



THE GIFT OF GOD
– it's grace that unites us



3 November 2023

Convention of General Synod

(1) Election of parish delegates

The Convention of General Synod will be held in Adelaide, at Concordia College, Highgate, on 4–7 October 2024.

Parish lay delegates

Each LCA¹ parish is entitled to elect lay delegates according to their confirmed membership:

- up to 400: one delegate
- 401 to 800: two delegates.

According to the 2022 statistics provided by your parish, the number of lay delegates you are entitled to is:

1

Your parish must elect a delegate for the 2024-27 synodical period, even if they are unable to attend Convention of General Synod in October 2024.

We strongly encourage parishes to appoint an alternate delegate to attend Convention (as a contingency if the elected delegate becomes unable to attend) at the same parish meeting that the delegate is elected.

Important information about electing delegates

In relation to the role of delegate, we draw your attention to the guidance of LCA Bishop Paul Smith:

"When we are baptized into Christ, God blesses us with the gift of the Holy Spirit. According to the catechism the Holy Spirit daily forgives my sin and the sin of all believers and enlightens me for Christian service. The primary criteria for being a Synod delegate is baptism into Christ. Delegates come together as sisters and brothers baptized into Christ, gathered by the Holy Spirit for the sake of the mission that God gives us. In our deliberation and our Christian conversation before, during and after Synod session, we serve the cause of the Gospel."

Please also refer to the enclosed information sheet, 'Responsibilities of Delegates', and share this document with anyone accepting nomination for the role.

In particular, you should note that delegates serve the LCA for the full three-year synodical period, commencing at the 2024 Convention of General Synod through to the commencement of the 2027 Convention. Delegates are required to prepare themselves for matters that will come before the 2024 Convention and share information about these matters with members of the parish, while receiving encouragement and oversight from the chairperson and pastor.

¹ A parish here is defined as a congregation or group of congregations forming an entity served by one or more pastors.

Lay delegate charges

Parishes are charged a General Synod fee on a per delegate basis whether or not their delegate(s) attends convention. The fee covers the administrative and running costs of the Convention.

The Convention fee for your parish is **\$550** (plus GST if appropriate). Invoices will be issued in January 2024.

Other Convention costs, such as meals and transport, will be advised by 31 July 2024. Please ensure that your budget for the Synod fee, meals, accommodation and travel for your delegate.

Information on applying for financial assistance from the LCA for lay delegates' travel and accommodation will be made available in early 2024.

What you need to do (by 31 March 2024)

1. At your AGM or specially called meeting for this purpose, your parish must elect its LCA NZ delegate to serve for the 2024-27 synodical period. We strongly recommend that you also appoint an alternate should your delegate not be able to attend the Convention of General Synod in October.

Before the election, ensure that voting members and those nominated for election have read and understand the responsibilities and obligations for your delegate. (Refer to the 'Responsibilities of Delegates' information sheet enclosed with this letter.)

2. Complete the appointment form included with this letter, noting that they must be signed by your parish chairperson or secretary. Return the forms to synod@lca.org.au by **31 March 2024**.

If your delegate is not already in LAMP2 for other positions they hold, ask them to complete the second page of the appointment form.

Pastor delegates

General Pastors Conference (GPC) immediately precedes Convention of General Synod in 2024 and the expectation is that pastor delegates will remain in Adelaide for the duration of both events.

There is no Convention fee for pastor delegates. If your pastor is a pastor delegate, the LCA NZ will cover his travel costs to GPC and return from Convention of General Synod. Your parish will however need to budget for his GPC registration fee and costs, and his accommodation associated with both events.

Pastors who are not delegates to General Synod are entitled and encouraged to attend GPC. Your parish will need to budget for your pastor's registration, travel, accommodation and associated costs.

(2) Submission of proposals

The following entities are entitled to submit matters for discussion by the General Synod:

- any congregation;
- any parish;
- any board of the Church, provided the matter is within its terms of reference;
- the General Pastors' Conference;
- the General Church Board, or its Executive;
- the Synod of any District of the Church;
- the Church Council of any District; or
- the Pastors' Conference of any District.

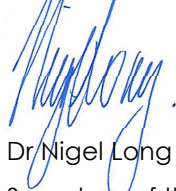
Included with this letter is the template for proposals to the General Synod. Proposals need to be submitted no later than **31 March 2024**.

Contact details

If you are no longer the chairperson or secretary of your parish, please forward this letter to whoever is now in that role. Please also ask that person/s to submit the [LAMP2 Onboarding Form](#) so our records can be updated.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please contact me if you have questions or require assistance via soc@lca.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nigel Long
Secretary of the Church