proved pivotal in carrying forward a community that had to deal with overnight school closure and reopening; immediate boarding house closure and complex resumption; cessation of sports and extracurricular programs; and loss of all community programs. I am pleased to report that the positive and intense management response has enabled the College to be in a very strong position going forward.

In line with this, Council reports the following 2020 highlights:

- The College continues to be in a very sound financial position and the demand for future enrolments remains strong, despite the difficult economic environment. Consistency in enrolments provides the stable financial environment needed for ongoing full delivery of our extensive education, care and extra-curricular programs. Operating income for 2020 was \$29.3m.
- The Council continued overseeing the implementation of its strategic intentions for 2016-2020. The Council has adopted the vision "*Aspiring to be Extraordinary*" and its strategic intentions include a strong focus on individual student wellbeing, support and growth opportunities, and excellence in academics. A highlight this year has been the faster than anticipated transition to online learning delivery.
- The strong focus on academic outcomes continued with a measurable improvement in the Year 12 results, including 33.5% of ATAR eligible students achieving an ATAR of 90 or above. This outcome was particularly pleasing given the challenges COVID-19 impacts presented to our students and staff.
- Ensuring College facilities, grounds and infrastructure continue to meet the evolving needs of our students remains a high priority. COVID-19 impacts resulted in delayed delivery of the capital plan in some areas. However, various projects were still undertaken across the campus including continued refurbishments in the Middle School, commencement of upgrading the chapel foyer and chapel, and, as part of various planned sustainability initiatives, solar panels were installed in three locations.

The Council met eight times in 2020, including six reporting meetings and two strategic discussions. In addition, Council enhanced its work by utilising four committees – Finance, Mission & Ministry, Marketing & Development and Facilities. Council members in office at

end of 2020 were Kym Wallent, David Zweck, David Thomas, David Field, Kerry Rowlands, Sharon Smith, Keryn Hendrick and Pastor Rodney Witmitz.

Kym Wallent
Chairman
Immanuel College Council

SA-NT District Constitutions Committee

Introduction to the work of the committee

The main purpose of the LCA SA-NT District Constitutions Committee is to help the various entities associated with the District to update their constitutions to meet the needs of the entity and the District, and to comply with legislation.

The Process for updating your constitution

- a. Locate and review your current constitution.
- b. If the constitution of your entity has not been reviewed in the past 5 years:
 - i. Appoint a small team to deal with the update
 - ii. Contact the District Administrator for assistance
 - iii. After your draft has been completed, submit the draft to the committee
 - iv. Once the committee has approved your draft the next step is to have the constitution adopted at a general meeting of the entity
 - v. The adopted Constitution is then returned for District Church Council final sign off; and
 - vi. Formalities are then complete, with the exception for incorporated associations; in which case the constitution is to be lodged with the Office of Consumer and Business Services.
- c. If there are any unusual or complicating matters, such as amalgamations, a committee member may visit to answer questions and help prepare a constitution that will work for you.
- d. Please don't delay ~ do it now!

Achievements for 2020

The committee has considered and approved for endorsement by District Church Council the following constitutions:

Entities	2020	2019
Congregations	28	
Parishes	3	
Schools	5	
Aged Care Facilities	1	
Agencies	2	
Total	39	51

As reported last year, there are **still** a large number of parishes and congregations that have not updated their constitutions. Many of these constitutions are more than 30 to 50 years old.

Issues arising from out-of-date constitutions

Updating of constitutions is required to keep pace with the changes to LCA NZ requirements, Government legislation and technology. In particular, under the requirements of 'Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012', the commission has introduced the requirements for financial audit or review of 'not-for-profit' status and dissolution.

Membership of the Committee

Committee members for the year were Graham Herrmann, Neil Lutz, Gilbert Materne, Pastor Peter Miller, Angela Rogers, George Scherer and Peter Wittwer.

Neil Lutz
Chairperson

Tanunda Lutheran Home

Now in its 69th year, the Home continues to provide spiritual and physical care to around 230 people; 120 in the residential care section located in central Tanunda and around 110 people in retirement living homes around the Barossa. Over the last two years seven homes have been constructed in Nuriootpa on land which has a capacity for a further 45 homes, five homes were recently completed alongside of the residential care section in Tanunda, with a further ten currently under construction on that same site close to the centre of town. The demand for independent housing continues to grow as we cater for those who wish to spend their time in other ways than having the upkeep of property.



2020 was actually a good year for Chaplaincy at TLH. Chaplains needed to step up when family members' visits were restricted by the pandemic. We were given extra hours to provide the extra emotional and spiritual support required for people who were feeling more worried and socially isolated. COVID-19 also meant that, for a while, Sunday services for the whole community could not happen. However, services in the different sectors of the care facility, with holy communion, did continue. This has continued, and more people actually attend in each sector than when everybody had to go the large Sunday service. The Sunday service has become a service more specifically for the people living in our independent homes, so everybody seems to have landed with an option that suits them the best.

Tanunda Lutheran Home's very humane and person-centred approach to the pandemic has supported the spiritual care opportunities in the home in a way which really could not have been any better. Against the backdrop of a royal commission that has consistently raised bad stories about residential aged care, we've sometimes wanted to cry out: "Look at us to see good examples of excellent care". We understand that there are still homes which struggle to provide basic person-centred care, attentive to the spiritual values of each resident. We experience the joy of seeing satisfied residents and their supporting families, where a servant-model of care, in the name of Christ, is a daily experience for people. We're blessed to be doing this work.

Staffing for the aged care sector has always been a challenge due primarily to the damaging images created by some providers. This, together with the fact that the Barossa is a rural region with a population of just 24,000, means it is often difficult to fill positions and we are continually seeking staff across all areas – registered and enrolled nurses, carers, hospitality and cleaning. We work with organisations to provide students studying nursing with opportunities for on-the-job training to encourage young people to see the value of careers in aged care.

To keep pace with the anticipated outcomes for greater accountability, 33 new computers have been purchased with appropriate software to ensure that the residents receive the care they require when they need it and to maintain the documentation required by legislation and families.

Tanunda Lutheran Home was acknowledged for its efforts in 2020, and to that end it was a finalist in the "Best Organisation in the Excellence in Aged Services" by *Leading Aged Care Australia* and winner of the "Employer Excellence in Aged Care Award" in the *Prime Super Awards*.

In a facility caring for 120 residents staff are required to cover great distances during their shifts, so the CEO and staff looked outside the square to see if the time spent in walking could be reduced. The outcome has been an investigation into the use of robots with a Federal Government Grant of \$890,000 being received to engage two robots to carry essentials around the Home. This will be a first in aged care for South Australia which will hopefully be able to be replicated in other Homes. It will also enable staff of Tanunda Lutheran Home to spend more physical time in supporting the residents.

We thank God that we are able to provide care to those we are privileged care for and look forward to being able to continue this ministry into the future.

Lee Martin
CEO

Chris Pfeiffer
Chair



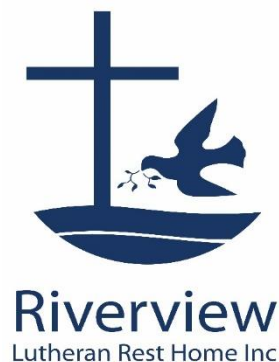
Executive Management Team of
Tanunda Lutheran Home with their
Employer Excellence Award
L to R: Cherie Cheyne, Lee Martin and
Kim Hahn



Nuriootpa Retirement Living

Riverview Lutheran Home Loxton

Riverview, located in the Riverland town of Loxton overlooking the beautiful Murray River, comprises of 60 private aged care rooms with ensuites, has a further 25 independent living options on site and employs approximately 100 staff.



Our vision is to be a vibrant, innovative leader, and the best partner to support people to live well. Our Christian values of care, respect, kindness, compassion, quality, love, patience, and integrity aim to be embedded in everything we do and reflected in everyday life at Riverview.

The past 12 months have been interesting and challenging. COVID-19 and social distancing were unheard of until early last year but are now the norm and a big part of our everyday lives, especially in aged care where our role is to protect and look after the elderly, who are most vulnerable during this global pandemic.

Our 'new normal' now involves socially distanced inhouse lifestyle activities, Facetime, Skype, and Zoom, all in an effort to keep our residents socially connected with family, friends and each other.

Our occupancy this financial year to date is 99.3% with all beds generally occupied, and a waiting list of people wanting to come to Riverview from across the Riverland region. Interestingly, resident turnover has been much lower during the pandemic, with very few residents falling ill. Our staff have been wearing masks since late March last year, and continue to complete regular infection control, hand hygiene, and donning and doffing training. Both staff and visitors are screened on entry, complete hand hygiene and are reminded of social distancing each time they enter the facility.

Sense of community and involvement in our local community has always been a very important part of life at Riverview, although this has been very challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have still managed to participate in the Loxton Mardi Gras Parade, and go for some rides around town in the Riverview bus. Our residents have also been blessed by receiving cards from students at the Loxton Lutheran Primary School.

We have been very blessed to have Pastor Avito Da Costa and his wife Anna with us since February 2020, our residents especially enjoy church with Pastor and Anna. Staff also look forward to Pastors freshly baked bread on Tuesday afternoons.



Riverview Residents, staff, volunteers, and Pastor Avito enjoyed participating in the community parade

The building of our new chapel and wellbeing centre is progressing well, with completion now expected late May. Our residents have enjoyed watching the progress through the windows, whilst our resident retired builder has enjoyed being involved with the project and having personalised on-site tours to monitor progress. We have recently selected chairs and fabrics and cannot wait to start using the new building.

We have also continued with the upgrading of our Edwards passageways (that are now fully enclosed but were once outside verandas) with the installation of new linen cupboards, hand hygiene stations, and reverse cycle air conditioning.

Our serviced apartments are fully occupied with rental residents. We find this option continues to be very popular and preferred over the more traditional model of licence-to-occupy retirement living. Our rental option gives those that have always rented, or those that do not wish to tie up their capital, access to a supported community retirement living option. We continue to strive for excellence in Christian care and thank the Lord for the blessings he continues to provide us.

Nicolle Jachmann
Chief Executive Officer

Our resident retired builder checks out the progress of our chapel and wellbeing centre with CEO Nicolle Jachmann



Praise God for his continued blessing of the work of the SA-NT District!

Praise God for giving depositors a heart for mission in depositing to support the LCA!

Praise God for the opportunity that the LLL has in partnership – Together in Mission – with both!

We celebrate the work of your hands over the last year.

Missional Loans in SA-NT District

Navigator College, Port Lincoln

Senior School students at Navigator College in Port Lincoln have stepped into their new expanded senior school precinct for the first time in Term 1, 2021. We are thrilled to see the project completed with students from Year 10 to Year 12 now able to utilise their state-of-the-art learning spaces.

The relatively young college, opened in 2009, has seen a huge increase in demand for quality education in the area. Acknowledging the demand for 21st century career pathways the school answered the call by adding a new multi-level STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) building to their senior school.

We are so grateful to have worked together with Navigator to construct two new science labs, a bright and airy art studio, a design and technology space, student hub, four general learning classrooms and multiple flexible learning areas.

It continues to be a pleasure for the LLL to partner with Navigator and we wish the college every blessing as their current and future students leverage the new facilities available to them now in the expanded Senior School.

It is an honour to support the work of people who love our Lord and Saviour and love the young people that their work touches.

Maitland Lutheran School

Out with the old transportable classrooms and in with the new Upper Primary building at Maitland Lutheran School, SA! Thanks to an increase in enrolments and interest in Christian based education in the Yorke Peninsula area, Maitland Lutheran School has expanded its classroom facilities to accommodate the new students.

The new Upper Primary building consists of five new classrooms, a dedicated music room, a common learning space and staff preparation area. Maitland Upper Primary students are now embracing their new learning space with great enthusiasm.

Maitland is a currently a Foundation to Year 10 Christian school that will be expanding to Year 12 in 2023. This expansion is pleasing to see as the word of God is reaching more homes on Yorke Peninsula.

It is simply fantastic to support the work of schools such as Maitland, who help children to "grow into Christ", now and into the future.

COVID-19

During 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic added a number of pressures and uncertainties to our borrowers. Facing financial uncertainty, the LLL understood the individual needs of its borrowers and offered a six-month repayment holiday. Lutheran Schools were especially appreciative of this understanding and support.

In South Australia 18 borrowers took up this offer. Pleasingly, in God's kindness, all have come through that time with confidence in their financial performance.

LLL Bursary Grants

The LLL is committed to providing Lutheran education with ongoing support through the provision of development loans, business services and advice – as well as providing philanthropic grants.

LLL approved LLL School Bursary Grants totalling \$135,000 per annum to the three Lutheran School Regional Offices, because we want to provide the opportunity for as many students as possible to attend a Lutheran school - students who would otherwise be precluded due to financial hardship.

LESNW received \$50,000 and will administer the application process with individual schools. The first bursaries will be awarded for the 2022 school year.

To alleviate immediate financial hardships for some families in the 2021 school year a further \$50,000 was provided to LESNW by the LLL in January 2021.

Seeing the need and with resources available, the LLL is pleased to provide this support for many years to come, walking together in mission with LESNW.

Non-interest-bearing Account Grants

It is a blessing to see the many LLL account holders nominating their account to be non-interest-bearing, which then supports the mission of many district projects. Last financial year the LLL distributed total grants of over \$240,000 to many SA-NT District projects, including Lutheran schools, congregations and aged care facilities.

It is a blessing to witness love for mission coming to life in this way. God be praised.

LLL Camping Ministry Grants

Christian Life Week camps and camping ministry have been a crucial part of youth ministry for decades. Many have fond memories of attending camps, learning about Jesus, sharing food and fellowship, playing games and having fun. Lifelong friendships and even marriages were forged while on camp!

To enhance and support this vital ministry to youth, in late 2019 the LLL announced a significant sponsorship for Christian Life Weeks (CLWs) or similar district Children, Family, Youth and Young Adult Ministry (CFYYAM) camping ministries and this ministry will continue to receive \$28,000 annually until 2022.

Ian Crambrook, Camping and Event Coordinator for CFYYAM said 'Thanks again for the grant funds that the LLL generously sponsored us with, which allowed us to run the 2020 program called "camp-online" at no charge to participants.'

LLL Mission Outreach Grant

Two South Australian congregations were awarded a 2020 grant for their mission project:

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Magill and the Adelaide Deaf Community Church.

The \$15,000 Mission Outreach Grant has enabled the installation of a video system capable of live-streaming and recording services held at Magill in AUSLAN (Australian sign language) and English.

St Peters Lutheran Church, Loxton.

A \$10,000 Mission Outreach Grant will enable St Peters Lutheran Church to establish a toy library on its premises. The toy library project will provide a much-needed community service and create another opportunity for the congregation to connect with young families in the area.

When announcing these grants earlier this year, Pastor Stephen Schultz (Assistant Bishop for Mission SA-NT District) commended both these projects and wished the congregations "every blessing as they continue to share the good news of Jesus with their communities". "Once again we are grateful to the Lutheran Laypeople's League for their generous provision of \$25,000 for use in our SA-NT District to encourage mission initiatives".

REG increases in SA-NT District

Due to COVID-19 church closures during 2020, congregation members have not been able to attend and give cash at church the way they had been used to. Despite this adversity, Christian giving has been maintained by an increase in the take-up of REG (Regular Electronic Giving). REG is administered free of charge by the LLL, using its direct debit platform.

In the SA-NT District for the year to June 30, 2020, an additional 336 individuals and families are now giving over \$4.5 million annually via REG, which represents an approximate increase of 20 per cent, or over \$900,000 over the past 12 months.

100th Anniversary of LLL

2021 marks the 100th year the LLL of supporting the Lutheran Church of Australia. During the year we will be commemorating and highlighting areas this support has provided at a Churchwide, District and local level, especially in supporting Lutheran schools and congregations.

The LLL has only been able to provide this support because of the loyal support of our accounts holders so we honour and thank God for each and every one of you.

Yours in Christ
Ross Smith
CEO
LLL Australia

Celebrating District Ministries



District camp directors
attending the 2020
Blueprint Ministries
Directors Retreat

Newly ordained
Specific Ministry Pastor
Lindsay Thomas
celebrating
communion with the
congregation at Yalata



Bishop David Altus with
students from Redeemer
Lutheran School Nuriootpa
opening the new
Discoverers Village and
Creators Village

LCANZ BISHOP – REFLECTIONS ON THE CHURCH

March 2021

*I created the world and covered it with people;
I stretched out the sky and filled it with stars.
(Isaiah 45:12 CEV)*

*'In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising.'
(Matthew 2:1-2 NRSV)*

Later this year I will be preparing a full report for the General Convention of Synod, which is planned for the end of September/early October. In these preliminary 'reflections' I offer some thoughts on the state of the Church⁵, considering overall trends and patterns rather than individual issues. When faced with difficulties that seem to pile up without ending, I have always found it useful to step back and look at the horizon, where we are headed and where we have come from, and then reassess my daily challenges and put them into perspective. So often we seem to be facing insoluble problems we cannot fix. Realising that we cannot 'fix' the Church is a useful starting point, allowing us to 'let go and let God', as the saying goes.

I hope these short thoughts may be of service in your District and your congregation as you work locally and as a Synod on the faith and business items before you this year.

The church: a parable

Picture a large concert hall filled with light and sound. An event is in full swing. The audience rocks with the artists on stage, joining in the singing and applauding loudly.

A recess on one side of the hall is blocked off by a thick, dark curtain. Those inside the niche can't see or hear the concert, but they do catch the occasional echo and flash of light. Once, a man came into the niche to invite them to come out and join the concert. He pierced the curtain with tiny holes, letting in a hint of the light and sound that lay beyond. The holes were like stars in a night sky. Afraid, some tried to cover them over, but couldn't succeed. The light and sound that leaked through them was too strong, coming as it did out of the main concert hall.

The church: a window on heaven

What if we thought of our congregations (or worshipping communities) as windows on eternity, stars that shine like beacons in the dark, telling of a hope and a truth that has been lost to the world? When we worship, hear the Word, receive the Sacraments and the Holy Spirit gives us faith, God opens a window to heaven, a glimpse of things beyond human knowledge, insight into things that we cannot yet fully know or imagine.

The church: what makes it what it is

Think about what we believe (sometimes called the 'marks' of the church):

⁵ Note – In these reflections I am using 'Church' (capital 'C') to mean 'LCANZ' and 'church' (small 'c') to mean the 'holy catholic church' of the ecumenical Creeds, although of course, sometimes the two meanings can overlay one another.

- In baptism we are reborn as full members of God's family. He restores our lost relationship with him. Through physical water and his timeless Word, God reaches into time and space and joins us with him eternally – forgiving sins and restoring the glory of his creation. In baptism the Holy Spirit comes to us with the gift of faith. Adopted by God as his children, we are true sisters and brothers of Jesus.⁶
- In the Lord's Supper we participate in the Lord's death until he comes again in glory. The humanity, birth, life, suffering, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the great Scriptural story told in the cycle of the Christian liturgy, is God's action for the salvation of the world. That he humbled himself so much for our sakes is the overwhelming reality of the communion meal, as he is truly present to us now and also in eternity. When we commune, we join with all the saints in time and in eternity. It's massive, a foretaste of heaven.⁷
- When we hear the Scriptures, God himself speaks to us, across the aeons of creation and in the minute concerns of our daily lives. He does this in a way we can understand and accept, using human words, a written book, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It's awesome that God should use human means to achieve his divine ends – that is, bring us who were dead back to life and into a loving relationship with him and each other. God's word is truly a living word.

The church: truly divine service

Your congregation, the physical people among whom you worship in a physical place, is a local expression of a cosmic reality. When you consider the vastness of what is going on among you, as the almighty, indivisible, eternal God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – walks among you, touches you, speaks with you and shares his life with you. How often does that happen in our mundane, materially pre-occupied world? Not often, I guess, but that is what is promised when your congregation gathers for divine service – God is present and will serve you in that place.

There is a hymn that in my youth the pastor frequently chose for the beginning of the service:

God Himself is present:
Let us now adore him
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in his temple,
All within keep silence,
Prostrate lie with deepest reverence.
Him alone
God we own,
Him our God and Saviour:
Praise His name for ever.

(Lutheran Hymnal with Supplement 501)

This kind of 'vertical' expression of sacred faith is not as frequent in our worship today. Our piety has become more 'horizontal' – that is, earthbound, concerned with the things of today and tomorrow (even though Jesus clearly says we should let today's own troubles be enough for today e.g., Matthew 6:34). We are concerned with asking God for things (sometimes very specifically) and occasionally thanking God (when we remember). Much less frequently do we praise God just for being God – i.e., not concerned for ourselves or the things of the world

⁶ 'Now, here in Baptism there is brought free to every person's door just such a priceless medicine which swallows up death and saves the lives of all people' (Large Catechism, Fourth Part: Of baptism).

⁷ '... a pure, wholesome, soothing medicine which aids and quickens us in both soul and body' (Large Catechism, Fifth Part: The Sacrament of the Altar).

but only with the things of God. It's a sign of the times, and our preoccupation with ourselves. While there's nothing wrong with asking God to do things for us we should be careful of being more interested in what God can do for us than simply worshipping God for who God is, and the awe, wonder and joy of knowing him and his salvation.

The church: a divine interruption

You could argue that the church, and in particular your congregation, is an interruption, an anomaly, in the pragmatic, materialistic age in which we live. Humans today are interested in personal choice and advancement, solutions to problems that get in the way of that, and the general progress of society towards a confident, secured future. We are very imminent (of this world) and so it's no wonder that, very often, the only way the Church finds to justify its place is by being practical and giving society things it wants or needs – education, care, philanthropy. By these things we make ourselves useful, and that's fair enough. Indeed, we still attract quite a bit of advantage this way in terms of taxation (income tax and GST), and expenses such as council rates. I believe the Church is genuinely useful in serving society in God pleasing ways and so rightly attracts these concessions from government, although it is certainly losing that privileged place and the future might not look the same in that regard as the recent past.

But saying the Church serves people and society does not fully explain what it is. Plenty of clubs and not-for-profit organisations do similar work. Controversially and unfashionably, our first reason for existing is not individual fulfilment, the advancement of society or even the relief of human need. We exist to worship God, in season and out of season, when fashionable and when it's not, when society agrees and when it doesn't, whatever the government of the day, whatever its ethical and moral dilemmas (of which there are many) and especially whatever our physical or financial circumstances. God freely calls us into existence and the Spirit brings us together around Word and Sacrament for the ultimate purpose of worshipping and loving him in eternal joy. In other words, to be the human beings he originally created us to be.

The church: now and not yet

Ah yes, eternal life. That's another thing we don't pay so much attention to these days. Just as society now exists for its own sake and to nurture the individual in this life, there is a temptation for the Church to think the same way. Take, for instance, the question of whether the LCANZ will survive its current challenges. Numbers are heading the wrong way (in terms of how the world measures these things) and there seems to be little we can do to reverse that trend. Church going is not a popular activity across most of Western society today as it reminds people that there is a God to whom we are accountable. Our pleasure-seeking society doesn't want to hear that, so why should people be interested? Society is putting aside old categories of morality, ethics, shame, guilt, forgiveness and restoration in favour of the pursuit of individual happiness. The next consumer purchase rates more highly, despite its failure to deliver genuine pleasure and fulfilment, than the question of being right with God (whom increasing numbers are deciding doesn't exist anyway).

So, it's not a surprise that it's becoming more difficult to be 'church' today, and more difficult to promote a Christian understanding of life and our responsibilities before God. That does not mean, however, that it's the end of the road. Far from it, as the Biblical record shows. Some of the baggage the Church has gathered along the way are certainly at risk, among them its cultural place and prestige in society, comparative wealth, the ease with which we gather freely, and the ability to do mission without significant resistance. To date, apathy has

been our largest problem in mission. In the future that could easily change to open hostility, as it already has, for instance, in moral issues such as sex and gender, abortion and end of life choices.

The Church: realistic and practical

As we think about the future of our congregations, and of the LCANZ, we must be realistic about the challenges, but not despondent. Our call is not necessarily to be part of a large, successful organisation (everyone likes to be on the winning side), but it certainly is a call to worship God. And really, you need very little for that, because God has already given you everything. In recent decades we have gravitated to sound systems, PowerPoint and even in some cases special lighting.⁸ But none of these things, not even the actual building (although useful and desirable), are *essential* for worship. What worship needs is people, the word (Scripture – contained in the Bible and the liturgy), baptism (water and the word) and holy communion (bread, wine and the word). After all, Jesus says he will be there when even 'two or three are gathered in my name.'

The Church: what we might need to remember

Frankly, in practical terms, and to prepare us for the future when things won't be quite so easy, I think we need to recover something of the memorised liturgies (authorised worship orders) that we once knew by heart and did not need to read from a book or screen in order to participate. That's not because I want us to be old fashioned, but because worshipping that way allows us to reflect deeply as we pray, rather than gazing at a screen or a page and wondering what words we will say next, whether suitable or not. Variable worship practices have led us to continually gaze upwards or to the side, wherever the screen is, and we are no longer free to show any signs of sorrow or humility through bowing our heads, let alone kneeling as we once did. Posture has become an individual choice. When the electricity or the equipment fail, we are stopped in our tracks. There is lots of room to use technological aids, but we should not allow them to become of the essence of what we do. Otherwise, we run the danger of becoming ephemeral, catering only to individual tastes and desires of the moment. There's a proven discipline and resilience in liturgical worship, and the observance of the Christian calendar, honed over the centuries that has helped the church endure and preserve the faith in times of hardship or persecution. Through it we hear the central story of salvation each week and through the cycle of the year, preventing us from becoming overly focussed on the personal choices and interests of the pastor or worship leaders. Worship directs us outside of ourselves and our choices. Jesus is our desire and the centre of our attention, just as he gave us his undivided attention when he came to earth for our salvation.

The Church: a question of priorities

So perhaps our challenge is to reassess our priorities in the light of our core faith, and to prayerfully consider what God is saying to us in the present age. While we still have our wealth (comparatively) and freedoms, how can we hold on lightly to them as things that help but that are not essential for us to be the church? What do you think the LCANZ looks like in the age we are about to enter, or are already entering?

The church: past, present and future

I thank God for the generations who have worked for the good of the Church, and the many gifts they have left behind. Among them are a united LCANZ, institutions such as the LLL and

⁸ Online worship is now raising further interesting questions about the necessity of physical presence in worship, questions that I am sure will be with us for some time, or as long as the internet lasts.

our schools, hundreds of congregational plants and mission projects. But most of all, they have preserved for us the deposit of faith, the true gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now it's our turn to pass that deposit on to the generations to come. Each of our congregations is a beacon of light, a glimpse of eternity, in a darkened world. And so, we can be confident, because the church is not ours, but God's. As the gospel of John says, 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it' (John 1:5 NIV).

Thank you for letting me share these thoughts with you. I do so not to criticise anything or anyone in particular. We are all in this together, we are all facing the same or similar issues, we all have similar joys and hopes. I believe that we, of all people, can face our future confidently because of the hope that we have in us.

Yours in Christ
Pastor John Henderson
Bishop
Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand

Celebrating District Ministries



Lutheran Disability Services clients, support workers and community members enjoying a game of cards

The School Dog at St Michael's Lutheran Primary School, Hahndorf helping to focus students while reading



Student Manacjia Karkadoo from Robinson River NT, Year 9A Teacher Rebecca Stephens, Yun's Taekwondo academy instructors Rachel, Damaris and Hannah De Kock.



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

OF AUSTRALIA

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

NOMINATIONS

Nominations to District Councils and Committees

NOMINATIONS AND VOTING INFORMATION

NOTES

1. Nominations for the position of Bishop, First Assistant Bishop and Second Assistant Bishop are made by the Pastors' Conference. Convention may add a candidate or candidates for these positions in which case "each proposed additional nomination shall separately require the majority approval of the District delegates present; the vote being taken by a show of hands.
2. All other positions, unless otherwise indicated, are elected on the nomination of the Nominations Committee, or delegates at convention through the Nominations Committee.

BISHOP

FIRST ASSISTANT BISHOP

SECOND ASSISTANT BISHOP

Finance Consultant

Recommended by District Church Council

Name	Stephen Kroker
Congregation	Glenelg St Pauls
Occupation	Business Manager
LCA National Service	Lutheran Education Australia Business Manager 2012 to present LCA International Mission Finance Secretary 2013-2017
District Service	District Finance Consultant May 2018 to present
Parish/Congregation Service	Glenelg 2005 to present, currently Treasurer
Qualifications	Chartered Accountant 1990 to present
Other information	Involvement with Lutheran Schools since 1985 as a Board Member Business Manager LSA Finance Committee member and LSA Council member

District Church Council

9 members, including the Bishop. Two Assistant Bishops and the District Finance Consultant

Synod needs to elect 1 pastor and 4 lay members

NOMINEES

Pastor

VANDERWAL, Andrew

Lay Members

HOFF, Robert

JAENSCH, Judy

MARTUL, Helen

SCHUBERT, Benjamin

Pastor Member

Name	Andrew Vanderwal
Congregation	Ceduna Lutheran Parish
Occupation	Pastor
LCA National Service	LCA/NZ Constitution Review team LCA SA-NT Pastor Delegate to General Synod 2015, 2018
District Service	District Church Council 2016 to present
Parish/Congregation	
Service	Hallett Cove 2001-2006 McLaren Vale Tatachilla College 2006 to 2011 Toowoomba Emmanuel Fellowship 2012 to 2015 Victor Harbor Lutheran Church 2015 – 2020 Ceduna Parish 2020 to present
Qualifications	Bachelor of Theology Graduate Diploma of Ministry

Lay Member

Name Robert Hoff
Congregation Unley St Johns
Occupation Retired Principal

LCA National Service Member of Committee for International Mission 2012 – 2017
Chair Lutheran Principals Australia 2012 – 2015
Acting Executive Officer Lutheran Principals Australia 2015 – 2018
Chair National Lutheran Principals Conference Planning Committee 2019 - 2021

District Service Fullarton Lutheran Homes Board 2018 – 2020
Coordinator for SA Retired Lutheran Principals Group 2019 - present

Parish/Congregation Service Worship volunteer Novar Gardens Immanuel 2010 – 2019
Ministry/Mission team member Unley St Johns 2021

Qualifications Dip Teaching 1972
LCA Theological Accreditation 1992
Teacher 1968 – 1972
Principal of various Lutheran Schools 1973 - 2018

Lay Member

Name Judy Jaensch
Congregation Adelaide Bethlehem
Occupation Retired Paediatrician

LCA National Service General Synod Delegate 2015-2018
Ambassadors of Reconciliation Training

District Service District Church Council member 1992 - present

Parish/Congregation Service Pastoral Assistant to 2018
Choir Member
Small Group Facilitator

Qualifications MBBS, FRACP in Adelaide
Consultant Paediatrician – retired at end of 2018

Lay Member

Name Helen Martul
Congregation Glenelg St Pauls
Occupation Retired

District Service District Church Council 2017 to present

Parish/Congregation Service Church Ministry Committee Member

Chairperson, Glenelg St Pauls
Secretary, Glenelg St Pauls

Qualifications
Registered Nurse
Nurse Manager ICU / High Dependency RAH
Project Manager and Client Accountant
IT Trainer and consultant

Lay Member

Name Benjamin Schubert
Congregation Unley St Johns
Occupation Modelling, Simulation & Analysis Engineer

District Service
SA-NT District Church Council 2018 – present
NOVO Director 2016 – 2017
Youth Camp Leader 2013 - 2018

Parish/Congregation
Service Youth Leader 2011 - 2018

Qualifications
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (Honours) 2016
Bachelor of Science (Experimental & Theoretical Physics) 2016
PhD in Mechanical Engineering 2017 – 2021
Modelling, Simulation & Analysis Engineer 2021 – current

Constitutions Committee

4 members (plus SA-NT District Administrator):

Synod needs to elect 1 pastor and 3 members

NOMINEES

Pastor

MILLER, Peter

Members

HERRMANN, Graham

MATERNE, Gilbert

WITWER, Peter

Pastor Member

Name	Pastor Peter Miller
Congregation	Adelaide Bethlehem
Occupation	SA-NT District Chaplaincy Ministry
LCA National Service	Australian Lutheran College Board Member - present
District Service	Nominations Committee - present Constitutions Committee - present
Parish/Congregation Service	Gawler 1985-1990 Para Vista 1991 – 1994 Immanuel College 1995 – 2002 Assistant Principal St Andrews College 2002-2005 Founding Principal Lakeside College Pakenham 2005-2015
Qualifications	BTh, Grad Dip Ed, MEdSt

Lay Member

Name	Graham Herrmann
Congregation	Hope Valley Trinity
Occupation	Retired Accountant
District Service	Constitutions Committee 2019 to present
Parish/Congregation Service	Treasurer Hope Valley Congregation 2013-2014 Church Organist since 1972
Qualifications	Bachelor of Business (Accountancy) 1989 Certified Practicing Accountant Justice of the Peace

Lay Member

Name	Gilbert Materne
Congregation	Adelaide Bethlehem
Occupation	Retired
LCA National Service	Standing Committee on Constitutions 2010 – 2018 General Synod Delegate 2015 – 2018
District Service	Constitutions Committee District Synod Delegate
Parish/Congregation Service	Archives Committee 2012 - present
Qualifications	LIB 1973 Barrister and Solicitor 1973 - 2002

Lay Member

Name	Peter Wittwer
Congregation	Adelaide Bethlehem
Occupation	Electrician
LCA National Service	General Synod Delegate 2012 & 2015
District Service	Constitutions Committee – present District Synod Delegate
Parish/Congregation Service	Gawler Lutheran Church council Gawler Immanuel Church council 2008 - present
Qualifications	Air Force Avionics Technician 2005 – 2010 Electrician 2010 - present

Loxton Riverview Rest Home

6 members:

Synod needs to elect 1 pastor and at least 6 members

(Must have at least six members on the board)

NOMINEES

Pastor

KOVRT, Darrin

Members

FIELKE, Robert

KRUSCHEL, Sarah

FIELKE, Mark

GRAETZ, Gregory

STONE, Debbie

Pastor Member

Name

Pastor Darrin Kohrt

Congregation

Loxton Concordia & Outlying

Occupation

Parish Pastor

District Service

Riverland Zone Pastor

Loxton Riverview Rest Home Board 2009 - present

Parish/Congregation

Service

Loxton Concordia & Outlying Parish 2006 - present

Lay Member

Name

Robert Fielke

Congregation

Bookpurnong Pilgrims of Zion

Occupation

Retired Farmer

District Service

Loxton Riverview Rest Home Board

Parish/Congregation

Service

Bookpurnong Chairperson 2003 – 2020

Bookpurnong Lay Reader 55 years

Bookpurnong Elder 2020 - present

Other Information

Rotary Member 45 years

Director of Companies in the Pork Industry, Community Hotel

Lay Member

Name Sarah Kruschel
Congregation Loxton St Peters
Occupation Business Manager

District Service Loxton Riverview Rest Home Board

Qualifications Member of Institute of Company Directors 2019 – present
Cert 2, 3, 4 Office Administration 1998 – 2001
Cert 4 Accounting 2012
Other small qualifications
Loxton Lutheran School Business Manager 2011 - present

Lay Member

Name Mark Fielke
Congregation Loxton St Peters
Occupation Managing Director

District Service LHI Glynde Board Member 2009 – 2015
Loxton Riverview Rest Home Board

Qualifications Diploma of Frontline Management 2002
Diploma of Financial Planning 2012
Diploma of Finance & Mortgage Broking Management 2018
Banking & Finance Industry 1984 - present

Lay Member

Name Gregory Graetz
Congregation Loxton St Peters

District Service Loxton Riverview Rest Home Board 2011 - present

Qualifications Owner Flight Motors Pty Ltd 1991 – 2020
SA Country Cricket Board 2011 – 2020
Lifestyle Accommodation Assistance Board 2000 – 2010
Mitsubishi National Dealer Council 2019 - 2020

Lay Member

Name Debbie Stone
Occupation Registered Nurse

District Service Loxton Riverview Rest Home Board

Qualifications Masters Nurse Practitioner Studies 2020
Grad Cert Clinical Education 2014
Grad Cert of Health (Perioperative) 2004
Bachelor of Nursing 1991

Tanunda Lutheran Home

9 members

Synod needs to elect 1 pastor and 8 members

NOMINEES

Pastor

PREUSS, David

Members

BARTSCH, James
DUTSCHKE, Karen
HISCOCK, Emma
McDONALD, Judy
McGREGOR, Elizabeth
PFEIFFER, Christopher
PULIATTI, Anthony

Pastor Member

Name	Pastor David Preuss
Congregation	Tanunda Langmeil
Occupation	Retired Pastor
District Service	Zone Pastor Adelaide Hills & Barossa
Parish/Congregation Service	Emerald Qld 1984 – 1987 Woodridge/Trinder Park Qld 1987 – 1993 Tanunda Langmeil SA 1993 – 2009 Lobethal SA 2009 - 2017
Qualifications	Over 30 years in Parish ministry
Other information	Chaplain at Trinder Park Nursing Home Qld

Lay Member

Name	James Bartsch
Congregation	Tanunda Tabor
Occupation	Builder
District Service	Tanunda Lutheran Home Board
Parish/Congregation Service	Tanunda Tabor Lutheran Church Garden Committee
Qualifications	Licensed Builder for 38 years Licensed Building Supervisor for 38 years

Lay Member

Name Karen Dutschke
Congregation Tanunda Grace
Occupation Enrolled Nurse

District Service Tanunda Lutheran Home Board 2010 - present

Parish/Congregation Service
Crystal Brook Congregation Youth Leader 1974 – 1978
Ferryden Park Congregation Youth Leader 1978 – 1980
Wau PNG KLS & Music 1981 – 1983
Yalata Congregation Support Member 1983 – 1985
Naracoorte Congregation Children's Ministry 1985 – 1988
Tanunda Pastoral Assistant & Music Leader 1989 - present

Qualifications
Diploma of Nursing 2005
Enrolled Nurse since 1978

Lay Member

Name Emma Hiscock
Congregation Tanunda Langmeil
Occupation Academic

District Service
Clinical Services Committee, Barossa Area Health Services
2019 – present
Lutheran Care Board Member 2020

Parish/Congregation Service
Tanunda Langmeil Congregation Secretary 2019 - present

Qualifications
Masters of Business Administration 2018
Grad Cert Health Service Management 2013
Grad Cert Peri-Operative Nursing 2001
Bachelor of Nursing 1996
Registered Nurse 1996-2017

Lay Member

Name	Judy McDonald
Congregation	Angaston Zion
Occupation	Retired Medical Practitioner
District Service	Tanunda Lutheran Home Board member 2017 - present
Parish/Congregation Service	Angaston Zion Home Group Coordinator 2016 – present Angaston Zion Prayer Group Coordinator 2017 - present
Qualifications	MBBS London 1974 MRCP, LRCS London 1974 FRACGP 1999 Senior Medical Officer at Child and Youth Health 1978 – 1984 FPA 1984 – 1986 PACHS 1986 – 2004 GP for Rural Doctor's Workforce Agency 2004 – 2006 Angaston Medical Centre Partner 2006 – 2016 Visiting GP to Aboriginal Health Service 1987 - 2020

Lay Member

Name	Elizabeth McGregor
Congregation	Tanunda Langmeil
Occupation	Retired
District Service	Tanunda Lutheran Home Board Member 2018 - present
Parish/Congregation Service	Altar Guild 2016 – 2010 Funeral Usher 2016 - present
Qualifications	Police Officer 1979 – 2014 Adv Dip Policing 2002 Cert IV Assessment & Workplace Training 2002 Cert III Information Technology 1999
Other information	Involvement with Lutheran Schools since 1985 as a Board Member Business Manager LSA Finance Committee member and LSA Council member

Lay Member

Name Christopher Pfeiffer
Congregation Bethany
Occupation Retired

LCA National Service Finke River Mission Board Member 2013 – present
Yirara College Board Member 2016 - present

District Service Tanunda Lutheran Home Board Member 2008 - present

Parish/Congregation Service Bethany Congregation Safety Officer 2020 – present
Marananga Church Chair 2008 - 2016

Qualifications Graduate Australian Institute of Company Directors 2003

Lay Member

Name Anthony Puliatti
Congregation Tanunda Langmeil
Occupation Accountant

District Service Tanunda Lutheran Home Board Member 2020 - present

Parish/Congregation Service Tanunda Langmeil Finance Committee 2010 – 2012
Tanunda Lutheran Primary School Council 2011

Qualifications Fellow Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand 1995
Fellow CPA Australia 1996
Chartered Tax Adviser, The Tax Institute of Australia 2002
Accountant 1990 - present

AbMinSA (Aboriginal Ministry South Australia)

5 members:

Synod needs to elect 1 pastor and 3 members

District Church Council to appoint 1 member

NOMINEES

Pastor

KUSS, David

Members

CHRISTIAN, Ivan

ROBERTS, Jeff

WILLCOCKS, Malcolm

Pastor Member

Name	David Kuss
Congregation	Birdwood Holy Cross
Occupation	Pastor
LCA National Service	Lutheran Men of Australia Spiritual Advisor 2014 to present
District Service	AbMinSA – 2016 to present Lutheran Men SA Spiritual Advisor – 2014 to present
Parish/Congregation Service	Geraldton WA 2002 – 2007 Alice Springs NT 2008 – 2013 Finke River Mission NT 2013 – 2015 Birdwood SA 2015 to present
Qualifications	Summer school of Linguistics 2013 Finke River Mission 2013 – 2015

Lay Member

Name	Ivan Christian
Congregation	Adelaide St Stephens
Occupation	Retired
District Service	AbMinSA Committee Member 2014 - present
Qualifications	BA, DipEd, GradDipTh (Ed)
Other Information	Volunteer hospital chaplain SA-NT District

Lay Member

Name	Jeff Roberts
Congregation	Tea Tree Gully St Johns
Occupation	Retired
District Service	AbMinSA Committee Member Adelaide Show Outreach
Parish/Congregation Service	Schools Ministry Tea Tree Gully

Lay Member

Name	Malcolm Willcocks
Congregation	Alice Springs
Occupation	Pastoral Support Worker
LCA National Service	Acting Manager FRM Store Hermannsburg 2016 Assistant Manager FRM Store Hermannsburg 2017-2018 Pastoral Support Worker FRM 2018 to present
District Service	AbMinSA Field Worker, Far West Coast 2010 – 2013 AbMinSA Committee Member 2014 - present
Parish/Congregation Service	Pastoral Support Worker Glynde Zion Congregation 2016 - 2017
Qualifications	LCA Accredited Lay Worker – 2011

Immanuel College Council

4-8 members

Synod needs to elect between 4 and 8 members, with at least one but not more than two being pastors

District Church Council will appoint 2 members

NOMINEES

Pastor(s)

Vacant

Members

FIELD, David

THOMAS, David

ZWECK, David

Lay Member

Name	David Field
Congregation	Maitland St Pauls
Occupation	School Principal

District Service	Immanuel College Council
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Parish/Congregation Service	Maitland St Pauls Elder 2012 – present Maitland St Pauls Church Council 2021 - present
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Qualifications	Diploma Teaching 1988 Grad Dip Theology 1997
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Lay Member

Name	David Thomas
Congregation	Albert Park Semaphore Parish
Occupation	Paediatrician

District Service	Immanuel College Council
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Parish/Congregation Service	Albert Park Congregation Elder
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Qualifications	MBBS 1983, FRACP 1991, MD 1996, MEd 2003
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Lay Member

Name	David Zweck
Congregation	Adelaide St Stephens
Occupation	Accountant

LCA National Service	Loans Management Committee
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Qualifications	Chartered Accountant 1993 – present Chartered Tax Advisor 2000 - present
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Concordia College Council**4 Members****Synod needs to elect 2 members**

District Church Council will appoint 2 members, including a Pastor member

NOMINEES**Members**

BELLON, Bruno
GRIVELL, Jane

Lay Member

Name	Bruno Bellon
Congregation	Hahndorf St Michaels
Occupation	Manager

District Service	Concordia Foundation Member 2018 – 2019 Concordia College Finance Committee 2018 - present
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Qualifications	Bachelor of Economics 1990 Graduate of Australian Institute of Company Directors 2015 Professional in banking and finance since 1990
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Lay Member

Name	Jane Grivell
Congregation	Hahndorf St Michaels
Occupation	Software Consultant

Parish/Congregation Service	Hahndorf St Michaels Lutheran Primary School Council 2008 - 2017
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Qualifications	Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Studies 1992 Software Consultant various roles 1993 - present
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Aged Care Committee

4 members

Synod needs to elect 1 pastor member and 3 lay members

NOMINEES

Pastor

KOWALD, Tim

Lay Members

SCHILLER, Delton

2 Vacancies

Pastor Member

Name	Tim Kowald
Congregation	Fullarton St Peter's
Occupation	Pastor
District Service	SA-NT District Aged Care Council 2009 - present
Parish/Congregation Service	Forbes 1983 – 1988 Natimuk 1989 – 1993 Semaphore 1996 – 2007 Fullarton 2007 - present
Qualifications	Aged Care Chaplain BTh MTh (Bioethics)

Lay Member

Name	Delton Schiller
Congregation	Murray Bridge Christ Church
Occupation	CEO
District Service	Aged Care Council
Qualifications	CEO of Murray Bridge Lutheran Homes 2009 - present

Celebrating District Ministries

In a new era for the organisation, Lutheran Community Care has rebranded to Lutheran Care, with a new logo signifying hope and a brand-new day.



Volunteers at Elcies – Lutheran Care's Op Shop in Norwood. A second store has also been opened in Tanunda.



Lutheran Disability Services clients learning to bowl



Lutheran Disability Services client Lauren cooking a healthy dinner

Welcome to the District

We welcome the following Pastors who have been installed to congregations in the SA-NT District:



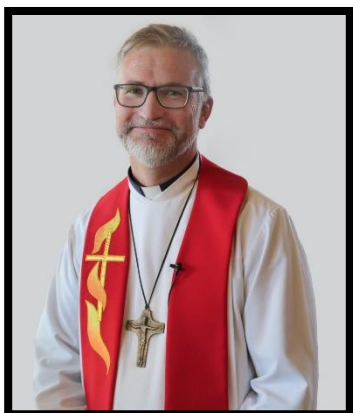
Philip Bentley – Greenock

Joseph Theodorsen – Darwin



Stephen Noble – Southern Flinders Parish

Roland Adams – Renmark and Paringa



Matthew Bishop – Blair Athol

SA-NT District Chronicle

15th May 2020 to 30 April 2021

Pastors: Calls Accepted

Lee Kroehn – Waikerie Parish SA to Rochedale Qld
Robin Zadow – Southern Flinders Parish to Alice Springs
Nigel Rosenzweig – LCA Grow Ministries and Unley to Victor Harbor
Matthew Bishop – Morley WA to Blair Athol
Leon Rosenberg – Karlsruhe-Saddleworth to Ferryden Park
Eugene Minge – Tea Tree Gully SA to Pakenham Vic
Murray Smith – Bordertown Parish SA to PNG (Lecturer at Senior Flierl Seminary)

Pastors: Installations

2020

Andrew Vanderwal – Ceduna Parish on 29th March 2020
Leon Rosenberg – Ferryden Park on 17th January 2021
Stephen Noblett – Southern Flinders Parish 24th January 2021
Matthew Bishop – Blair Athol SA 31st January 2021
Joseph Theodorsen – Darwin Top End Parish 7th February 2021
Nigel Rosenzweig – Victor Harbor 14th February 2021
Roland Adams – Renmark and Paringa 21st February 2021
Philip Bentley – Greenock Parish 28th February 2021

Graduate Assignments

2020

Joseph Theodorsen – Darwin Top End Parish
Roland Adams – Renmark and Paringa
Stephen Noblett – Southern Flinders Parish
Philip Bentley – Greenock Parish

Ordinations

6 December 2020 – Concordia College, Unley

Joseph Theodorsen
Christopher Johnson
Philip Bentley
Stephen Noblett
Roland Adams
James Luk

Vicarage Placements

Dec 2019 to June 2020:
Chris Johnson – Glenelg St Pauls
Stephen Noblett – Loxton Concordia
Joseph Theodorsen – Mount Barker St Marks

Dec 2020 to June 2021:

David Cherry – Birdwood Holy Cross

Ben Graham – Tallebudgera St Andrews

Mitch Kitson – Mount Barker St Marks

Pastors: Retired

Wally Schiller – 19th January 2020

Mark Thiel – 28th June 2020

Chris Georg – 24th July 2020

Detlev Vosgerau – 26th July 2020

Tim Koch – 22nd November 2020

David Gogoll – 31st December 2020

Noel Due – 31st December 2020

Graham Jenke – 31st December 2020

Geoff Havelberg – 17th January 2021

Deaths 2020

Dean Heyne – 26th May 2020

David Borgas – 29th May 2020

Leah Steicke (wife of Pastor Lance Steicke) – 8th June 2020

John Sabel – 24th July 2020

Elaine Traeger (wife of Pastor Clem Traeger) – 17th August 2020

Pastor Philipus Tjakamarra – 25th August 2020

Pastor Rolph Mayer – 31st August 2020

Pastor Martin Freund – 22nd October 2020

Pastor Paul Haines – 24th October 2020

Pastor Trevor Raggett – 26th November 2020

Lynette Wiebusch (wife of Pastor Robert Wiebusch) 30th November 2020

Pastor John Wilksch – 11th December 2020

Pastor Heinz (Harry) Ludwig – 27th March 2021

Pastor Clem Traeger – 13th April 2021

Anniversaries: Ordinations

25 Years

Malcolm Huf

Noel Kluge

40 Years

Peter Bean

Kevin Bell

Paul Fielke

Mike Pietsch

Jack Shepherd

Jeff Silcock

50 Years

Mike Hassold
Alwin Schirmer
Ross Schultz
Dean Zweck

70 Years

Arnold Schmidt

We sincerely apologise if we have inadvertently omitted anyone from this chronicle.

Celebrating District Ministries



Residents at Murray Bridge Lutheran Homes celebrating St Patrick's Day 2021

Craft activities at St Paul's Lutheran Homes Hahndorf are an important part of resident's lives

Campers enjoying the river and scenery at Renew 2019



District Financials

LCA SA-NT District Audited Financial Statements

[To view the audited financial statements for LCA SA-NT District Incorporated please click here.](#)

LCA SA-NT District Holdings Limited Audited Financial Statements

[To view the audited financial statements for LCA SA-NT District Holdings Limited please click here.](#)

District Finance Consultant - Notes On Financial Statements

District Holdings Ltd

- Purpose of the District Holdings Ltd is to hold (in trust) property that is utilised by the SA and NT District, churches, and agencies. Pages 13 to 16 of the financial statements lists the properties currently held by District Holdings Ltd. There have been some additions (transfers in) and deletions (transfers out due to sales).
- Each beneficial owner can recognise economic ownership of the property and has the associated financial responsibility for all benefits and costs associated with that property.
- District Holdings Ltd simplifies administration in regard to issuing of mortgages etc and provides a level of control for risk management to ensure good stewardship of properties. Please see Angela Rogers if you wish to discuss the possibility of utilising District Holdings Ltd to hold your congregation's property.
- The District gave a \$6,000 grant (2019 \$6,000) to District Holdings Ltd to cover operation costs.
- Operating surplus for the year was \$280 (2019 \$268).

LCA SA & NT District

• Financial result	2020	2019
Operating Surplus (Deficit) (page 6)	\$173,934	\$(45,237)
Add back expenses funded from Internal funds (page 14)	\$99,656	\$67,866
Adjusted "Budget" result Surplus	\$273,590	\$22,629

• Financial result without government support	2020
Adjusted "Budget" result Surplus	\$273,590
Add back government assistance	\$(593,220)
Less government assistance passed onto schools	\$161,820
Less government assistance passed onto staff and other agencies	\$34,046
Adjusted operating deficit without government assistance	\$(123,764)

Net benefit of government assistance \$397,354

The District qualified for JobKeeper for 2020 – it was not eligible for JobKeeper in 2021.

2020 Financial result compared to 2020 budget

INCOME	Actual to 31/12/20	Budget to 31/12/20	Variance	Note
Contributions from Congregations	\$1,258,436	\$1,410,000	-\$151,564	
Government Income	\$431,400	\$0	\$431,400	1
Interest Income	\$66,815	\$138,400	-\$71,585	2
Dividend Income	\$16,000	\$0	\$16,000	3
Donations	\$154,826	\$50,000	\$104,826	4
Bequests	\$0	\$50,000	-\$50,000	
Events				
- Income	\$34,505	\$280,000		
- Expenses	-\$48,131	-\$280,000		
Net Events	-\$13,626	\$0	-\$13,626	
Grant Income	\$68,856	\$28,000	\$40,856	5
Trading Income	\$6,185	\$10,000	-\$3,815	
Property				
- Income	\$161,161	\$160,000		
- Expenses	-\$114,541	-\$110,000		
Net Property	\$46,619	\$50,000	-\$3,381	
Fundraising	\$1,637	\$4,000	-\$2,363	
Payroll Services				
- Income	\$492,044	\$637,400		
- Income JobKeeper	\$161,820	\$0		1
- Expenses	-\$642,823	-\$630,500		
Net Payroll Services	\$11,042	\$6,900	\$4,142	
Expense Recoveries	\$14,174	\$10,000	\$4,174	
Sundry Income	\$14,056	\$8,500	\$5,556	
	<u>\$2,076,420</u>	<u>\$1,765,800</u>	<u>\$310,620</u>	
EXPENDITURE				
Depreciation	\$33,026	\$30,000	-\$3,026	
Donations & Grants - budget	\$23,500	\$25,500	\$2,000	
Donations & Grants - Reserves	\$107,089	\$25,000	-\$82,089	6
Donations & Grants - Funds	\$99,656	\$0	-\$99,656	7
Donations & Grants - Other	\$60,180	\$26,000	-\$34,180	8
LCA National Contribution	\$628,555	\$675,000	\$46,445	9
Other operating expenses	\$128,689	\$149,600	\$20,911	
Salaries - District Office	\$787,340	\$737,100	-\$50,240	10
Salaries - Other	\$114,336	\$121,500	\$7,164	
	<u>\$1,982,371</u>	<u>\$1,789,700</u>	<u>-\$192,671</u>	
Surplus/-Deficit for 2020 operations	\$94,049	-\$23,900	\$117,949	
Allocation from Reserves	\$206,749	\$164,200	\$42,549	11
Reserve income transferred to reserves	-\$126,864	-\$140,300	\$13,436	12
Surplus/-Deficit after reserve transfers	<u>\$173,933</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$173,934</u>	

Notes

1. JobKeeper and other government assistance – total received \$593,220 – net benefit was \$397,354
2. Interest below budget due to reduction in the interest rate
3. Dividend income is from the District's investment in Ecumenical Endeavours Pty Ltd
4. Donations include fire disaster donations of \$72,356 (\$80,316 was distributed in 2020 to support victims of the SA fires)
5. Grant income includes LLL camping grant \$28,000, LLL interest free grants \$12,761 and LLL camping grant \$28,000
6. Donations & Grants – Reserves – refer page 14 of financial statements
7. Donations & Grant – Funds – refer page 14 of financial statements
8. Donations & Grant – Other – refer page 15 of financial statements
9. LCA contributions were maintained at 50% of contributions from congregations
10. Salaries – District Office increase includes the JobKeeper top up payments
11. Allocation from reserves – includes transfer of church planting grant to Mandurah-Rockingham
12. Reserve income is below budget due to reduction in the interest rate

2021 BUDGET

	Budget 2021 \$	Budget 2020 \$
INCOME		
District Contributions	1,400,000	1,400,000
Levy Income	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	70,000	138,400
Donations	50,000	50,000
Bequests	50,000	50,000
Event Income	215,000	280,000
Grant Income	34,000	28,000
Trading Income	10,000	10,000
Property income	172,150	160,000
Fundraising	4,000	4,000
Payroll Services	688,739	637,400
Expense Recoveries	10,000	10,000
Sundry Income	5,000	8,500
Total Income	2,718,889	2,786,300
EXPENDITURE		
Depreciation	30,000	30,000
Donations & Grants - budget	25,500	25,500
Donations & grants Reserves	0	25,000
Donations & grants Funds	0	0
Donations & grants Other	26,000	26,000
Event Expenses	200,000	280,000
LCA National Contribution	700,000	675,000
Other operating expenses	134,641	149,600
Property Expenses	110,800	110,000
Salaries - District Office	744,898	737,100
Salaries - School Pastors	684,969	630,500
Salaries - Other	131,500	121,500
Total Expenditure	2,788,308	2,810,200
Allocation from Reserves	180,199	164,200
Reserve income	-110,780	-140,300
Transfer from (to) reserves	69,419	23,900
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$0	\$0

**SUMMARY OF DISTRICT GUARANTEED
BORROWINGS**

	No. of loans 31/12/2019	Balance 31/12/2019	No. of loans 31/12/2020	Balance 31/12/2020
Church loans	40	\$2,966,810	24	\$2,654,309
Aged Care	4	\$7,005,129	6	\$8,611,568
LCC	1	\$10,167	0	
LDS	1	\$97,114	0	
LESNW	3	\$11,218,234	1	\$10,240,285
Schools	126	\$122,552,491	78	\$117,061,980
	175	\$143,849,945	109	\$138,568,142
School overdrafts	8	\$7,594,986	2	\$243,524
External borrowings	3	\$10,244,352	4	\$12,918,323
Total District guaranteed borrowings		\$161,689,283		\$151,729,989
LLL SA District borrowing limit				\$210,000,000



The LCA SA-NT District Office is able to assist with bookkeeping services for congregations and parishes for a small fee.

Service includes payment of invoices, receipt of income, reimbursements, salary reconciliation, monthly reconciliations and reporting for Church Council, ATO BAS lodgement, preparation for annual financial review or audit.

Contact the District Administrator for more information.



**SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN TERRITORY**