



FIRST MEETING OF THE XVI SYNOD HELD IN EAST LONDON AT ST. CRUCIS LUTHERAN CHURCH FROM 12 TO 14 OCTOBER 2023

MINUTES

1 OPENING SERVICE - Thursday, 12th October 2023

Divine service with Holy Communion in St Crucis Lutheran Church East London, Thursday, 12 October 2023 at 18:00.

Liturgy by St Crucis members, Sermon by Bishop G Filter, "God sees"- Genesis 16:1-16. Holy Communion by Ps. Frank Schütte and assistants.

Commissioning of the 34 delegates by Bishop G Filter according to the Orders of the Cape Church, assistants Ps. HP von Fintel & Ms. B du Buson.

CONSTITUTION OF MEETING

The president of Synod advises that the meeting is being recorded for the assistance of minute keepers. The president then asks if members can address each other informally, all agree. At 11:15 on Friday, Ms. B du Buson informs the meeting that photographs taken during the Synod meeting will be displayed on the Cape Church Website, Ms. B du Buson asked if anyone had any objections to the photographs being displayed. There were no objections raised.

1.1 Opening and word of welcome

At 19:45, after the opening service and with the members and guests remaining seated the President of Synod, Ms. B. du Buson, extended a word of welcome to all synod delegates, guests, and visitors to the first session of the Sixteenth Synod. The theme of the Synod is "God sees". She confirmed that the Synod had been duly convoked according to the Orders of the Cape Church in terms of Article 1 of Order a120 by way of written notice to the congregations. Ms. B du Buson declared the meeting open.

Ms B. du Buson, the President of Synod gave special welcome greetings to Theodor Jäckel, Bishop of NELCSA, Joe Jongolo, ELCSA-COD, Lilana Kasper, Executive Director at LUCSA, Nkosinyathi Myaka, Presiding Bishop of ELCSA Larry van der Walt, representative of the Nederduitse Herformde Kerk in Afrika.

1.2 List of members and guests

The President of Synod read out the list of delegates.

All present except for Ps. Gareth Jones who will be arriving later. He was commissioned as a delegate on Friday at lunch time.

Voting for the Minute keepers, Deputy Chair of Synod, Electoral Committee, and the Assessors took place by acclamation. Voting for the Pastoral candidate on the Electoral Committee will use ballot papers.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA / CAPE CHURCH
EVANGELIES-LUTHERSE KERK IN SUIDER-AFRIKA / KAAPSE KERK
EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHE KIRCHE IM SÜDLICHEN AFRIKA / KAPKIRCHE



Election of Assessors: (see also 8.1.4)

Stuart Krause, nominated by Diana Krause, seconded by Detlev Ahlert

Sieglinde Rühle, nominated by Detlev Ahlert and seconded by Diana Krause.

Elected by acclamation.

These Assessors will take care of the attendance registers during the Synod meeting and other matters as requested by the President of Synod.

1.3 Establishment of quorum

The President of Synod establishes that with 36 voting delegates of which 34 were present in session one and 35 thereafter. The quorum (2/3) requirements of 24 members are fulfilled. (Standing Orders for the Synod, a 120, Art. 4.2) Therese Osthoff from Bloemfontein congregation was unable to attend Synod due to unavailability of leave.

1.4 Elections

1.4.1 Recording secretaries

Church Council proposed Dr C. Johl and Mrs L. Hempel to keep the minutes of the meeting.

Elected by acclamation.

1.4.2 Vice Chairperson of Synod

Sietske Rübrow from the Stellenbosch congregation was nominated by Detlev Ahlert and seconded by Diana Krause. No further nominations were received.

Elected by acclamation.

1.4.3 Electoral Committee

The Electoral Committee should comprise of at least one Pastor and 2 laity from each circuit. The following nominations were received in the first session in church:

Detlev Ahlert CCW, proposed Diana Krause, seconded Ps. Frank Schutte,

Martin Köpke CCE, proposed Detlev Ahlert, seconded Diana Krause,

Diana Krause CCE, proposed Detlev Ahlert, seconded Ps. Frank Schutte,

Gabriele Lubowski CCW, proposed Detlev Ahlert, seconded Diana Krause

Lay members elected by acclamation.

Diana Krause elected to Church Council and is replaced by Lizelle Human,

proposed by Detlev Ahlert, seconded Martin Köpke, elected by acclamation.

Pastoral Candidate:

Ps. Sybil Chetty CCW, proposed Detlev Ahlert, seconded Diana Krause

Ps. Ronell Bezuidenhout CCW, proposed Detlev Ahlert, seconded Diana Krause

Vote outcome: (counted by Mrs Lynette Burger from Church Council and Ps. Frank Schütte).

Ps. Ronel Bezuidenhout 21

Ps. Sybil Chetty 13

The Electoral Committee would choose their own chairperson.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA / CAPE CHURCH
EVANGELIES-LUTHERSE KERK IN SUIDER-AFRIKA / KAAPSE KERK
EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHE KIRCHE IM SÜDLICHEN AFRIKA / KAPKIRCHE



Mr Detlev Ahlert was duly elected.

The President of Synod advised that a committee of at least 4 people need to be assigned to formulate a message to the President of South Africa, as well as any other formulations during this Synod period. The following four (4) members were tasked with this portfolio – Ps. Gideon van der Walt, Ps. Ronel Bezuidenhout, Erika Gertholtz and Sietske Rübow. Election by acclamation.

At the beginning of the third session at 11:15 on Friday morning the Chairperson of the Electoral Committee, Detlev Ahlert, advised the following: The two Assessors, Stuart Krause and Sieglinde Rühle had been elected.

Nominations received for President of Synod: Bettina du Buson.

Treasurer, no nominations had been received (appropriate financial background is required).

Nominations for a Lay person from each circuit, as well as the Pastoral post are still required. Members are invited to approach the Electoral Committee for assistance in the nomination process. More feedback will be given at the start of the Fourth Session.

1.5 Minutes of previous meeting

In accordance with a decision of the previous Synod, Church Council adopted the minutes of the previous Synod meeting. There were no matters arising that were not on the Agenda.

1.6 Confirmation of Agenda (34 voting members)

Delegates were asked if there was anything to add. No further matters were added. The Agenda was accepted. Proposed by Norma Ristow and seconded by Raymond Kok.

Against 0, Abstentions 0, 34 votes in favour. Accepted unanimously.

1.7 Words of greeting

Session 2 started at 08:00 on Friday morning. Markus Schlüter (invited youth guest) apologised for the Friday sessions indicating that he could not get away from work. Stuart Krause and Ps. Gareth Jones arrived during the session.

During session 2 each delegate introduced themselves to the meeting and indicated which congregation they were representing.

Written words of greetings and or apologies were received from invited guests. Oral words of greeting were presented by:

1.7.1 Bishop Theodor Jäckel – NELCSA.

God sees, the theme Genesis 16:13. Various ways of greeting across the world. Zulu, Sawubona, I see you. Recognition of the worth or dignity of the other person. We all have a deep need to be seen. Hagar is “seen” by God. We often feel unseen. God has a purpose for us, to proclaim His Word to a broken world. UELCSA is the uniting synod of ELCSA (Cape Church), NELCSA, and ELCiN (GELC) and focusses on the training of pastors. God sees us, knows us, and cares for us, and has a plan for our churches. He ends with the watchword for today Matt 14: 30-31, ‘When Peter saw the wind, he was afraid and beginning to sink and cried out, Jesus please save me!



Jesus reached out His hand and took hold of him saying, “O you of little faith, why do you not believe!”. The report is greeted with warm applause.

1.7.2 Ps Frank Schütte reads the greeting on behalf of Bishop Burgert Brand of the ELCiN (GELC), in Namibia. Bishop Brand apologised for not being able to attend this Synod. Three pastors left this year rather unexpectedly, and at the end of this year another two will leave on pension. Next year his retirement will commence, and due to financial constraints, one pastor’s post has been “annulled”. He raised questions as to the reasons for this trend. He also indicates that Ps. Felix Meylahn has been appointed as the tutor at Stellenbosch who currently have six (6) students and two interns. There is a clear message from Bishop Brand that we need more theological students. The report is greeted with warm applause.

1.7.3 Pastor Larry van der Walt read the greetings of the General Synod of the NHKA (Nederduitse Hervormde Kerk Afrika). Greeting in session 3 at 12:27. Our churches stem from the reformation. Currently the NHKA has 270 congregations in Afrikaans speaking communities all over the country, also in Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. The NHKA was readmitted to the World Ecumenical Community in 2014 and in this spirit, it welcomes the invitation to this Synod. The NHKA hopes that more opportunities will arise for further engagement to support each other’s witness and work together in service for one Lord, Jesus Christ. The greetings are warmly applauded.

Bishop Filter thanks Pastor Larry van der Walt and indicates that the ELCSA (Cape Church) has a MOU signed with the NG Kerk and agrees on a request from the NHKA to work towards a MOU. The NGK Synod commences on Saturday 14th, hence no representative to share greetings and participate in this synod meeting. The greeting is welcomed with warm applause.

1.7.4 Rev. Lilana Kasper – LWF and LUCSA
Session Seven at 09:00 – Dr S Dawai from LWF apologises for not being able to attend and brings his greetings through LUCSA. Rev. Kasper brings greetings from LUCSA, Presiding Bishop Sibanda, Deputy Mrs A Mokhine, and herself as the Executive Director. The theme for this year “God sees” has taken many shapes. Does He only see corruption, gaps of rich and poor widening, does God only see the hopelessness? Many people ask where is the God that sees me? God probably wishes to see us at work within His world. “We are the experience of people as to what Jesus is”. What picture are we going to present? What are the Africa priorities? She questions why we appear to worry more about countries far away rather than on our own continent. LUCSA appreciates the support from the Cape Church. Bishop Filter serves as the Chairman of the PETER committee, and LUCSA is grateful for this. Thanks to Lyn Burger for having being part of the officers committee and to Anja and Diana who participated in the Gender Justice programme and the inaugural lecture on “Heroines of the South” as well as participating in the “Heroines of the South” book project. The greeting is welcomed with warm applause.

1.7.5 Mr Joe Jongolo – ELCSA–COD
Joe Jongolo is from Berlin; he passes on the apologies from Bishop MZ Manong who is not well. He indicated his support for working towards unity with the Cape Church. Psalm 109:26,



God sees, they support and join Lutherans all around the world with this theme. God is present with us and sees everything around us. He asks that the wars are remembered, Ukraine and Gaza especially. He asks that we pray for these nations and other wars. God is not taken by surprise by all these challenges. We should not shy away from speaking about corruption and other ills in our country. Divisions by colour, decline in membership, finances, etc. We are bound together by the 5 Solas. Matt 28:23 "I will be with you until the end of the ages". Postscript, unity talks are a great move to unite, there are challenges, but they are not insurmountable. ELCSA-COD is battling with membership in the Western Cape. Our Bishops are grappling with the barriers that keeps us apart. Warm applause follows. Lynette Burger thanks him in isiXhosa.

1.7.6 Rev. Nkosinathi Myaka, Presiding Bishop of ELCSA.

He greets the Synod in the name of Jesus Christ. Firstly, ELCSA appreciated the invitation to the Cape Church Synod. Secondly, by God's grace the church has managed to regroup after the pandemic. Thirdly, he wishes the Synod all the best. He advises that the LWF theme was unity, cooperation, and solidarity. These are not optional for us, they are the basis of the church of Christ in John 17:21, where Jesus prayed that they all be in one so that the world may believe that you sent me. Unity: ELCSA, NELCSA and Cape Church have a lot in common, more than what keeps us divided. The bishops have begun to meet regularly to get to know one another and thus be able to respond to the call for unity. He asks that the Synod responds to this call for unity. The world is plagued by so many social ills. He closed with the watchword: 1 Corinthians 16:14 "Let all that you do be done in love". Warm applause followed.

1.7.7 Session 3 at 12:30 Tim Muller presents the story of St Crucis to the Synod.

He relied on the speech written by Ps Schwär in 1971 on the centenary celebrations of the church. It started with the recruitment of 10,000 German soldiers. In 1856, around 2600 of the German Legion soldiers landed in the Eastern Cape. Six shiploads of settlers followed in 1857, and many of the soldiers return to fight in a war in India. Early lay preaching was done by officers of the German Legion. Settlers originated from areas around Pomerania or Prussia. A small group settled in Frankfort on small lands which they had to pay for. Ps Liefeldt administered baptisms, marriages, and funerals. In 1861 the first Sunday School started. In 1864 the first parish agreement was formed with St John in King Willims Town. By 1866 St Crucis was formed officially as a congregation with Ps Klüber preaching once a month. In 1870 the foundation was laid. Funding assistance came from neighbouring congregations. Kings in Prussia also donated funds. On 17 December 1871 the church was dedicated. The area was plagued with war. During the war the church was used as a fort. Ps Klaus Bömker was inducted as the first full time pastor on the 28 September 1879. He served for thirty years before passing away whilst still working. Pastor Schwär served the congregation for 45 years. The church moved from Frankfort to Beacon Bay in 1979. Pastor Tweet served from 1979 to 1985. The church was dedicated in February 1983. He was followed by Ps Basil Sonnenberger who passed away in 2000. Good growth period followed, and the Sunday School building was built. Ps Muriel Kossmann then served until 2005. Ps Dieter Trümpelmann was her successor and he served the congregation until 2017. During this period a semi-permanent youth worker was also hired. The parish agreement with Luther Brakfontein terminated in the interests of alignment in the Eastern Cape.



Ps Oziel Campus de Olivera, from Brazil, served the congregation for 18 months during the pandemic. Ps Frank Schütte followed and is currently in service. Diaconical work is carried out with Hospice, Guardians of Hope with baby clothes, and the neighbouring Choc house that serves young cancer patients. East London Children and Youth Centre is also served by the church. Clothes and food are provided. The Rest Rooms Retirement Home will also be serviced by St Crucis from 2024. There are Bible study groups at various homes as well as Devotions at some Retirement facilities, thereby catering for the aged. Youth fellowship called YouCon, with two youth leaders, meet twice monthly. This is a shared activity with St Andrews and King Williams Town. Recognition is given to the previous generations for all their hard work. He quoted Martin Luther, "We are not the men who can build and preserve the church, nor have our forefathers been, neither will our children be, but it is He who was, still is, and ever will be, who said, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world". His presentation is greeted with warm applause.

1.7.8 Dr Chris Johl, for the former Bishop Nils Rohwer.

Bishop Nils Rohwer apologised for not attending the Synod and greeted the meeting with the Aaronite blessing. We no longer must hide our faces from God in shame. There are many passages in the Bible that seem to indicate that we should not look at God's face, but the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we could see His glory, John 1:14. Because God looks upon us with favour, we may look at Him with thankfulness and see ourselves through the eyes of God. May God grant that we can see His church through the eyes of God and see the world and people around us through the merciful eyes of God. His message is greeted with warm applause.

1.8 Message to the President of the Republic of South Africa

The message to the President was formulated as follows:

Letter to the president of the Republic of South Africa

His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa,

As the Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa/Cape Church, we greet you, as a fellow Lutheran, in the Name of our Lord Jesus, our Saviour and Christ.

The Synod of 2023 is aware of the immense task resting on your shoulders to lead an often-divided country, facing challenges like poverty, inequality, and joblessness. We are praying for the strengthening of your own faith as a disciple of Jesus.

At our synod meeting we dwelled on the theme "God sees" (Genesis 16:13) – the account of Hagar and her son Ishmael who have been rejected and ended up in a desperate situation in the desert. But God saw her, God knew her, God saw her vulnerability and took care of her and her child. She could then testify: "I have seen the One who sees me." Mr President, may you experience that "the God who sees", will see you and the needs of our country and be compassionate.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA / CAPE CHURCH
EVANGELIES-LUTHERSE KERK IN SUIDER-AFRIKA / KAAPSE KERK
EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHE KIRCHE IM SÜDLICHEN AFRIKA / KAPKIRCHE



We focussed on the youth and listened to young people with their positive outlook at our synod meeting. Together we are concerned about the youth in our country. We urgently request your government to take the plight of so many jobless youths, as well as effective education on different levels very seriously. We as church avail ourselves to do our bit.

We also embarked on a renewed focus in bringing healing to our broken communities. In this regard we wish to encourage and support you,

- in increasing efforts to root out corruption and criminality,
- in building a healthy and open economy that will create jobs,
- in restoring a culture of effective service delivery on many levels,
- in eradicating the rampant lawlessness and violence,
- in creating secure and safe communities, especially for the vulnerable people,
- in restoring family values and combating domestic and gender violence,
- in taking care of God's creation by working towards ecological responsible policies,
- in deliberately striving for cohesion and a social contract between all groups in our beautiful country.

We wish to heed the Apostle Paul's call to the church: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

With regards,
Bishop Gilbert Filter

After considerable discussion the letter is accepted.

(33 voting members)

Proposed: Ps. Ronel Bezuidenhout

Seconded: Ps Felix Meylahn

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Accepted unanimously by acclamation

1.9 Letter to congregations

A letter was prepared by the committee elected to draft letters that is to be sent to congregations.

Some changes are proposed from the floor and the final draft is attached.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

We greet you in the wonderful name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The 1st Ordinary meeting of the 16th Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, Cape Church was held from 12-14 October 2023 at St Crucis in East London. The pastors of the CCW and CCE gathered from 10-12 October 2023 at St Crucis, not only to discuss our different ministries, but specifically to pray together for our congregations, and the synodal meeting.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA / CAPE CHURCH
EVANGELIES-LUTHERSE KERK IN SUIDER-AFRIKA / KAAPSE KERK
EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHE KIRCHE IM SÜDLICHEN AFRIKA / KAPKIRCHE



We were aware of the different spiritual ambiance in comparison to previous synods. We believe that the theme of this synod (and Watchword for 2023) - "GOD SEES" - influenced each representative. The Worship Services, and Holy Communion, as well as the daily worship sessions (Bible studies) assisted the character change of the meeting. In the same manner Hagar, the slave of Sarai and Abram, could testify (in Gen 16:13), "'You are the God who sees me,' for she said, 'I have now seen the One who sees me,'" we also testify accordingly!

INTERGENERATIONAL SYNOD

As we all are concerned about the (perception of an) ageing of the Church membership, and the lack of attendance/participation of our youth members and younger families, a survey was conducted earlier in 2023. This questionnaire was designed to collect the views and experiences of congregants regarding the intergenerational ministry in each congregation. We thank all congregants who participated by answering the questionnaire!

The outcome of this report (of 33 pages, summarized to 8) was the focus of discussion at the Synod. In order not to talk about the youth members but with them, for the first-time youth members from CCE, CCW and ELCSA COD were invited as guests to attend the Synod. This gave opportunities for lively discussion of what the needs and expectations are of all the generations in our congregations. We thank the 6 younger guests for their presence, acknowledging they are part of our current and our future leadership.

COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

We also realise that we live in a digital age with many opportunities for growth for our faith tradition in the bigger societies we are part of. The Synod decided to focus on better communication possibilities not only inward amongst congregations, but also externally in the public domain.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

As representatives of our congregations, we are all concerned about the brokenness of the South African society. We acknowledge that God sees - not only as a God who cares, but also as a God who calls the church as the vehicle to be the hands and feet to bring healing. A study will be undertaken to form a clearer picture of the diaconal ministries in each congregation. It is the hope of the synod that we will be a church known for our helping hand towards those who are in (spiritual, emotional, and physical) need.

In conclusion, we were encouraged by the theme - GOD SEES. God sees our pain, as well as the faithful work of a Servant(hood) Church. The God that sees is also God, the source of hope. Therefore, we pray that each member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, Cape Church, may be filled "with all joy and peace by means of faith in him, so that your hope will grow by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

Warm greetings from all the Synod Delegates and Guests.



The synod delegates agree by acclamation that Church Council should deal with the letter to congregations.

2 THEME: GOD SEES

2.1 Opening Bible Study on Friday morning Session 2 (Mark 10: 46-52) with the focus on “seeing”.

Two songs were sung, “All over the world” and “O Lord my God”. Ps. HP von Fintel opened in prayer.

Sharing around text of Bartimaeus where he was healed by Jesus.

Bishop Filter introduces the session indicating that Pastors went on a retreat and one of the topics was the story of Bartimaeus.

Ps. Ronel Bezuidenhout starts the bible study sharing the story about the collection of her friends’ ashes. They spoke about New Year’s resolutions, they both decided to improve their German. She says that her movement to the Lutheran Church started with Martin Detering asking her if she would become a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. This would mean a change from a Dutch Reformed pastor to an Evangelical Lutheran pastor.

During the “Desert Fathers” time in the fourth century an anonymous author is attributed with the saying, “**The surest way of not hearing God’s voice, is a busy life.**” She goes on to say that **it** is this same way that in the context of the theme of this Synod, “**the surest way of not seeing God’s actions**”, **is a busy mind**. Bible study: We are not practiced as people who use all our senses, we use our analytical brains. When we go to the Bible we go to the text and should be doing “Bible Study”. Study implies that we need to go into depth. Our senses atrophy like a lost limb remnant after time if we do not apply our minds. The most wonderful “thing” of the Lutheran Church is when the pastor says: “Come and taste the beauty of the Lord”.

She asks that the text is also read in German and Afrikaans.

The whole story in the book of Mark is about the blind seeing. Jesus was baptised and he came up out of the water, and the heaven opened, and the spirit descended upon Jesus. “When Jesus sees, it is heaven opening up.” In chapter 8 of Mark Jesus heals a blind man by spitting ~~in~~ on his eyes. After the second time the man sees “clearly”, implying that he sees more than what is around him. Jesus then goes to Jerusalem to heal Bartimaeus. Jesus asks Bartimaeus what he wants Jesus to do for him.

She refers to the icon (picture) and asks, could this be our hand stretched out asking for Gods’ healing power. When is “seeing” enough? She shares the story of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) visit where the statue of Jesus looks down from the roof in the 15 century St Mary’s Basilica in Krakow, Poland. The theme of the Assembly was, “One body, one spirit, one hope”. She then asks: what does Jesus see?

Now into the small groups, answer the question: “what does God see?” Back to the icon, 10 minutes of small group discussion. She asks that delegates ponder this question during Synod and to pray about this matter now. She asks delegates to select a person to look at while praying and align them to the context of the story of blind Bartimaeus. Imagine someone standing close to you with their hand over you. Do you feel anything? If we move from this room 100km in different directions, where is the hand and what do you see and what happens when God says



you can see, go, and touch that person. Now go to Gaza what do you see if you let the Spirit lead you? The spirit is “praying” along. See the ruins but also see the heaven open. Try to picture what it is like to see the heavens open. Then say the words of blind Bartimaeus, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me. Amen.

Martin Köpke leaves the session to attend a work meeting at 09:45 and returns at 11:00.
The Presiding Bishop of ELCSA and the ELCSA COD delegate leave the meeting ~~after apologising~~.

Bible study continuation on Saturday morning at 08:00 – the session commenced with a hymn: “To God be the Glory”. Ps HP von Fintel opened with prayer. Ps. Ronel Bezuidenhout started the Bible Study with a story about her life at the age of 12, watching a movie in her playroom. The movie, “The eyes of Laura Mars” is a thriller story, with murders seen through Laura’s eyes. Eventually the murderer and Laura are eye to eye. She sees and is being seen through her eyes. She is told that she will be killed because she has seen the murders.

She wonders thereafter what people seeing her thought.

Second story, Dana Snyman has a documentary on Kyknet Sunday evenings, “Grondpad geloof”. His father is a Dutch Reformed church minister and was conservative. He did not lose his faith but was uncertain who God is. The early belief was that the eyes of God looked at us with wrath. Reading the Old Testament God is the God of justice. She says, “I do not believe in hell. I believe in grace.” We cannot help but to see in certain ways because we are taught in this way. The Bible is the inspired Word of God. The Word of God=Christ.

She asks delegates to look at the handout showing the 15th century icon written by Andrei Rublev. This is an image (icon) that was written to tell us something about Jesus. This icon was written around 1450-98. One of the most barbaric times in the history of Russia. Ronel discusses more aspects of the icon and goes on to read John 9: 1-7. A video clip of the icon is presented. She challenges all delegates to place their heads onto this icon and open their minds to see..... She ends the bible study in prayer.

2.2 Survey report presentation

See paragraph 4.11 for the EKKLESIA report.

2.3 Youth representatives

Lindsey Muller closed the sixth session on Friday evening in prayer. Chris Johl led the closing devotion with music by singing “May the feet of God walk with you”.

Session 7at 09:20. The youth representatives were welcomed by the President of Synod. The group introduced themselves. Henry Malong from Strand Street, and represents us at LUCSA and LWF, Gerald Kabelo Mashile from Strand Street, Lindsey Muller from St Crucis, Jon-Dylan Petersen from ELCSA COD, Markus Schlüter from St Andrews, Chundre Filippus from Phillipi congregation.

A message was presented by the youth expressing thanks for the invitation to attend Synod and the opportunity to present a report on behalf of the youth.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA / CAPE CHURCH
EVANGELIES-LUTHERSE KERK IN SUIDER-AFRIKA / KAAPSE KERK
EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHE KIRCHE IM SÜDLICHEN AFRIKA / KAPKIRCHE



Feedback from the SACC youth workshop – see the attached presentations.

“Your historical memories (older generation) become our (the youth) lived experiences”.

Markus Schlüter indicated a challenge that the younger generation face, there are no youth groups active in the area. The example of parental drop-off and go, appears to have filtered down to more families. He also mentions the concept of “instant gratification”. Youth do not see church as a priority. St Andrews is in a bad location now, resulting in lower attendance. The challenges are not unique to the Lutheran church. People have just moved away from religion, probably due to the absence of instant gratification.

Lindsey continued by mentioning that the YouCon services on a Sunday evening has improved youth attendance and this could be a possible solution to getting the younger generation to attend church.. “Youth are moving further and further away from Church”. The presentation received warm applause. The Bishop expressed his thanks to the youth for their involvement. He posed the question to the group of youth representatives: “would they ask their friends to join them at church?”

First response. The liturgy would be a culture shock to charismatics. Youth ask about the benefits of attending church. Some parents give assignment responsibilities to their children at home, while the parents are at church, making it impossible to attend church. Some youth expressed the freedom to invite friends to church.

Synod delegates commended the youth for their efforts and asked that they remain committed to working among the younger generation. The synod gave a standing applause. The presentation ended at 10:20.

The President of Synod called on Ps. Gideon van der Watt to give details pertaining to the diaconical research he offered to do on behalf of Cape Church. He explained that in theology, the church is based on 4 pillars, namely proclamation, fellowship, prayer, and service (breaking of bread).

In Europe a lot of emphasis has been put on diagonal projects (taking care of the communities), however this has created the problem that these projects become registered NGO’s and separate themselves from the church resulting in the church no longer being involved.

Looking at the history of the Lutheran Church in South Africa, the Mission stations and the history of congregations, it is centred on caring, which is the acting out of God’s grace.

This led to the idea of starting a study project to be carried out over the next two years to determine how we see God’s grace and how we can implement it in a better way to be able to bring healing to our broken communities. It will start with it all being centred around the Lord’s table, breaking bread there and thereafter moving into the world.

Ingrid van Sittert has offered to assist with the research.

3 REPORTS

3.1 Reports of Church Council

3.1.1 Bishop’s Report: Bishop Gilbert Filter (Doc 4.1.1)

Copies of Bishop Filter’s report had been distributed to all members. He indicates that the report is the Church Council report.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA / CAPE CHURCH
EVANGELIES-LUTHERSE KERK IN SUIDER-AFRIKA / KAAPSE KERK
EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHE KIRCHE IM SÜDLICHEN AFRIKA / KAPKIRCHE



What does it mean to be church here and now? (112) The church core function and purpose remain the same. Matt 28. He refers to the Intergenerational Ministry survey done by Stellenbosch University. (line 30-33) He asks if members are surprised by the report, shocked or in disagreement with the statements in the report. The IG report will be discussed at Synod and asks that members take the report back to congregations to discuss at various levels. (line 39) What is God up to with His church is a question than needs asking over and over. He advises that better focus on being church will help us to become the church of the future. (line 65) He welcomes the youth members, thanks them for coming and looks forward to their sharing. Visitations are important and not all took place because of the pandemic. He asks how the circuit structure could help to be church together. He suggests that a member of the circuit executive could be part of the visitation team. He paused after line 85 for small group discussions and to formulate questions. There were no questions or comments.

He indicated that church council had reviewed the desk structure in 2021 and this resulted in three ministries being formed. In line 100 "Gender and Generation Ministry, and the concern noted in line 107 (Certain age groups are underrepresented or not active at all) resulted in the change of the topic of the 2023 Synod from "Youth" to "Intergenerational Ministry". The other two ministries decided upon are, Diaconal and Pastoral Ministries, for which there are separate reports. He paused for a break after line 121 and Ps. Meylahn commented on his training where he indicated the importance of congregational membership lists and its primary use as the list for members to be prayed for and posed the question as to how we can make that into a habit.

The second session ends at 10:45

Bishop Filter continued at 11:30 from line 123 of the report. He refers to the pandemic and its negative effect on the church.

He pauses at line 155 to allow discussion and comments. No comments follow and he continued from line 156. Two pastor's emeritus, Erich Rust and Cyril Tessendorf have passed away since the last synod and were remembered with a minute's silence. He welcomes Ps. Sybil Chetty as pastor at Strand Street and Ps. Michael Denner as a pastor of the Phillipi and Wynberg congregations. He indicated that the status of the pastoral posts is listed between lines 164 to line 223.

He refers to the LWF visit to Krakow, Poland and to the LUCSA role and function in Africa. He states that although he did not understand the Polish language, he was able to follow the liturgy and sing along and that he appreciated the experiences to see how we are united, despite our cultural differences. He refers to the report of the Lutheran World Federation's 13th Assembly message which had been shared and encouraged everyone to look at the few lines at the top of page 3 of the report where they reflected on their visit to Auschwitz where 1.4 million people were killed. He asked for comments up to this point. None follow.

He then moved to line 262, in which the EKD's South-South exchange program with partner churches is presented. He was grateful the EKD allowed the Cape Church to advertise to fill the vacancy at St Martini. He also highlighted the discussion in pastors' convocation in which the importance of external pastors filling vacancies, adds to the diversity, in the church.

Chundre Filippus from Phillippi congregation participated in a youth camp in Brazil under this program.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA / CAPE CHURCH
EVANGELIES-LUTHERSE KERK IN SUIDER-AFRIKA / KAAPSE KERK
EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHE KIRCHE IM SÜDLICHEN AFRIKA / KAPKIRCHE



He then moved to line 283 to discuss VELKD. Line 292 refers to the Regional Church of Hanover. He states that the Cape Church was a circuit of the church in Hanover until 1961 when the Cape Church became independent. The Bishop's cross, which was that of a Dean in that church, was donated, and is used by the bishop of the Cape Church.

He moves to line 305 where the ELM status is mentioned.

Line 325, Conventus of Reformational churches has become static, and is being revived.

Line 330 talks about the objectives of the SACC.

Line 336 talks about the Western Cape Council of Churches (WPCC). Cape Church has representatives on this body. He is saddened by the fact that neither ELCSA nor the Moravian churches are actively part of this body.

Line 358, ELCSA, has an episcopal structure, meaning that the Bishop has the highest authority, whereas a congregational church such as Cape Church, the congregation has the highest authority. This poses the question of how this may complicate the unity process, as who will take decisions where. In our case it is the Synod that decides. The different influences from birth of the churches have resulted in different worship styles and traditions in worship.

Line 375, he advises that ELCSA-COD and Cape Church have good opportunities to work together, and that these should be pursued.

He talks of the differences in the churches between the Eastern and Western circuits.

Line 388 – Lutheran Co-ordinating Committee (LCC) - there is no report from them, and the Bishop suggested that in the future a report is requested from them.

Line 404, UELCSA, the focus is on Theological training.

He then referred to the church ELCIN (GELC) in Namibia as well as the North-Eastern Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (NELCSA) whose Synod will take place shortly. Diana Krause thanked the Bishop for his involvement in all the various institutions that contribute to the church today. The President of Synod called for comments and questions. The Bishop requests that the report is used in congregations.

The full report is attached as document number 4.1.1. The bishop's report is greeted with warm applause.

Raymond Kok is back in the session.

Proposed: D Ahlert Seconder: Ps F Meylahn.

Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 Accepted 33 (34 voting members)

3.1.2 Financial Report and first reading of the Budget: Treasurer, Mr Klaus-Gerd von Pressentin (Doc)

The financial statements for 2022-2023 and budget proposals for 2024-2025 had been circulated to all members of the synod by the Treasurer and discussed at two pre-Synod meetings, one in the Circuit Conference East and the other in the Western Circuit Conference West. They were taken as read. At the meeting of Synod, the Treasurer went through the documents page by page making brief comments and drawing attention to some of the figures.

The statements had received an unqualified audit.



Stewardship contribution will increase by 5,5% in 2024 and 6% in 2025 respectively. Klaus von Pressentin requested that congregations pay contributions before the 15th of each month.

A motion accepting the financial statements for 2022-2023 was called for. 34 voting members are present.

Proposed: Diana Krause Seconded: Martin Köpke.

Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 In favour: 34 (34 voting members present)

Approved unanimously.

Exoneration of Treasurer and members of Church Council was called for.

Proposed: R Kok Seconded: D Ahlert

Against: 0 Abstentions: 4 In favour: 30 (34 voting members present)

Motion carries.

3.2 Theological Education at the Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch University (Pastor F Meylahn and Bishop Filter)

The report was circulated to delegates beforehand and was taken as read. Ps. Meylahn shared that his post is funded by UELCSA and the EKD. One of the most important parts of his role is to have sit down discussions with the students. His opening line to new students is “Welcome to the place where the questions are more important than the answers”. He works together with other partners of the faculty at Stellenbosch University. He has been elected Chairperson of the Ecumenical Board of the Faculty. Other mainline churches are also partners in the faculty. He indicates the need for each student to have a “sponsor” congregation, not in the sense of business sponsor, but that of scriptural sponsor in a baptismal sense. He reflects on the pictures shown on the overhead screen. The pictures show the story of the Faculty as well as the Meylahn’s home where he meets with the students. He asked if there any questions or need for clarity. There were no questions. His presentation is greeted with warm applause. Details regarding the Bachelor’s Degree in Divinity can be found on the Cape Church website.

Proposed: Lyn Burger Seconded: K von Pressentin

Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Accepted unanimously by acclamation

All reports other than the Bishop’s report are approved unanimously in block

3.3 St Johannes Heim – St Johannes Organisation

The Report was circulated to all delegates and taken as read. The report was read by Ps. Schalk Treurnicht. St Johannesheim target occupancy is 80%. St Johannesheim Parks is a newly built section and has 46 houses and flats. The organisation currently has a break-even operational performance. The presentation was welcomed with warm applause.

Proposed: Lyn Burger Seconded: K von Pressentin

Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Accepted unanimously by acclamation

All reports other than the Bishop’s report are approved unanimously in block



3.4 Friedrich Schweizer Kinderheim Trust:

There is no report from the trust. The fund of R 3.4 million is being transferred to the Cape Church to manage under ring-fenced funds. NPO's requires a strict audit and A2A Kopano Inc is being considered as they are nationwide and present in East London.

3.5 Circuit Conference Reports

3.5.1 Circuit Conference West: Martin Detering (Doc 4.5.1)

The Report was circulated to all delegates and taken as read. The CCW was not functional but has been revived after a steering committee had been appointed and operational for a year. Ps. Schalk developed a "Church in motion" meeting to improve interaction between members and congregations. This was also shared at the Circuit Conference East at their AGM. They set up music events to share in their passion of music. They make use of the "Bainskloof" fund for Youthwork. The fund can be used for social media development in congregations. Two motions forwarded to the Synod. The report is attached. There were no questions. The report is greeted with warm applause.

Proposed: Lyn Burger

Seconded: K von Pressentin

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Accepted unanimously by acclamation

All reports other than the bishop's report are approved unanimously in block.

3.5.2 Circuit Conference East: Pastor Frank Schütte (Doc 4.5.2)

The Report was circulated to all delegates and taken as read. Ps Schütte said that he enjoyed working with Ps HP von Fintel. He appreciated the effort of bridge building. He refers to the bridges built with Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein and thanked the congregations for their presence at the Circuit Conference East Meeting. He thanked Ps Schalk for his presentation on the "church in motion: theme at the meeting. Seventeen children are now part of YouCon for confirmation with St Andrews, St Crucis and King Williams Town congregations. The St Luke's Project is also supported by St Crucis. He highlighted the music fund that currently sponsors two people to learn to play the piano. He asks for questions, there are none, followed by warm applause.

With reference to 4.2, 4.5.1 and 4.5.2, the President of Synod asks for comments to be generated in the small groups as to what delegates would like to "take home." First feedback: How do we recruit people to the ministry? Ps. Meylahn is planning tours to the UELCSA areas in a bid to recruit new students to study theology. There are full bursaries available from UELCSA. There is a YouTube video on the Cape Church website that provides more information on studying towards the ministry. (www.lutherancape.org.za)

Proposed: Lyn Burger

Seconded: K von Pressentin

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Accepted unanimously by acclamation

All reports other than the Bishop's report are approved unanimously in block.



3.6 Desk: Preacher Training: Faith Course: Pastor Frank Schütte (Doc 4.6)

The report was taken as read. Ps Schütte asked the question: Does a congregation need to have a Pastor? Some responses, Yes! Yes, in the context of a leadership team, where the pastor is the Theologian. Growth is seen when a Pastor is appointed. Frank suggested that we get away from this Pastor centred view. He applauded the Stutterheim congregation for their “independence”. They do however indicate that they need theological input. He closes off with the verse 1 Peter 3:15. *“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” Which was given at his ordination.*

Proposed: Lyn Burger

Seconded: K von Pressentin

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Accepted unanimously by acclamation

All reports other than the bishop’s report are approved unanimously in block.

3.7 Desk: Communication: Ps. HP von Fintel (Doc 4.7)

The report was circulated before Synod and taken as read. Ps. HP indicated that Church Council did a survey on preferred communication channels. Eight of the eighteen active congregations participated. Most congregations make use of emails, WhatsApp and phone calls. Congregations indicate that the primary problem is that people don’t respond to these communication requests. Most congregations would like to know who the pastors and chairpersons are of the congregations. This information is subject to the POPPI Act. They also suggested that the Bishop’s posts are placed on the website, along with church law and liturgical resources. Respondents indicated that email was still the preferred method to receive information from Church Council and other congregations. Althea Weyer is the Secretary in the Bishop’s office and works 3 hours per week. There is a Cape Church webpage at www.lutherancape.org.za. Role players in the Cape Church will have email addresses on the Cape Church domain to assist with communication.

The President of Synod asks if there are any questions. Mr C Masfen asks who the 8 respondents in the survey were. The information is not included in the report.

Proposed: Lyn Burger

Seconded: K von Pressentin

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Accepted unanimously by acclamation

All reports other than the Bishop’s report are approved unanimously in block.

3.8 Desk: Legal Affairs: Ps. HP von Fintel (Doc 4.8)

Report taken as read. Ps. Von Fintel highlights some matters from his report. He has visited some congregations to advise and educate them on the church laws.

HP advised that there is a proposed new marriage laws known as the Civil Unions Act.

HP proposed that a task team is set up to review the orders according to the report’s final paragraph “Updating of church orders” and proposed task team deal with the matter. The Bishop requested that in addition to the updating of Church Orders, an “operationalizing of the orders document” is drafted to assist with the understanding of how to apply the laws. Dr Chris Johl from St Andrews and Mrs Samantha Vockerodt from St Crucis, who is a lawyer, have



3.10 EKKLESIA report on Intergenerational Ministries

At the last Synod meeting in Strand Street, Church Council was requested to investigate the role of the youth in church. Ps Gideon van der Watt presented the report. The profile of respondents shows that only a small group under 30 years of age responded. The age group 56-75 years old are more than 90% involved.

Is this a good summary of what we are? Once teens are confirmed, they are gone.

Ps. A. Spiske: Fewer children, stop waiting for them to come to church, go out and find out and ask them. C Masfen commented that younger children don't attend church, grandparents have passed on and the church-going culture has disappeared. The children "run the household". C Masfen pointed out that this is now a new family structure where children are telling parents what they want.

Strand Street: Young members are not available. There is no commitment or involvement. Young parents ask for children to be baptised, but parents don't follow up by attending church with the children. Committed members perhaps not as committed as we should be?

Second question: Why is this so? You got involved because you were given responsibility. Secondly the importance of strong youth leaders.

Bellville members live far from the church, so they do not make the extra trip for youth. Pastor Meylahn, when serving at Bellville, offered to return the children home after youth meetings. Are there innovative ways to involve children? Or is everyone too busy?

Herman Düvel: Do things that interest children, not what youth leaders want. Perceptions are, that we are too judgemental towards youth.

St Martini: youth have really pressing things to discuss but there is no-one to talk to. There are topics that they find older people do not want to get involved in. They also wanted to get involved in projects,. They want to feel needed. The reality that young members are immigrating is a factor that cannot be avoided.

The report engagement ends at 18:00 for supper.

Ps Gideon van der Watt continued in session 8 at 11:25 on Saturday. He continued with the EKKLESIA report with questions 3 to 5. Recap question one: the "what", question to the "why", and here he says that the youth spoke of the fashion and relevance of theology in their feedback earlier. What are they trying to tell us? Become more fashionable with this wonderful theology that we can "repack" in a different way to become relevant to the youth. The youth also spoke of "friendship" services, where perhaps these were timed differently with space for the youth to define the format. Question 3, "how should it be", and this will be focussed on in small groups. How are we going to empower the youth, this new generation "Alpha". Electronic communication is the new way of communicating. "Digital presence". The youth want to be involved in meaningful projects, not entertainment. The groups form to discuss the responses to question three.

Respondents offered the following: Church must be "home", welcome children, and young families. "Fostering" concept can be applied to new children or families.

Jesus told stories, parables. Let's tell more stories to children. Spending time together. Let's help a family form a rule for life. Are we a Sunday only church? Are we a welcoming church? Is church more than a Sunday or the service? Lutherans "stuck" with doing church in the same way. The generation pass-down is where the breakdown occurs. Force versus free choice. Schools had



church at schools, but this has now been stopped in most schools. Secular education is now required in schools, this Christian education now becomes a parental responsibility. Lead by example by showing passion for the church activities.

He moves to the last question and asks that each group to write down three priorities that can have 80% impact. Delegates respond with the three things that congregations can do to have maximum impact, involving all age categories: **A.** Friendly welcoming environment, Open community, active invitation, "You only have one chance to make a first impression". **B.** Invite, welcome and feeling of belonging, highlight how important God is, Compromise to create common ground (Example, don't set a service when an international rugby game is scheduled). **C.** Getting to know the members, by engaging them in the service, socials after service i.e., tea and visiting. **D.** Enthusiasm of members, discover gifts in the community to be used in your church, what do people want in terms of "connection" i.e., cater for specific needs. **E.** Involvement of youth to be visible, make space for testimonies, encourage use of talents in a service. The session ends at 13:00.

Proposed: Lyn Burger Seconded: K von Pressentin

Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Accepted unanimously by acclamation

All reports other than the Bishop's report are approved unanimously in block.

3.11 Gender Justice (LUCSA)

See the report from Ps Anja Spiske. Meeting in Johannesburg 13 to 17 March this year. Twenty participants in ministry and lay-persons met. Bible study on Hagar, Genesis 16. Service closed with Thursday in Black litany.

Diana Krause talks about hiding our hurt behind our six-to-eight-foot walls. LUCSA has a program of Black Thursdays. She talks about injustices across society. She asks for co-operation from all members to unite in solidarity in this program by wearing black on Thursdays.

Proposed: Lyn Burger Seconded: K von Pressentin

Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Accepted unanimously by acclamation

All reports other than the Bishop's report are approved unanimously in block.

4 BILLS

4.1 Budgets 2024 and 2025: Treasurer: Mr Klaus-Gerd von Pressentin

The budget was presented. Documentation is displayed on the overhead. Three congregations, St Andrews, Stutterheim and Port Elizabeth asked the last Synod in Philippi to write off their debts. They are to be commended for keeping their payments up to date.

Pre-Synod meetings were held in both Circuits to discuss the finances before Synod. The available surplus was transferred to the contingency funds. Contributions amounted to about 82% of income, and the cost to company of employees of the Cape Church was around 86%, which includes medical aid for pensioners. The treasurer asked if there are any questions, none follow.



He continued with the budget approved at the previous Synod, where the income was 7% lower than budgeted for and expenses were about 30% lower than budget.

Page 6, remuneration for the average Pastor for 2024 is R62 550 per month and for 2025 R66 250 per month.

He moved to the budget for the next two years, and this will need a second reading tomorrow. Stewardship contributions are increased by 5,5% for 2024 and 6% for 2025.

All investments are at Glacier, Sanlam and are diversified and managed very well. There is a possibility of a rebate to congregations if the investments perform well. Page 8 shows the stewardship contributions for 2024 and 2025 per congregation. The levy contingency fund currently stands at nearly R 1,25 million and is used to support congregation that make application for assistance. This needs to be approved with the budget for the next two-year cycle. He wished to mention 3 things: 1. There is no report from the Friederich Schweitzer Kinderheim Trust as it is being dissolved. The funds from the sale of the house are being administered by the Cape Church. 2. New auditors have been appointed namely A2A Kopano Inc. They also have an office in East London and their fees are significantly lower than the previous auditors. 3. Special mention was made of Mr Horst Schöttler who has worked as the accountant for many years. He has offered his services until the end of the year as well as being available to mentor the new accountant into the future. Congregations are required to provide their financial statements and statistics to Church Council, but this is problematic. Congregations are requested to pay their stewardship contributions by the 15th of each month. Warm applause follows. First reading completed.

The first reading of the budget for 2024/2025

Budget for 2024/2025

Proposed: L Burger Seconded: R Kok

Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 In favour: 32 (34 voting members present)

Motion carries in the first reading.

The second and final reading of the budget for 2024/2025

Session 9 commences at 14:00 on Saturday. The treasurer advised that the budget for this year in terms of salaries is known but the salaries for the following year are estimated. He asks for the vote to take place. The President of Synod called for a proposer and a seconder for the budget that had been tabled.

Proposed: Mr. C Masfen Seconded: Ps. F. Meylahn

Against: 2 Abstentions: 0 In favour: 31 (33 voting members present)

Motion carries in the second reading. ***This budget then becomes Church Law No 1 of 2023.***

5 MOTIONS BY CHURCH COUNCIL

None



6 MOTIONS FROM CONGREGATIONS, CIRCUIT CONFERENCES AND CONVOCATION OF PASTORS

6.1 MOTION 1 CIRCUIT CONFERENCE WEST

The first reading of motion 1.

The motion is discussed in session 4. The motion submitted refers only to the Circuit Conference West. The CCW chairman, Martin Detering advises that it was the intention of the CCW that this proposal changes both the circuit conferences, East and West. The first proposal of change is laid out below.

“The Cape Church constitution will be changed regarding the Circuit Conference representative on church council. The elected person will be an ex-officio member of the Circuit conference Executive Committee.”

Pastor HP von Fintel reads article 32 to make the existing law clear to everyone.

The first reading of the motion to change A100 article 32.

Proposed: Ps. Schalk Treurnicht, Seconded: Ps. R Bezuidenhout
Against: 2 Abstentions: 1 In Favour: 31 (34 voting members).

After much discussion the Synod requested that the motion is amended as below.

The amended article is presented in session 9 at 14:20 to read” *The article regarding the composition of the Circuit Conference Executive Committees (article 32) will be changed to include that the elected lay representatives will be ex-officio a member of the executive committees of the circuit conferences.”*

The second reading of the motion to change A100 article 32

Proposed: Ps. Schalk Treurnicht, Seconded: Ps. Ronel Bezuidenhout
Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 In Favour: 32 (33 voting members).

Motion carries in the second reading. **This change to article 32 of A100 then becomes Church Law No 2 of 2023.**

6.2 MOTION 2 CIRCUIT CONFERENCE WEST

The reading of motion 2.

(There are no changes to the law, therefore only a single reading, and vote is required)

“Circuit Conference West proposes that a Communications Office is created and staffed as a central place to gather and distribute information.” This motion is withdrawn.

Proposed Martin Detering, Seconded by Schalk Treurnicht.

Martin Detering explains the purpose of the motion. See the attached documentation. He explains that Job 21:6 *“Even when I remember I am terrified, and trembling takes hold of my flesh”*, was the verse used at the start of Dutch Reformed Church Synod that he attended in



Bloemfontein. He emphasised the importance of church communication and provided some information of the beginning of the first Synod of the Cape Church in 1961. He also states that Synods changed the direction of the church. He refers to the “power of proposal” that is in everyone’s hands, where the needs of people can be carried to Synod for decision making. He pointed out that there is a new digital age where new communication styles will be required. He went on to say that there are 18 functional congregations with 7 functional websites. It would be nice to have someone who can make the task of our leaders a bit easier.

After various opinions and suggestions were given by the members, the proposal was amended as follows:

AMENDED PROPOSAL RE COMMUNICATION OFFICER (see above the original proposal is withdrawn by the CCW who submitted it. This amended proposal is put forward for approval during the fifth session after the tea break on Friday at 16:30.

“The Synod proposes that the Church Council urgently engage with a communication specialist to investigate shortcomings, opportunities, and new ways of internal and external church communication, and implement changes accordingly with available resources.”

Proposed: Ps Gideon van der Walt

Seconded: Sietske Rubow

Against: 2

Abstentions: 1

In Favour: 31 (34 voting members).

The amended motion carries.

Only one reading of the motion is required as it does not change the orders.

7 ELECTIONS

7.1 Church Council

7.1.1 President/Chairman of Synod

Session 7 at 10:30 the nominations closed for elections to Church Council. No new nominations were received from the Electoral committee and none from the floor.

Members of Church Council: Absolute majority required (more than 50%)

The following people members were nominated:

Mrs B. du Buson (33 voting members present)

Feedback from the Electoral Committee at 14:00 on Friday at the start of session four confirms that only one nomination has been received, that of Mrs. Bettina du Buson.

The chair is handed to the Deputy Chair of Synod at 16:00 to deal with the elections.

Ballot papers are handed out and the assessors count the votes.

Proposed: D Krause

Seconded: D Ahlert

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

In favour: 31 Accepted

Bettina accepted the election to Church Council.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA / CAPE CHURCH
EVANGELIES-LUTHERSE KERK IN SUIDER-AFRIKA / KAAPSE KERK
EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHE KIRCHE IM SÜDLICHEN AFRIKA / KAPKIRCHE



7.1.2 Vice Chairperson of Synod

Vice Chairperson of Synod: Simple majority required (one more yes than no)

Only the following person was nominated:

Sietske Rubow

Proposed: D Ahlert Seconded: D Krause

Elected unanimously by acclamation.

7.1.3 Treasurer

Treasurer: Absolute majority required (more than 50%)

No Synod delegates were found with the skills required to be elected as treasurer. Bronwyn Masfen was approached by Church Council prior to the Synod meeting and she indicated her willingness to be Treasurer of the Cape Church. As only delegates can be elected to the role church council has indicated that they will co-opt her to the position with full voting rights. See A100 article 35.

7.1.4 Two Assessors

Two Assessors: Simple majority required (one more yes than no)

The following were nominated:

S Krause. Proposed: D Krause, seconded: D Ahlert

Sieglinde Rühle, Proposed D Ahlert, seconded D Krause

Elected unanimously by acclamation.

7.1.5 Three Church Council Members

Three Church Council Members (of which at least one must be a Pastor)

Absolute majority required (more than 50%)

The following were nominated:

CCE Lynette Burger, proposed D Krause, seconded D Ahlert **(33 voting members)**

CCE Diana Krause, proposed D Ahlert, seconded M Köpke

Lyn Burger Yes-10

Diana Krause Yes-20

Abstentions-3

Diana Krause accepted the election to Church Council.

CCW Mr R Kok, proposed D Krause, seconded D Ahlert **(33 voting members)**

CCW Mrs S Botha, proposed D Ahlert, seconded M Köpke

Mr R Kok, Yes- 11

Mrs S Botha Yes- 21

Abstain-1 (spoilt paper)

Sandra Botha accepted the election to Church Council.



Pastors (33 voting members)

CCW - M Denner, proposed D Ahlert, seconded D Krause

CCE - A Spiske, proposed D Krause, seconded D Ahlert

Ps. M Denner: Yes - 7

Ps. A Spiske: Yes - 26

Abstain-0

Anja Spiske accepted the election to Church Council.

7.1.6 Finance Committee of Cape Church:

Three Finance Committee Members: Simple majority required (one more yes than no)

The following people members were nominated:

CCE, Markus Schlüter, proposed D Krause, seconded D Ahlert

CCW, Herman Böhmer, proposed D Ahlert, seconded D Krause

Elected unanimously by acclamation.

7.2 Electoral Commission

This matter was not dealt with at this Synod.

8 VARIA

There were no items under Varia.

9 CLOSURE OF MEETING

9.1 Authorisation of Church Council to adopt outstanding the minutes.

This item on the agenda was not dealt with.

Proposed:

Seconded:

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Vote count in favour of:

9.2 Date and venue of next meeting:

St Martini Congregation has extended the invitation to host the next Synod. Date to be confirmed later. President of Synod accepted the invitation with thanks. Bishop Filter advised that the Pastors Convocation proposed that the topic for the next Synod could be "Liturgy and Worship."

9.3 Vote of thanks and concluding remarks:

The President of Synod thanked all members for their lively contributions to the Synod discussions.

9.4 Closing prayer

Sandra Botha closed the Synod session with prayer.



10 CLOSING SERVICE

The closing service is conducted by Pastors Felix Meylahn and HP von Fintel with Bishop Gilbert Filter and others assisting with Holy Communion.

Pastor Anja Spiske, Mrs. Bettina du Buson, Mrs. Diana Krause and Mrs. Sandra Botha were inducted as members of Church Council for the next four-year term in office.

Minutes accepted by Church Council at on

.....

President of the Synod: Mrs Bettina du Buson

Chairman of Church Council: Bishop Gilbert Filter