

Governance Change Project Committee Executive – Communiqué 4

Governance Change Purpose Statement:

This project exists to build a home for our church of the future that recognises and enables our participation in Christ's mission of bringing God's love into everyday life.

In developing contemporary and agile governance, we recognise the maturity and experience of our Lutheran communities and agencies, and the part each plays working side by side in a healthy church.

In February this year a document containing the draft Synod governance proposals was sent out for comment and feedback. We received a variety of responses from across the LCAQD that assisted the District Church Council (DCC) to revise certain proposals as well as update aspects of the document to ensure there is greater clarity around certain topics. We thank everyone for their contribution to these very important proposals.

Key change suggestions:

- Representative membership on the District Church Board (DCB) for each of the four department councils (LS, LEQ, M&M, LYQ) be changed to one representative per council (rather than two for LEQ and LS), allowing for DCB representation on standing committees, and less time pressure on department council representatives.
- Clarity of lay membership on councils for the duration of the review period.
- Chair of Synod and DCB to be elected by Synod and appointed by the Bishop.
- The Executive of the DCB to include the addition of the Chair with a quorum of four members.
- The wording in proposals that referred to a "trial period" be changed to a "review period" to better reflect the intent of an evolving governance change over time.
- Retain the current Risk, Audit and Finance standing committee with increased emphasis on policy and compliance.
- A revised diagram has been developed to better reflect the governance model, including the District Secretariat and Bishops Desk, Resource Network, Pastors Conference and current standing committees.

What happens next?

The final proposal document has been drafted and approved by DCC for inclusion in the Synod Book of Reports. Delegates will be given the opportunity to vote of the proposals at Synod on 31 May – 2 June.

We will continue to keep you informed of the progress of the overall project. If there are any questions or feedback please send these to govchange@qld.lca.org.au

Those who have been commissioned to do the "homework" on these proposals have worked hard behind the scenes, to present to the 2019 Synod Delegates, a carefully and collaboratively constructed way forward for guiding the ministries of our Lutheran Church of Australia. It is now up to the delegates to be prepared and to work together at Synod, to consider these proposals, seeking our Lord's good and gracious will. May the Lord of the Church guide us as we seek to bring glory to his name and to serve as he sends us into the world.

In Christ,

Paul Smith
Bishop
May 22nd, 2019

