

# Twentieth Regular Convention of General Synod Minutes

## Part B – In person sessions 9-12 February 2023

### Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne Victoria

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# Spiritual Life at Convention

## 1. Convention theme – Come, listen, live

The Convention of General Synod theme is based on Isaiah 55:3 '...**come** to me, **listen**, that you may **live**.'

**COME** – come to Jesus and there you will see how much God loves you and how much he paid to redeem you. His cross is your beginning and your end. Everything in your life and death is anchored and finds its meaning there. Here is where you come to be reborn – to repent, to lay down your burdens. Here you receive new life – forgiveness, renewal and refreshment.

**LISTEN** – pause at the cross, be still, hear the timeless God speak to you from the cross. Hear his voice in the crosses of your own life and in the life of the church. Lay aside the load you carry, all the voices demanding your attention, even those of your own making. Here at the cross, listen to God and you will receive everything you need ...

... that you may **LIVE**. Life truly comes when we live through the cross of Christ, in the power of his death, resurrection and ascension. Jesus is where God meets us on earth, and we know abundant life in him, life marked by the fruits of the Spirit and life eternal with him forever.

## 2. Logo explanation

The cross is central and prominent. Lutheran teaching always points to and revolves Jesus. Our teaching is interpreted by his cross. It's the lens through which we view the world. The cross shapes our relationships with God and with others.

The circle represents a how all creation finds its centre and its purpose in Jesus.

The background landscape mosaic places the cross in the context of the world in which we live, and our place and purpose in it.

The text (come, listen, live) is embedded around the cross, circling it in a continuous, never-ending movement. The invitation of God to come, listen and live at the foot of the cross is a lifetime calling.

## 3. Chaplain program

The in-person sessions of the 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of General Synod continued a program with floor and prayer chaplains, both ordained and lay, were available to provide pastoral care and spiritual support for delegates and visitors.

## 4. Convention Dinner

The convention dinner was host by the Melbourne Convention Centre and celebrated the Lutheran Laypeople's League (LLL) Centenary Celebration. The guest speaker was Rev Dr James Winderlich, Australian Lutheran College Principal.

## 5. Synod Offering

The 2021 Synod offering of \$19,097.60 was received for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea, a partner church of the LCANZ. The offering will support in-service training of pastors in the ELCPNG so that they may be strengthened in their ministry of the gospel.

The 2023 Synod offering of \$34,098.66 was received and will be directed to Finke River Mission for assistance in printing Lutheran Hymnals and Songbooks in language.

## **6. Sponsorship**

The Lutheran Church of Australia gratefully acknowledged the support of the LLL, the major sponsor of the 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of General Synod.

# Roll Call of 2023 General Synod Delegates

^ Alternate for general Synod delegate who is unable to attend

\* Apology given or absent

## General Church Board

Bishop	Paul	Smith
Assistant Bishop	Neville	Otto
Secretary of the Church	Nigel	Long
Member	Paul	Argyle
Member	Charmaine	Harch
Member	Kim	Baumeler
Member	Tim	Stringer
Member	Tim	Wiebusch
Member	Mel	Zerner
Member	Peter	Zweck

## Chairpersons of LCA Boards and Councils

ALWS Board	Jodie	Hoff
Australian Lutheran College Board	Cheryl	Bartel
Board for Lutheran Education Australia	Cain	McDonald
Council for Local Mission	Monika	Tropiano
Finke River Mission Board	Chris	Guntner

## District Bishops

NSW-ACT District Bishop	Robert	Bartholomaeus
NZ District Bishop	Mark	Whitfield
Qld District Bishop	Mark	Vainikka
SA-NT District Bishop	David	Altus
Vic-Tas District Bishop	Lester	Priebbenow
WA District Bishop	Michael	Fulwood

## Lutheran Education Principals

Principal - LEQ	Doug	Braiden
Principal – LEQ	Bronwyn	Dolling
Principal – LESNW	Francois	Pienaar
Principal – LESNW	Darryl	Trigg
Principal – LEVNT	Sue	Ellis
Principal – LEVNT	Daniel	Weller

## Parish Lay Delegates

### New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory

Albury St Lukes Congregation	John	McClelland
Belconnen Holy Cross Congregation	Tony	von Brandenstein
Broken Hill St Pauls Congregation	Marilyn	Hohnberg*
Burrumbuttock Parish	Alison	Viedt
Campbelltown Good Shepherd Congregation	Barbara	Weber
Canberra Holy Trinity Finnish Congregation	John	Knight*
Canberra-Queanbeyan Parish	Leigh	Nielsen*
Central Coast St Matthews Congregation	Alan	Waterson*
Central West parish	Tim	Sander
Cooma Trinity Congregation	Sabine	Hickling*
Epping LifeWay Congregation	Sabina	Pichler
Gilgandra-Dubbo Parish	Janet	Cheal*
Gunnedah-Tamworth parish	Peter	Madirazza*
Henty Parish	Jeannie	Kenney
Lavington Grace Parish	Jean	Klier*
Leeton-Griffith Parish	Charmain	Lieschke
Liverpool Living Waters Congregation	Gillian	Brooks
Moree Grace Congregation	Susan	Promnitz*

Narraweena Redeemer Congregation  
 Port Macquarie St Peters Congregation  
 Springwood Our Saviour Congregation

St Marys St Pauls Congregation  
 Sutherland Good Shepherd Congregation  
 Sydney Indonesian (GKIA) Congregation  
 Sydney Southern Cross Finnish Parish  
 Sydney St Pauls Congregation  
 Temora Lutheran Community Congregation  
 Tuggeranong Good Shepherd Congregation  
 Wagga Wagga Parish  
 Walla Walla Parish  
 West Wyalong Immanuel Congregation  
 Woden Valley Immanuel Congregation

Rene	Van den Tol
David	Pfeiffer
Robert	Brown*
Robert	Hamann^
Martin	Vanags*
Alison	Short
Trina	Supit
Tuula	Kuusela
Bruce	Arnold
Robert	Pfeiffer*
Karen	Hannola
Malcolm	Kohlhagen
Leon	Schoff
Jan	Doecke*
Kate	Traeger

**New Zealand**

Auckland Botany Chinese Congregation  
 Auckland Mountainside Congregation  
 Christchurch St Pauls Congregation  
 Hamilton Parish  
 Hawkes Bay Redeemer Congregation  
 Hawkes Bay Redeemer Congregation  
 Kawerau Congregation  
 Manawatu Parish  
 Marton St Martins Congregation  
 Upper Moutere St Pauls Congregation  
 Wellington St Pauls Congregation

Mark	Tung
Ray	Meharg
Andrew	Mattiske
Lesley	Johnson
Bill	Groves*
Michelle	Busch ^
Erik	Rohde*
Sheree	Garth*
Trevor	Jurgens*
Tessa	Werner*
Robert	Nippert*

**Queensland**

Alberton Parish  
 Ashmore Trinity Congregation  
 Beaudesert St Pauls Congregation  
 Beenleigh Bethesda Congregation  
 Bethania Congregation

Biloela Parish  
 Brisbane City St Andrews Congregation  
 Buderim Congregation  
 Buderim Congregation  
 Bundaberg Parish

Caboolture St Pauls Congregation  
 Cairns Parish  
 Caloundra St Marks Congregation  
 Corinda St Johns Congregation  
 Crows Nest Parish  
 Eight Mile Plains Parish  
 Emerald St Johns Congregation  
 Everton Hills Prince of Peace Congregation  
 Fassifern Parish  
 Gladstone St Martins Congregation  
 Glasshouse Country Calvary Congregation  
 Goombungee-Maclagan Parish  
 Gympie Zion Congregation  
 Hervey Bay St James Congregation  
 Highfields Christ Congregation

Kelly	Johnston*
Robin	Braunack
Rebecca	Waters*
Jon	Janetzki
Christine	McDermott*
Naomi	Marks
Eureka	Coetzee*
Owen	Dixon
Stephen	Mayer
Rachel	Schilling
John	Dwyer*
Ron	Pozzan
Anthony	Bowes^
Martin	Simmons
Kathleen	Close
Narelle	Jefferd*
Graeme	Drapper
Jeffrey	Von Hoff*
Barry	Noller*
Robin	Jaensch*
Sharryn	Cook
Greg	Harmer*
David	Rose
Robert	Smyth
Judy	Hartwig
Jaydon	Bellingan*
Colin	Mibus
Barry	Darr*
Dale	Pukallus^

Hope Vale Parish	Bruce	Woibo*
Indooroopilly St Peters Congregation	Bruce	Lockwood
Ingham St Marks Congregation	Michelle	Crisafulli*
Lockyer Valley Parish	Neil	Huth
	Ian	Rickuss*
Lowood Parish	Aaron	Heck*
Mackay Community Congregation	Marie	Robke
Maryborough-Childers Parish	Heather	Brady*
Middle Park Good News Congregation	Katherine	Matuschka
Mount Gravatt St Marks Congregation	Andrew	Spyropoulos
Murrumba Downs Living Faith Congregation	Danielle	Robinson*
	Paul	Ebert^
Nambour St Lukes Congregation	Philip	Thamm
Noosa Good Shepherd Congregation	Stephen	Wenke
Nundah St Pauls Congregation	Jai	Raynor
Pittsworth Parish	Kathleen	Hanley*
Queensland Asian Congregation	Tim	Yiu
Redcliffe Grace Congregation	Cheryl	Budd
Rochedale Our Saviour Congregation	Neil	Bergmann
Rosewood District Parish	Janet	Krause*
South Burnett Parish	Keith	Campbell
South West Queensland Parish	Daryn	Stiller
Southport Trinity Congregation	Neil	Lehmann*
Tallebudgera St Andrews (Gold Coast) Congregation	Judy	Hembrow
Tingalpa-Mt Cotton Parish	Inari	Thiel
Toowoomba Cornerstone Parish	Hazel	Weis
Toowoomba Emmanuel Fellowship Congregation	Anita	Short
Toowoomba Good Shepherd Congregation	Judith-Anne	Kleinschmidt
Toowoomba Redeemer Parish	John	Schulz
Toowoomba St Pauls Congregation	Robert	Steger*
	Cindy	Groser^
Townsville Parish	Corrie	Steel
Wilsonton-Glencoe Parish	Geoffrey	Becker*
	Heather	Neumann^
Woolloongabba Nazareth Congregation	Helen	Brinkman
Woolloongabba Nazareth Finnish Congregation	Leena	Vuorinen
<b><u>South Australia and Northern Territory</u></b>		
Aberfoyle Park Our Saviour Congregation	Andrew	Venning
Adelaide Bethlehem Congregation	Joanna	Hensley
	Gilbert	Materne
Adelaide St Stephens Congregation	Tanya	Wittwer
Albert Park-Semaphore Parish	Lucinda	Osborne
Alice Springs Parish	Bruce	Lindner
Angaston Parish	Suzanne	Graetz
Anmatyerr Language Area	Richard	Morton
	Seraphina	Presley-Haines
Balaklava Parish	Jarrad	Thiele*
	Ken	Semmler^
Barossa North Parish	Sabina	Frahn*
	Josephine	Freckelton
Berri Barmera Lutheran Congregation	Trevor	Ziersch
Bethany-Tabor Parish	Raelene	Falland*
	Nevin	Nitschke^
Birdwood Holy Cross Congregation	Kelly	Mathews
Blackwood St Peters Congregation	Margaret	Modra
Blair Athol St Paul Congregation	Kate	Fox
Bordertown Parish	David	Wagenknecht
Bridgewater Grace Congregation	Mark	Christian

Broken Hill St Pauls Congregation	Marilyn	Hohnberg*
Carlsruhe-Saddleworth Parish	Gregory	Schmaal
Ceduna Parish	Wayne	Cooper
Central Eyre Peninsula parish	Kingsley	Scholz*
Cleve Lutheran Parish	Anthony	Zwar
Cummins Parish	Katrina	Agnew
Darwin Top End Parish	Karen	Weier
Dernancourt St Johns Congregation	Mervyn	Wagner
Elizabeth St Peters Congregation	Colleen	Hage*
Eudunda-Robertstown Parish	Dagmar	Roocke*
	Philip	Roocke*
	Colin	Schaefer^
Ferryden Park St Pauls Congregation	Marilyn	Wall
Fullarton St Peters Congregation	Craig	Hall
Gawler Lutheran Congregation	Joanne	Chamberlain
Glenelg St Pauls Congregation	Helen	Martul
Glynde St Andrews Congregation	Irwin	Traeger
Glynde Zion Congregation	Benjamin	Pfizzner
Golden Grove Congregation	Rosalie	Hoklas
Goolwa Redeemer Congregation	Tony	Carbone*
Greenock Parish	Margaret	Koch
Hahndorf St Michaels Congregation	David	Dreckow
Hahndorf St Pauls Parish	Marjorie	Ridenour
Hallett Cove Good Shepherd Congregation	Martin	Schumacher
Hampstead Holy Trinity Congregation	Mark	Kleinig*
Hope Valley Trinity Congregation	Ruth	Jericho*
Kangaroo Island Congregation	Wayne	Loechel
Kingston SE St Johns Congregation	Rollo	Schaefer*
Light Lutheran Congregation	Gary	Schmidt
Lobethal Congregation	Bronwen	Klose
Loxton Parish	Lyndon	Hampel
Loxton St Peters Parish	Samuel	Hentschke
Lyndoch Parish	Graeme	Heinrich*
	John	Zeppel
Magill Pilgrim Congregation	Mark	Schubert
Maitland Parish	Greg	Schulz
Mallee Lutheran Parish	Darren	Heintze
Mawson Lakes Community Congregation	Amy	Mann
McLaren Vale St Pauls Congregation	Keith	Eckermann
Mid Murray Parish	Alison	Eggers*
	Steven	Marks^
Mid North Lutheran Parish	Kym	Dreckow
Millicent St Pauls Congregation	Michael	Osborne
Morphett Vale Calvary Congregation	Rodney	Poole
Mount Barker St Marks Congregation	Kym	van de Meulengraaf
Mount Compass St John Congregation	Jeff	Brittain*
Mount Gambier St Martins Congregation	Lynette	Pattimore
Murray Bridge Christ Church Congregation	Delton	Schiller*
Murray Bridge Holy Cross Congregation	Tanya	Hanckel
Nairne Redeemer Congregation	Michael	Gladigau
Naracoorte Parish	Bernie	Pfizzner
North Adelaide Immanuel Congregation	Paul	Weinert*
Novar Gardens Immanuel Congregation	Trevor	Hartmann
Nuriootpa St Petri Congregation	Lynette	Albrecht
	Robert	Albrecht
Onkaparinga Parish	Iris	Gladigau
Para Vista Good Shepherd Congregation	Robyn	Oatey
Paringa Holy Cross Congregation	Margaret	Simpfendorfer
Pasadena Trinity Congregation	Andrew	Waldhuter



Penrice Salem Evangelical Congregation  
 Pintupi/Luritja Language Area

Port Lincoln Our Saviours Congregation  
 Port Pirie Parish  
 Renmark St Johns Trinity Congregation  
 Roxby Downs Congregation  
 Salisbury "The Ark" Congregation  
 Seaford Congregation  
 Southern Flinders Parish  
 Southern Yorke Peninsula Parish  
 Strathalbyn Parish  
 Swan Reach Parish  
 Tanunda Grace Congregation  
 Tanunda Home Chapel Congregation  
 Tanunda Langmeil Congregation  
 Tea Tree Gully St Johns Congregation  
 Underdale Glandore Lutheran Congregation  
 Unley St Johns Congregation  
 Victor Harbor Congregation  
 Waikerie Parish  
 Warradale Faith Congregation  
 Western Arrarnta Language Area  
 Whyalla St James Congregation

Malcolm  
 Stanley  
 Punata  
 Brian  
 David  
 Dennis  
 Andrew  
 Cathryn  
 Josephine  
 Yvonne  
 Gina  
 Malcolm  
 Alan  
 David  
 Glenis  
 Erich  
 Selina  
 Mark  
 Pam  
 Patricia  
 Bill  
 Mark  
 Rodney  
 Keith

Fechner\*  
 Roberts  
 Stockman\*  
 Fiegert  
 Burger  
 Hentschke  
 Winterfield\*  
 Hamilton  
 Baxter  
 Woidt  
 Voigt\*  
 Twartz  
 Reynolds\*  
 Saegenschnitter  
 Kupke  
 Holzknecht  
 Wilksch  
 Koch  
 Mickan  
 Walker  
 Mudge\*  
 Materne  
 Malbunka  
 Sichler\*

**Victoria (incl Tasmania)**

Ballarat St Johns Congregation

Bendigo Parish  
 Box Hill St Pauls Congregation  
 Chinese Lutheran Congregation  
 Dimboola-Natimuk Parish  
 Doncaster-Ivanhoe Congregation  
 Footscray St Matthew Congregation  
 Geelong Parish  
 Gippsland Parish  
 Goulburn Murray Parish  
 Grampians Parish  
 Greensborough Thomastown Parish  
 Grovedale Parish  
 Hamilton St Matthew Congregation  
 Hobart St Peters Congregation  
 Horsham Holy Trinity Congregation

Melbourne Finnish Congregation  
 Melbourne North West Regional Ministry Parish  
 Melbourne Outer Eastern Congregation  
 Melbourne St Johns Southgate Congregation  
 Mildura Holy Trinity Congregation  
 Minyip-Warracknabeal Parish  
 Moorabbin-Dandenong Congregation  
 Murtoa St Johns Congregation  
 Nhill Parish  
 North Geelong Our Redeemer Congregation  
 North Tasmania Parish  
 Nunawading-Waverley Congregation  
 Portland-Heywood Congregation  
 Rainbow Parish  
 Ringwood-Knox Parish

Simon  
 Ron  
 Ian  
 Ben  
 Terry  
 Andrea  
 Alan  
 Helen  
 Norma  
 Dieter  
 Kathleen  
 Annie  
 Devon  
 Michael  
 Steven  
 Sonia  
 Steve  
 Rosemary  
 Satu  
 Sandra  
 Sabine  
 Katherine  
 Helen  
 Summer  
 Jenny  
 Dennis  
 Stephen  
 Elizabeth  
 Leanne  
 Marilyn  
 Sandra  
 Karen  
 Peter

Marcollo\*  
 Wheaton^  
 Burdett  
 Gargett  
 Wong\*  
 Cross  
 Senior  
 Semmler  
 Koehne  
 Melzer  
 Mills  
 Gellert  
 Dutschke  
 Dillon  
 Liebelt  
 Weidenbach  
 Cramer  
 Cramer  
 Kirk\*  
 Wakeling\*  
 Haeusler  
 Lieschke  
 Zibell  
 Schultz  
 Pietsch  
 Schorback\*  
 Zanker\*  
 Jewson  
 Holland  
 Beaumont  
 McCallum  
 Koning  
 Renner

Rosebud Bethany Congregation  
 Swan Hill St Pauls Congregation  
 Tabor Bethlehem Congregation  
 Tarrington Parish  
 Warrnambool Parish  
 Wodonga Parish  
 Wyndham Hobsons Bay Congregation

Lester  
 Lyn  
 Tara  
 Gavin  
 Geoff  
 Carolyn  
 Adam  
 Walkenhorst  
 Scott\*  
 Modra  
 Bensch  
 Nuske  
 Kiss  
 Zibell

### Western Australia

Albany St Pauls Congregation  
  
 Dalyellup Ocean Forest Lutheran Fellowship  
  
 Duncraig Concordia Congregation  
 Esperance-Kalgoorlie-Boulder Parish  
 Geraldton Hope Congregation  
 Katanning-Narrogin Parish  
 Morley Bethlehem Congregation  
 Parkwood St Lukes Congregation  
  
 Perth Grace Chinese Congregation  
 Perth St Johns Congregation  
 Rockingham-Mandurah Congregation

Arlene  
 Narelle  
 Murray  
 Manuela  
 Maria  
 Fiona Hoffrichter-Wagenknecht \*  
 Joanne  
 Raymond  
 Christopher  
 Ronda  
 Graeme  
 Galvin  
 Monica  
 Oliver  
 Gimondo\*  
 Fulwood^  
 Pfitzner^  
 Swift \*  
 Rudolph  
 Klein  
 Kowald  
 Kuchel  
 Hahn \*  
 Liener^  
 Chong  
 Bodenstaff  
 Swift\*

### Pastor Delegates

#### Australian Lutheran College

Stephen Haar	Stephen Hultgren	Thomas Pietsch
James Winderlich		

#### Emeriti

Greg Lockwood	Peter Lockwood	David Christian
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#### Past Presidents/Bishops

Michael Semmler	John Henderson
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#### New Zealand

Nich Kitchen	Jim Pietsch*	Darryl Shoesmith*
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#### New South Wales and Australia Capital Territory

John Borchert	Christian Fandrich	Mathew Eckermann*
Peter Fuhlbohm	Joseph Graham	Paul Hannola
Darren Jaensch	James Leach	Peter Livingsten
Dan Mueller	Timothy Muller	Mark Schultz
Richard Schwedes	Kees Sturm	Allan Taruste*
Mathew von Stanke	Mark Worthing	

#### Queensland

Brenton Altmann	Thomas Bohmert	Russell Brieze
Noel Burton	Rob Edwards	Adam Eime
Mark Gierus	Gregory Graham*	David Haak
Mark Hansen	Ben Hentschke	Michael Jarick
Tim Jarick	Geoff Johnston	Andrew Koehler
Jing Luan	Michael Mayer	Mark Nitschke
Peter Noble	Ryan Norris*	Joel Pukallus
Lionel Rohrlach	Martin Scharnke	Gregory Schiller
David Schmidt	Ken Schultz	David Seligmann*
Brian Shek	Luke Spilsbury	Ed Szabo*
Matthew Thomas	Tommi Vuorinen	Matthew Wilksch

Mark Winter

### **South Australia and Northern Territory**

Roland Adams*	Valdis Andersons	Matthew Anker
Guntars Baikovs	Andrew Bettison	Matthew Bishop*
Robert Borgas	Andrew Brook	Paul Calnan
Joel Cramer	Avito da Graca Costa	Tim Ebbs
Matthew Edgecomb	Richard Fox	Chris Gallasch
Dale Gosden	Paul Hage	Peter Heintze
Adam Hensley	Steven Hibbard	Mathew Ker
Paul Kerber	Adrian Kitson*	Tim Klein
Fin Klein	Peter Klemm	Geoff Kuchel*
David Kuss	Ian Lutze	Chris Mann
Shaun Manning	Reid Matthias	Keith McNicol*
Joshua Muller	Greg Page	Fraser Pearce
Ben Pfeiffer	Stephen Pietsch	Michael Prenzler
Nigel Rosenzweig	Andrew Ruddell	Jason Sander
Basil Schild	Stephen Schultz	John Strelan
Joseph Theodorsen	Lee Van Rossen*	Andrew Vanderwal
Greg Vangsness	Rodney Witmitz	

### **Victoria (incl Tasmania)**

Howard Beard	Boyd Briese	Tony Castle
Peter Ghalayini	Levi Graham	Nathan Hedt
Brett Kennett	Lucas Matuschka	Sam Modra
Wayne Muschamp	Matthias Prenzler	Heath Pukallus
Chris Raatz	Frank Rasenberger	Carl Richter
Michael Steicke	Carl Thiele	Ian Vainikka
Gordon Wegener	John Weier	

### **Western Australia**

Peter Hage	Kim Kuchel	Steven Liersch
James Luk	Andre Meyer	Michael Rudolph

### **Consultants and Staff**

Chief Executive Officer – LLL Australia	Ross	Smith
Executive Director - Australian Lutheran World Service	Michael	Stolz
Executive Director - Lutheran Education Australia	Lisa	Schmidt
Executive Officer - Local Mission	Tania	Nelson
Executive Officer of the Church	Brett	Hausler
Finke River Mission Support Worker	Neville	Doecke
Finke River Mission Support Worker	Paul	Traeger
LCA Business Manager	Debbie	Venz
LCA Communications Manager	Linda	Macqueen
Parliamentarian	Fred	Kleinschmidt
Personal Assistant to the Bishop and Secretary of the Church	Chelsea	Bellamy
Personal Assistant to the Executive Officer of the Church	Jayne	Welke
Professional Standards Manager	Timothy	Ross
Standing Committee on Constitutions, Chairperson	Faye	Schmidt
Youth Consultant	Eloise	Quinn-Valentine
Youth Consultant	Christian	Hansen

# Business of Convention

## **Day 3 - Thursday 9 February 2023**

### Gathering Communion Worship Service

Presider: LCA NZ Churchwide Bishop Paul Smith

Text: Matthew 14:13-21

Liturgist: Bishop Lester Priebbenow

Welcoming rites: Bishop Paul Smith

#### 3-01 Opening formalities and Welcome (Agenda 1.2.6)

Bishop Paul Smith welcomed the Synod to the 2023 in-person sessions of the Twentieth Regular Convention of General Synod. Bishop Paul welcomed first time delegates attending Synod.

Vic-Tas District Bishop Lester Priebbenow welcomed delegates to Convention on behalf of the Vic-Tas District.

An Acknowledgement of Country was provided by the LCA Secretary of the Church, Dr Nigel Long.

Vic-Tas District Administrator Stephen Mildred outlined some preliminary housekeeping matters.

Session concluded with supper.

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## **Day 4 - Friday 10 February 2023**

### Morning Worship

#### **7:30am Holy Communion Service**

Presider: LCNZ Bishop Mark Whitfield

Assistant: Rev Matthew Huckel

#### **9:00am Daily Worship Service**

Presider: SA-NT District Bishop David Altus

Text: Matthew 5:13-16

Liturgist: Bishop Mark Vainikka

### **Business Session One**

#### Preliminaries

##### 4-01 Formal Reconvening of Convention (Agenda 1.2.1)

Bishop Paul Smith reported a quorum was present and declared that the 20<sup>th</sup> Convention of General Synod to be reconvened.

##### 4-02 Housekeeping and Convention offering

LCA Secretary Dr Nigel Long provided opening preliminaries and housekeeping. The offering for Convention is for Finke River Mission Songbook project – providing songbooks in Aboriginal languages.

##### 4-03 Roll Call (Agenda 1.2.9)

LCA Secretary Dr Nigel Long, advised that 341 delegates were registered and present. Dr Long advised a quorum was 226 (By-laws section 7.2.6).

#### 4-04 Endorsements (Agenda 1.2.1-1.2.4)

The Convention endorsed the appointment of the following:

**Minute Secretaries** - Holly Koning, Dinu Stamatescu, Russell Veerhuis, Angela Rogers, Trevor Ruthenberg, Lester Dreckow

**Tellers** - Ray Pace (Head Teller), Angela Rogers, Stephen Mildred, Trevor Ruthenberg, Russell Veerhuis, Lester Dreckow, Heather Burger, Terri Stringer, Margit Hubbers, Gillian Heintze, John Beaumont, Denise Muschamp, Brett Hausler and Deborah Venz

**Communications Officers** - Linda Macqueen, Jessica Smith, Anthony Bothe, and Andrea Winter

**Committee for Verification of Minutes** – Margit Hubbers, Gillian Heintze, Marion Campbell, Valerie Ebert, Gary Tepper, John Hoffmann, John Beaumont and Glenn Schultz

No electoral committee was required for the in-person sessions of Synod.

#### 4-05 Receive Reports (Agenda 1.2.12)

*By-laws section 7.3.6 - all reports published in the book of reports or in supplements thereto shall be regarded as received by the convention by virtue of the fact.*

The Chair advised the following corrections to the addendum to be noted by delegates:

- Page 16, item 2.1 should be 2.2
- Page 17, item 2.1.11 should be 1.2.13.2
- Page 19, item 2.1.12 should be 1.2.13.3
- Page 19, item 2.1.13 should be 1.2.13.4.

#### 4-06 Greetings and visitors (Agenda 1.2.11)

Greetings were received from:

- Rev. Dr Jonathan Shaw, Director of Church Relations, Assistant to the President, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- The Right Reverend George Samiec, Chairman of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England
- Reverend Hanns Hoerschelmann, Director, Mission EineWelt, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria
- Reverend Gabriele Hoerschelmann, Directors, Mission EineWelt, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria

Rev. Dr Jonathan Shaw, Director of Church Relations and Assistant to the President, from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was introduced as an Official Visitor to Synod.

#### 4-07 Apologies (Agenda 1.2.10)

LCA Secretary Dr Nigel Long advised there were 85 apologies. Apologies were received from:

Roland Adams, Geoffrey Becker, Jaydon Bellingan, Matthew Bishop, Heather Brady, Jeff Brittain, Robert Brown, Antonio Carbone, Janet Cheal, Eureka Coetzee, Michelle Crisafulli, Barry Darr, John Dwyer, Mathew Eckermann, Raelene Falland, Malcolm Fechner, Sheree Garth, Arlene Gimondo, Greg Graham, Bill Groves, Colleen Hage, Ronda Hahn, Kathleen Hanley, Gregory Harmer, Aaron Heck, Graeme Heinrich, Sabine Hickling, Fiona Hoffrichter-Wagenknecht, Marilyn Hohnberg, Robin Jaensch, Narelle Jefferd, Ruth Jericho, Kelly Johnston, Trevor Jurgens, Satu Kirk, Adrian Kitson, Mark Kleinig, Jean Klier, John Knight, Janet Krause, Geoffrey Kuchel, Neil Lehmann, Keith McNicol, Peter Madirazza, Simon Marcollo, Steven Marks, Christine McDermott, William Mudge, Matthew Muller, Leigh Nielsen, Robert Nippert, Barry Noller, Ryan Norris, James Pietsch, Robert Pfeiffer, Murray Pfitzner, Susan Promnitz, Alan Reynolds, Ian Rickuss, Danielle Robinson, Marie Robke, Erik Rohde, Philip Roocke, Dagmar Roocke, Rollo Schaefer, Delton Schiller, Kingsley Scholz, Dennis Schorback, Lynette Scott, David Seligmann, Darryl Shoosmith, Keith Sichler, Roert Steger, Ed Szabo, Allan Taruste, Jarrad Thiele, Inari Thiele, Lee Van Rossen, Martin Vanags, Gina Voigt, Sandra

Wakelings, Rebecca Waters, Alan Waterson, Paul Weinert, Tessa Werner, Andrew Winterfield, Stephen Zanker

#### 4-08 Late Proposals for Acceptance (Agenda 1.2.13)

**20-19 RESOLVED** that the following late proposals be added to the Convention Agenda

- 1.2.13.1 Rev John Henderson to continue as a Convention delegate as proposed by General Church Board
- 1.2.13.2 Constitution Review that General Church Board are to consult and inform as proposed by General Church Board
- 1.2.13.3 Authorise the republication of the Anglican Lutheran *Common Ground* with the addendum "Perspectives on Mission" as proposed by General Church Board
- 1.2.13.4 Adopt Lutheran-Uniting *At the Table* statement as proposed by General Church Board
- 1.2.13.5 Convention appoint Bishop David Altus as an alternative chairperson

It was noted by the chair that late proposals can be received up to the start of the first business session (By Laws Section 7.2.3.2) *Additional late proposals to be submitted to the Secretary of the Church.*

#### 4-09 Acceptance of Bishop Emeritus John Henderson as Emeritus Bishop delegate (Agenda 1.2.13.1)

**20-20 RESOLVED** that General Synod acknowledge Rev John Henderson as a continuing delegate under Article 7.2.7 of the Constitution.

#### 4-10 Appointment of Bishop David Altus as an alternative chairperson

**20-21 RESOLVED** that General Synod appoint Bishop David Altus to serve as an alternative Chairperson as required.

#### 4-11 Recognition of all persons registered as delegates to General Synod

**20-22 RESOLVED** that Synod recognises the persons registered as delegates for the 20<sup>th</sup> Convention in-person sessions of General Synod, as authorised delegates.

#### 4-12 Meeting Procedure

LCA Secretary Dr Nigel Long introduced the rules for transacting business (see Book of Reports Addendum page 10), guidelines for prayer and chaplaincy including the introduction of the Synod Chaplaincy Team. A video on respectful dialogue was played for the delegates.

#### 4-13 Introductions

Mr Fred Kleinschmidt (legal consultant appointed by General Church Board to provide advice on procedural matters) was introduced as a consultant to Synod.

## Constitutions

#### 4-14 Dissolution Clause: Model Constitution of Districts (Agenda 2.1.6.7)

**20-23 RESOLVED** that **ARTICLE 11. DISSOLUTION** of the By-laws of the Church, Constitution of the Districts, be amended to add the following words

(words to be deleted - ~~strike through~~; words to be added - **bold**):

#### **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 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 ~~Written~~ **Written** 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 **not less than** three-quarters **[3/4]** 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 ~~Written~~ **Written** 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 **not less than** three-quarters **[3/4]** of all the registered delegates of the District Synod.
- 11.2.3.4 The special resolution shall be submitted to the General Church 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 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 ~~Written~~ **Written** 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 **not less than** three-quarters **[3/4]** of all the registered delegates of the District Synod.
- 11.3.2.4 The special resolution shall be submitted to the General Church Board.
- 11.3.3 Upon agreement, the General Church 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.

#### 4-15 Objects: Model Constitution of Districts (Agenda 2.1.6.8)

**20-24 RESOLVED** that **Article 3. OBJECTS** of the Model Constitution for a District in the By-laws of the Church, be amended to revise clause 3.1.14:

(words to be deleted - ~~strike through~~; words to be added - **bold**):

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.

A proposal to amend Article 3.1.14.4 to 'Take such action as necessary for the protection of the congregations, church members, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights' was **lost**.

4-16 Withdrawal from Membership clauses: Lutheran Church of Australian Inc (Agenda 2.1.6.9)

**20-25 RESOLVED** that in the Constitution and By-laws of the Church, the following changes be made (words to be deleted - ~~strike through~~; words to be added - **bold**):

Article 13.2

13.2 Notice of any such motion to amend, alter, add to or repeal any of the rules shall be given on the agenda of the convention, and any motion to amend, alter, add or repeal shall require a ~~two-thirds~~ majority **of not less than two-thirds [2/3]** of all the delegates registered at the convention.

Section 4.3

**Withdrawal From Membership**

- 4.3 A congregation may withdraw from membership in the Church by adopting the following procedure:
- 4.3.1 The resolution of a congregation indicating the desire to withdraw must be adopted at a legally constituted meeting of the congregation and shall require a majority of **not less than two-thirds [2/3]** of all the voting members of the congregation, and shall be submitted to the Bishop of the District within fourteen [14] days of adoption.
  - 4.3.2 The Bishop of the District or the Bishop's appointed representative shall negotiate with the congregation for at least ninety [90] days after receipt of the resolution.
  - 4.3.3 After such negotiation, the formal and final vote shall be taken at a legally constituted meeting of the congregation, the purpose of which has been published and at which the Bishop of the District or the Bishop's representative shall be present.
  - 4.3.4 The final motion to withdraw shall require a majority of **not less than two-thirds [2/3]** of all the voting members of the congregation. A copy of the resolution shall be forwarded to the Bishop of the District, and upon its receipt the membership of the congregation in the Church shall terminate. The Bishop shall forward notice of withdrawal to the Secretary of the Church, who shall publish it in the official publication of the Church.

Section 7.3.28.3

7.3.28.3 For a resolution on a matter of doctrine to be deemed to be the official position of the Church it shall require a ~~two-thirds~~ majority **of not less than two-thirds [2/3]** of all the registered delegates at the convention.

Section 7.3.29

7.3.29 Any of the By-laws in Section 7.3 may, if the need arises, be suspended in respect to any business of the convention, by a ~~two-thirds~~ majority **of not less than two-thirds [2/3]** of those delegates present.

4-17 Withdrawal from Membership clauses: Model Constitution of the Districts (Agenda 2.1.6.10)

**20-26 RESOLVED** that in the Constitution and By-laws of the Church, Constitutions of the Districts, the following changes be made (words to be deleted - ~~strike through~~; words to be added - **bold**):



#### Article 13.2

- 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 not less than two-thirds [2/3]** 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 Board of the Church, in which case the motion shall require a majority of those voting.

#### Section 4.3

##### **Withdrawal from Membership**

- 4.3 A congregation may withdraw from membership in the Church by adopting the following procedure:
- 4.3.1 The resolution of a congregation indicating the desire to withdraw must be adopted at a legally constituted meeting of the congregation by a ~~two-thirds~~ majority **of not less than two-thirds [2/3]** of all the voting members of the Congregation, and shall be submitted to the Bishop of the District within fourteen [14] days of adoption.
  - 4.3.2 The Bishop of the District or the Bishop's appointed representative shall negotiate with the congregation for at least ninety [90] days after receipt of the resolution.
  - 4.3.3 After such negotiation the formal and final vote shall be taken at a legally constituted meeting of the congregation, the purpose of which has been published and at which the Bishop of the District or the Bishop's representative shall be present.
  - 4.3.4 The final motion to withdraw shall require a majority of **not less than two-thirds [2/3]** of all the voting members of the Congregation. If it is resolved in the affirmative, a copy of the resolution shall be forwarded to the Bishop of the District, and upon its receipt the membership of the congregation in the Church shall terminate. The Bishop shall forward notice of withdrawal to the Secretary of the Church, who shall publish it in the official publication of the Church.

#### Section 7.3.29

- 7.3.29 Any of the By-laws in Section 7.3 may, if the need arises, be suspended in respect to any business of the convention by a ~~two-thirds~~ majority **of not less than two-thirds [2/3]** of those delegates present.

#### 4-18 Membership and Dissolution clauses: Model Constitution of Congregations

##### (Agenda 2.1.6.11)

**20-27 RESOLVED** that in the Model Constitution for a Congregation the following changes be made (words to be deleted - ~~strike through~~; words to be added - **bold**):

##### **ARTICLE 11. DISSOLUTION**

- 11.1 A special resolution is required if it is proposed that the Congregation dissolve and any such resolution for dissolution shall be made according to the following procedure:
- 11.1.1 Written notice of a motion to dissolve the Congregation shall be given to the members of the Congregation.
  - 11.1.2 The motion shall be presented to the Congregation only after the Bishop of the District has been consulted.
  - 11.1.3 At least thirty [30] days written notice of a meeting, specifying the intention to dissolve as a special motion, shall be given to all the voting members of the Congregation.
  - 11.1.4 The motion shall require a majority of **not less than** three-quarters [3/4] of all the voting members of the Congregation for determination at a general meeting.

##### **ARTICLE 13. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- 13.1 The Congregation may resolve, by a resolution requiring at least a ~~two-thirds~~ majority **of not less than two-thirds [2/3] of the members present**, to amend, alter, add to or repeal its Constitution, including changing the name of the Congregation, except as hereinafter provided in the following clause 13.4 and subject to the preceding clause 3.1.4.

#### 4-19 Membership and Dissolution clauses: Model Constitution of Parishes (Agenda 2.1.6.12)

**20-28 RESOLVED** that in the Model Constitution for a Parish the following changes be made (words to be deleted - ~~strike through~~; words to be added - **bold**):

##### **ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP**

- 5.1 The Parish shall consist of the following congregations and others admitted according to the procedure in the following clause 5.2 and the voting members of member-congregations shall be the voting members of the Parish:

- 5.1.1 (Names of congregations inserted here)
- 5.2 Any other congregation which is a member of both the Church and the District may apply for membership in the Parish and shall require a ~~two-thirds [2/3]~~ majority **of not less than two-thirds [2/3]** of those voting members present at a duly constituted meeting of the Parish provided that at least one [1] calendar month's notice of application for such membership shall have been given to all member-congregations of the Parish.

#### ARTICLE 11. DISSOLUTION

- 11.1 A special resolution is required if it is proposed that the Parish dissolve and any such resolution for dissolution shall be made according to the following procedure:
- 11.1.1 Written notice of a motion to dissolve the Parish shall be given to the member-congregations of the Parish.
- 11.1.2 The motion shall be presented to the member-congregations only after the Bishop of the District has been consulted.
- 11.1.3 At least thirty [30] days written notice of a meeting, specifying the intention to dissolve as a special motion, shall be given to all the voting members of the Parish.
- 11.1.4 The motion shall require a majority of **not less than** three-quarters [3/4] of all the voting members of the Parish for determination at a general meeting.

#### ARTICLE 13. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 13.1 The Parish may resolve, by a resolution requiring at least a ~~two-thirds~~ majority **of not less than two-thirds [2/3] of the members present**, amend, alter, add to or repeal its Constitution, including changing the name of the Parish, except as hereinafter provided in the following clause 13.4 and subject to the preceding clause 3.1.4.

## Doctrine and Theology

### 4-20 Procedural acceptance of new proposals and reports (Agenda 2.2.10)

**20-29 RESOLVED** that General Synod accept amended proposals submitted by St Pauls' Box Hill and the LCA Queensland District under 7.3.1 2 of the LCA Bylaws as the proposals for items 2.2.4 and 2.2.9 respectively on ordination for debate before the 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention.

Bishop Paul Smith addressed a perceived conflict of interest regarding his wife's theological study and consideration of ordained ministry. Bishop Paul vacated the chair for the General Synod to confirm its confidence in him serving as chair for the proposals on ordination. Assistant Bishop, Rev Neville Otto, transacted the vote of confidence. The vote of confidence in Bishop Paul Smith was **carried**. Bishop Paul Smith return to the chair.

### 4-21 General Pastors Conference Advice (Agenda 14.5)

The GPC Advice was presented by District Bishop David Altus (SA-NT District).

### 4-22 General Church Board Recommendation (Agenda 2.2.10)

The GCB recommendations were presented by Bishop Paul Smith.

### 4-23 Remove Article 6.11 from Theses of Agreement (Agenda 2.2.4.V2)

Ben Gargett, Chair of St Paul's Box Hill, presented the proposal to Synod.

#### PROPOSED THAT

1. Synod accepts there is ongoing division and no consensus in the Lutheran church of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ) on the matter of whether both men and women can be ordained according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran confessions, and
2. For the sake of the gospel and the mission of God that we share in the LCANZ, that Theses of Agreement (T.A.) 6.11 be removed from the Theses of Agreement, and
3. For peace and unity, the LCA allows for two practices in the office of the ministry, being male only ordination and the ordination of both men and women effective from 4 February 2024, and

4. The constitution of the LCA be amended as set out below (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~; words to be added – **bold**) and General Church Board be authorised to make any necessary changes to the By-Laws to enact points 2 and 3.

#### **ARTICLE 5. THE MINISTRY**

- 5.1 The Church recognises and upholds the Office of the Ministry as the office divinely instituted for the public for the public administration of the Means of Grace. For this purpose it shall receive into its Ministry, by ordination or by colloquy of ministers ordained elsewhere, ~~men~~ **persons** whose qualifications for the office have been established and who
  - 5.1.1 accept and hold the Confession of the Church;
  - 5.1.2 accept the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church; and
  - 5.1.3 undertake to participate in the work of the Church and to promote its Objects. Such members of the ministry shall be recorded in the official Roll of Pastors.

Bishop Paul Smith adjourned the session at 12:45pm.

#### **Business Session Two**

Session two commenced at 1:45pm. Bishop Paul Smith declared a quorum present.

4-24 Remove Article 6.11 from Theses of Agreement (Agenda 2.2.4.V2)

Debate on the proposal commenced.

Bishop Paul Smith adjourned the session at 3:00pm.

#### **Business Session Three**

Session three commenced at 3:30pm. Bishop Paul Smith declared a quorum present.

4-25 Remove Article 6.11 from Theses of Agreement (Agenda 2.2.4.V2)

Debate on the proposal continued.

**Proposed amendment:** that the word "person" be changed to "men and women" as the proposed amendment to Article 5.1 of the LCA Constitution.

**The amendment was CARRIED. The motion became:**

#### **PROPOSED THAT**

1. Synod accepts there is ongoing division and no consensus in the Lutheran church of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ) on the matter of whether both men and women can be ordained according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran confessions, and
2. For the sake of the gospel and the mission of God that we share in the LCANZ, that Theses of Agreement (T.A.) 6.11 be removed from the Theses of Agreement, and
3. For peace and unity, the LCA allows for two practices in the office of the ministry, being male only ordination and the ordination of both men and women effective from 4 February 2024, and
4. The constitution of the LCA be amended as set out below (words to be deleted – ~~strike through~~; words to be added – **bold**) and General Church Board be authorised to make any necessary changes to the By-Laws to enact points 2 and 3.

#### **ARTICLE 5. THE MINISTRY**

- 5.1 The Church recognises and upholds the Office of the Ministry as the office divinely instituted for the public for the public administration of the Means of Grace. For this purpose it shall receive into its Ministry, by ordination or by colloquy of ministers ordained

elsewhere, men ~~persons~~ **and women** whose qualifications for the office have been established and who

5.1.1 accept and hold the Confession of the Church;

5.1.2 accept the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church; and

5.1.3 undertake to participate in the work of the Church and to promote its Objects. Such members of the ministry shall be recorded in the official Roll of Pastors.

Thirty-six (36) delegates spoke to the motion.

Chaplains Rev David Wear and Sue Westhorp led the assembly in prayer before the vote was taken.

The vote on the motion was conducted by ballot. The vote required a two-thirds majority of all registered delegates for the motion to pass. The final figures were: 203 in favour of the proposal; 169 against; 3 abstained.

**The motion was LOST as the required two thirds majority of 230 was not attained.**

Chaplains Rev David Wear and Sue Westhorp prayed for the synod after the vote was announced.

### Closing Worship/In memoriam

The In Memoriam rite was conducted at the close of business session 3. Rev Matthew Huckel led the service. Church servants (pastors, pastors wives and lay workers) who died during the last synodical term were remembered. They were:

**Pastors:** Paul Albers, Les Auricht, Reggie Baldock, Peter Boesch, David Borgas, David Chiang, Lindsay Corby, Robert Fechner, Martin Freund, Milton Fritsch, Gordon Gerhardy, James Haak, Paul Haines, Neil Hampel, Geoffrey Hartwig, Michael Hassold, Colin Henschke, Tim Jaensch, Lionel Janetzki, Lloyd John, Mark Kaesler, Trevor Keller, Darrin Kohrt, Dudley Liebelt, Heinz (Harry) Ludwig, John Mattiske, Rolph Mayer, Gordon Mibus, Casey Nelson, Geoff Noller, Hans Oberscheidt, Lionel Otto, Keith Peters, Theodor (Ted) Prenzler, David Preuss, Wilton Quast, Trevor Raggett, Mark Reid, Erich Renner, Paul Renner, Trevor Reu, Alan Robinson, Ivan Roennfeldt, Colin Rohrlach, George Rosendale, John Sabel, David Schache, Colin Scheer, Geoff Schirmer, Clarence (Clarrie) Schmidt, Raymond Schmidt, Noel Schmocker, Lance Steicke, Wilhelm (Bill) Stolz, John (Joe) Strelan, Phillips Tjakamarra, Clement (Clem) Traeger, Len Tscharke, John Vitale, John Wilksch, Ronald Wilsch, Phillip Wilyuka

**Pastor's Wives:** Selma Altus, Betty Dahlenburg, Mrs Simon Dixon, Norma Eckermann, Ella Footner, Eunice Fuhlbohm, Erica Gerschwitz, Julia Goldhardt, Myrtle Hage, Beth Hartmann, Reta Henschke, Alice Hofman, Florence Huf, Annikki Iso-Aho, Sylvia Janetzki, Elva Norman Jordan, Hanno Lemeny, Joy Kotzur, Mavis Loffler, Jacqueline Nakamarra, Edna Paech, Lola Paech, Galia Palenschus, Elizabeth Pech, Alice Prenzler, Heidi Price, Betty Riedel, Joan Ruwoldt, Anna Hilda Schmocker, Iris Schubert, Leah Steicke, Elaine Traeger, Claire Tscharke, Lynette Wiebusch, Carol Wilksch, Marcia Alice Wilyuka, Rosie Young

**Lay Workers:** Shirley Ampt, Pamela Copeland, Rosemary Davey, Dean Heyne, Naomi Hoff, Edward (Ted) King, Keith Kroehn, Aub Muller, Myra Oster, Joan Petering, Elaine Pfitzner, Christian Stern

Bishop Paul Smith closed the day at 6:10pm.

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## Day 5 - Saturday 11 February 2023

### Morning Worship

#### **7:30am Holy Communion Service**

Presider: LCNZ Bishop Mark Whitfield

Assistant: Rev Matthew Huckel

#### **9:00am Daily Worship Service**

Presider: WA District Bishop Michael Fulwood

Text: John 6:63-69

Liturgist: NSW-ACT District Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus

### Business Session Four

Session four commenced at 10:00am. Bishop Paul Smith declared a quorum present.

#### 5-01 Explore establishment of one church with two ordination practices (Agenda 2.2.9.V2)

Anita Short presented the proposal to Synod.

**PROPOSED THAT** General Synod direct the LCNZ General Church Board and the College of Bishops to:

- a) Work through the theological, constitutional, and governance requirements to operate as one church with two different practices of ordination and establish a detailed framework through which this could be accomplished, such as establishing a geographical or non-geographical LCNZ 'District' that does so, teaches and practices the ordination of both women and men to the office of the public ministry, and
- b) Submit the fruit of this work in the form of a proposal that can be discussed and potentially endorsed by the LCNZ General Pastors Conference and Convention of General Synod 2024.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT #1 THAT** the General Synod direct the LCNZ General Church Board and the College of Bishops to:

- a) Work through the theological, constitutional, and governance requirements to operate as one church with two different practices of ordination and establish a detailed framework through which this could be accomplished, such as **one or more existing LCNZ Districts becoming Districts that teach and practice the ordination of both women and men to the office of the public ministry** or by establishing a ~~geographical or non-geographical LCNZ 'District' that does so, teaches and practices the ordination of both women and men to the office of the public ministry,~~ and
- b) Submit the fruit of this work in the form of a proposal that can be discussed and potentially endorsed by the LCNZ General Pastors Conference and Convention of General Synod 2024.
- c) **It is the expectation of this General Convention of Synod that both women and men will be ordained in a District of the LCNZ during the 2024-2027 synodical period.**

**The amendment was CARRIED. The amendment became the motion.**

An amendment was proposed that instead of one church with two practices, have instead 'two synods, two practices, sharing assets.' The chair did not accept this amendment as using the language of two synods introduces new business.

A **point of order** was raised that the proposal already mentions two overarching synods. This is within the scope of the proposal and so cannot be considered new business. The point of order was overruled by the chair

The ruling was appealed. Bishop Paul Smith handed the chair to District Bishop David Altus to enable the Convention to debate the appeal.

The appeal was **LOST**. Bishop Paul Smith returned to the chair.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2 THAT** the General Synod direct the LCANZ General Church Board and the College of Bishops to:

- a) Work through the theological, constitutional, and governance requirements to operate as one church with two different practices of ordination and establish a detailed framework through which this could be accomplished, such as one or more existing LCANZ Districts becoming Districts that teach and practice the ordination of both women and men to the office of the public ministry or by establishing a non-geographical LCANZ 'District' that does so, and
- b) Submit the fruit of this work in the form of a proposal that can be discussed ~~and potentially endorsed~~ by the LCANZ General Pastors Conference ~~and for~~ Convention of General Synod 2024.
- c) It is the expectation of this General Convention of Synod that both women and men will be ordained in a District of the LCANZ during the 2024-2027 synodical period.

**The second amendment was CARRIED. The motion became:**

**PROPOSED THAT** the General Synod direct the LCANZ General Church Board and the College of Bishops to:

- a) Work through the theological, constitutional, and governance requirements to operate as one church with two different practices of ordination and establish a detailed framework through which this could be accomplished, such as one or more existing LCANZ Districts becoming Districts that teach and practice the ordination of both women and men to the office of the public ministry or by establishing a non-geographical LCANZ 'District' that does so, and
- b) Submit the fruit of this work in the form of a proposal that can be discussed by the LCANZ General Pastors Conference for Convention of General Synod 2024.
- c) It is the expectation of this General Convention of Synod that both women and men will be ordained in a District of the LCANZ during the 2024-2027 synodical period.

Chaplain Rev Stuart Kleinig led the assembly in prayer before the vote was taken. Vote by ballot was undertaken.

#### 5-02 LCA Financial Report 2021-2023 (Agenda 13.1)

Executive Office of the Church Brett Hausler and Chair of Finance Audit and Risk Committee Mel Zerner presented an updated financial report.

#### 5-03 Explore establishment of one church with two ordination practices (Agenda 2.2.9.V2)

The results from the vote on amended proposal 2.2.9 were announced. The vote required a simple majority of all the registered delegates for the motion to pass. The final figures were: 250 in favour of the proposal; 89 against; 1 abstained.

**20-30 RESOLVED THAT** the General Synod direct the LCANZ General Church Board and the College of Bishops to:

- a) Work through the theological, constitutional, and governance requirements to operate as one church with two different practices of ordination and establish a detailed framework through which this could be accomplished, such as one or more existing LCANZ Districts becoming Districts that teach and practice the ordination of both women and men to the office of the public ministry or by establishing a non-geographical LCANZ 'District' that does so, and
- b) Submit the fruit of this work in the form of a proposal that can be discussed by the LCANZ General Pastors Conference for Convention of General Synod 2024.
- c) It is the expectation of this General Convention of Synod that both women and men will be ordained in a District of the LCANZ during the 2024-2027 synodical period.

Chaplain Rev Stuart Kleinig led the assembly in prayer after the vote was announced.

Bishop Paul Smith adjourned the session at 12:25pm.

### **Business Session Five**

Session five commenced at 1:30pm. Bishop Paul Smith declared a quorum present.

#### 5-04 GCB work plan for implementation of LCAQD Proposal (Agenda 2.2.9.V2)

GCB Member Charmaine Harch spoke further to the work to be done arising from the Queensland proposal. GCB will oversee the preparation of the work on ordination issues, with transparency being a strong value and pastoral care as a primary objective. GCB recommends this work to the delegates.

#### 5-05 Offer congregations peaceful dismissal (Agenda 2.2.7)

Summer Schultz, Lay Delegate of Minyip Warracknabeal, presented the proposal. The proposal, offering congregations unable to live under the current teaching of a male-only pastorate be offered a peaceful dismissal at the Convention of Synod 2024 was **LOST** (see full proposal in Book of Reports).

A proposal for the matter addressed in the proposal be referred to GCB was **CARRIED**.

#### 5-06 Ecclesiastical Discipline (Agenda 2.1.7)

The original proposal was adopted by Synod at the online sessions in 2021.

GCB member Kim Baumeler provided a report on the Ecclesiastic Discipline Review. Ms Baumeler reported that the initial work called for and received over 80 submissions which also looked at best practices and other church processes. The work was referred to GCB with over 40 recommendations being brought back to Synod by GCB.

Passing of the recommendations and the steering committee has formed main considerations on how complaints are received, and a triage system be applied rather than the current system.

It was noted Synod has not had the chance to discuss the recommendations. Delegates were asked to refer concerns to GCB.

#### 5-07 Amend clause 3.2 in Model Constitution for Congregations (Agenda 2.2.8)

Andrew Vanderwal presented the proposal from the SA-NT District.

**20-31 RESOLVED THAT**, General Synod replace Clause 3.2 in the model constitution for a congregation with 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.

Bishop Paul Smith adjourned the session at 3:00pm

### **Business Session Six**

Session six commenced at 3:30pm. Bishop Paul Smith declared a quorum was present.

#### 5-08 Formalities

The chair invited Rev Ray Pace, head teller for Convention, to advise the ratio of lay delegates to pastors delegates in attendance at the convention. This was in response to a question from the floor at the beginning of the day's proceedings seeking confirmation of the ratio.

Rev Pace advised that 206 lay delegates and 138 pastors were present at the beginning of convention. That is 59.9 percent lay delegates and 40.1 percent pastor delegates.

#### 5-09 CTICR Dialogues

#### 5-10 Anglican – Lutheran Dialogue – Common Ground with addendum Perspectives on Mission (Agenda 14.6)

Rev Dr Stephen Haar presented the proposal. Bishop David Altus, Chair of 2021 General Pastors Conference, presented the advice from General Pastors Conference.

**20-32 RESOLVED THAT** General Synod authorise the republication of the Anglican Lutheran Common Ground with the addendum "Perspectives on Mission".

#### 5-11 Uniting – Lutheran Dialogue – At the Table (Agenda 14.7)

Rev Dr Stephen Haar presented the proposal.

**20-33 RESOLVED THAT** General Synod receive and adopt "At the Table: The Eucharist as an agreed statement between the Lutheran Church of Australia and the Uniting Church in Australia".

#### 5-12 Office of the Bishop (Agenda 3.4)

Bishop Paul Smith presented his report.

(See page 48 of the Book of Reports Addendum)

This session included presentations from Rev Greg Pietsch on the Ministry Futures Project and from Rev James Winderlich and Cheryl Bartel on Australian Lutheran College.

### Closing Formalities

#### 5-13 Unfinished business

**20-34 RESOLVED THAT** the following items be referred to GCB as unfinished business:

- 2.1.11 Constitution review
- 2.1.9 Give thanks for new churches from Council for Local Mission
- 2.1.10 Continue support for 'Hidden Hurts Healing Hearts' from General Church Board
- 2.2.1 Affirm the work of Local Mission from Glynde St Andrews Congregation
- 2.2.6 LCA NZ to seek full membership of LWF and ILC

#### 5-14 Vote of thanks (Agenda 16.2)

GCB Member Paul Argyle extended a vote of thanks to all who contributed to the successful planning and running of the 20th Convention of General Synod.

**20-35 RESOLVED** that Convention give a vote of thank for all those involved in the Convention.

#### 5-15 Invitation to host 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Convention of General Synod (Agenda 16.1)

**20-36 RESOLVED** that Convention accept the invitation from LCA South Australia and Northern Territory District to host the 21<sup>st</sup> Convention of Synod.

#### 5-16 Close of Convention (Agenda 16.3)

Bishop Paul Smith declared the Twentieth General Convention of Synod closed at 4:59pm.

### Closing Devotion

Prsider: Rev Matthew Huckel

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## **Day 6 - Sunday 12 February 2023**

### Synod Closing Worship Service

Presider: LCA Assistant Bishop Neville Otto

Text: John 15:9-17

Liturgist: Bishop Paul Smith

Closing rites: Bishop Paul Smith

Installation of Executive Officer of the Church, Mr Brett Hausler

Affirmation of the installation of General Church Board Members