



Synod eNews

19th General Convention of Synod
Lutheran Church of Australia

ROSEHILL GARDENS, JAMES RUSE DRIVE, ROSEHILL, SYDNEY NSW
2-7 OCTOBER 2018

General Pastors Conference Advice to the 19th General Convention of Synod

23 July 2018

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I'm writing to introduce the General Pastors Conference (GPC) Advice to the 19th General Convention of Synod. The pastors of the church gathered at St Michael's Hahndorf church and school from 10-12 July 2018.

The Constitution and By-Laws of the LCA invite congregations to submit proposals in preparation for Convention. Where such proposals are of a theological and doctrinal nature, we ask our pastors to consider them at a General Pastors Conference which meets prior to Convention.

[General Pastors Conference Advice to the 19th General Convention of Synod](#)

The Advice from GPC outlines the proposals discussed by the pastors at conference, their recommendations, and pastoral words from the College of Bishops (CoB) who were asked by the pastors to finalise some aspects following the conclusion of the GPC.

The proposals of a theological and doctrinal nature referred to the GPC as detailed in the Advice are in relation to:

1. Ordination of women and men
2. Infant Communion
3. Full membership in the Lutheran World Federation and the International Lutheran Council

(1) Ordination of Women and Men

In discussing the proposals on the ordination of women and men, the GPC also discussed two draft doctrinal statements prepared by the Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations (CTICR) which were requested by the delegates of the 2015 LCA General Convention of Synod. These documents are:

- [Draft Doctrinal Statement: 'A theological basis for the ordination of women and men](#)
- [Draft Doctrinal Statement: 'A theological basis for why the ordination of women and men need not be church divisive'](#)

These two documents can also be found on the LCA 19th Convention of Synod website: [Ordination of Women and Men](#) page.

(2) Infant Communion

In discussing the proposal on Infant Communion, the GPC discussed and referred to two statements:

- ['Infant Communion: A reappraisal'](#) prepared by the CTICR, March 2012; and
- ['Infant Communion'](#) prepared by the CTICR and adopted by the General Church Council, February 1986.

These documents can also be found on the LCA website, [Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations](#) page.

Proposals

The proposals for the upcoming 19th General Convention of Synod will be available to you in the Book of Reports and on the Synod website in due course. The General Pastors Conference Advice will be included in the Book of Reports. I encourage you to read the documents closely and prayerfully as you prepare to attend Convention.

Nominations - Bishop and Assistant Bishop

A further role of the GPC as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws of the LCA is to submit nominations to the Convention of Synod for the office of Bishop and the office of Assistant Bishop of the LCA. I advise that Rev John Henderson and Rev Matthew Anker were nominated for the office of Bishop of the LCA. In addition, Rev Dr Andrew Pfeiffer was nominated for the office of Assistant Bishop of the LCA.

Please pray for these pastors, their families and their ministries as we prepare to gather at Convention.

At Convention, we will meet daily in worship as God comes to us in his grace and mercy. In worship we receive God's good gifts in Christ, and in worship we respond as God's people together in prayer. I ask for your prayers now in relation to the matters and the people outlined in this letter. As we prepare and journey towards this Convention, I encourage you with Paul's words in Ephesians 1:17,18a: 'I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you ...'

I join with Paul in this prayer for us all as we walk together as synod.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

In Christ

Pastor Neville Otto
Secretary of the Church



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