



Section 9

2014 Convention of Synod

Constitutions Committee

Constitutions Committee Report for Synod 2014

Introduction.

The committee met after Synod with all positions filled .This year we were able to have a DCC representative elected on the committee . The first meeting was attended by both outgoing and incoming members as to assist with the handover and orientation. We were also blessed to have Bishop Noel open with a blessing and constitute the new committee. A warm welcome to new members and an introduction to the roles, reference documents and procedures that the committee have put in place in the past 2 terms to improve the communication between the committee, the church members Church office and DCC was given, The members on the committee as a constituted committee were then required to elect a chairperson and a secretary. The result were Mrs Rosemary Dillon(chairperson) No nominations for secretary (position vacant) DCC Rep Mr Michael Klatt ,Ms Rachel Peitsch ordinary members Mr Garry Hauser, Mrs Rae Buchanan, Rev Andrew Schultz and Mr Graeme Drapper. I wish to thank all of the members for their passion, time ,commitment and their will to share their God given skills to serve the church in this area especially Mr David Krause outgoing sec . and Dr Murray Evans. Rachel Peitsch was a welcomed again as a Consultant on the committee and she also sits on DCC. We were blessed again to be able to meet at Good Shepherd at Middle Park and also Corinda Congregation and we wish to thank the members again for their warm and gracious hospitality . We have members of the committee that travel long distances to the meeting and a welcoming venues make it a little easier to attend.

Communication

Communication again has been identified as being one of the most important parts of our role .The committee had been continually mindful of this and has continued to send copies of agenda and minutes with our item flow sheet to Church Office .Our aim is to assist the DCC members to be adequately briefed prior to their meeting where they approve the submitted constitutions from the members with in the District. Each submitted constitution is allocated one member to deal directly with the congregation or parish and at least one other for consultation purposes .We have put this in place to ensure more personal contact as for many members it is seen already as a daunting experience and made more difficult due to the vast distances from Brisbane as well as the lack of technology skills or resources. Since our last District Synod work has progressed between DCC and the District office staff as well as DCC representative to improve our reporting systems and the logging in and filing of records. The lack of funding and limited human resources still remain a limitation to our progress in this area.

Information

The main resource for our members requiring assistance in reviewing and updating their constitutions is still the LCA LCAQD web sites .If they do not have personal technology available then we recommend the use of their local library .The contact details of committee are published on LAMP and in the LCA year book .Church office will also be able to assist in this area .To assist the Church office staff we as committee member happy to take any constitutional enquiries direct.

Business since last Synod

1.As you would be aware that a letter was sent out to all LCAQD members requesting that they ensure that a relevant copy of their Parish/Congregations constitution be send into Church office for their records .The response was very successful but we have still some members that are still to comply. We wish to commend all of the Parish and Congregational members that followed up on this matter. We will be following this up again in the near future. We can't stress enough how important this is for good management.

2.Since last General Synod and our LCAQD Synod both held in 2013 there has been much work guided by GCC and DCC's to apply the Governance Framework where possible and review the current structures at all levels of the Church. This has been an agenda item for the past (2) terms for our committee as it has potentially large implications on LCA and LCAQD as well as Parish and Congregational constitutions and Bi-Laws. As yet this work is not at a stage that allows our committee to progress any further.

3.Federal and State Government changes have been implemented which affect the Church and all of it's members in a rang of ways related to their status under the Charities and not for profit legislation. This effects each District of the Church differently due to the State regulations for incorporated and non incorporated .Our committee has been investigation these changes so that we may be able to assist our members as they become aware of their particular situation.

Recommendation.

The Constitutions Committee request :-

1.That LCAQD financially and administratively support the hosting of 1 or more a seminars in partnership with PSU before the end of the year on the topic of "Government Changes that affect LCAQD members and their constitutions".

2.That LCAQD support the proposal of a National Constitutions Forum of the Church to be held in 2015 as mentioned in the General Synod reports.

3.That LCAQD assist the Constitutions Committee members to develop the skills that are required to perform their delegated roles as an annual part of their Governance programme in collaboration with the committee members.

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that LCAQD Change the word "President "to Bishop" , 'President(s)'be substituted with the word 'Bishop(s)'and the word 'Vice -President' be substituted with the words 'Assistant Bishop' in all of the relevant places in the LCAQD Constitution and the bi-laws .

Rationale. This is to bring the LCAQD Constitution and Bi-laws in line and up to date with the LCA Synod resolution passed April 2013.

Reference Page 16. 2.2.3 REPORTS :PRESIDENTS OR BISHOPS LCA Seventeenth General Synod

We give thanks to God for the committee member that have serve you and we pray that our committee has served our Lord and Saviour through service to our members and by supporting DCC Throughout the past year.

Rosemary Dillon LCAQD Standing Committee on Constitutions.

Jesus said "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."