



GRACIOUSNESS TO THE  
1000<sup>th</sup> Generation  
EXODUS 20:1-21

## LCAQD 51<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION OF SYNOD 1 – 3 JUNE, 2018

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRIMARY SCHOOL, BUNDABERG

*"Gracious to the 1000<sup>th</sup> Generation" Exodus 20:6*

### POPULAR REPORT

*The reports for 2018 were taken as read, from the Book of Reports available via the LCAQD website.*

What do origami hats and macadamia nuts have in common? As you will see when you read this Popular Report, both played a role in the LCAQD Synod in Bundaberg. One hundred and sixty two delegates, as well as presenters and visitors were well looked after by a small army of fluoro-vested volunteers who greeted, assisted and fed us – and we thank them for their work, warmth and generosity.

**WORSHIP AND DEVOTIONS** were a highlight of the Synod. On Friday evening we were welcomed into the church by a rich tenor solo, after which Bishop Paul Smith introduced the convention theme that God is gracious "to the 1000<sup>th</sup> generation", encouraging our participation in saying "1000<sup>th</sup>" every time he spoke the word throughout the weekend. This service included the Rite of Welcome to new pastors.

First Assistant Bishop Mark Vainikka welcomed the "frozen chosen" to our Saturday morning service and reminded us that "God's grace is enough for today". Pastor Mark questioned, "Will our church have the strength to continue standing in ten, twenty, thirty years' time?" and he encouraged us not to be afraid to let things die in our congregations, for out of death God brings "resurrection, not resuscitation". The Unity Candle was lit and District Church Council (DCC) Secretary, Margit Hubbers, welcomed invited guests as well as delegates, presenters and visitors. Pastor Wayne George led Saturday's closing devotion, encouraging us with *Ephesians 3:18*, "to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ".

Our Sunday morning service was enriched by the worship band and by the choir of students from St John's Lutheran Primary School. We learned that Bishop Paul owns a drone – a fact that impressed the children and made some adults a little envious. The drone was used to introduce the idea of perspective, and Pastor Paul reminded us that Christians have a new perspective – "forever eyes". Preaching on *Mark 2:23-3:6*, he explored the Sabbath and the notion that the Lord of the Sabbath is the Lord of forever time. Synod voted to donate the offering from this service to Hopevale.



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At our closing service on Sunday Bishop Paul installed members of DCC and following his message based on St Paul's Road to Damascus experience, (*Acts 9*) we were sent out to our "places of work and service to God" with the words of St Paul ringing in our ears, "Even me".

"What about the macadamias?" you are asking. As we arrived in the meeting hall on Friday evening and again on Saturday morning there were murmurs of appreciation as delegates spotted a bag of macadamia nuts on each table, and the presentations that followed were accompanied by the tinkling of macadamias being gently poured from packet to bowl.

The **BUSINESS** of Synod began on Friday with an Acknowledgement of Country during which Aunty Diana encouraged us to follow her hand signals, and LCAQD Bishop Paul Smith then declared the Synod open. This business session featured **LCA Department presentations**.

LCA Bishop John Henderson spoke about some of the **General Church work** that he has been involved with in the past year. This included:

- Theological matters (Resolution 20150216, Domestic Violence, Seal of the Confessional, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse)
- Wider church matters (Review of Call system, Church worker training, ALC, Continuing Education for Pastors, Supervision of Church Workers)
- Indigenous church concerns
- Ecumenical activities
- International partnerships and mission.

He also encouraged all LCA members to make a practice of using the term "church-wide" instead of "national" in recognition of the fact that our church is wider than "national" and includes both Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Tania Nelson spoke on behalf of **Local Mission**, mentioning:

- \* Cross-cultural ministries,
- \* GROW ministries
- \* Lutheran Media
- \* Ministry with the aging
- \* New and renewing churches.



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**Ministry Support** was the focus of the report given by Peter Schirmer, LCA Executive Officer, who highlighted:

- Governance administration review
- Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence campaign
- Review of Call process
- Professional Standards Training
- Royal Commission
- Church Worker support
- Lutheran Archives
- Communications
- Finance and Administration

Emma Graetz, ALC Director of VET, spoke about some of the changes that are being made at **Australian Lutheran College** – note ALC, not “the Sem”. She dispelled the myth that students have to travel to Adelaide to study through ALC, thanked those who support ALC through prayers, encouragement and financial gifts, and promoted the 2018 Appeal.

**Australian Lutheran World Service** Director, Christian Stern, spoke of his goal to visit a number of state schools in the coming months to talk about the work of ALWS. He thanked supporters of ALWS for bringing love to life in a myriad of practical ways, through their donations of almost \$900,000 in the past year.

There was a common question time for all these reports, during which it was flagged that the matter of Professional Standards Training would be raised again following the LYQ report on Saturday afternoon.

Saturday’s business sessions began with the adoption of the **2017 Synod Minutes**. Speakers highlighted points from their reports.

In his **LCAQD Bishop’s Report** Pastor Paul Smith noted:

- Youth Summit 2018
- Royal Commission
- Ecumenical matters
- Congregations planning alternative futures
- LCA Governance Review
- ALC
- Ministry & Mission Department
- Ordination of Women and Men – robust discussion at Pastors’ Conference



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- ALWS
- Reformation Anniversary – Thank you
- Hopevale – pray about how God will sustain this ministry in the future
- Luminare
- Living Grace – peaceful dismissal
- LCAQD Governance Review
- Strategic Priorities reminder

Bishop Paul concluded his report with a Breton Fishermen’s Prayer –

*Lord,  
Take care of us.  
Your sea is so great  
And our boat is so small.  
Amen*

Margit Hubbers presented the **Report from DCC**, telling us that the members of DCC “all love each other, but we don’t mind disagreeing”. Bishop Paul supported this idea with a reference to the “barking huskies” analogy from the 2017 Synod – we achieve much when we bark loudly. Major points of the DCC report included:

- A reminder that faith is passed on through generations and we are part of a long line of witnesses.
- People/Departments that support DCC

Margit reported that in the past year DCC has passed 565 resolutions + 105 at DCC Executive, accepted grants for \$6.6 million, approved LLL loans for \$6.47 million and other loans for \$6.9 million, and received Minutes and Reports from all Departmental Committees. She emphasised that all of this activity underpins ministry and mission. The progress of resolutions from the 2017 Synod was outlined.

Pastor David Schmidt presented the report for the **Ministry and Mission** Department – “God is good ... all the time”. He invited delegates to engage with the department via [www.slido.com](http://www.slido.com) and challenged us that we need to be increasingly bold and creative in the ways we proclaim God’s word. Pastor David Spanagel introduced a video from Hopevale featuring a song about land and belonging, and this was followed by the Lord’s Prayer read in an indigenous language then translated into English – a thought-provoking rendition of the prayer.



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Michael Turner and Michael Klatt presented the **Budget Report**. For the first time Synod received a report on the consolidated financial performance of over 115 agencies, showing nett assets of \$608,710,246. The 2018 income and expenditure are tracking steadily against the budget and the 2019 budget allows for a focus on strategic priorities.

Considerable discussion on the **LCAQD Governance Review** followed after Pastor Mark Vainikka gave an introduction to Governance and Margit Hubbers introduced the model that has so far been developed. After discussion, debate and amendment, the Proposals were adopted. Work on developing a new model of Governance will continue.

Aaron Glover and Ian Grieshaber presented the **LYQ Report** and thanked Synod for their support of LYQ, which interacts with over 14,000 people each year. The \$5million development masterplan for Luther Heights was highlighted and plans were made available for delegates to study. Koojarewon Campsite made a small profit in the past year, the first time it has done so since LYQ took over its management. And here's where the **origami hats** come in. Each delegate received an origami hat folded from paper that had been printed with many practical ideas for congregations to proactively include children in church.

One aspect of the LYQ report was an expression of this department's concern that the current method of Professional Standards Training is inconsistent, inflexible and inaccessible, and that previously-voiced concerns of LYQ have not led to action towards improvement. Following support from the meeting, three proposals for action were approved.

Karen Bryce, in her **LWQ** presentation, thanked Bishop Paul and the District for their support of LWQ. She showed a video of the recent LWQ retreat at Luther Heights, and exhorted Aaron Glover to install "beds not bunks" in the new development.

Tim Kotzur and Dennis Mulherin introduced the **LEQ report** and called on three school Principals to share how their schools are engaging in ministry. Inspiring accounts were given by Jane Mueller (Living Faith, Murrumba Downs), Chris Mallett (St John's, Bundaberg) and Colin Minke (Immanuel, Buderim). Tim also announced award recipients:

**Rolph Mayer Award for Teacher Excellence:** Rosanna Hemara (Living Faith LPS) and Merle Schrodter – St. Paul's LPS.

**T T Reuter Award for School Excellence:** Immanuel Lutheran College, Buderim



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**Lutheran Services** “exists to serve; it’s how we bring our Christian faith to life” Clare Seligmann reminded us in her report and our aging population is opening up unprecedented opportunities to serve. LS have a growth plan for a greater presence in regional and rural communities and the LS Redevelopment Program allows for improving current infrastructure to better meet the needs of the future and the expectations of standards held by the community.

Marie Pawsey, Promotions Officer for **LLL**, took up the challenge of being the last person to present a Synod report and she spoke with flair and humour. The LLL report began with the announcement that Calvary Lutheran Church, Rockhampton, is the recipient of the 2018 **Mission Stimulus Grant**. In accepting this grant, Pastor Rob Edwards informed us that the grant will be used to reconnect people who are currently “disconnected Christians”. Some highlights of the LLL report included:

- In the last financial year, the LLL provided total benefits and services to the LCA estimated at over \$9,000,000.
- For the first time in history, the LLL deposits exceeded \$1,000,000,000.
- Loans to church projects in the Queensland District amounted to \$59,874,032.29.

Graham Drapper, speaking on behalf of the **Constitutions Committee**, advised the meeting that the constitutions review process can be lengthy, but he urged all congregations to review and, if necessary, update their constitutions.

**ELECTIONS** were conducted with the following results:

POSITION	NOMINEES	ELECTED CANDIDATE
LCAQD Bishop	Pastor Paul Smith	Pastor Paul Smith
LCAQD First Assistant Bishop	Pastor Mark Vainikka	Pastor Mark Vainikka
LCAQD Second Assistant Bishop	Pastor Ben Hentschke Pastor Nathan Glover	Pastor Ben Hentschke
DCC Pastor Delegate	Pastor Nathan Glover Pastor Robert Edwards	Pastor Nathan Glover
DCC Lay Delegate	Bruce Lockwood	Bruce Lockwood

**IN MEMORIAM:** The Synod remembered the following:

Ivan Vonhoff (25/12/1931 - 28/06/2017) - Member of DCC and GCC

Theophila Philippi (nee Stolz) (17/07/1930 - 30/10 2017)- wife of Pastor Emeritus Rev Leon Philippi

Rev Dr Leslie Grope (19/12/1920 - 28/01/2018) - various churches and preaching places in Qld, Secretary and later Vice President of LCAQD, LCA President 1972 – 1987



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Rev David Larsen (29/01/1937 - 24/02/2018) - Southern Suburbs Mission (later Eight Mile Plains), St Paul's Toowoomba, Nundah, Vice President LCAQD

Rev Keith Scholz (14/03/1929 - 04/04/2018) - Queensland and Victorian congregations

Roy McIvor (6/05/1934 - 1/05/2018) - Hope Vale Evangelist

**CLOSURE** As the business of Synod had been completed with efficiency and harmony, it was voted that Synod close early. Accordingly, the closing devotion was held before lunch

**LCAQD SYNOD 2019** will be held 31 May – 2 June at Ipswich Lutheran Parish.

*We would like to acknowledge and thank the majority of LCAQD Congregations, Schools and Parishes who paid their Synod fees promptly. This greatly assists the District Office staff, and allows us to spend more time preparing for and supporting the event.*

**A THOUSAND BLESSINGS**

*Here we are, gathered to serve  
In the Queensland town of Bundaberg  
The business of the church is our call  
Under the guidance of Bishop Paul.*

*It's all so organized and ticks along  
Like the tunefulness of a favourite song  
We are impressed at the way things are done  
By our precise and organized AB1.*

*And though our secretary is only small  
She has voice and heart that stand her tall  
We've sat in this Synod talking about stuff,  
And by now you would think that we've had enough.*

*We're thinking about the journey home  
But we know that we are not alone.  
God will guide us from above,  
And keep us united in his love.*

*We take his blessing in our station  
To the thousandth generation.*

**Rob Edwards 03/06/18 LCAQD Synod**

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Respectfully submitted by Judy Powell (Our Saviour Lutheran Church Rochedale Delegate)