

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (N-T)**

**Final Minutes**

of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the VI Church Synod  
in the Kroondal Congregation, from 15 to 18 October 2015

**“DIVERSITY IN UNITY”**

The third ordinary Session of the Sixth Church Synod is opened on Thursday afternoon at 17h00 with a worship service in the Kroondal Congregation. The liturgy is conducted by Pastor Elke Carrihill. Dean Edwin Dedekind conducts the sermon on the text taken from John 4. **(Appendix 1)**

**1. CONSTITUTION OF THE SYNOD**

**1.1 Opening and Welcome**

The President of Synod, Mr Wolfgang Fechter, welcomes all present, especially those who attend their first Synod. He also extends a hearty welcome to the Church Council members of ELCSA Cape Church, Bishop Gilbert Filter, their President Dr Christian Johl and Treasurer Horst Schöttler, as part of the journey to progress the potential merger of the two churches. He thanks all the reporters for their reports. The reports provide an insight in shared joys and challenges of our Church. He thanks the Kroondal Congregation for hosting the Synod and commends them on their contribution and commitment to the Church over many decades.

He further reminds Synod on the procedure to change Church Laws. There were requests for changes to the Law that were received from members of Synod but after review Church Council decided not to propose these as Church Laws to this Synod. Clearly it is Church Council's prerogative to review proposals and to act accordingly. He emphasized that the commitment is really appreciated and apologised for the lack of timeous feedback to these members who went to the effort of preparing suggestions and that some expectations were missed as a result.

He reminds members of Church Synod that they are not bound to directions, commissions or requests of their respective congregations, but that delegates are to be guided by their conscience.

He concludes with the Watchword for 2015 from Romans 15:7 “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

**1.2 Verification of Legitimacy**

The Legitimacy Of Synod is declared.

**1.2.1 Attendance Register**

Ms Yvette Mellis holds roll-call.

The delegates are requested to sign the attendance register.

**(Appendix 2)**

The following members are absent with apology: Ms Shirley Thoke (St Peters Pretoria); Ms Penny Summersgill (Hayfields, Pietermaritzburg); Mr Andries Ndlovo (New Germany); Mr Mulangi Mpego (Kelvin) and Ms Bafedile Bopape (St Peters, Pretoria). The New Germany congregation is now represented by Mr Ammon Madziba. Mr Wolfgang Meyer (Co-opted Member for Youth, Northern Circuit) is also absent with apology.

**1.2.2 Administering of Oaths**

The following Synod Delegates who were not present at the 2011 and/or 2013 Synod are commissioned.

Southern Circuit:

Mr Ammon Madziba (New Germany, deputy for Mr A Ndlovo -replacement for Dr J von Delft who was elected to Circuit Council)

Mr Valentin Volker (Hayfields, replacement for Ms A Pfeiffer who was elected to Church Council)

Pastor Dieter Klee (Replacement for Pastor R Küsel who was elected to Ecclesiastical Council)

Eastern Circuit:

Pastor Rüdiger Lutz (Replacement for Pastor H Filter who was elected to Ecclesiastical Council)

Mr Karsten Hinze (Augsburg, replacement for Mr J Engelbrecht who was elected to Circuit Council)

Mr Raymond Rieseberg (Piet Retief, replacement for Mr G Kehrhahn)

Central Circuit:

Mr Philip Kgaphola (Church of Peace, stand-in for Mr P Thage)  
 Ms Baradi Phirwa (Midrand, was not able to attend previous Synod)

Northern Circuit:

Pastor Dr Christian Nottmeier (Johannes congregation. replacement for Pastor P Röhrs who moved)  
 Mr Reino Hansen (Concordia, replacement for Ms D Thiele who was elected to Circuit Council)

Co-opted Members:

Ms Cornelia Ortman Co-opted Member for Church Music

1.2.3 Establishing the Quorum

It is established that the Synod is in quorum as 75 members are present.

The President, Mr Wolfgang Fechter, declares the Synod officially constituted. The Synod was prepared and convened in accordance with the Constitution.

1.2.4 Brief introduction of Guests present

The following guests are welcomed during the course of the Synod and addressed the meeting: Bishop Burgert Brand (ELCiN (GELC)); Bishop Gilbert Filter, Dr Christian Johl, President and Mr Horst Schöttler Treasurer (ELCSA (Cape)); Rev Dr David Tswaedi (Executive Director of LUCSA); Rev Dr Joe Lüdemann (ELM SA); Bishop Dieter Reinstorf (FELSiSA); Dr Gustav Claassen DRC; Dr Kobus Gerber (DRC).

Bishop MM Dithale (ELCSA) requested Bishop H Müller to tender his apologies and greet synod from him.

1.2.5 Nomination of Secretaries

Minutes will be kept by Ms Yvette Mellis, secretary on Synod Council, assisted by Ms Liselotte Knöcklein (Administrative officer from Church office) as scribe.

1.3 **Subcommittees**

Synod members accept the following proposals by Church Council for committees:

1.3.1 Formulating Committee:

Ms Almut Buhr (Convenor), Dr Dankwart Wittenberg and Pastor Michael Diezun

1.3.2 Legal Committee:

Mr Heino Küsel (Convenor), Pastor Dr Detlev Tönsing and Mr Neithard Graf von Dürckheim

1.3.3 Nomination & Election Committee:

Ms Annette Pfeiffer (Convenor), Mr Hogard Gevers, Dr Mercy Shuma-Iwisi, Pastor Dr Christian Nottmeier and Mr Heinz Lütge

1.3.4 IT – co-ordination:

Mr Thomas Wenhold and Dean Edwin Dedekind

1.3.5 Work groups during Synod:

The Synod delegates and guests were divided into 8 groups.

The following are the group facilitators: Ms Renate Wittenberg, Ms Ann Mokhine, Ms Annette Pfeiffer, Dr Hans Schütte, Dean Ron Küsel, Dean Edwin Dedekind, Dean Hugo Filter and Pastor Petra Röhrs.

1.4 **Reference to Standing Orders of the Church Synod**

The President refers to the rules and procedures of Synod. He points to forms to be used for the formulation of proposals and requests, and explains the required number of secondments. He thanks Bishop Horst Müller, Church Council and Church administration for the preparations.

1.5 **Explanation of election procedures**

On Friday, Ms Annette Pfeiffer, in her capacity as convenor of the Election Committee explains the procedures of nominations for the elections. She states that nominations for elections will close one hour before the elections take place.

The following elections are due:

- Bishop (Own rules and Procedures) One nomination was received; however Synod may nominate 3 more persons.
- Deputy to the bishop and alternate. Voting is as for Church Council members.
- Ordained member of Church Council and alternate.
- Northern Circuit lay member of Church Council – voting takes place within circuit. No election of alternate because the circuit council member is the alternate and continues in office.

- Dean and Deputy Dean for eastern circuit – voting takes place within circuit.

The Kroondal congregation as hosts of this Synod introduces itself. The presentation is made by Prof. Ferdi Meyer.

**2. THEME OF THE SYNOD “Diversity in Unity”**

**2.1 Bible Study by Pastor Dr Detlev Tönsing (Appendix 3)**

Pastor Dr Detlev Tönsing reflects on texts relating to unity in 1 Corinthians as a whole for the theme of Synod.

The President, Mr Wolfgang Fechter, thanks Dr Tönsing for his input.

**2.2 Examples from congregations – Rural and Inner City:**

The following delegates presented their congregations as part of the theme of Synod:

Mr Johann Engelbrecht: Augsburg; Mr Walter Thiele: Braunschweig; Mr Reinhard Kuhles: St Peters, Pretoria; Mr Philip Kgaphola: Friedenskirche – Church of Peace, Hillbrow; Dr Friedeburg Wenhold: Johannes congregation, Pretoria; Ms Baradi Phirwa: Midrand; Dr Ute Gründer: Thomas congregation, Northrand; Ms Almuth Buhr: New Germany.

**3. REPORTS**

All reports received were sent to delegates by email and are taken as read.

The President expresses thanks for a well written reports.

**3.1 Report of Church Council, submitted by Bishop Horst Müller (Appendix 4)**

A background of the ELCSA (N-T) and a brief presentation on aspects of the report is given.

Points that are highlighted from the report:

- Vacancies – 10 year projection. There will be a shortage of between two (2) and six (6) pastors between now and 2026 in ELCSA (N-T) alone. UELCSA has approached the Dutch Reformed Church, who currently has an oversupply of pastors, to make suitable candidates available.
- Financial situation of ELCSA. A brief explanation is given on how this affects UELCSA (Theological Training in Pietermaritzburg) and ELCSA (N-T) (Church offices in Bonaero Park).
- Theological Training. UELCSA has identified Stellenbosch as preferred University for Theological Studies for candidates studying for the ministry. Pastor Felix Meylahn will mentor the Theology students of UELCSA. Bishop Gilbert Filter reports on the current situation there and emphasises the strong ecumenical character of the Theological Faculty at University of Stellenbosch.
- ELCSA (Cape) and ELCSA (N-T) merger.

**Motion 1** is introduced to Synod. *(Ref Agenda Item 5)*

**Motion 2** is introduced to Synod. *(Ref Agenda Item 5)*

A motion is proposed to adopt the Church Council report.

Proposed: Pastor Olaf Gieseke

Seconded: Pastor Dieter Klee

At the end of Synod the report is adopted unopposed with 12 abstentions representing the membership of Church and Ecclesiastical Council.

**3.2 Financial Report of the Church**

Treasurer Mr Ron Küsel commends congregations who were able to send members to attend the “God’s Money and Stewardship” course presented by Ms Doris Viljoen. He further comments that it is the first time that a request to write off debt is to be presented to synod. This will be discussed at a later stage.

He points out the outstanding contributions of congregations and remarks on a positive note that some payments were received since the pre-synod meetings.

A motion is proposed to adopt the financial report

Proposed: Mr Klaus Rabiega

Seconded: Mr Heinz Lütge

Against: 0

Abstain: 7

The motion is carried by majority

**Motion 3** is introduced to Synod. *(Ref Agenda Item 5)*

### 3.2.1 Debt remission requests

The following debt remission requests were received and have to be voted on by Synod as only Synod can approve these requests:

3.2.1.1 Trinity- Zululand parish has requested debt relief of their outstanding debt minus half of the amount received from the sale of property in Eshowe. The relief as at 31.12.2015 will be in the region of R1 132 751.

Point of clarity regarding the debt relief for Trinity-Zululand is presented by Ms Yvette Mellis. The parish only owns the buildings in Eshowe and Empangeni and the Eshowe church complex is being sold.

Debt remission request received by Trinity-Zululand for debt relief.  
Against:1  
Abstain:12  
Accepted by majority.

3.2.1.2 DELP requests a debt freeze; in practice this implies that no interest is charged on their outstanding debt as from July 2015.

Debt remission request received from Durban Evangelical Lutheran Parish (DELP) to freeze their debt.  
Against: 1  
Abstain: 0  
Accepted by majority

Recommendations:

Mr Neithard Graf von Dürckheim: that congregations have to deal with their finances timeously in order to prevent a future debt relief.

Pastor Petra Röhrs: that the debt freeze has to be reconsidered in two years, i.e. at the next Synod.

### 3.3 Theological Study Commission

3.3.1 Study Paper: "Discussion document on Homosexuality – with particular emphasis on the question of employment of clergy".

Pastor Dr Gertrud Tönsing is grateful to present the report to a synod with the theme of Diversity within Unity. The request is made that the paper is released for discussions to congregations and that the study commission is released from the task.

Dean Ron Küsel requests that the names of the workgroup are published.

**Motion 4** is introduced to Synod.

*(Ref Agenda Item 5)*

### 3.4 Mission Committee

Pastor Remo Köhne as chair of the mission committee encourages Synod to consider what a mission church or congregation is and to find ways to do mission differently.

### 3.5 Youth Work

3.5.1 Southern and Eastern Circuits

Pastor Udo Lütge who holds a 25% youth pastor post for the Kwazulu-Natal congregations comments on the following:

The youth pastor post has for the first time undergone a visitation.

This was experienced very positively. Recognition was received for the work done and good recommendations were given for problem areas.

3.5.2 Youth Committee Church Council- Northern Circuit

The report was received however no representative was present.

### 3.6 Hermansburg School

Pastor Udo Lütge encourages everybody to read the report and states that the funding that was previously received from Germany as a Deutsche Auslandschule will be reduced substantially from 2016. Financial support is therefore needed urgently and any suggestions are welcome.

### 3.7 Church Music

3.7.1 General Church Music including contemporary music is presented by Ms Cornelia Ortmann who is the co-opted member of Synod for Church Music in general.

- 3.7.2 Brass Band
- 3.7.3 Church Choir
- 3.7.3.1 Supplementary Church Choir Report
- 3.7.4 Contemporary Music report was received at Synod and thus could not be sent out in advance.  
Delegates are encouraged to respond to the request to report on Church Music in their congregations in future.

3.8 **Old Age Homes**

3.8.1 Port Natal

Dean Ron Küsel presents a summary of the report on behalf of the chair of the Port Natal Old Age Home, Mr Egon Volker.

3.8.2 German Old Age Home Johannesburg

3.9 **German Seafarers's Mission Durban**

No report was received from Deacon Hans-Werner Casper.

4. **BILLS CONCERNING CHURCH LAWS**

All Church Laws were sent to delegates by email and are taken as read.

4.1 **Church Law 1/2015 – Budget, Finances**

**(Appendix 5)**

NOTE: Refer to amended Church Law 1 of 29.09.2015

Mr Ron Küsel, Treasurer, highlights the increase in contributions and an option to pay 10% of all offerings given on the altar instead of having the prescribed offerings (Church Law 1, Section 3(2)). Congregations have to apply for this method of handling offerings. He asks delegates to reflect on ways to increase voluntary giving. He again highlights the methods of support that congregations may apply for if they are unable to pay for their pastors.

Church Law 1 is put to the vote:

Abstain: 1

Against: 1

The law is passed by majority

4.2 **Church Law 2/2015 - Amendment to the Rules of Procedure of Church Synod**

Subsequent to the Synod preparation meetings Church Council was advised to change the Constitution rather than the Rules of Procedure of Church Synod. The President states that a change in the constitution should have been presented differently. Since materially the effect is the same, Synod is requested to allow this change. The President submits the amended Church Law 2 to Synod.

Vote by Synod to allow the change in Church Law 2

Abstain: 1

Against: 0

The procedural change to amend the Constitution rather than Rules and Procedure of Synod is accepted by majority.

He then explains the amendments suggested by Church Council in revised Church Law 2.

The revised Church Law 2/2015 is then voted on.

Abstain: 1

Against: 0

The law is passed by majority.

4.3 **Church Law 3/2015 – Amendment to the Law on Pastors**

The President introduces the proposal received to change Church Law 3 with regards to the term of pastor as proposed at Synod 2013.

The proposal for amendments to Church Law No 3/201 Section 47 (2) is put to the vote.

Abstain: 12

Against: 23

For: 40

The law as proposed is carried.

5. **MOTIONS, PROPOSALS AND RULINGS**

Proposals, Motions and Rulings emanating from discussions during Synod:

5.1

**Motion 1: Merger with ELCSA (Cape)**

- We agree in principle on a merger based on a common underlying Christian calling and tradition Synod tasks Church Council to draw up a draft constitution and orders to be agreed upon in 2016 by the Church Councils of the ELCSA Cape Church and ELCSA (N-T).
- From 2016 to the 2017 Synod, Church Council is to consult widely with the congregations on the principles and constitution. Synods of both churches, in 2017 to vote on the principles.
- In 2019 the churches intend to agree on a final constitution and orders, leading to respective dissolution processes.

Against: 0  
 Abstain: 4  
 Motion is carried by majority

**Motion 2: Programme Facilitator**

Church Council requests Synod to continue with this post beyond the initial period of 5 years, i.e. beyond 2016.

Against: 2  
 Abstain: 7  
 Motion is carried by majority

**Motion 3: Markus Congregation, Piet Retief**

Motion from Markus congregation in Piet Retief introduced by Raymond Rieseberg, Synod representative of the congregation.

As Markus Gemeinde, Piet Retief, we would like to make a request to Synod that the issue of annual congregational finances payable to ELCSA (N-T) and the present system thereof be reviewed and investigated. More and more congregations find it difficult to keep up with the annual increase of the amount payable to ELCSA (N-T), especially congregations where membership continues to decrease, as the case with our Markuskongregation.

We would like Synod and Church Council to consider a different system where the financial pressure of congregations is taken into consideration as annual contributions are likely to become unpayable in future by our members. Please take our plea seriously.

**After discussions this motion was withdrawn by the proposer, Synod delegate from Piet Retief, Mr Raymond Rieseberg**

**Motion 4: Study Commission: "Discussion document on Homosexuality – with particular emphasis on the question of employment of clergy"**

- The Study Commission is not dissolved but remains available for further discussion
- That the next year the paper be taken into the congregations and responses of the congregations be collated by the various pastors conferences
- These are to be forwarded to the Study Commission by the end of November 2016
- The Study Commission then prepares a summary of the comments and an update for the 2017 Synod

Proposed by: Dean Ron Küsel  
 Seconded by: Dr Hans Schütte  
 Against: 0  
 Abstain: 4  
 Motion is carried by majority

**Motion 5: Legal Advisor on Church Council**

Synod notes with concern:

- i) Several errors in the legal documentation sent out in preparation for this Synod.
- ii) A lack of awareness of procedural, legal and constitutional matters in Church Council.
- iii) Some basic errors in the Church Laws which have not yet been corrected.

This highlights the need for legal expertise in Church Council.

Synod therefore instructs Church Council to co-opt on a permanent basis a legal advisor to Church Council.

Motion submitted to Synod by Southern Circuit Pastors' Convention held on 08/09/2015

After discussion, which includes the response by Bishop Horst Müller below the motion is withdrawn by Pastor Elke Carrihill (Chair of the Southern Circuit Pastors' Convention) on behalf of the Southern Circuit Pastors' Convention.

Bishop Horst Müller responds to Motion 5:

He refers to the Bishops' Cross that he received several years ago symbolising his obligation as spiritual leader.

Culture cannot be created - it grows and lives. Culture is our innermost being.

He refers to Synod 2011 in Harburg where the theme was "Firm and eager to learn" – We are rooted in Christ and need a culture of permission towards "Fresh Expressions"- ways for doing Church differently.

In 2013 the theme was "Enough is a feast" - . When is enough enough??

Now 2015 "Diversity in Unity" – the Unity in Christ enables us to see the diversity as a strength to grow the body of Christ.

He is concerned that a culture is developing that is going to stifle our growth.

Since 1981 the Church has undergone significant changes and developments.

The driving force was "What is best for the Church?"

He refers to the past when lay persons where not allowed to preach from the pulpit or institute Holy Communion.

We change our thinking and we change our laws, and the aim must be to further life in the congregations.

If we want to embrace diversity in unity then we must be willing to accept that we cannot control everything and cover every eventuality by laws. This does not mean that we can do what we like and ignore our rules. But the rules are there to serve life, and not to stifle it. Our culture should be to ask: What is best for life?

**Counter Proposal to Motion 5: Motion 5.1**

Motion pertaining to legal advice to Church Council

Synod instructs the Legal Committee of Synod to assist Church Council with review and formulation of laws and preparation for the merger with the ELCSA (Cape) in between Synod meetings in terms of Rules of Procedure of Church Synod, Section 17 (1).

Proposed by: Legal Committee of Synod

The motion is carried by majority

**Proposal 1**

On occasion of the 450<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Reformation (October 1967), the Post Office issued a commemorative stamp with a picture of Dr Martin Luther.

In 2017 there will be the 500<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Reformation. This is not only of interest to the Lutherans, but also of all Protestant Churches.

I wish to propose that Church Council canvasses other Churches to support a recommendation to the Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp in 2017.

Proposed by: Mr Valentin Volker

Seconded: Mr Hogard Gevers

The Proposal is carried by majority

**Ruling 1:**

The President states that there is intent to adhere to rules and procedures of Synod.

**Ruling 2:**

The President states intent to send the first draft of Synod Minutes within the stipulated 30 days however this is subject to the date of the next Church Council meeting.

6 **ELECTIONS**

Ms A Pfeiffer as convenor of the election committee explains the election procedure.

6.1 **a) Bishop**

Nominations: Pastor Horst Müller

Result: Pastor Horst Müller

As per Election Procedure the Bishop is elected by two thirds majority.

Deputy to the Bishop and Ordained member of Church Council: The President states that according to Election Procedure the candidate with the second most votes is the alternate. A proposal is made to hold elections for the position and for the alternate separately and sequentially. The alternate to the Ordained member of Church Council is an in-active position but Dean and Deputy to the Dean are active positions. This could disqualify persons from standing for other active positions. The elections are to be held in order of Deputy to the Bishop, Ordained member of Church Council, alternate to the Deputy to the Bishop and alternate to Ordained member of Church Council.

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Carried by majority

**b) Deputy to the Bishop**

Nominations: Dean Theo Jäckel, Pastor Dr Christian Nottmeier, Pastor Dirk Köstlin, Pastor Petra Röhrs

NOTE: In the first voting round there was not an absolute majority.

Second round consisting of the two nominations with the most votes: Dean Theo Jäckel, Pastor Petra Röhrs

Result: Dean Theo Jäckel

**c) Alternate to the Deputy to the Bishop:**

Nominations: Pastor Dr Christian Nottmeier, Pastor Dirk Köstlin

Result: Pastor Dr Christian Nottmeier

6.2 **Ordained member of Church Council**

a) Nominations: Pastor Petra Röhrs, Pastor Mark Meier, Pastor Dr Christian Nottmeier

Result: Pastor Petra Röhrs

b) Nominations for Deputy: Pastor Elke Carrihill, Pastor Dirk Köstlin

Result: Pastor Dirk Köstlin

6.3 **Lay Member to Church Council**

Northern Circuit

Nominations: Mr Eckart Krüger

Result: Mr Eckart Krüger

NOTE: The election for a deputy is not needed because the current Circuit Council lay member is the deputy.

6.4 **Deans**

Eastern Circuit

Nominations: Dean Hugo Filter

Result: Dean Hugo Filter

Nominations for Deputy: Pastor Rüdiger Lutz

Result: Pastor Rüdiger Lutz

7. **GENERAL**

7.1 **Reformation Jubilee 2017**

Due to the lateness of proceedings the President announces that there will be no discussion on this topic.

7.2 **Words of Greeting**

Words of greetings are given by  
 Bishop Gilbert Filter, ELCSA (Cape)  
 Bishop Burgert Brand, ELCIN – GELC  
 Bishop Dr Dieter Reinstorf, FELSISA  
 Rev Dr David Tswaedi, Executive Director of LUCSA

Rev Dr Joe Lüdemann, Regional Representative, ELM  
 Rev Dr Kobus Gerber, General Secretary, Dutch Reformed Church  
 The Word of Greeting by Dr Christine Keim of the VELKD is read.

**7.3 Devotions**

Morning and Evening Devotions were held in line with the theme of Synod:

**Thursday 15.10.2015**

Evening Devotion Ms Renate Wittenberg

**Friday 16.10.2015**

Morning Devotion Ms Ann Mokhine

Evening Devotion Dr Mercy Shuma-Iwisi

**Saturday 17.10.2015**

Morning Devotion Pastor Mark Meier

Evening Devotion Pastor Dr Gertrud Tönsing

**7.4 Requests and Announcements**

7.4.1 Pastor Dr Detlev Tönsing requests Synod to pray for the LTI lecturers who have not received salaries since May.

7.4.2 Pastor Petra Röhrs suggests that the ELCSA (Cape) and ELCSA (N-T) Synods in 2017 are held back to back to enable delegates of both Churches to communicate with each other.

7.4.3 Pastor Reiner Focke thanks Synod for voting for the debt relief for the Trinity-Zululand Parish.

7.4.4 Pastor Dr Gertrud Tönsing expresses thanks for the debt freeze for DELP.

7.4.5 Dean Edwin Dedekind informs Synod of pledge cards towards St Peters' Childcare. The aim is to receive 100 pledge cards towards R100.

7.4.6 Mr Neithard Graf von Dürckheim requests that updated Church Laws are sent to Synod delegates before Synod together with other reports.

He highlights the necessity of a proper system to amend Church Laws within 3 months after Synod. A review needs to take place to ensure that the laws are up to date. He appeals that the Church Laws are up to date before further discussion regarding the merger with the ELCSA (Cape) take place, to enable Synod to operate effectively.

7.4.7 The President requests delegates to avail themselves for a task team to update the Church Laws before further discussions regarding the merger with the ELCSA (Cape) take place.

7.4.8 A questionnaire is distributed regarding the Synod and delegates are requested to complete it.

7.4.9 Pastor Udo Lütge refers to the Order of Church Life (Lebensordnung) which has to be updated according to the 2007 Synod. The President says that a task team will be set up. Pastor Udo Lütge makes himself available for this task.

**7.5 Issues outstanding from Synod 2013 Minutes**

7.5.1 Motion 5 regarding a Legal Advisor on Church Council

The recommendation of Church Council was that a Legal Advisor should not be a separate member of Church Council (thereby increasing the number of members) because the Legal Advisor would not always be needed. However Synod delegates are encouraged to select their lay members for Church Council to have as in the case of the treasurer financial background, lay members with a legal background.

7.5.2 Motion 2 regarding unity with ELCSA

A task team has not been set up. The then Presiding Bishop as well as the current Presiding Bishop were approached in this matter. The crisis within ELCSA is currently overshadowing all other talks.

7.5.3 Motion 6 Request for guidelines for youth pastor/youth worker within congregations

The process has not been completed.

7.5.4 Point 6.1.1

A meeting and discussion had taken place with Mr Neithard Graf von Dürckheim. Church Council has resolved some of the issues and elected to leave others, as they were not relevant or had already been addressed. The President did apologise that the feedback was not given timeously.

**7.6 Word of Greeting to Congregations**

The word of greeting by Synod to congregations in English is presented and finalised. The word of greeting in English, German and Afrikaans is sent out to all congregations to be read at the first possible Sunday service after Synod.

8. **NEXT CHURCH SYNOD MEETING**

8.1 **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the VII Church Synod in 2017**

8.2 **Venue:** (Previous Synods: 2011 Harburg, 2013 Piet Retief, 2015 Kroondal)

The President, Mr Wolfgang Fechter invites the Central Circuit to consider according to the rotation. However any congregation is welcome to host.

At the time of closing, no congregation avails itself to host the next Synod. Mr Wolfgang Fechter requests delegates to confer with their congregational council and get back to Church Council on this matter.

9. **CLOSING**

9.1 **Closing service with Holy Communion and induction of newly elected office bearers**

The church service is held in the Ev. Lutheran Church in Kroondal. The liturgist is Dean Theo Jäckel, and the preacher Bishop Horst Müller.

**(Appendix 6)**

The following newly elected office bearers are inducted by Bishop Horst Müller:

Deputy to the Bishop:	Dean Theo Jäckel
Ordained Member of Church Council:	Pastor Petra Röhrs
Lay Member of Church Council for Northern Circuit:	Mr Eckart Krüger
Dean, Eastern Circuit:	Pastor Hugo Filter
Deputy Dean, Eastern Circuit:	Pastor Rüdiger Lutz

9.2 The President thanks all who helped in preparing and conducting a successful Synod. A special word of thanks goes to the Kroondal Congregation.



**Mr W. L. Fechter**  
President of the Synod



**Bishop H Müller**  
Chairperson of the Church Council



**Ms Y Mellis**  
Secretary