



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

NSW and ACT DISTRICT

LCA NSW and ACT DISTRICT 39th CONVENTION OF SYNOD

Walking with the Light

1 John 1:7



**28-30 OCTOBER 2022
WARRAMBUI**

Minutes

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Daily Program

Friday

5:30pm	Registration open	2:00pm	District Treasurer
6:00	<i>Optional Dinner</i>		District Administrator
7:00	Opening Worship	2:30	Proposals
7:30	Opening formalities		Nominations and Elections
	Nominations 1 st Reading	3:00	<i>Afternoon tea</i>
7:45	LCA Bishop Paul Smith	3:30	Warrambui
	LCA EOC Brett Hausler		Turning Point Ministries
	LLL Graeme Huf	4:30	Late Proposals
9:00pm	Closing Prayer	5:00	Closing Devotion – In Memoriam
	<i>Supper</i>	5:30	<i>Pre-dinner break</i>
		6:30	<i>Dinner</i>
			Guest Speaker Pr Mark Worthing
		9:00pm	Closing Prayer

Saturday

8:30am	Morning Devotion
9:00	District Bishop
	Mission and Ministry Team
	Strategic Facilitator
	DCC
10:30	<i>Morning tea</i>
11:00	LCA Local Mission
	New and Renewing Churches
	Proposals
12:15pm	Nominations 2 nd Reading
	District Budget
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30	LEVNT
	St Pauls College

Sunday

8:30am	Morning Devotion
8:45	ALWS
	Australian Lutheran College
	Lutheran Aged Care
	Lutheran Women NSW and ACT
	Professional Standards
	LCA International Mission
9:45	Closing formalities
10:15	<i>Morning tea</i>
11:00	Closing Service and Close of Convention
1:00pm	<i>Lunch</i>

Minutes - Friday 28 October 2022

Opening Worship

Pr Paul Hannola, Pr Robert Bartholomaeus

- 1 John 1:1-2:2
- Address: 'We walk together in mission when we walk with the light'
- Songs: We all are one in mission; Living Hope

Worship opened with an acknowledgment that our Heavenly Father, the Creator of all, gave the land on which we meet to the first nations people to steward since before present time. We thank God for the stewardship of this land by the Ngunnawal people and seek His divine providence for their elders present and emerging.

Formal Constitution of Convention

Opening Formalities

Welcome to Synod

NSW Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus welcomed all, including interstate visitors.
Dean Salzke, Warrambui Director welcomed all on behalf of Warrambui.

Greetings

Apologies

Colin Bahr	Delegate, Milbrulong
John Borchert	Chaplain, St. Paul's College
Sarah Joy Fandrich	Delegate, Burrumbuttock
Sabina Hickling	Delegate, Cooma
James Janetzki	Pastor Emeritus
Julia Jarick	Delegate, Bethel
David Jarman	Chaplain, LAC Albury
Gary Kenney	Pastor Emeritus, Culcairn
Ian Kotzur	Pastor Locum, Griffith /Leeton
Tuula Kuusela	Delegate, Southern Cross Finnish
Peter Madirazza	Delegate, Tamworth
Anita Morton	Principal, St Paul's College
Lassi Pappinen	Pastor, Sydney Finnish
Peter Pfitzner	Delegate, Griffith
Sabina Pichler	Delegate, Lifeway
Inge Ramisch-Baker	Delegate, Dubbo
Melvin Salzke	Pastor, Cooma
Martin Vanags	Delegate, St Marys
Fred Veerhuis	Pastor Emeritus
Grant Weckert	Delegate, Orange
Kirsty Wilksch	Delegate, Gerogery
Tim Zanker	Pastor Emeritus

Conduct of Business

Voting

Be it resolved that decisions be reached by consensus or by vote in the manner decided by the Chairman.

Appointments

- Synod Chairperson: Pr Robert Bartholomaeus
- Minute Secretaries: Tanya Cunningham, Jacob Traeger, Peta Bennett, Karen Hannola, Delcia von Brandenstein
- Committee for Verification of Minutes: Liz Eckermann, Russell Veerhuis
- Tellers: Peter Weber, Kaye Simpfendorfer
- Reporter for 'Contact': Tanya Cunningham

Be it resolved that the above named persons be appointed to serve this Synodical Convention

Roll Call

Quorum for Synod = One half of voting delegates + 1
Being 42 Synod attendees

Voting delegates are

- 52 congregation delegates (see page 56-57 of Book of Reports)
 - 24 pastors on active call (23 + Ian Kotzur SMP) (See page 57 Book of Reports)
 - 5 standing DCC lay members
- TOTAL = 81 One half: 40+1=42

Number of delegates registered to attend Synod: 52

Actual attendance: 40 (as at Friday evening)

It was noted that a quorum was not present. Decisions made tonight were ratified on the Saturday morning.

Adoption of Minutes

The NSW and ACT DCC vetted the 38th Regular Synodical Convention Minutes as circulated to the 2020 delegates and congregation secretaries and recommends their adoption.

Be it resolved that the minutes of the 38th Regular Synodical Convention, 2020, be adopted.

Reading of Reports and Statements

Be it resolved that reports be taken as read and received unless otherwise indicated.

Adoption of Reports and Statements

Be it resolved that at the close of Convention reports and statements tabled during Convention be adopted.

Proposals

Be it resolved that agenda proposals be taken as moved and seconded.

Be it resolved that additional late proposals be taken as moved and seconded.

Be it resolved that all tabled reports and proposals in the report book and late proposals and reports be accepted and debated at the appropriate time.

Convention Minutes

Be it resolved that the appointed Committee for the verification of minutes, vet Synodical Convention minutes, correct where necessary and recommend distribution of the minutes to the Secretary.

Membership

Closures:

- Estonian Canberra
- St Andrew Corowa
- Concordia Yagoona

Be it resolved that Convention notes these closures, giving thanks and praise to God for the many blessings He has poured out through these places of worship and fellowship.

Parish realignment:

- Living Water Lutheran Church, Illawarra joined LifeWay

Nominations, First Reading

Tony von Brandenstein

Tony listed nominations from Pastors' Conference:

- Bishop: Pr Robert Bartholomaeus for a single synodical term
- Assistant Bishop: Pr Richard Schwedes.
- Regional Pastors:
 - Canberra: Pr Paul Hannola
 - Coastal North: Pr Richard Schwedes
 - Coastal South: Pr Richard Schwedes
 - Northwest: Pr Darren Kupke
 - Riverina: Pr John Borchert
- District Church Council Additional Pastor: Pr Darren Jaensch

LCA Bishop

Pr Paul Smith

Bishop Paul greeted the convention in the resurrected Christ. He encouraged the Synod that it is God who gives the growth to his church (from 1 Cor. 3). Addressing the NSW and ACT District for the first time, Bishop Paul introduced himself and gave an overview of his faith journey and ministry experience.

Supply of trained church workers

There are three graduates from the ALC pastoral ministry stream this year and there will be two next year. However, there are currently 60 vacancies across the church. This issue needs prayer from the church.

Bishop Emeritus Greg Pietsch has been appointed to undertake a review of the church's ministry structure, to report to General Synod in 2024. The Synod will discuss three topics:

- The problem of regionalisation
- Pathways for ministry
- Ordering of ministries in the church (report being developed by CTICR)

Demography of our Church

Bishop Paul commended the National Church Life Survey (NCLS) to delegates and congregations. The NCLS shows that 48% of core members of the LCA are over 70. However, student enrolment of Lutheran schools continued to increase even through COVID – this shows Australians 'get' what Lutherans have to offer.

General Synod 2023

The 2021 General Synod elected Bishop Paul and then went into recess until 2023. When it reconvenes, the Synod will address three topics:

- Governance Review
- Ecclesial Discipline
- Ordination of women and men

Churchwide office is currently developing material on these topics to be distributed across the church. Town hall-style meetings will be held on the issue of ordination which will be open to non-delegates as well as delegates.

Bishop Paul encouraged delegates to pray for their pastors, who are called to serve the church in a culture which is increasingly difficult, not just for churches but also for pastors. He asked congregations to encourage their pastors that their labour in the Lord is never in vain.

Bishop Paul thanked Pr Robert Bartholomaeus for his continued service as Bishop of the NSW and ACT District.

LCA Executive Officer of the Church

Brett Hausler

Brett introduced himself and emphasised the importance Lutheran education has played in the development of his faith. He moved from Victoria to take up the role as Executive Officer of the Church 10 months ago, and outlined his experience in the corporate sector before taking up his current role. He thanked the district for its heart for mission and willingness to embrace changes.

Role

Brett oversees a number of teams:

- Church Worker Support (Chris Materne)
- Insurance and Risk (Lucinda Osborne) which provides insurance for 750 entities across the church
- Communications (Linda Macqueen)
- Lutheran Archives (Rachel Kuchel)
- Finance and IT which supports 4,000 people across the church
- Professional Standards (Tim Ross) which is responsible (amongst other things) for administering the national redress scheme. The LCA currently pays out about \$800,000 p.a. under this scheme.

Future of Churchwide Office

Churchwide office are asking themselves harder questions. In part because they are experiencing funding pressures and needing to live within their means. These questions include:

- Are they being as effective as they could be and actually providing the church with what it needs?
- Do they engage as well as they can with all parts of the church and how can they build relationships across the church?

Over the last seven months, churchwide office has been:

- Reviewing all activities, examining cost, time, effort and asking who are the beneficiaries.
- Sharing that information with different parts of the church. This helps identify things which may not continue.
- Considering pain points which the LCA may be causing. Brett highlighted LAMP2, which is hoped to be completed by the end of 2022, and enhanced IT provision.
- Undertaking deeper dives into different parts of the operations. A pilot has been undertaken in Communications, looking at what is being produced, and whether this could be done in different, innovative ways. This will result in rationalisations of the eNews-letters, websites, and social media accounts which are used by the church at a national level.
- Responding to abuse claims. The Commonwealth Government has recently allowed victims who have settled claims to bring new claims. The LCA has formed a national group to consider how the church responds to (and funds) these claims.
- Consolidating church insurance. The current market environment is challenging. The LCA is currently reviewing all insurances and to determine whether they are what the church needs. The intent is ultimately to lower the insurance cost.

LLL

Graeme Huf, Board Chair, and
Deepa Justus NSW Rep on LLL Board

Graeme brought greetings from Ross Smith (CEO). The LLL is a philanthropic bank and is a demonstration of the power of people, united by faith and a common purpose to transform money into a force for good. The LLL exists to support the church; it is market aware, and missionally aligned. It seeks to maintain a reasonable surplus in order to remain sustainable and support the church in its business and financial matters.

Graeme provided an overview of the board and executive team of the LLL. The LLL's constitution allows two board representatives from each district and one from WA. They do not need to live in the district area but do need to be endorsed by it. As a result, there are currently 3 LLL directors residing in NSW/ACT.

Deepa gave an overview of the LLL's internet security and anti-scam measures. It continues to invest in the latest systems and industry best-practice in this space. LLL holds \$1.26bn in over 38,000 accounts. Last financial year the LLL approved \$42m in new funding to church organisations. Deepa gave examples of how this funding has been used across the church.

Tract Mission is still a vital part of what the LLL does. Last year, over 278,000 tracts were distributed. Graeme thanked the church for their trust and work together with and through LLL.

Closing Prayer

Minutes - Saturday 29 October 2022

Morning Devotion

Pr Hans Peethala

- 1 John 2:3-11, Psalm 119
- 'We walk together in mission when we live in the light by love'
- Songs: Here I am to worship; Christ be our light (ATOK 313)

Bishop Robert confirmed that a quorum is present

Preliminary Proposals

Bruce Arnold

Formal vote on proposals presented at the opening session

Resolved that:

- **decisions be reached by consensus or by vote in the manner decided by the Chairman;**
- **certain persons specified in the Book of Reports be appointed to serve this Synodical Convention;**
- **the minutes of the 38th Regular Synodical Convention, 2020, be adopted;**
- **reports be taken as read and received unless otherwise indicated;**
- **at the close of Convention reports and statements tabled during Convention be adopted;**
- **agenda proposals and additional late proposals be taken as moved and seconded;**

- **all tabled reports and proposals in the Book of Reports and late proposals and reports be accepted and debated at the appropriate time;**
- **the appointed Committee for the verification of minutes, vet Synodical Convention minutes, correct where necessary and recommend distribution of the minutes to the Secretary; and**
- **Synod notes the closure and realignment of certain congregations specified in the Book of Reports.**

Vote Passed

District Bishop Report

Pr Robert Bartholomaeus

Bishop Robert highlighted a number of areas of his report, including a number of members of the District Leadership team.

Bishop Robert mentioned the impact of the Covid pandemic on the District since the last Synodical Convention, and that 2/3 of our district congregations are still worshipping with lower numbers than 3 years ago. The District churches fall into three groups:

- Churches that are trying to reach out to new people – church planting.
- Churches that are holding steady – often larger worshipping attendance
- Churches that are declining in number and have questions about sustainability. 15 congregations now

have less than 15 regular worshippers (out of 52 congregations in the District).

Concordia Yagoona closed, but they gifted the church, manse and hall to the Indonesian Lutheran Congregation – one of the larger Lutheran congregations in Sydney.

Bishop Robert referred to the Walking Together in Mission Strategic Priorities:

Supporting congregations and ministries in mission and ministry:

Bishop Robert has led online Bible studies, with 15-20 attendees from across the district.

Jacob Traeger, Molonglo Valley Gospel Community. *What does it mean to bring the gospel to people in this area?* They host community activities – aiming for once a month. They arranged Easter Family Events, with activities for kids, craft, 50 people attended. They are preparing to hold monthly worship services in the community centre. Jacob asked for prayer, and invited people to join prayer list.

Supporting congregations and ministries in transition:

Frontier programme started in Albury and has now evolved into Frontier School of Mission (FSM). Dean of FSM, Dr Mark Worthing shared an update on the training opportunities focused on mission. Focusing on certificate and diploma courses, conducted by intensives and online. Equipping people in the church for mission and ministry. Offering first subjects in 2023. FSM is also publishing books with Australian Christian Resources that aim to equip congregations.

Alternative models of ministry that best serve the District:

The District has promoted Specific Ministry Pastors (SMPs) as an alternative pathway to ministry – 3 people have taken up the option.

Pastor Mark Schultz from LifeWay Epping, is working with Macquarie University and the 'Together for Ryde' network. It is predicted that by 2050, 80% of people will live in high-rise, high-density housing. 'Vertical Villages' project is looking at how to engage church and form community in these developments. Churches are supporting a community worker. Develop apartment living with community space for a church – looking at what programs can be run that support the community and how to share the gospel in those situations. verticalvillages.org.au

Planting and Renewing Congregations:

Focusing on renewing churches – working with them to find a way forward.

Pastor Ian Rentsch, Strategic Directions Facilitator, spoke about his role working with congregations and ministries to encourage them and develop plans based on the District's strategic priorities. Currently working with congregations in Orange, Dubbo and Gilgandra parishes. Ian's process is to identify the current situation, discern God's will, covenant on future directions, articulate a vision and formulate a way forward, including resources and training.

Networking and connections between congregations and ministries:

Tanya Cunningham, District Communications Officer, shared about her role in the district, including developing communications tools and sharing stories from around the District.

District Leadership through the Bishop leading leadership teams:

Bishop Robert shared how important prayer is to sustain all of the strategic directions.

Pastor Darren Kupke shared his vision for the District's Intercessory Prayer Ministry, and encouraged people to join the prayer list as well as to discover and use their gifts.

Bishop Robert thanked school principals Don Walkley and Anita Morton, Janet Moeller and Brad Moss for their leadership of Lutheran Schools.

Bishop Robert highlighted the LCA Safety Standards for congregations that promote the welfare of children.

Danny Brock, church planter in Western Sydney shared the progress of the church planting effort in Western Sydney. He talked about 'BBQ church' which is his way of connecting with people over a meal, and how relationships are being built with people who say they 'will never come to church'.

Bishop Robert reflected with thanks on God's work over the last two and a half years, and recognised that as we walk together in mission God will supply his blessing.

Bishop Robert finished by thanking his wife Jenny, Kaye and Russell in the District office, and Assistant Bishop Pastor Richard Schwedes for their support.

Mission and Ministry Team

Pr Richard Schwedes

Pastor Richard said while we hear wonderful stories of mission, there are also many people who are feeling very tired. Revitalisation – don't give up hope, where there is God and people, there is hope. We are the living body of Christ.

Revitalised churches:

- Focus on missional prayer.
- Have a functional Board that is centred around the Word.
- Ensure those doing ministry have the resources to do that ministry.
- Focus on people and relationships.

Pastor Paul Hannola prayed for all those who presented during the morning session.

Morning tea break

Session starter

Tanya Cunningham

- Matt 5:13-16
- 'We walk together in mission when we let our light shine'
- Song: This little light of mine

District Bishop Report (cont.)

Pr Robert Bartholomaeus

Thanks for ministries

The following pastors have accepted calls outside the NSW and ACT District since last Synodical Convention:

Pr Simon Mackenzie
Pr Stuart Kleinig
Pr Kees Sturm
Pr Dan Mueller
Pr Darryl Mattner
Pr Joseph Graham

The following pastor has retired from parish ministry:
Pr David Grulke

Resolved that Convention place on record its sincere thanks to the above named pastors for their faithful ministries while serving the NSW and ACT District.

Resolved that Convention express its sincere thanks to retired pastors who continue to serve faithfully in NSW and ACT post retirement.

The following pastor has resigned from parish ministry:
Pr Erik Braunack Mayer

Resolved that Convention acknowledge the ministry of pastors who have resigned from the Roll of Pastors.

Welcome to NSW and ACT District

The following pastors have been installed in the NSW and ACT District since last Synodical Convention:

Pr Tim Muller
Pr David Schuppan
Pr David Cherry
Pr Lassi Pappinen
Pr Mark Worthing

Resolved that Convention welcome with joy the above pastors and their families and pray that these new co-workers will be richly blessed personally and bring many blessings both to their parishioners and to the NSW and ACT District.

District Church Council

Elizabeth Eckermann

Liz highlighted how DCC has put the 'Walking Together in Mission' vision into practice. Last synod was not just a talkfest, but has led to concrete actions. As well as mission, DCC has reviewed and developed policies and memoranda of understanding (MoU) within the governance space.

DCC works collaboratively with congregations and ministries. Liz particularly highlighted the new Strategic Directions Facilitator and Communications Officer. DCC wants to hear from congregations and help them in any way they can. Communication needs to flow both ways.

LCA Local Mission

Tania Nelson

Tania gave a presentation on the five agencies within Local Mission, with examples of some resources

developed in each.

Care Ministries

Preparing for my funeral brochure – more than 2,000 copies distributed. In one example, this enabled a grandparent to share with her grandchildren her favourite hymns and why they were important to her. This is a wonderful example of mission!

Grow Ministries

Grow for Kids, a new Sunday School curriculum with a message plan and resources for each Sunday of the year, available for \$50.

Cross Cultural Ministry

CRISP is a new Government initiative to support refugees. This is a way in which five adults can together be involved in fundraising \$5,000 and allocated a refugee family needing support into the community. People can assist with filling out of forms, getting licences, establishing them as part of the community, and so on. This is a wonderful way in which the church can serve people in need.

Lutheran Media

Delegates were encouraged to share their stories and messages of hope with Richard Fox. There is an upcoming Digital Mission Forum which has over 1,000 registrations and additional attendees are welcome.

New and Renewing Churches

Pr Nathan Hedt

Nathan outlined the New and Renewing Churches' vision to multiply healthy churches and to make new disciples among all the nations in Australia and New Zealand. This gives us a great opportunity locally to be in mission with people who haven't heard the gospel.

New Churches

There have been five churches planted, and four in the process of being planted. There are over 20 mission situations in Australia where church plants are in some stages of development. There are a lot of good news stories in the LCA – the Holy Spirit is doing some amazing things, this should bring us hope.

Often the way the Holy Spirit works is not through what we had planned. For example, four Lutheran congregations in Geelong – after much prayer and discernment – are supporting a Tamil Christian Fellowship. About 80 people, 40 of them Tamils from Geelong, many of whom were not yet Christian, gathered at their first meeting.

Schools and colleges are increasingly coming to New and Renewing Churches wanting to establish worship services for students and families.

Renewing Churches

New and Renewing Churches believe that God has a vibrant future for your local church. Jesus has chosen local churches as his plan for his mission to the world.

The revitalisation process is still in its early stages, but there are exciting stories, such as at Knox in Melbourne, where members are becoming enthusiastic about inviting their friends and family to church.

Revitalisation is about culture change. This is hard, and

there are no quick fixes, but it brings great hope. The tools which New and Renewing Churches can provide are:

- Renew Mission Life
- Ripple Effect Evangelism
- Revitalise Australia (intensive process in partnership with City to City Australia)
- Gospel fluency workshops
- Workshops and congregational consultations.

Nathan asked congregations and delegates to support the work of New and Renewing Churches by praying, partnering in service and finance, or by becoming a sending church or church planter.

Q. With churches starting amongst different ethnic groups, is translation work being done?

Not directly by New and Renewing Churches, but they're working closely with cross-cultural ministry, and the Commission on Worship also has translated resources available, such as the Lord's Prayer and the Creeds. Tania Nelson encouraged congregations to consider a bi-lingual website.

Q. Are ethnic churches in different states in contact with one another?

A cross-cultural ministry network is in the early stages of development, bringing together leaders in these ministries. We're looking for integrated cross-cultural ministries, rather than a non-English speaking church being a 'tenant' of an English-speaking church.

Bishop Robert noted that Nathan is coaching and supporting many pastors and church planters in the NSW and ACT District, and thanked him for this.

Proposals

Convention Book of Reports and Minutes in digital form

Resolved that the LCA NSW and ACT District Convention Book of Reports and Minutes of Convention will be distributed to delegates in a digital format, and will only be available in a printed version upon request.

DCC

Tony von Brandenstein

In response to questions from the floor, Tony clarified that printed copies of the documents will still be available on request. At future Synods, delegates will be able to request printed versions as part of their registration process. Printed copies of documents will be available for congregations on request.

LCA Safe Church Training for all Synod delegates

Resolved that all delegates to the LCA NSW and ACT District Convention of Synod be required to have completed Safe Church Level 1 training, and a Working with Children Check or Working With Vulnerable People registration.

DCC

Pr Richard Schwedes

This is a way of the church showing that we have the intention of being a safe place, and building awareness.

Q. How do delegates go about the training and getting a police check? Is there a cost involved, and who will pay?

In most instances working with vulnerable people checks administered by state and territory governments are free for volunteers. SP3 training is available online and the cost is covered by congregations.

Q. This came from the national church now to the district. Will the district now be encouraging congregations to do this?

The chair invited Carolyn Kiss (District PSO) to clarify that this is already the case. Congregational church councils have been required to have this training for many years – this proposal is for Synod delegates.

Q. Will delegates need to have done the training and the check in order to be nominated/elected as a delegate?

You can undertake the training between nomination and Synod.

Q. Why do we need SP3 training for delegates – what has this got to do with working with children?

It is inevitable that we'll need this training, we can deal with it now or in the future, but we are coming to the point where even outside of the church people will need this certification. The church needs it at all levels – we don't want people without training making decisions which could be putting the church into jeopardy.

Q. Feedback received from parishioners has found that the online training is 'clunky'. Is this going to be resolved if we're expanding who needs to do the training?

Q. Will current Synod delegates need to have completed the training, or will it only be for future Synods? What are the implications of this motion for delegates to this Synod?

Bruce Arnold clarified that current delegates have already been elected and endorsed. No change will take effect until the next convention of Synod.

Nominations – Second Reading

Tony von Brandenstein

One additional nomination:

- Johan Lorenzsonn – nominated for council for Christians and Jews. This has been endorsed by DCC.

DCC has endorsed:

- Bishop-elect Robert Bartholomaeus and Russell Veerhuis to the Property Trust
- Warrambui board members
- All other DCC appointments (Section 2)

Resolved to endorse the DCC appointments as presented.

Australian Church Resources

Pr Mark Schultz

ACR has developed the world's first home-compostable communion cup, which is currently available for order.

Election of Bishop

Resolved that Pastor Robert Bartholomaeus be called to serve NSW and ACT District as Bishop for one synodical term and shall be eligible for re-election as per the by-laws of NSW District.

Lunch

Session starter

Pr James Leach

- 1 Cor 12:12-20
- 'We walk together in mission when we value each member'
- Song: One body, many parts

Lutheran Education Victoria NSW and Tasmania (LEVNT)

Shane Paterson

Shane offered greetings from Julian Denholm, LEVNT Director. Shane spoke about the demands of the last couple of years in the education sector due to Covid. Implementation of guidelines placed extreme pressure on Principals, students and teachers. Challenges for students in emotional, relational, and social areas due to lockdowns.

Board of LEVNT met earlier in 2022 to discuss strategic plan:

- Relationship focused
- Future focused
- Service focused

Pr David Spike is Pastor of Formation and Ministry. Will provide support to school pastors and ministry support to chaplains, as many schools aren't able to get a pastor.

Student enrolment continues to be strong, with an increase of 3.9% over the last five years. 8335 students in 2022, plus ministry to their families. Full annual reports are available on school websites.

Joanne Knobel spoke about St Paul's College being at maximum enrolments for the first time, many of whom are non-Christians. Also attracting top teachers.

St Paul's Henty is also looking at increased enrolments, with 43 students for 2023. St John's Jindera is stable with enrolments, but future capacity is a question. The kindergarten at St Marys has re-engaged with LEVNT to do strategic planning for the future.

www.levnt.edu.au

Q. The graph showed a larger percentage increase in Lutheran school enrolments in 2020 – what was the reason?

Probably due to increased enrolments in a number of Victorian schools.

Q. What's the approximate percentage of Lutheran students in Lutheran schools?

Unsure, enrolments have increased, Lutheran percentage has remained stable.

Q. Do you have the number of Aboriginal children and children with disabilities in Lutheran Schools?

No, but schools have action plans to care for children with differing needs and abilities.

Q. St Paul's College appears to have a 30% increase in bad debts from 2020-2021 – are you concerned about this?

No, these debts are often collected, so not concerning.

St Paul's College

Shane Paterson

Shane gave an apology from College Principal Anita Morton.

- The College has 86 boarders
- additional Year 7 stream in 2023
- 75 years anniversary celebrations 17 March 2023
- New branding of Lutheran Schools in 2023 to acknowledge 'working together'
- Currently developing vision for the future of St Paul's College: innovative education opportunities, school-based apprenticeship, agriculture, equine program and community gardens.
- Service learning in Year 11
- New learning spaces, upgrading areas

Q. What is driving the increase in enrolments?

The school displays the values that people are looking for, as well as the stability and the leadership of these schools.

District Budget, First Reading

Bruce Arnold

Bruce pointed out that the Budget in the Book of Reports has mistakes, and presented a table with corrected figures (see table on next page).

Lots of focus has been on preparing audited financial statements, Bruce pointed out that they are available when audit is complete.

'Operating income and expense' – contributions from congregations, operations of District Office, contribution to national church.

'Mission Development' expenses really are an investment for the District – this money is going towards growing the church.

The market value of the share portfolio is shown as below the line income in the budget.

Bruce suggested DCC should be approving budgets, as they approve the budget in the non-synod years. (This is addressed in proposed changes to the constitution).

DCC would be presenting the budgets to Synod, rather than seeking approval of budgets. Work has been done to make financial statements accessible to people in the district.

Q. Was any consideration given to putting a 2023 budget forward?

LCA NSW and ACT District Summary Budget

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2020 Restated	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed
Operating income	1,397,239	1,507,754	536,803	1,106,276	937,293
Operating expense	(1,007,310)	(908,500)	(908,500)	(990,632)	(1,079,662)
Operating surplus (deficit)	389,929	599,254	(371,697)	115,644	(142,369)
Mission development	(437,647)	(1,426,644)	(1,426,644)	(424,228)	(692,988)
Surplus (deficit)	(47,718)	(827,390)	(1,798,341)	(308,584)	(835,357)
OCI	0	0	893,628	1,384,423	
TCI	(47,718)	(827,390)	(904,713)	1,075,839	

It would look the same – the operating income is what we project the congregations to contribute, and project investment portfolio to yield. Expenses are running District Office. The Mission Development line would be bigger as we commit to more initiatives (and commit for a number of years).

Q. Large amount of money going into ministry development, raised question of supporting Pastor Veerhuis and others in ministry in Vietnam.

There is discussion at the national church level with Asia Focus about support.

Resolved that 2022 District Budget be adopted.

District Administrator

Russell Veerhuis

District Office sees its role as making life easier for people in congregations.

During Covid, we received \$1.3m in Government Funding to support congregations – only 5 or 6 congregations weren't able to access this support. District was able to show a 30% loss of income, due to cancellation of TPM camps.

'LCA NSW and ACT District' is now the registered trading name.

Russell pointed out the new District website. He mentioned two funds available:

- James Haak Memorial fund is available to support professional development for pastors and paid lay workers (made available from bequests from Joyce Butterfield and Roy Schulz)
- Rural congregational support fund – funds from Anna Bay to support rural congregations with a missional focus.

District Treasurer

Bruce Arnold

Bruce asked the question 'what is the way forward for this district and our member congregations?' How do we make sure we are correctly supporting congregations in the current stage of their life cycle?

Bruce provided a short history of how the District used funds after the sale of Concord House. Mission Development: how to increase it in a responsible way?

Key Performance Indicators – what are the ways we can measure that the money has been appropriately spent?

The way we are spending this money is making a choice between a living body of Christ that takes some investment, or becoming an unincorporated association of largely empty churches scattered around the district with lots of money in the bank.

If it's going to take money to help this church thrive, then let's go for it!

District holds a share portfolio of \$11m and has received \$1.4m in dividends over the past two years.

Warrambui is the issue that keeps the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) engaged. Sequence of events – Covid shut down the camping business. But provided an opportunity to do a refurbishment. Council regulations meant that there is a great cost blowout. Then when Warrambui was ready to reopen, the labour shortage has had implications.

FAC has undertaken investigation of all issues and found that Warrambui staff have made all efforts to manage the refurbishment, the Board has been extremely diligent in their processes. Do we think that expenditures made by the district have been responsible? – Yes, we believe that as a district asset, this has been in the best interest of the district. The cash flow assistance to Warrambui is not a loan. Loan is for construction only.

District is supporting Warrambui with grants while we wait for business to improve.

Peter Weber has served on the FAC for 30 years. On behalf of FAC and DCC and the Synod, Bruce expressed a vote of thanks to Peter for his faithful service.

Q. Is information about the district share portfolio available?

Yes, looking into the audit reports you will see the details of the share portfolio. (p14 of Appendix)

Q. Are we preparing to invest again in industrial property?

We had considered buying additional office space with the new district office in Bella Vista, or investing in a bigger property portfolio, but remembered the lessons from Concord House about managing tenants, and decided instead that it was better to invest in share portfolio.

Resolved that the District Treasurer's Report be received and adopted.

Nominations and Elections

Tony noted that there were no more nominations.

- Nominations: Third Reading
- Election of Assistant Bishop – one nominee, Pastor Richard Schwedes
- Declaration of elections

Resolved that Convention note the results of the 2022 elections and the District Church Council appointments.

Afternoon Tea

Session starter

Bridgitte Willshire

- Eph 2:21-22
- We walk together in mission when we reconcile our differences'
- Song: Walking in the Light

Warrambui

Neal Mason, Gary Watson

Neal acknowledged the traditional owners of the land, the Ngunnawal people and thanked the members of the Warrambui Board who are at Synod. In particular, Neal acknowledged the service of Pr Mat von Stanke and Phil Spann who did not stand for re-election.

Ministry

COVID has had a significant impact on Warrambui since 2020. This has also provided the opportunity to rethink how ministry is done in Warrambui. In early 2023, a number of interns and a senior leader from Papua New Guinea will arrive at Warrambui. This is a different direction to where the Board and Synod may have seen ministry at Warrambui four years ago, but the Board see it as an addition to Warrambui's ministry focus.

Operations

Some good people have been lost from staff during the COVID period. The sector of the Australian economy which has taken the biggest hit in COVID is hospitality and tourism; this makes it difficult to find workers. The challenge now is to rebuild the capacity of the organisation. Thankful to Dennis Obst and Ian Marks in assisting with consultation for this.

The Board is confident in the forecasts for next year – particularly educational tourism – in the changing environment, but notes that we have seen how quickly things can change in the last few years.

It seems most likely that Warrambui will increasingly have staff coming from overseas.

Major Projects

During COVID there were significant works undertaken, most notably the refurbishment to the dome. Neal acknowledged the support of Anna Bay congregation in enabling the works to be undertaken.

The quarry is being filled with cleanfill from the road upgrades on the Barton Highway. This is creating some significant income for Warrambui and creates new opportunities to use the land. Consultation across the district about the use of the land is currently being undertaken. Large scale buildings will not be able to be built on the site, but it may be able to be utilised for camping or other activities.

Local government is also currently planning to replace the causeway on the way to Warrambui with a bridge which will mitigate the current flood risk.

Governance

The Board continues to focus on child safety. Phil Spann led a significant review of child safety recently. At the height of COVID there was a huge change to the way Warrambui operated. Having made this adjustment, it is better placed to adapt to future situations.

Garry noted that risk appetite has changed in schools as well, which has required adjustment from Warrambui.

Neal thanked the District for its support of him and the Warrambui Board.

Q. The salaries still seem fairly expensive in the latest financial figures (2021), especially compared to camp income.

Staff did leave in 2022. A choice was made to not lay off staff during COVID, but significant revenues were lost from cancellations. Some staff took leave, and some hours were reduced which did mean hardship for staff. The current market is an employees market – it is hard for Warrambui to maintain staff and the proximity of Canberra is a major factor on wages. This is partly why Warrambui is looking overseas for staff.

Q. Has lack of staff caused a lack of patronage?

Some staff have left and not been replaced, and yes – that is now causing problems with the capacity of Warrambui to accept bookings. Hiring new staff is a priority for Warrambui.

Changes to catering mean that Warrambui will expect its kitchen to be more profitable in 2023-24 with a greater margin.

Q. In 2014, there were 160,000 students expected to visit Canberra but Warrambui was not well placed for this.

The numbers of students visiting Canberra has gone up, and Warrambui is also much better placed now to accommodate these groups.

Pr Mat von Stanke noted that Warrambui has needed to employ temporary staff in recent years in order to be able to open and provide minimum hosting standards. This is more expensive than ongoing staff.

Garry noted that in the immediate term this is set to improve.

Q. What does the profit and loss on pine in the accounts represent?

A large number of pine trees were planted on Warrambui many years ago. In 2020 the trees were harvested, as they were at end of life and creating a hazard. It was a challenge to find someone to harvest these, but there is also now interest by Landcare and other groups to re-vegetate the area.

Q. Is there an established pathway to advertise Warrambui positions within the Lutheran Church across Australia?

Warrambui has tried a range of things over the years, with varying success. We can always do more, and this is Warrambui's preference, but having tried this other options need to be considered. As capacity rebuilds, Warrambui will have better ability to attract people from around the church.

Q. What is the vision of Warrambui? I haven't heard anything about this.

Garry outlined that Warrambui is a servant community, which provides outstanding servanthood and a safe place for students who are visiting Canberra and the region. The second major objective of Warrambui is serving the District.

Neal noted that the Board thought it was important to provide accountability to the District. This means that the reports provided don't articulate the vision as strongly as they might.

Bishop Robert thanked Neal and the Board for their service on behalf of the Synod.

Neal requested prayer for Director of Warrambui, Dean Salzke and his wife Anna.

Pr Richard Schwedes commended the Warrambui internship program to delegates and congregations.

Turning Point Ministries

Peta Bennett

Peta gave an outline of her faith journey, including TPM camps and four years at Warrambui.

Since the last Synod, there have been changes to the TPM Board with Dion Jaeschke stepping down from the team. They have appreciated Pr Darren Kupke as the Pastor representative, and the team welcomed Pr Mat von Stanke as the new Pastor representative. The team have spent time refining processes over recent years.

Peta gave an overview of the range of camps offered by TPM.

TPM camps are quite simple and affordable for campers. Activities are not high risk or high cost, and support from the LLL has allowed TPM to introduce a concession rate for first campers. A large proportion of campers are return campers, which demonstrates that camp is safe and enjoyable. Leaders are diligent and a safe space is maintained through Safe Church training and Leadership camp. Camps are relatively small, which allows for greater connection. Young Adults Retreat is a great way to keep people connected and discuss social issues, church life, and faith expression.

Areas for growth include growing camp attendance numbers again after COVID. Families have been less inclined to send their children away during the pandemic. Back to Base had 26 attendees this year, compared to 45 in 2018, while Junior Youth Camp had 49 attendees in 2018 and 22 this year. Leader numbers are also lower, as there has been a lost opportunity for young leaders to develop over the past two years. The past two years there has not been enough registrations to run Easter Camp. The team are now considering the future of this camp.

There is an increase in the number of non-Lutherans who are attending and leading on TPM camps. Attendees at Back to Base were 60% from Lutheran backgrounds in 2022, compared to 75% in 2018. This is not a threat, but raises the challenge of continuing to have an ethos as Lutheran, Bible-based camping ministry. Lutheran specific sessions have recently been included at Leadership camp.

The camps are an example of society – this means a diverse range of campers who attend TPM camps. TPM has been proactive in including diversity training at Leadership camps to ensure that they care for these people well.

Peta thanked the District for its prayers for TPM and the campers.

Bishop Robert thanked Peta and the team for giving their gifts and enthusiasm to their roles.

Late Proposals

Proposed changes to District Constitution and By-Laws

Resolved that the District petition the General Church Board of the Lutheran Church of Australia to replace the Constitution of the District with 2022 NSW ACT District Constitution.

DCC

Resolved that the District adopt 2022 NSW ACT District By-Laws as the by-laws of the District.

DCC

Seconded by Tony von Brandenstein

Bruce advised delegates that the District does not have the power to change its own constitution. Therefore the District must petition the General Church Board to change the constitution.

The rationale for the new constitution is a general clean-up, particularly the by-laws. Additionally, the changes will bring the main part of the District constitution into line with the model constitution of the LCA. It anticipates changes to the model constitution which will be voted on at the 2023 General Convention of Synod.

There are a few substantive changes of note: The budget will no longer be proposed to Synod, but presented to Synod. The budget will be approved by DCC. This is because it is increasingly impractical to require synodical approval for a budget. This change gives the DCC the authority to act immediately when immediate action is required.

There are larger variations which mean that other incorporated bodies in the District will be able change their constitutions without a change to the District constitution. This will allow these entities to comply with Australian Charities and Non-Profits Commission (ACNC) and other obligations without the requirement for the District constitution to be changed. The District will still be able to appoint members to the boards of these organisations. Given that the District does not have standing committees, DCC suggests that the chairmen of LACA, St Paul's and Warrambui Boards be made delegates to Synod, not visitors.

In line with churchwide changes, groups of worshippers who apply to the General Church for recognition, which results in their being able to send delegates to the General Synod, will also be so recognised by the District. The by-laws are currently divided into two parts, Part A and Part B. These have now been combined into one.

There are some additional changes to the model constitution, to clearly use wording required by the ACNC. A few definitions in the model district constitution have also been refined. In particular, the church is not defined as the Lutheran Church of Australia Incorporated; it is now defined as either the company, or the living body of Christ as appropriate.

Q. What is the Lutheran Women of NSW? Are we a charity? Should we have a delegate to Synod?

LWNSW is an auxiliary of the District. It is not a registered charity. Bruce clarified at the current time that Warrambui is not an incorporated entity, as it currently benefits from the District's tax status.

LWNSW can make changes to its constitution without the permission of the District.

Q. Article 1. Why was District Church Council changed to Church Council? This makes it sound like the Church Council could be a congregational church council.

Bruce noted that this was a definition for this document only. It's membership is clearly defined in the document and it will continue to be referred to externally as District Church Council.

Q. Why are we using 'chairman' and 'chairmen' rather than 'chairperson'?

Bruce advised that standard corporate practice is to use the term 'chairman' and 'chairmen' – where women are referred to as 'madam chairman.' The etymology is that than 'man' refers to 'guidance.'

Amendment: To adjust the language from chairman to chairperson wherever it appears throughout both documents.

Moved Kate Traeger, Seconded Ward Westphal.

It is important to respect the etymology of the term. It is not gendered.

Churchwide Bishop Paul Smith advised that the churchwide constitution is currently being reviewed. This does not yet have a preferred nomenclature. Across the church there is currently a broad preference towards

chairperson rather than chairman.

While we affirm the importance of etymology in language, we also need to note how language is heard and develops over time. Just because a word once meant something, it doesn't mean that this is what is now heard. If our constitution and by-laws communicate something about our identity and vision as a church to the outside world, we need to make sure we're clearly communicating what we mean in terms of inclusivity.

Another speaker affirmed this. If people come from congregations which use the wording 'chairperson' or 'chairman' they will expect the language at District to be the same. What is the language used in the model constitution?

Bishop Paul Smith noted that the current model constitution refers to 'chairperson.'

Bruce spoke to the amendment – he prefers the language 'chairperson' to 'chair.' He doesn't think we should impoverish our language just because people no longer understand it.

Luther said: 'A person shouldn't have to go and read Latin, Hebrew, or Greek to understand the Bible.' This should also apply to our thinking on the constitution.

If we use 'chairman' could we be putting a stumbling block before people which doesn't need to be there? Surely this doesn't need to be a hurdle which we put in place.

Amendment passed.

Resolved that the NSW and ACT District constitution reflect the LCA constitution in the provision for emeriti pastors to vote for the election of District Bishop and participation at Synod.

This will effect 67.2.2 Article 7 Synod and By-laws BL7.4.3

Moved Pr Mark Schultz Seconded Pr Mat von Stanke

Pr Mark Schultz: 46 per cent of Pastors in the District are Emeriti. This potentially gives Pastors Emeriti a significant power within the District.

Russell Veerhuis noted that the LCA constitution only allows three Pastors Emeriti to vote at Synods. No other District or model constitution has this clause, and we have never had more than three pastors Emeriti at District Synod. So this is not a live problem.

Pr Richard Schwedes spoke in favour. This may not be a problem now, but that's no reason to not change it – we should make sure it is future-proofed.

Bruce Arnold noted that this potentially requires changes to the by-laws of Pastors Conference and creates the problem of how the Pastors Emeriti are chosen. He suggested that the DCC be given the mandate to work out these issues, that it be cleaned up prior to going to GCB.

Amendment passed.

Resolved that Clause BL7.2.6 read: The quorum at convention shall consist of any number of delegates greater than one-half of the number of elected lay delegates, Church Council members, and members of the Ministry on active call.

Moved Bruce Arnold Seconded Tony von Brandenstein
Passed

Bishop Robert put the motion. Carried.

In Memoriam

Pr Christian Fandrich

- 1 Thess. 4:15-5:11
- Songs: Rejoice, rejoice believers LHS 489;
Christ our hope in life and death
- We remembered:
Pr Paul Albers
Dr John 'Joe' Strelan

Pr Martin Freund
Pr John Wilksch
Carol Wilksch
Pr Ted Prenzler
Pr Colin Henschke
Pr Ray Schmidt
Pr Lance Steicke
Pr Lloyd John
Pr Wilton Quast
Pr Colin Sheer
Pr Geoff Schirmer
Pr Hans Oberscheidt
Pr Noel Schmocker
Pr Paul Renner

Dinner

Guest Speaker: Dr Mark Worthing

Minutes - Sunday 30 October 2022

Morning Devotion

Pr Ian Rentsch

- John 12:27-36, Isaiah 60:1-6
- 'We walk together in mission
when we become children of the light'
- Songs: Christ be our light (ATOK 313);
I am the light of the world (ATA 128)

ALWS

Julie Krause

Julie spoke about Michael Stolz as the new Executive Director, and expressed thanks for the kindness and generosity of the District in showing support to ALWS. Over last financial year, \$600,000 donated from the NSW and ACT District.

ALWS projects bring Jesus' light and hope to those who feel like foreigners and outsiders. Julie shared stories from around the world of people who have been helped by ALWS and LWF by delivering aid and providing education.

Julie spoke about the 'Gifts of Grace' catalogue which provides a variety of ways to support overseas projects.

ALC

Bishop Paul Smith

Paul spoke on behalf of James Winderlich, Principal of ALC. He shared about the response of ALC to changing needs of the church in training pastors, teachers and layworkers in the LCA NZ, and encouraged people to consider supporting ALC through prayer, finances and engaging in study.

Q How many pastoral students are in the program in the future?

It is difficult to say how many are coming through, as some students are studying remotely, and considering whether they will go into the pastoral ministry stream.

Lutheran Women NSW/ACT

Tanna Mackenzie

Tanna spoke about the Lutheran Women Magazine and the local, national and international mission projects supported by the Lutheran Women of NSW and ACT.

Tanna shared photos from the LWNSW/ACT retreat and spoke about the 2023 retreat at Warrambui in March. Tanna shared photos from her experience of receiving the debutants from St Paul's College.

Q How many congregations have Lutheran Women's Fellowships? It's difficult to find information on events.

Most do, some have stopped meeting as they are too small or aging.

Bishop Robert expressed thanks to Tanna for her leadership of LWNSW/ACT and her report.

Professional Standards Department

Carolyn Kiss

Carolyn reported on the new Child Safety Standards and pointed out the LCA Standards of Ethical Behaviour brochure. Safe Church training continues with in-person workshops and online.

Carolyn shared the number of cases that have occurred in the District with alleged cases of sexual abuse and breaches of ethical behaviour standards.

Child Safety Standards – assessment and audit of safety measures, helping the church to meet its regulatory requirements. All congregations need to

- complete the audit and then
- complete a safety plan.

A support officer for implementing the standards has been employed by LCA NZ National Office.

Q How do congregations submit their safety plan once they have completed it?

Using the online tool to submit congregational plans means that they will be submitted to PSO.

Q Is there any thought to changing from child-focused to vulnerable people?

The Child Safety Standards are in response to government regulation, which is why the focus on children. Professional Standards training includes all vulnerable people.

LCA International Mission

Nevin Nitschke

Nevin shared the countries that LCA NZ partners with as we walk side-by-side with churches to share the gospel. He shared the projects and people that are involved in the international mission projects, including 8 Lutheran Schools in Australia that partner with Indonesian Lutheran Schools.

Nevin pointed out the international mission website, especially the timeline which highlights the more than 800 Lutherans and the projects they have been involved in.

He encouraged LCA NZ members to get involved with prayer meetings, online English teaching, Stamps for Missions, and overseas short-term volunteers. He also said that the department is looking for congregational representatives to be the communication point into congregations.

Closing formalities

Resolved that Reports and statements tabled at Convention be adopted.

Resolved that unfinished business be referred to the District Church Council for action.

Next Synod 2024

Tentative date March 2024
Offers of host congregations

Vote of Thanks

Tony von Brandenstein

Thanks to Warrambui for hosting synod, to the special guests from LCA, and to all who prepared and reported to synod. Thanks to all leaders of worship, all guest speakers and all who have been elected and filled roles, to Russell and Kaye for synod organisation, to Bishop Robert who faithfully serves the Lord in his leadership, to Liz Eckermann, Secretary of DCC, and to the Minute takers and tellers.

Pastor Richard Schwedes expressed thanks to Tony von Brandenstein for his work in managing the nominations.

Morning tea

Closing Service and Close of Convention

Pr Paul Hannola, Pr Paul Smith,
Pr Robert Bartholomaeus

- John 1:1-14
- 'We walk together in mission when we walk with the Word that became flesh'
- Songs: Turn your eyes upon Jesus; Pass it on (AT 83); Jesus sinners does receive (LH 317); Renew me I eternal light (LH 358); Thank you Jesus for the blood; Gift to the world (AT 358); Holy, holy, holy (AT 381); How great is our God
- Installation of DCC members

Lunch

2022 Elections and Appointments

2022 Election and Appointments 39th LCA NSW and ACT District Synodical Term

Resolved that Convention note the results of the 2022 elections and the District Church Council Appointments.

Section 1. Synod Election

ADMINISTRATION

Bishop

Pr Robert Bartholomaeus
(Elected for 1 Synodical term –currently to 2024)

Assistant Bishop

Pr Richard Schwedes

Regional Pastors

Canberra Pr Paul Hannola

Coastal North	Pr Richard Schwedes
Costal South	Pr Richard Schwedes
North West	Pr Darren Kupke
Riverina	Pr John Borchert

Secretary

Elizabeth Eckermann

Treasurer

Bruce Arnold

District Church Council

9 members. (skills-based structure), Bishop, Assistant Bishop, Secretary, Treasurer, 1 pastor, 4 lay people

Pastor	Pr Darren Jaensch
Layperson	Tony von Brandenstein
Layperson	Ward Westphal
Layperson	Joanne Knobel
Layperson	Jarmo Ronneberg
Consultant:	Administrator Russell Veerhuis

Property Trust

5 members: 3 elected by Synod, 2 appointed by DCC.

Bishop	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus (DCC)
Administrator	Russell Veerhuis (DCC)
Assistant Bishop	Pr Richard Schwedes
Secretary	Elizabeth Eckermann
	Kaye Simpfendorfer

WELFARE

Lutheran Aged Care, Albury Board of Governance

7 members, including one pastor. 7 nominated by Board for election by Synod

Chairperson	Tim McInnes
Executive Director	Ron Asquith
Executive Director	Wendy Rocks
Pastor	Pr Christian Fandrich
	Kevin Klose
	Louise Ward

AUXILIARIES

Warrambui Management Board

11 Members. DCC appoints Committee Treasurer and DCC rep. 9 elected by Synod, including 1 pastor.

Chairperson	Neal Mason
Vice Chair	Garry Watson
Secretary	Donald Mclean
Treasurer	Therese Heyne (DCC appt)
Pastor
DCC Rep.	Ward Westphal (DCC appt)
	Geoff Hartwig
	Brianna O'Keeffe

Ex Officio	Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus
District Treasurer	Bruce Arnold
Consultant	Retreat Director Dean Salzke

Section 2. DCC Appointments Endorsed by Synod

ADMINISTRATION

Administrator

Russell Veerhuis

Finance Advisory Committee

At least six members including the Treasurer, Administrator, 1 pastor and lay persons.

Treasurer	Bruce Arnold
Administrator	Russell Veerhuis
Pastor	Pr Hans Peethala
	Andrew Hoffmann
	Mark Waldron

Ex Officio	Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus

Nominations Committee

5 members, 2 pastors 3 lay people

Convenor	Tony von Brandenstein
Assistant Bishop	Pr Richard Schwedes
Secretary	Elizabeth Eckermann
	Pr Ian Rentsch
	Kaye Simpfendorfer

2022 Synodical Convention Planning Committee

Bishop, Assistant Bishop, Secretary, Administrator, plus as needed.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

LWNSW & ACT Spiritual Advisors

Pr Mark Simpfendorfer (LW NSW & ACT)
Pr Peter Fuhlbohm (LW NSW & ACT)

Professional Standards

Professional Standards Officer
Carolyn Kiss (LCA)

EDUCATION

Lutheran Education Victoria, New South Wales & Tasmania (LEVNT)

2 NSW members

Marianne Hammerton
Kevin Klose

St Paul's College Board of Management

6 members: Appointed by LEVNT endorsed by DCC.

Chairperson Anthony Lieschke
Vice Chairperson Cameron Turner
Christine Biar
Graham Kotzur
Jenny Zweck
Kelly Nadenbaum
Robyn Armstrong
Charlotte Rose

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Lutheran Laypeople's League Board of Directors

NSW Representatives

Deepa Justus
David Kalisch

LCA Judicial Tribunal

NSW Representatives, nominated by DCC for GCC appointment

Jim Ironside
Nancy Fox

NSW Ecumenical Council

Alison Short

Council for Christians and Jews

John Lorenzsonn

Attendees and Apologies

Special Guests:

Richard	Fox	Lutheran Media
Brett	Hausler	LCANZ Executive Officer
Nathan	Hedt	LCANZ New and Renewing Churches
Graeme	Huf	LLL
Carolyn	Kiss	LCANZ Professional Standards
Deepa	Justus	LLL
Julie	Krause	Australian Lutheran World Service
Linda	Macqueen	LCANZ Communications
Tania	Nelson	LCANZ Executive Officer - Local Mission
Nevin	Nitschke	LCANZ International Mission
Shane	Paterson	LEVNT
Paul	Smith	LCANZ Bishop

Pastors, Delegates and Visitors by Congregation/Parish:

Albury	John	McClelland	Delegate
Belconnen	Ian	Rentsch	Pastor
	Geoff	Hartwig	Delegate
	Dennis	Obst	Pastor Emeritus
	Delcia	von Brandenstein	Visitor
	Tony	von Brandenstein	DCC Member
Burrumbuttock	Christian	Fandrich	Pastor
	Thomas	Fandrich	Visitor
	Helen	Gabriel	Delegate, Jindera
Campbelltown	Barbara	Weber	Delegate
	Peter	Weber	Visitor
Canberra	Gabor	Szabo	Pastor
	Leigh	Nielsen	Delegate
Canberra Finnish	Janne	Pekkarinen	Pastor
Central Coast	Alan	Waterson	Delegate
	Sue	Waterson	Visitor
Central West NSW	James	Leach	Pastor
	Adele	Leach	Delegate
Culcairn	Kenneth	Baker	Delegate
	Heather	Baker	Visitor
GKIA Indonesian	Jan	Supit	Delegate
	Trina	Supit	Delegate
Henty	Will	Frost	Locum Pastor
	Stephen	Zweck	Delegate
Leeton-Griffith	Charmain	Lieschke	Delegate, Leeton
LifeWay	Mark	Schultz	Pastor
	David	Schuppan	Pastor
	Mark	Simpfendorfer	Pastor
	Mathew	von Stanke	Pastor
	Jennifer	Bartholomaeus	Visitor
	Shane	Albances	Delegate

Pastors, Delegates and Visitors by Congregation/Parish:

Liverpool	Hans John	Peethala Lorenzsonn	Pastor Delegate
Pleasant Hills	Oriel Trevor	Ridge Ridge	Delegate Visitor
Port Macquarie	Mark David	Worthing Pfeiffer	Pastor Delegate
Sutherland	David Elizabeth	Brooks Eckermann	Delegate DCC Secretary
Sydney & Narraweena	Richard Anthony Bridgitte Paul Bruce Veronica Mercedes René	Schwedes Fawcett Willshire Willshire Arnold Schwedes Schwedes van den Tol	Pastor Delegate, Sydney Visitor Visitor District Treasurer Visitor Visitor Delegate, Narraweena
Temora & West Wyalong	Darren Robert	Kupke Pfeiffer	Pastor Delegate, Temora
Tuggeranong	Paul Karen Jim Darren Julie	Hannola Hannola Hurt Jaensch Jaensch	Pastor Visitor Delegate Pastor, ADF Chaplain Visitor
Wagga Wagga	David Malcolm	Cherry Kohlhausen	Pastor Delegate
Walla Walla	Joanne Leon Pamela Cameron	Knobel Schoff Schoff Turner	DCC Member Delegate, Walla Walla Delegate, Walla Walla Delegate, Alma Park
Woden	Timothy Jonah Kate Jacob Ward Tanna	Muller Hansen Traeger Traeger Westphal Mackenzie	Pastor Delegate Delegate Visitor DCC Member Lutheran Women of NSW & ACT
Warrambui	Neal Dean Garry	Mason Salzke Watson	Warrambui Board Chairperson Warrambui Director Warrambui Board Vice Chairperson
NSW and ACT District	Robert Peta Tanya Kaye Russell	Bartholomaeus Bennett Cunningham Simpfendorfer Veerhuis	District Bishop TPM District Communications District Office District Administrator

Apologies:

Colin	Bahr	Delegate, Milbrulong
John	Borchert	Chaplain, St. Paul's College
Sarah Joy	Fandrich	Delegate, Burrumbuttock
Sabina	Hickling	Delegate, Cooma
James	Janetzki	Pastor Emeritus
Julia	Jarick	Delegate, Bethel
David	Jarman	Chaplain, LAC Albury
Gary	Kenney	Pastor Emeritus, Culcairn
Ian	Kotzur	Pastor Locum, Griffith/Leeton
Tuula	Kuusela	Delegate, Southern Cross Finnish
Peter	Madirazza	Delegate, Tamworth
Anita	Morton	Principal, St Paul's College
Lassi	Pappinen	Pastor, Sydney Finnish
Peter	Pfitzner	Delegate, Griffith
Sabina	Pichler	Delegate, Lifeway
Inge	Ramisch-Baker	Delegate, Dubbo
Melvin	Salzke	Pastor, Cooma
Martin	Vanags	Delegate, St Marys
Fred	Veerhuis	Pastor Emeritus
Grant	Weckert	Delegate, Orange
Kirsty	Wilksch	Delegate, Gerogery
Tim	Zanker	Pastor Emeritus, Liverpool

