



Lutheran Church of Australia New South Wales District



*where love
comes to life*

1 John 4:10-12

36th Convention of Synod Warrambui, 20-22 March 2015

Minutes

NSW District Convention 36 Minutes

Date: 20-22 March 2015
Chair: Bishop Mark Lieschke
Minutes: Dianne Bergen, Colin Burnett, Ann Robertson, David Menzel
Location: Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre, Murrumbateman
Attendance: See Appendix 1

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NSW District Convention was formally constituted during Opening Worship led by Bishop Mark Lieschke.

1. Opening Formalities

i. Welcome

- a. By NSW District Bishop : Pr Mark Lieschke
- b. By Warrambui: Dean Salzke
- c. By Others: Pr Paul Hage, Convention Chaplain

Bishop Mark welcomed the following guests at NSW Convention:

- Liz Crawford, Professional Standards Unit
- Phil Edwards, Lutheran Aged Care arriving Saturday
- Richard Fox, LCA Media Ministry
- Emma Graetz, ALC Grass Roots Training
- Glenice Hartwich, LCA Mission International
- Dion Jaeschke, Board for Youth and Family Ministry
- Nevin Nitschke, LCA Lay Ministry
- Carolyn Kiss, Professional Standards Officer
- Rachel Kuchel, LCA Archives
- Linda Macqueen, LCA Communications Unit
- Peter Schirmer, Executive Officer of the Church
- Debbie Venz, LCA Business Manager
- Andrew Waldhuter, Lutheran Laypeople's League
- Paul Weinert, Director, Lutheran Education, Victoria, Tasmania & NSW
- Bishop John Henderson, LCA Bishop
- Rev James Winderlich, Principal, Australian Lutheran College (ALC)

ii. Greetings

Bishop Mark read message from Bishop Mark Whitfield, LCNZ.

iii. Apologies

The apologies listed in Section 22 below were noted.

iv. Conduct of Business

- a. Voting

1. RESOLVED that decisions be reached by consensus or by vote in the manner decided by the Chairman

Moved	Bishop Mark Lieschke	Seconded	Dianne Bergen
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v. Appointments

Synod Chairperson	Pr Mark Lieschke, Pr Robert Bartholomaeus, David Menzel
Minute Secretary	Dianne Bergen, Colin Burnett
Committee for Verification of Minutes	David Menzel, Ann Robertson
Tellers	Kaye Simpfendorfer, Andrew Baker
Reporters	
'Contact'	David Menzel
'The Lutheran'	Linda Macqueen

2. RESOLVED that the above named persons be appointed to serve this Synodical Convention.

Moved	Bishop Mark Lieschke	Seconded	Kaylene Williams
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vi. Roll Call

Attendance Report: NSW District Secretary

Quorum for Synod = One half of voting delegates + 1. Being **53** Synod delegates

Voting delegates are

- 64 congregation delegates
- 32 pastors (29 parish pastors + 3 District pastors)
- 6 standing DCC lay members
- St Paul's College Principal
- TOTAL = **103** One half = 52+ 1 = **53**

Registered attendance at Synod: **103**

Delegates attending: 68

The Chairperson declared that a quorum for Convention had been formally convened.

vii. Adoption of Minutes

The NSW DCC has vetted the 35th Regular Synodical Convention Minutes as circulated to the 2013 delegates and congregation secretaries and recommends their adoption.

3. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 35th Regular Synodical Convention, 2013, be adopted.

Moved	Bishop Mark Lieschke	Seconded	Dianne Bergen
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4. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Special Synodical Convention, October 2014, be adopted.

Moved	Bishop Mark Lieschke	Seconded	Maureen Macpherson
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viii. Reading of Reports and Statements

5. RESOLVED that printed Reports be taken as read and received unless otherwise indicated.

Moved	Bishop Mark Lieschke	Seconded	Dianne Bergen
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ix. Adoption of Reports and Statements

6. RESOLVED that at the close of Convention Reports and Statements tabled during Convention be adopted.

Moved	Bishop Mark Lieschke	Seconded	Dianne Bergen
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x. Proposals Submitted

7. RESOLVED that Agenda Proposals in Book of Reports be taken as moved and seconded.

Moved	Bishop Mark Lieschke	Seconded	Ann Robertson
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8. RESOLVED that additional late Proposals be taken as moved and seconded.

Moved	Bishop Mark Lieschke	Seconded	Ann Robertson
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9. RESOLVED that all tabled Reports and Proposals in the Book of Reports and late Proposals and Reports be accepted and debated at the appropriate time.

Moved	Bishop Mark Lieschke	Seconded	Ann Robertson
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xi. Convention Minutes

10. RESOLVED that the appointed Committee for the Verification of Minutes, vet Synodical Convention Minutes, correct where necessary and recommend printing of the Minutes to the Secretary.

Moved	Bishop Mark Lieschke	Seconded	Dianne Bergen
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xii. Membership

- a. Closure - Oak Flats (building) Illawarra Parish.

11. RESOLVED that Convention notes this closure, giving thanks and praise to God for the many blessings He has poured out through this place of worship and fellowship.

Moved	Bishop Mark Lieschke	Seconded	Dianne Bergen
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- b. Realignment: St Mark's, Epping and St Phillip's, Newcastle joined as LifeWay, one church in multiple locations.

2. Proposals**i. Amendment to 70 year age limit**

Submitted: District Church Council

Current By-Law

2.6.4 Unless nominated by the Church Council a person who has attained the age of 70 years shall not be eligible for election as a member of a Standing Committee.

Rationale

The reference to age as a criterion for membership of a Standing Committee reflects an historical attitude that is outdated and open to the claim of discrimination in the present-day legal environment.

12. RESOLVED that clause 2.6.4 of the NSWLCA District By - Laws Part B as at 16.07.2013 be removed.

ii. Updates to NSW By-Laws

Submitted: District Church Council

Summary of changes made to NSW Constitution, By-laws Part A and By-laws part B

The NSW Constitution, By-laws part A and By-laws Part B were revised to align with the LCA model constitution for Districts, as well as each document to the others. Specifically, the By-laws part B were revised as follows:

- Section 1.2 Representation at Convention – additional points added following 1.2.3 to provide for alternate delegates, as per LCA model Constitution, Article VII, 6.
- Section 1.3 Standing Orders for the Transaction of Business – in 1.3.34 we have clarified the point that the Finance Advisory Committee submits its comments to DCC before certain proposals may be voted on at Convention
- Section 2.4 The Administrator – point 2.4.2 deleted, to separate the roles of Administrator and Treasurer, as passed by DCC at their meeting on 7 Nov. 2014
- Section 2.10 Council for Lutheran Education, South Eastern Region – name change to Lutheran Education VIC, NSW & TAS (LEVNT) and revised terms of reference.
- Section 2.10.5, formerly "Duties", has been completely re-written as "Roles and Responsibilities".
- Section 2.13 Numbering corrected
- Section 2.14 Governance of St. Paul's College, Walla Walla – to align with the Constitution of the College
- Section 5.0 Property Trust – to incorporate change of title from President to Bishop

13. RESOLVED that the summary of changes and revised constitution and by-laws submitted by the Constitution Working Group be adopted.

Bishop Mark handed over Chair to Pr Rob Bartholomaeus.

iii. Election of District Bishop

Bishop Mark spoke to the following resolution that was discussed and then tabled at our 2013 District Synod.

Be it resolved:

1. *That the process of electing the NSW District Bishop begins 12 months prior to District Convention.*
2. *That the nominations committee begin the process by requesting up to three nominees from each District Pastor.*
3. *That Pastors vote on the list and the successful candidates (having a minimum of 25% of the vote) become the nominations from the pastors of the District to Synod.*
4. *That current synod delegates receive the nominations together with a profile on each candidate, to be given the opportunity to prayerfully consider the matter taking into account the best interests of the District.*
5. *That the vote be cast by postal ballot and then tallied.*
6. *That the Bishop elect begins his role under the current Bishop (should they be different) two months prior to Synod in what would be a transitional period.*
7. *That the Bishop elect be installed at the opening service of Synod where once installed he presides over the liturgy.*
8. *That the former Bishop acts as the Chairperson for Synod.*

The above process is based on the proposed LCA process that was discussed at General Synod 2013, but then tabled. It has the aim of giving people more time to discuss, pray and think about the candidates for Bishop. A number of concerns were raised regarding the process. It was felt that more consideration was needed.

There are certain important points that are missing from this proposal if it is to replace what is currently in our By-Laws, namely:

- a. Who is eligible for election?
- b. Candidates agreement to be nominated
- c. The opportunity for lay synod delegates to submit nominations.

The LCA Constitutions Committee has also suggested some changes to be made from the original proposal to the LCA in 2013.

DCC advises that it would seem wise for us to work with the LCA in this and wait for the outcome from General Synod. Therefore DCC is recommending that it remains on the table.

Submitted: District Church Council

Nevertheless DCC has submitted a proposal to Convention to bring our constitution into line with the LCA Model Constitution for Districts and to allow the nomination of a pastor from another District to the position of Bishop.

Convention noted that a Bishop/President has come from outside the District in the past. Chair noted we are aligning By-Laws to both LCA and historic practice.

14. RESOLVED that Sections VII 3.1 of the NSW District By-Laws Part A be amended as follows (words to be removed – ~~strikethrough~~; words to be added – underlined):

All pastors whose names are recorded on the Roll of Pastors of the District Church are eligible for the position of Bishop ~~or Assistant Bishops~~; only pastors of the District are eligible for the position of Assistant Bishop(s) in the District.

DCC Action: Convention requested DCC align NSW constitution as soon as possible after LCA General Synod changes the process to elect Bishop.

iv. Separation of Treasurer/Administrator

Submitted: District Church Council

Rationale:

- The roles of Treasurer and Administrator are currently carried out by the one person. This involves a conflict of interest, as the individual is both a member of DCC (as Treasurer) and an employee of the District (as Administrator).
- The LCA By-Laws state that “any person who receives a salary from or is in the employ of a Board shall not be a member of the Board under which such person serves”.
- The separation of the roles into oversight and management of finances also provides greater protection for those handling finances.

Convention noted that the Office of Treasurer will be unpaid.

15. RESOLVED that Sections 1.4.1, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.9 of the NSW District By-Laws Part B be amended as follows (words to be removed – ~~striketrough~~; words to be added – underlined):

1.0 DISTRICT SYNOD

1.4 Standing Orders Relating to Finance

1.4.1 The treasurers of parishes, congregations, standing Committees and other bodies shall forward to the District ~~Treasurer~~ all moneys received for or payable to the District or the Church.

2.0 OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATION

2.3 The Treasurer

2.3.1. The Treasurer shall be elected at each regular convention of the District and shall be eligible for re-election.

2.3.2. In addition to the rights and duties specified in By-laws, Part A, the rights and duties of the Treasurer include to: -

- 2.3.2.(a) ~~receive~~ oversee the receipt of the moneys collected by or payable to the District and ~~the issue~~ issuing of receipts for the moneys received;
- 2.3.2.(b) oversee the payment of all moneys received into the banking account of the District of such banks or other institutions as are approved by the Church Council;
- 2.3.2.(c) ~~make such~~ oversee payments as are authorised by the Church Council under the authority of the DCC;
 - 2.3.2 (c) i) Payments to be made by cheque duly countersigned by a person so authorised by the Church Council, or via electronic banking where such payment is more effective; and
 - 2.3.2 (c) ii) All payments including those by electronic banking are to be reported to the Church Council in regular financial statements;
- 2.3.2.(d) oversee keeping an exact record of all moneys received and expended and other transactions in the form and manner required by the Church Council;
- 2.3.2.(e) prepare a balance sheet, a statement of income and expenditure and such other financial statements as are required for publication or submission to regular conventions of the District;
- 2.3.2.(f) report the state of the finances to the Bishop and the Church Council as required;
- 2.3.2.(g) ~~submit~~ ensure the books and accounts are submitted to the Auditor for examination whenever required or when so directed by the Church Council;
- 2.3.2.(h) oversee the placement in safe deposit as directed by the Church Council of all deeds and other important documents committed to their care.
- 2.3.2.(i) hold 'ex-Officio' status on the Warrambui Management Board.

2.4 The Administrator

2.4.1. The Church Council ~~District~~ may appoint an Administrator whose duties shall be to: -

- 2.4.1.(a) notify all parishes of financial information including salaries,
- 2.4.1.(b) notify all parishes of financial responsibility as directed by appropriate Committees;
- 2.4.1.(c) ensure that all District properties are adequately insured;
- 2.4.1.(d) act as insurance adviser to parishes;

- 2.4.1.(e) implement real estate transaction decisions of District;
- 2.4.1.(f) handle the business of District-owned cars and property;
- 2.4.1.(g) act as financial consultant to parishes and congregations;
- 2.4.1.(h) negotiate on behalf of the District concerning the parish subsidies, budget contributions, etc.;
- 2.4.1.(i) serve as a resource person for the Bishop and District Councils;
- 2.4.1.(j) liaise with Church, District and Regional authorities in all aspects of mission development;
- 2.4.1.(k) arrange or conduct such studies, investigations, surveys, etc. as seen necessary or which are assigned to the Administrator by the Church Council.
- 2.4.1.(l) receive the moneys collected by or payable to the District and issue receipts for the moneys received;
- 2.4.1.(m) pay all moneys received into the banking account of the District of such banks or other institutions as are approved by the Treasurer;
- 2.4.1.(n) make such payments as are authorised;
- 2.4.1.(o) keep an exact record of all moneys received and expended and other transactions in the form and manner required by the Church Council;
- 2.4.1.(p) submit books and accounts to the Auditor for examination whenever required or when so directed by the Treasurer;
- 2.4.1.(q) place in safe deposit as directed by the Treasurer all deeds and other important documents;
- 2.4.2. the Administrator shall attend DCC meetings as a consultant.

2.9 The Finance Advisory Committee (FAC)

2.9.1 The Finance Advisory Committee shall consist of ~~5~~6 members, made up as follows:-

- (a) District Treasurer
- (b) District Administrator
- ~~(b-c)~~ one Pastor appointed by the Church Council
- ~~(e-d)~~ three laypersons appointed by the Church Council

2.9.2 The Finance Advisory Committee shall act as an advisory committee to Church Council.

v. Financial reports

Submitted: Temora Lutheran Community

Rationale:

- We have received no communication since the meeting held on 18th October, 2014.

16. Be it resolved that the NSW District provide detailed six monthly financial reports to all congregations in NSW; and

That the NSW District receive regular financial and strategic planning updates on the progress at Warrambui.

Motion was amended at Convention as follows:

16a. RESOLVED to split the proposal into two separate motions.

Moved	Ward Westphal	Seconded	Bruce Arnold
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17. RESOLVED that the NSW District provide detailed six monthly financial reports to all congregations in NSW.

Moved	Dale Wienke	Seconded	Bruce Arnold
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16b. RESOLVED to amend split motion to specify how frequently Warrambui updates are to be provided.

Moved	Ward Westphal	Seconded	Bruce Arnold
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18. RESOLVED That the NSW District receive three-monthly financial and strategic planning updates on the progress at Warrambui.

Moved	Bruce Arnold	Seconded	Ward Westphal
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DCC Action: Ask FAC to specify the content of financial reporting to NSW District and ensure report is distributed to the entire NSW District.

3. *Concord House Overview*

NSW District Administrator briefed Synod on developments around Concord House.

Concord House is located strategically on the East side of the Rhodes peninsula in Sydney with unobstructed views up the Parramatta River to the Sydney CBD, including the Harbour Bridge and Opera House.

Concord House is 20 years old and currently fully tenanted. Land area of block is 2000 square metres with B1 zoning. Its floor space ratio is 1.5:1. Maximum current building height is 8.5m.

Sites on the Western side of the railway tracks are proposed to have:

- Maximum building height increased from 23 storeys up to a maximum of 104 metres (30 storeys)
- Floor space ratio (FSR) increase from 1.76:1 to between 4.6 and 7.1:1.
- 500 square metre blocks have sold for \$5 million.

This zoning on the Western side of the railway tracks has seen the Rhodes peninsular transformed in the past eight years. This redevelopment has been supported by good rail links via Rhodes Train station, significant light industrial (office) development in the area, the proximity of the Rhodes Shopping Centre and Sydney Olympic Park.

Over eight developers have approached NSW District office with offers.

- So far all offers have been unsolicited, and thus must be considered as preliminary offers.
- Several offers are over \$10M

In response to the interest expressed to purchase Concord House, DCC put together the Concord House Working Party.

Convention was asked to consider the LCA's previous experience at Southbank in Melbourne where the church had the opportunity to retain a presence. If we do not negotiate a presence with developers then we will never be able to buy back in.

Bishop Mark indicated that there would be more discussion on Concord House on Saturday.

Friday night closed with prayer by Pr Paul Hage.

4. *NSW Bishop's Address*

Chair was taken by David Menzel who acknowledged the service Bishop Mark has given NSW over this past Synodical term. There have been many challenges and these have inevitably impacted Bishop Mark and his family over this term. Convention acknowledged the service Bishop Mark has given with acclamation. Bishop Mark thanked Convention for the privilege to serve.

i. **Pastors Called Outside NSW**

- a. Thanks for ministries

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

Joel Cramer
Tom Peitsch

The following pastor has been granted leave of absence

Mark Welke

The following pastor has retired from parish ministry

Ian Kotzur

19. RESOLVED that Convention place on record its sincere thanks to the previously named pastors for their faithful ministries while serving the NSW District.

20. RESOLVED that Convention express its sincere thanks to retired pastors who continue to serve faithfully in NSW post retirement.

ii. Pastors Welcomed to NSW

b. Welcome to NSW District

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

**Michael Rudolph
Simon Mackenzie
Ray Roehm
David Grulke
Mat Eckermann
Christian Fandrich**

c. Pastor accepting call within NSW District

Darren Kupke

21. RESOLVED that Convention welcome with joy these 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 District.

Bishop Mark referred Convention to his report in the Book of Reports. He commenced with stating some days are good. Some days are better. Every day is a great day in the love of God.

Bishop Mark shared developments that have taken place regarding Warrambui since our Special Synod in October 2014.

The Warrambui Board elected at our 2013 Synod has served NSW District well. Convention was referred to the Board's report to see how it has addressed issues and concerns and the progress it has achieved over the past 18 months. The members deserve our thanks and appreciation for what they have achieved. It was not easy for them.

The Warrambui Looking Ahead Team, given approval from our special Synod in October last year to seek to renegotiate the LLL loan and to provide a way forward for Warrambui to generate an appropriate level of revenue for it to continue – while it has not achieved as much as what it had anticipated – has worked hard to plan a way forward. We thank them for that.

Garry Watson was asked by DCC to act as Interim Chairman of the Board until this Synod.

Bishop Mark was requested by Convention to consider recognition of the service of Specific Ministry Pastors (SMPs) in NSW. The LCA Yearbook only recognises 12 Emeritus Pastors in NSW. The LCA yearbook fails to acknowledge the service of SMPs in NSW such as Ian Kotzur, Bruno Matuschka, David Freckelton who have since retired after many cumulative years of service. Bishops Mark and John both indicated that the College of Bishops has discussed the status of SMPs. The current situation is a natural outcome of the current rules of the church. At the conclusion of their service, SMPs are removed from the roll of pastors. Bishop John acknowledged the pain that this has caused and suggested that the LCA, at the time, probably did not expect SMPs to be as successful as they have been.

A further complexity arising from current LCA rules is that at General Synod, SMPs may not be pastor delegates. The NSW District can acknowledge the service SMP's have given in the District. SMPs are local calls. Under LCA rules, Pastors cease to be Pastors when they no longer have a local call. The Bishops took the issue on notice.

Convention thanked Bishop Mark for his Report by acclamation.

'LCA Strategic Direction' booklet was distributed to Convention attendees. 'Strategic Direction for the NSW District' was commended to Convention delegates. Bishop Mark indicated that he, DCC and Pastors Conference have begun looking at our Strategic Direction for NSW selecting the specific goals from the LCA Strategic Direction that NSW District might focus on. Convention delegates were asked to share one thing they would like the LCA (District and/or LCA National) to do for their congregation in the next 12 months to help it Grow and Go with the Gospel? Ideas were discussed and shared.

5. Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre

Bishop Mark drew Convention's attention to Warrambui Board Report in the Book of Reports and the replacement Warrambui Looking Ahead Report. Neal Mason presented on the status of Warrambui opening with apologies from Garry Watson, Interim Chairman of Warrambui Board, who was unavailable due to illness.

NSW District was thanked for the ongoing support to Warrambui. Many people have brought their gifts forward to assist the Warrambui team. Dean Salzke, Operations Manager, and his family were also thanked for their commitment to move from Canberra and live at Warrambui.

Whilst it is still early in the calendar year, projected bookings for first half of 2015 are up 800 bed nights on last year. People are staying longer at Warrambui. The Warrambui team have done lots of work on marketing. The focus now is on the second half of this year to see the same sort of growth in the second half 2015. Dean is specifically working with two operators who bring school children to Canberra. Dean has also developed a presentation to Lutheran schools.

Neal highlighted some challenges that still exist with Warrambui. The Looking Ahead team remain committed to Warrambui and have a target to increase bed nights in 2015 by 1500. The first half year increase of 800 bed nights is positive progress towards the target increase.

6. Trinity Overview

The District Administrator outlined the current status of Trinity. The building is on three levels with a 210sqm footprint. The Church is on the ground level. The hall is on second level and an apartment on the top level which was an apartment manse.

Currently, Trinity services are held once a month in the church. In addition, two other groups use the building for ministry – Agape Indonesian Church and Restaurant Mission.

When Trinity congregation closed in 2010 the building was gifted to the NSW District with a request to continue to support these additional ministries for at least five years. This five years of support runs out at Easter 2015.

7. Address by LCA Bishop

Bishop Mark welcomed Bishop John Henderson. Bishop John claimed himself as NSW's contribution to Adelaide given his Sunday Schooling at Trinity, his youth at Epping and his young adulthood at Immanuel Woden. His address focused on the need for LCA to consider its identity.

LCA has been Synod for nearly 50 years. Bishop John presented the objects of the Church.

- We are here as Synod to maintain true Christian unity in the bond of peace.
- We are a Church united in our confessions.
- The Lutheran Church is an historical Church.
- We see ourselves as continuous from the time of Christ.
- We uphold the confession of faith of the Apostles.
- Our confession is based on being in the presence of God and Christ Jesus rather than our worldly context.

The Augsburg Confession was written to justify the existence of the Lutheran Church to world leaders of the time. The Church experiences seasons and cycles of God's will. The end will be at God's choice. Iconography is a reminder that we are one with the saints – those who have gone before and those yet to come. We don't own it and have the Church only to pass onto the next generation.

Bishop John reminded convention of the theological rationale to our LCA logo.

- Sloping cross indicates movement – leaning forward. There is no going back. We go into the future. Like the sailing ships of our forefathers who came to Australia as migrants.
- The cross is gold to remind us of our pure treasure.
- The cross embraces the Southern lands represented by the Southern Cross. We are 'of' Australia rather than looking to Europe.

- Flames fanned forward to represent the relentless Spirit.
- Blue water of baptism in a circle representative of the world and endlessness.

The upcoming General Synod will focus on doctrine and on the ordination of women. Bishop John commended the *ordination "we are listening"* web site to Convention.

Bishop John advised that ministry by, to and among Aboriginal people would have been a priority were we not focused on ordination of women. We have never included 8,000 aboriginal people who consider themselves Lutheran as voting LCA members because their Church does not fit into our congregational structures.

Bishop John represents the LCA in Australian Church relationships and encouraged bilateral church relationships in local contexts.

Bishop Mark thanked Bishop John for his Report and Pr John Borchert prayed for Bishop John.

8. Proposals – Continued

vi. GCC Response

Bishop Mark summarized the 2 March 2015 letter received from GCC indicating that there is no appetite to vary current loan terms and in particular that it is the business of Synod to address the reduction of the Warrambui loan by \$2.2m.

DCC considered there were only really three options to reduce the debt on Warrambui by \$2.2m.

1. Sell Trinity.
2. Run a NSW District appeal.
3. Sell Concord House

Convention was reminded of previous NSW District Convention motions on Trinity being

- Synod 2011

Be it resolved that NSW District authorise the District Church Council to

Proceed with the sale of the Trinity property at 17 Valentine Street, Sydney; and

Retain the funds from the sale pending the completion of the LCA strategic resources review of NSW District and

Continue the support of Christian ministries to Indonesians and Chinese restaurant workers operating out of the Trinity property for a period not to exceed five years commencing from Easter 2010.

- Special Synod 2014

Motion 4:

Be it resolved that the funds from the sale of Trinity be diverted to the Warrambui loan.

Motion 7:

Be it resolved that Motion 4 be tabled until next Synod

22. RESOLVED that the DCC take all necessary and proper steps immediately to solicit offers to purchase 17 Valentine Street, including:

- Interviewing and contracting one or more real estate brokers or agents
- Incurring marketing costs; and
- Conducting an auction or taking such other steps to maximise the amount offered.

Further, that:

In the event of a firm acceptable bid the DCC do all necessary things to effect a sale;

Further, that:

In the event of a sale the DCC apply some or all of the proceeds to reduce the Warrambui loan to \$2 million or less.

Moved	Bruce Arnold	Seconded	Tony von Brandenstein
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vii. Trinity, 17 Valentine Street, Sydney

Submitted: Good Shepherd Congregation, Campbelltown

WITHDRAWN that the NSW District LCA reverse or defer any decision in regard to the possible sale of 17 Valentine St, Sydney, until after the final reports and conclusions of the NSW District review are presented to the NSW District Synod.

Rationale

The NSW District LCA has not yet received any reports from the proposed review of all aspects of the District Mission, Ministry and Resources.

The NSW District has sought for many years to find ways for the Lutheran Church of Australia to be effectively represented in the Sydney CBD.

There is already a resolution of Synod to sell the property formerly known as Trinity Lutheran Church at 17 Valentine St in Sydney, and to use the proceeds to offset the LLL loan on Concord House at Rhodes. The areas around both the Concord House precinct and the Trinity precinct are currently being reviewed by the respective local Councils and the State Government for potential redevelopment.

viii. Sale of Concord House

23. RESOLVED that the DCC take all necessary and proper steps to explore the sale of Concord House, including:

- Interviewing and appointing one or more real estate brokers or agents
- Incurring marketing costs;
- Exploring opportunities for worship centre, District Office and manse in new developments or elsewhere and
- Taking such other actions to gauge the demand for Concord House.

Further, that:

The DCC, if it determines that there is a reasonable likelihood of a sale on acceptable terms, be authorised to effect the sale.

Moved	Bruce Arnold	Seconded	Russell Veerhuis
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ix. Tithe of Profits of Sale of Concord House

24. RESOLVED that Convention authorises the District Church Council to tithe any profits from the (eventual) sale of Concord House at Rhodes.

Moved	Pr Fred Veerhuis	Seconded	Dianne Bergen
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25 RESOLVED that the Concord House tithe be donated to the General Church, LCA, in recognition of, and gratitude for, its support in the past.

Moved	Pr Fred Veerhuis	Seconded	Dianne Bergen
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x. Synod Voting between Meetings

Current NSW constitution states in section VII.10 about Synod that

When the Synod is not in session, matters of urgency may be referred by the Church Council to the voting members of the Synod for determination in the manner prescribed by the By-laws Part B.

And from the By-laws Part B, section 1.6 Referendum, that

1.6.1. The manner in which matters of urgency may be submitted to the voting members of the Synod in accordance with Clause 10 of Part VII of the Constitution of the District shall be: -

- a) the question shall be submitted in a form which requires either an affirmative answer or negative answer;
- b) the date by which voting shall be completed shall be fixed by the Church Council; and
- c) a voting member of the Synod **who does not cast their vote by the date fixed for the completion of the vote shall be deemed to have given affirmative answer to the question.**

1.6.2. A matter which has not received substantial discussion at a previous session of Synod shall not be the subject of a referendum.

Should NSW Synod wish to vote on key matters, such as property sales between conventions of Synod, DCC recommends that NSW Synod tighten up the manner in which such referendums are conducted. As property sales will be discussed at length at this Synod, they could reasonably be the subject of a referendum vote between conventions of Synod.

DCC Action: Explore further what By-Law changes would be appropriate to enable an email or mail vote to be effectively conducted between Conventions. In particular Convention wanted to confirm feasibility of

- Confirmation of receipt of the option to vote with perhaps SMS as well as email?
- Confirmation that only appropriate delegates vote. Could the LCA database be used?
- A minimum reasonable number of votes are cast equivalent to Convention quorum.
- That a majority of the votes cast constitute the passing of a motion.

9. NSW Budget

a. Treasurer's Report

The District Administrator/Treasurer presented the Financial Reports and Budget noting that Concord House rent is now outside the rent free period. It was noted that the Bishop's manse has undergone significant plumbing work having replaced all pipes from rear to front of the house in response to water leakage issues.

DCC Action: Reflect Lutheran Aged Care contributions in the list of contributions. These represent the offerings from residents at NSW aged care chapels.

- b. Financial Statements
- c. Auditor's Report
- d. Concord House
- e. Property Trust
- f. 2015 NSW District Budget
- g. Adoption of the 2015 NSW District Budget

26. RESOLVED that Convention adopt the NSW District Budget for 2015 as presented.

Moved	Bishop Mark Lieschke	Seconded	Dianne Bergen
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10. Schools in NSW

i. Council for Lutheran Education Victoria, NSW & Tasmania (LEVNT)

Paul Weinert, LEVNT Director

Bishop Mark welcomed Paul Weinert, Director of LEVNT. Paul opened explaining that LEVNT was at times presented with confronting calls from school Principals. LEVNT is currently in a consolidation phase. It is a difficult political environment for independent schools to expand. There is uncertainty on Federal funding going forward. Education is a very competitive environment. Schools need to manage debt and risk.

LEVNT has recently revised its strategic plan. Focus areas are

- Formation of staff.
- Connection between schools and congregations. Everyone has to move a bit.

- Leadership and governance with succession plans for Principals and the development of Principals, Boards and these successors.

LEVNT is working with NSW DCC to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the LEVNT, Victorian and NSW Districts. The objective is to consolidate what is currently a loose agreement between the Districts.

It remains a focus of LEVNT to seek to bring NSW Schools into the funded system rather than independently receiving funding. LEVNT is awaiting a review that Canberra is currently undertaking. This change will not occur unless there is a financial benefit to NSW Schools.

ii. **St Paul's College, Walla Walla**

Paul Weinert gave apologies from Mark Doecke and Andrew Kotzur.

Four years ago the very viability of St. Paul's was in question. Since then, student numbers have increased by 55% from < 160 students to now 280 students. St. Paul's made a financial surplus last year. The St. Paul's Board and Principal have shown strong leadership reversing the previous enrolment trend and featuring the school's strengths, in particular its equine programme.

- The girls' boarding house is full.
- Devotion life is full and brisk.
- The school's caring community is attractive.
- There is a good mix of young dynamic staff.

This positive turnaround has enabled considerable refurbishment throughout the College in the past two years, as well as the construction of an additional girls' boarding facility, with 80% of its costs to be covered by Federal government funds.

St. Paul's attracts students from various backgrounds. We are grateful for the opportunity to introduce the Gospel to school students.

11. Nomination and Election of Officers

Nominations were received for NSW District positions and election of positions for the 37th LCA NSW District Synodical Term was noted. See Appendix 2.

27. RESOLVED that Convention note the results of the 2015 elections and the District Church Council appointments.

28. RESOLVED that the elected Pastor serve the NSW District as Assistant Bishop for the next synod term.

12. Lutheran Aged Care

i. Albury Aged Care

Bishop Mark welcomed Phil Edwards, Chairman of LACA Board. Phil introduced the LACA Board members and noted the following LACA developments in particular:

- Surplus of \$1m was spent on upgrades at Dellacourt.
- Publicity in Albury/Wodonga local Seniors Week.
- Occupancy rates 95-99% remain high despite stiff commercial competition.
- Emily Gardens aged care units are 100% occupied.

Minutes regarding Albury Aged Care are available on LAMP.

ii. Gunnedah Lutheran Aged Care Board of Management

There was no specific report on Gunnedah LAC.

13. Professional Standards

Bishop Mark welcomed Carolyn Kiss, NSW Professional Standards Officer.

Carolyn acknowledged with thanks the congregations who have responded to working with children or vulnerable people checks.

The District Administrator is authorized to go onto Government internet site to certify that congregations in NSW are ok to undertake youth ministry. Pastors and camping leaders have all completed training and the District was audited in 2014 by the relevant government authority and 'passed muster'.

Congregations with offenders are handled with management plans which are reviewed annually.

From 1 April 2015, no person may assist in child or youth ministry without a certified check. Screening is now a legal matter. Every state has a legal requirement to conduct a working with children check.

14. In Memoriam

Pr Adam Eime acknowledged the work of Pr Tim Zanker in preparing for NSW District *In Memoriam*.

Convention remembered the service of

- Pr John Hartwich
- Pr Herb Heinemann
- Pr Arthur Priebbenow
- Pr Bruce Adams
- Max Otto – founding teacher of St Paul's College.
- Elise Cronje – served as Treasurer at Trinity and on leadership team at LifeWay.

A candle was lit in remembrance of Christ's light.

15. Convention Dinner Presentations

- i. **TPM Camping Ministry – Dion Jaeschke**
 - ii. **Bennelong Asian Ministry – Alfred Yau**
 - iii. **Youth Leadership at Tuggeranong – Zac Storm**
 - iv. **The Gathering – Pr Fred Veerhuis**
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16. Lutheran Women in NSW (LWNSW)

Kaylene Williams opened outlining that the Women's Retreat at Warrambui focused on soaring like eagles rather than being chickens on the ground.

Kaylene noted the wonderful giftedness of women in NSW and the way they share God in their own space.

Women's convention is at Albury on 18 April 2015. Kaylene invited Convention, including men, to Women's Conference.

She encouraged women to connect with Lutheran Women even if their busy lives preclude them from attending meetings. She also encouraged attendance at Sisterhood Camp.

Kaylene thanked the men who support Lutheran Women to enable them in their journey.

17. LCA Reports

i. Board for Local Mission (BLM)

Pr Mark Schultz indicated that the Board for Local Mission is an interim Board and that General Synod will review its continuation.

The BLM plan is thirty (30) new churches being planted in next 10 years.

Dean Eaton has been appointed as a full time mentor for LCA church planting. Over the next 3 years, Dean is leading 'sending congregations' to develop strategies, assemble teams and begin church plants. In NSW, LifeWay at Epping and Immanuel at Woden are exploring being sending congregations in the NSW District.

A sending church is not a scary thing. Pastors are not put into a new area. Evangelists are sent into a new area. Down the track that may lead to a fully constituted congregation. Lifeway's example includes bi-vocational evangelists. Sending churches encourage the plants and assist with 'catching the babies' and help them grow.

Renewing or repotting churches is also a focus for local mission. BLM will assist individual congregations to meaningfully connect with the communities within which they are placed. "As we go, we grow" – God equips us as we go.

BLM is encouraging congregations to just have a go. As we go, the God we serve will enable the growth. Congregations can partner with each other to support sending congregations where they may not be in a position themselves.

ii. Executive Officer of the Church (EoC)

Peter Schirmer expressed his thanks for the welcome his team has been given.

Peter opened with a reminder that the LCA Governance and Administration Review is underway. He was encouraged that NSW Convention referenced the LCA Strategic Review and endorsed its use as a framework for strategic planning in the NSW District.

The EoC outlined how General Synod will be done differently this year to enable more discussion on topics. It was great to see delegates training is being taken up. There will be further information coming out over the coming months.

iii. Professional Standards Unit

Liz Crawford outlined what Professional Standards in the LCA is about. In other denominations, it has focused on issues of sexual abuse. Liz's examination of the LCA found that

1. LCA had no over-arching policies,
2. We don't treat each other very well, and
3. There was no mechanism for making complaints.

Whilst there is a legislative context for professional standards, as the LCA we are focused on them in the context of biblically loving our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Draft ethical guidelines have been included in the delegate packs and comments were invited. These guidelines relate to personal behaviour, pastoral caring, caring for children (a particular focus with the Royal Commission currently underway) and setting examples for financial integrity.

Liz has attended the Royal Commission on behalf of the LCA including reading all papers distributed by the Commission. The Commission heard a number of issues that related directly to the LCA.

Liz noted that Work Health and Safety Act has largely been harmonised across the States. In terms of the legislation, a church is a workplace and Pastors, staff and volunteers are all considered as working in that workplace. Bullying harassment is now considered as part of the Work Health and Safety Act.

iv. Australian Lutheran College (ALC)

James Winderlich brought greetings from ALC. ALC is the tertiary institute for the LCA. ALC supports the NSW community and is prepared to meet with you where you are in your local context. There is a wealth of resources available to access. ALC is developing an Online e-book resource. Books will be available via the internet.

Emma Graetz, Grass Roots coordinator, runs programs that come to congregations locally. Grass Roots is looking for sponsoring congregations to host training locally. Grass Roots also does customised training. For example, team building and mission building. Governance training is being put online. Grass Roots has also been providing the training for General Synod delegates.

v. Board for Lay Ministry

Lay workers can be both paid and voluntary (10%). They are called and installed. Across NSW there are 19 lay workers. Lay Ministry provides training, mentors, lay ministry plans and encouragement.

vi. LCA Communications Unit

Linda Macqueen indicated that sixteen years ago “The Lutheran” was the only official communications tool from the national church. Today it feels more like one tool “amid all the noise of mass communication..”

There are three primary ways LCA Communications keeps us informed and connected:

1. The Lutheran – print media is not dead. Magazines are growing where newspapers aren't. There are 20,000 regular readers of The Lutheran. This does not equate to subscribers. People pass on the magazine to others in their family and communities. This is necessary as one example rural community only has about 15% of the congregation linked to the internet.
2. LCA web site. All the information is on the web site (300 pages) but it is really difficult to find things. The site is a 'clunker' and is on the agenda for change this year.
3. LCA e-News – 18 lists. 12,000 subscribers. E-News covers critical updates on what is going on. Linda particularly commended '*This week in your LCA*' which is issued every Tuesday. It is produced in bulletin form and Power Point slides.

Linda concluded that she has never been prouder to be part of the LCA team.

vii. Australian Lutheran World Service

Chey Mattner indicated that it was recently St. Joseph, the Patron Saint of Carers, Day. ALWS cares for people overseas. The Federal Government is looking to cut how much it gives in aid. Currently only 2c from every \$10 of government revenue is given in aid to agencies like ALWS. ALWS receives only 3% of this 2c.

More than half of the impact of aid \$ comes from NGOs like ALWS. ALWS is focusing on remaining accredited with the Australian Government. Every \$ given to ALWS, is matched with \$5 from the Australian government. ALWS is also looking to link up matching grants from Lutheran World Service. This will enable \$7 to be released for every \$1 donated by Australians.

The National Council of Churches has recognised that “no one comes close to the Lutherans to establishing programs that educate and help people.”

ALWS is grateful for the generosity of people of NSW who contributed over \$500,000 - an amazing amount per capita.

He asked that we continue this support not just because of loyalty to the Lutheran Church but because of the great assistance it provides.

viii. Lutheran Archives

LCA Archivist Rachel Kuchel summarised by saying that archives feed your soul – a little like her Dad's preserved tomatoes nourished her in winter. Her tag line to Convention was “Preserving our Story”. Preserving means nourishment. Preserves enable us to open a “little ray of sunshine” in the middle of winter. Take the time to preserve the stories of today to feed the next generation.

Rachel encouraged Convention to collect and preserve the stories of the church. Record events, take photos, build your stories.

Rachel brought along a banner from the NSW young people of the former UELCA. Youth organisations funded many parts of our church.

ix. Lutheran Laypeople's League (LLL)

Andrew Waldhuter summarised the benefits the LLL provides the LCA as \$10.4m in lower interest rates (compared to commercial interest rates). LLL currently provides \$361m in loans across the LCA. In addition, LLL focuses on mission stimulus grants, Lutheran Bible translators and Lutheran Aged Care. Convention attendees were pointed to the LLL publication “*Together in Mission*”. This covers how the LLL is supporting the wider church and contains reports from the recipients of the gifts of the LLL.

Legacies have established \$2.3m in permanent LLL funds and “*Together in Mission*” covers the benefits coming from these permanent funds. Consider leaving a legacy to LLL in your will.

Lutheran tract mission is a great tool to take back to congregations as 460,000 tracts were distributed last year. A tract web site has been launched and e-tracts are available from the site.

LLL expressed its thanks to all LLL account holders in NSW.

x. LCA Business Manager

Debbie Venz focused on LCA General Synod 29 September - 4 October at Rochdale, Queensland. The General Synod web site is up and running and delegate registration is now urgent. Most communications in relation to General Synod will be electronic.

LAMP is clunky and old but this online database is the LCA record of who is who in the zoo. LCA can't contact you if you don't assist by keeping LAMP and its email addresses up to date.

The LCA Human Resource System (HRS) will assist congregation treasurers to assist managing salary payments and reduce the burden of fringe benefit returns. This initiative is part of the LCA Strategic Direction to make better use of resources. For a small annual charge (\$300/staff member), a single person in Adelaide can manage paid staff across the church. This will ensure all staff entitlements are managed and will reduce the burden on congregation treasurers. LCA HRS represents four years of work coming to fruition thanks to LLL financial support.

xi. Board for Mission

Glenice Hartwich said that when you pray for mission, when you pray for workers and when you give, the influence crosses borders. Glenice related a story of people who learn about Jesus and then want to share Jesus with other people in their countries. LCA support has enabled teachers and volunteers to be trained and provide support to teams growing the church in countries such as Cambodia.

Opportunities to partner with mission going on in partner churches abound.

Glenice thanked Convention on behalf of the teams working beyond our borders.

Peter Schirmer thanked Glenice for her service.

xii. Grow Ministries

Emma Graetz is a consultant to the Board for LCA Child, Youth and Family Ministries. Thanks to Dion who gave the wrap for youth ministry at Convention dinner Saturday night. Pr Vaughn Spring is joining the Grow Ministries. Jodi Brook is National Director and Jodi and Pr Vaughn are both Victorian-based with the two other Board members based in Adelaide.

GROW communication produces "*On your hearts*" newsletter and the latest edition gives a wrap for "mainly music".

Jodi asked especially to highlight the opportunity to visit the websites for www.growministries.org.au, www.faithink.com.au, facebook [lcagrowministries](https://www.facebook.com/lcagrowministries)

xiii. Lutheran Media Ministry (LMM)

Richard Fox has the privilege to communicate to people who often have not heard the message of Christ. LMM shares God's message on commercial media. Richard commended the Face to face website where the video "*Second chances*" features Dion Jaeschke and his Dad.

Lutheran.Media and Face2Face web sites or search youtube for Luthmedia. Twitter @lutheranmedia.

99% of Australians access radio. LMM is played on more than 700 stations through 15 minute, 1 minute and 30 second messages. LMM reaches over 1,000,000 people per week and more.

Happyland web site is launching an Easter calendar. There is an Easter egg per day to engage children. Larry the Lamb and Happyland stories remain popular. Show bags are available to engage kids.

LMM live streams worship and provides DVDs for worship. This assists people to reconnect with church.

Richard concluded with a request for financial support (which can be tax deductible) and prayers for Lutheran Media and its audience.

xiv. Longest Lutheran Lunch – 1 November 2015

Debbie Venz promoted the Longest Lutheran Lunch which does not have to occur on the day of 1 November. Convention was encouraged to engage people from the wider community in this event.

The Lutheran Winemakers group assists with funding for the Longest Lutheran lunch.

18. Closing Formalities

Convention requested the LCA reports be earlier in the program at future Conventions.

Pr Simon Mackenzie prayed for the LCA visitors.

29. RESOLVED that Reports and statements tabled at Convention be adopted.

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

31. RESOLVED that 2017 NSW District Synod gather at Warrambui at a date to be confirmed by District Church Council.

Vote of Thanks

Noel Salzke led a vote of thanks. Thanks to

- Dean Salzke and Warrambui and team for hospitality.
- Worship leaders and in particular, Convention Chaplain, Pr Paul Hage.
- LCA Bishop, John Henderson, for giving us his time and leadership and counsel and message in worship.
- Peter Schirmer and other LCA visitors demonstrating love coming to life across the LCA.
- Those who reported and spoke at Convention
- Those who help make Synod run smoothly. Thanks especially to Leon for leading the Nominations Committee.
- Those who have served on committees for your time and commitment. Thanks especially to all people finishing service. Special thanks for Dianne Bergen, NSW District Secretary who stepped back into the role mid Synod term.
- Three special people from our NSW District office.
 - Bishop Mark has admirably dealt with a difficult Synodical term. Thanks too to Meredith, his wife.
 - Russell Veerhuis who has held down two roles – Administrator and Treasurer
 - Kaye Simpfendorfer – a friendly voice on phone and efficiently gets things done.

19. Closing Worship & Farewell

Appendix 1 : Synod Attendees

20. Special Guests

LCA Professional Standards Unit	Ms	Liz	Crawford
Chair, Lutheran Aged Care Albury	Mr	Phillip	Edwards
LCA Media Ministry	Rev	Richard	Fox
Australian Lutheran College	Miss	Emma	Graetz
LCA Mission International	Mrs	Glenice	Hartwich
LCA Bishop	Rev	John	Henderson
TPM Camping Team	Mr	Dion	Jaeschke
Professional Standards Officer	Mrs	Carolyn	Kiss
LCA Archives	Mrs	Rachel	Kuchel
LCA Communications Unit	Ms	Linda	Macqueen
Warrambui Looking Ahead Team	Mr	Neal	Mason
Director, Australian Lutheran World Service	Mr	Chey	Mattner
NSW GCC rep and DCC consultant	Mr	David	Menzel
LCA Lay Ministry	Mr	Nevin	Nitschke
LCA Executive Officer	Mr	Peter	Schirmer
LCA Business Manager	Mrs	Debbie	Venz
LLL Promotions	Mr	Andrew	Waldhuter
Director, Lutheran Education Vic, NSW, Tas	Mr	Paul	Weinert
Principal, Australian Lutheran College	Rev	James	Winderlich

21. Pastors, Delegates and Visitors by Congregation

Albury	Mrs	Gillian	Bahr	Delegate
	Mr	Ian	Bahr	Delegate
Albury Aged Care	Rev	Ernie	Kiss	Chaplain
Bankstown-Liverpool	Miss	Anne	McVay	Delegate
Liverpool	Mrs	Roslyn	McVay	Visitor
Yagoona	Mrs	Anne	Sweeney	Visitor
	Mr	Mark	Tarmo	Delegate
Belconnen	Rev	Hans	Peethala	Pastor
	Rev	Rufus	Pech	Pastor Emeritus
	Mr	Tony	von Brandenstein	Delegate
	Mrs	Kaylene	Williams	DCC Member
Burrumbuttock	Rev	Christian	Fandrich	Pastor
Gerogery	Mr	Bradley	Salzke	Delegate
	Mr	Noel	Salzke	DCC Member
Jindera	Mr	Ian	Pertzel	Delegate
Campbelltown	Rev	Fred	Veerhuis	Pastor
	Mr	Graham	Andrews	Delegate

Canberra-Queanbeyan	Rev	Gabor	Szabo	Pastor
Canberra	Mr	Ronald	Falkenberg	Delegate
	Mr	Des	Pfeiffer	Visitor
Queanbeyan	Ms	Trudy	Kuhn	Delegate
Canberra Finnish	Rev	Janne	Pekkarinen	Pastor
	Mrs	Tuula	Kokkonen	Delegate
Central Coast	Mr	Alan	Waterson	Delegate
Central West	Rev	Paul	Hage	Pastor
Parkes	Mr	Ian	Unger	Delegate
	Mrs	Marion	Unger	Visitor
Coffs Harbour	Rev	Bruce	Hohnberg	Pastor
Cooma	Mr	Melvin	Salzke	Pastor
Dubbo	Rev	Steve	Hibbard	Pastor
	Mr	Andrew	Baker	Visitor
	Mrs	Inge	Ramisch-Baker	Delegate
Epping-Newcastle	Rev	Michael	Rudolph	Pastor
	Rev	Mark	Schultz	Pastor
	Rev	Mark	Simpfendorfer	Pastor
	Ms	Dianne	Bergen	DCC Member
	Mr	Shane	Burdack	Delegate
	Mr	Colin	Burnett	Visitor
	Mrs	Meredith	Lieschke	Visitor
	Mrs	Maureen	Macpherson	Delegate
	Mrs	Maria	Rudolph	Visitor
Henty	Rev	Adam	Eime	Pastor
Henty	Mr	Dennis	Lubke	Delegate
	Mr	Noel	Stein	Delegate
Culcairn	Mr	Leon	Schoff	Delegate
	Mrs	Pamela	Schoff	Visitor
Lavington	Mr	Graeme	Schulz	Delegate
Port Macquarie	Rev	Michael	Grosas	Pastor
	Mr	David	Pfeiffer	Delegate
Springwood	Rev	Robert	Hamann	Pastor
	Mr	Robert	Brown	Delegate
	Rev	Rex	Mickan	Pastor Emeritus
St Marys	Rev	David	Thompson	Pastor
	Mrs	Judy	Rikmanis	Delegate
Sutherland	Rev	Mat	Eckermann	Pastor
	Mrs	Ann	Robertson	DCC Member
	Dr	Alison	Short	Delegate
	Mr	Gaidis	Zids	Visitor
Sydney-Narraweena	Mr	Bruce	Arnold	Delegate

Narraweena	Mr	Rene	van den Tol	Delegate
Sydney Finnish	Rev	Martti	Paananen	Pastor
	Mr	Juri	Perendi	Delegate
Temora	Rev	Darren	Kupke	Pastor
	Mr	Robert	Pfeiffer	Delegate
	Mr	Dale	Wiencke	Delegate
Tuggeranong	Mr	Arthur	Schuster	Delegate
	Mrs	Judy	Temme	Delegate
Wagga Wagga	Mr	Malcolm	Kohlhagen	Delegate
	Mrs	Rhonda	Lieschke	Delegate
	Mr	Andrew	Sharp	Visitor
Walla Walla	Rev	John	Borchert	Chaplain, St Pauls College
	Mrs	Joan	Evans	Delegate
	Mrs	Monica	Simpfendorfer	Delegate
Alma Park	Mrs	Charmain	Lieschke	Delegate
Woden	Rev	Robert	Bartholomaeus	Pastor
	Mr	Dale	Cunningham	Delegate
	Rev	John	Grosse	Pastor Emeritus
	Mr	Rex	Packer	Visitor
	Mr	Dean	Salzke	Delegate
	Mr	Ward	Westphal	DCC Member
NSW District	Rev	Mark	Lieschke	NSW Bishop
	Rev	Simon	Mackenzie	Pastor
	Mrs	Kaye	Simpfendorfer	District Office Staff
	Mr	Russell	Veerhuis	Administrator/Treasurer
	Mr	Alfred	Yau	Asian Ministry Church Planter

22. Apologies

Mr	Colin	Bahr	Delegate, Milbrulong
Pr	Greg	Fowler	Pastor, Tuggeranong
Pr	Darren	Jaensch	Army Chaplain
Pr	James	Janetzki	Pastor, LOA
Pr	Gary	Kenney	Pastor Emeritus
Mrs	Sandra	Pianta	Delegate, Tamworth
Mrs	Anne	Riordan	Kilarny Vale Aged Care
Pr	Sahat	Simannulang	Pastor, Sydney Indonesian
Pr	John	Simboras	Pastor Emeritus
Mrs	Cathy	Terlich	Delegate, Pleasant Hills
Mr	Garry	Watson	Delegate, Belconnen
Pr	Tim	Zanker	Pastor, Bankstown – Liverpool

Appendix 2: Election Results

Synod-DCC Positions for the 37th LCA NSW District Synodical Term

Ref	Position	Elected
1.	BISHOP (<i>Elected for 2 Synodical terms – currently to 2017</i>)	Pr Mark Lieschke
2.	ASSISTANT BISHOP	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus
3.	REGIONAL PASTORS	
	Canberra	Pr Hans Peethala
	Coastal North	Pr Michael Grosas
	Coastal South	Pr Tim Zanker
	North West	Pr Paul Hage
	Riverina	Pr Adam Eime
4.	NSW District TREASURER	Bruce Arnold
5.	District Church Council SECRETARY	-vacant-
	DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL	
6.	<i>Up to 17 members. Bishop, Assistant Bishop, Regional Pastors, Secretary, Treasurer, 1 lay person nominated by each Region, 1 nominee from LWNSW, 2 elected by Synod</i>	
	<i>Regional Layperson</i>	
	Canberra	Ward Westphal
	Coastal North	David Pfeiffer
	Coastal South	Ann Robertson
	North West	Dale Wiencke
	Riverina	Noel Salzke
	Lutheran Women Representative	Kaylene Williams
	Extra Lay Persons	Peter Zweck Tony von Brandenstein
7.	PROPERTY TRUST <i>5 members: 3 elected by Synod, 2 appointed by DCC</i>	
	Bishop	Pr Mark Lieschke
	Administrator	Russell Veerhuis
	Assistant Bishop	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus
	Secretary	-vacant- Kaye Simpfendorfer
8.	LUTHERAN AGE CARE, ALBURY BOARD OF GOVERNANCE	
	<i>7 members 2 year term, including one pastor. 3 one year, 4 the next appointed by Board for Synod or DCC endorsement each year.</i>	
	To 2015	Pr Haydn Blaess Phill Collinge Sheryl Follett Leanne Terlich
	To 2016	Phillip Edwards (Chair) Paul Schirmer Ron Asquith
9.	WARRAMBUI MANAGEMENT BOARD	
	<i>11 Members. DCC appoints Committee Treasurer and DCC rep. 9 elected by Synod, one being a pastor</i>	
	DCC Representative	Ward Westphal
	Treasurer	Rex Packer Tanya Cunningham John Dymke Neal Mason

Ref	Position	Elected
		Vicki Weber Pr Greg Fowler Garry Watson Garry Mitchell -vacant-
	District Treasurer (ex Officio) NSW Bishop (ex Officio) Retreat Director (Consultant)	Bruce Arnold Pr Mark Lieschke Dean Salzke
10.	GENERAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE	David Menzel
11.	FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE <i>Consists of at least five members: The Treasurer, The Administrator, a pastor and others.</i> Treasurer Pastor	Bruce Arnold Pr Michael Grosas Andrew Hoffmann Arthur Schuster Peter Weber
	NSW Bishop (ex Officio) Administrator (Consultant)	Pr Mark Lieschke Russell Veerhuis
12.	NOMINATION COMMITTEE <i>5 members, 2 pastors 3 lay people</i> Assistant Bishop Pastor Secretary Committee convener	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus Pr David Thompson -vacant- Leon Schoff Kaye Simpfendorfer
13.	2017 SYNODICAL CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE <i>Bishop, Assistant Bishop, Secretary, Administrator, plus as needed.</i>	
14.	LWNSW: SPIRITUAL ADVISERS	Pr David Thompson Pr Darren Kupke
15.	CHILD, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES BOARD <i>(this Board is currently under review)</i>	
16.	PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OFFICER	Carolyn Kiss
17.	LUTHERAN EDUCATION, VICTORIA, NEW SOUTH WALES & TASMANIA (LEVNT) <i>NSW MEMBERS (2 members)</i>	Ron Asquith Peter Zweck
18.	ST PAUL'S COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT <i>Not more than 9 members: appointed by LEVNT endorsed by DCC.</i>	Christine Biar Tania Knobel Andrew Kotzur Anthony Lieschke Fiona Muller Jonathan Schoff

NSW Representatives		
19.	LUTHERAN LAYPEOPLE'S LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (NSW Representatives) 2014-2018 2012-2016	Nancy Fox Ron Asquith
20.	NATIONAL BOARD FOR LUTHERAN AGED CARE	Alison Short
21.	LCA BOARD FOR LOCAL MISSION	Pr Mark Schultz
22.	AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE	Paul Meyer
23.	LCA NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus Jeannie Kenney Leon Schoff
24.	LCA JUDICIAL TRIBUNAL	Jim Ironside
25.	NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL	Alison Short
26.	COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIANS AND JEWS	Alison Short
27.	NSW STATISTICIAN & ARCHIVIST	Leon Schoff

