

AGENDA 7.2

Lutherans for Life

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BACKGROUND

Lutherans for Life was established in 1987 by a resolution of LCA General Convention. LFL engages in charitable and educational activities related to the promotion and defense of the value of human life from conception to natural death.

ACHIEVEMENT AGAINST PLAN

New website - www.lutheransforlife.lca.org.au

We believe our new website will be a crucial way we continue to carry out our work in the modern world. The website is designed to be a resource hub for our church when it comes to many issues relating to life. The website covers topics such as miscarriage, abortion, genetic screening, marriage, sexuality, self-harm, euthanasia, dementia, and more. We have endeavoured to keep in mind the real people these issues effect who are often hurting and in need of healing, and so approach these areas in love and compassion.

As well as the congregations of our church, we also especially had in mind our schools and aged care facilities with this website. Several of our group studies were tested out in the Christian studies classrooms at Endeavour college, and we received very positive feedback from this.

The content on the website was written mostly by members of the LFL committee and the website development was done through LCA Communications. We had an event on Wednesday 18 October 2018 to launch the site. Pastor Dale Gosden from Endeavour College and Linda Macqueen were guest speakers for the launch, and we had a good number of folk along from various parts of our church to be part of the event.

Our thanks go to the LLL for their generous grant to make this website possible.

NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM

On April 13, 2018 two of our committee members were invited to speak with the young people gathered at the National Youth Forum in Adelaide run by Grow Ministries. It was a tremendous privilege to be involved. We spent a day with the young people there covering Biblical foundations for life issues, abortion, marriage, sexuality, euthanasia, and practical Christian responses. It was great to hear the young people of our church thoughtfully engage with these issues and begin to integrate this into their Christian faith.

NEWSLETTER - LIFE NEWS

Our regular newsletter continues to be sent out to pastors and congregations of the church. The newsletter is produced by our editor Kimberley Pfeiffer. In it we aim to keep up to date with latest trends in life issues in our country and society and provide commentary and theological reflection.

ALC PASTORAL GRADUATE'S DINNER

Each year we host a dinner for the new pastor graduates from ALC with a speaker and make a gift to them of a relevant Christian book on life issues. This is always a valuable evening to encourage these new pastors and build relationships for the future.

FEEDBACK ON DOCUMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

In this past synodical term individual members of the LFL committee have provided feedback on various documents and submissions prepared by CSBQ or the office for public theology,

such as a draft paper on reducing abortion in Australia, and the submission to the Qld parliament in regard to their abortion bill.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

A member of the LFL committee, Chelsea Pietsch, has also spoken at the following events in this past synodical term:

- Endeavour College, yr 10s 'Big issues' day
- ALC moral theology class
- Invigorate youth and family ministry training day

GOVERNANCE REVIEW

This past term also saw LFL complete a review of its governance. The result of this was a decision to transition from being a separately incorporated body to becoming a committee of the LCA. At the time of writing the details of LFL's new governance structure are still being finalised.

CAFÉ LATINO

One aspect of LFL's terms of reference is to support other groups and organisations with similar goals to our own. One such project we have supported both financially and in other ways is Café Latino in Woodville, SA. Café Latino is situated next to a major abortion clinic in Adelaide. It is run by a Christian woman who wanted to provide a place of hope and life for staff and clients of the clinic. Through her quiet but powerful witness she has had a real impact there and we hope and pray she remains for years to come.

SUCSESSES

- Website development and launch
- National Youth Forum presentation day

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- Governance review and transition

COOPERATING LCA BOARDS AND AGENCIES

Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions	Provides regular reports on LFL activities. Responded at request to draft paper on abortion.
Assistant to the Bishop – Public Theology	Individual LFL committee members have provided Nick Schwartz with feedback on several draft papers and submissions.
Grow Ministries	Collaborated on LFL presentation to National Youth Forum
LCA Communications	Worked closely together on development of new LFL website
Grassroots training	Informal discussions about possibility of working together on further educational opportunities

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Table of Cash Movements	FY2016	FY2017
Total available at beginning of year	11,279	14,776
Cash raised in the year	6,692	9,213
Cash expended in the year	3,196	8,442
Cash available for future use	14,775	15,546