

POLICY RE MEMBERSHIP OF NON-LUTHERANS ON GOVERNANCE BOARDS IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Lutheran Church exists to achieve its objects

All national district and local bodies have a primary focus on the achievement of these objectives. The church consists of people who subscribe to the confessions of the church and its mission to the world and have a personal calling to service and witness. The church has established various arms and institutions to help it carry out its mission to provide worship, nurture and fellowship and so assist its members in their service and witness. The church has established a range of institutions to assist in its mission.

Governance

Governance bodies are defined as those bodies which typically set policy, appoint key staff and generally oversee the running of various institutions in keeping with the policies of the Church. Lutherans, who by virtue of their membership of the LCA commit to the mission of the church, should undertake governance of Lutheran organisations.

On occasions there may be specific circumstances where it may not be possible for all positions on governance bodies to be filled by members of the LCA and the appointment of a non-Lutheran is required. Such an appointment may also be necessary where specific expertise is needed or where it is desirable to have representation from a particular section of the community that is being served

This policy stands except in those cases where arrangements with governments have prescribed community representation (eg the governance bodies of some pre-schools).

Principles for Appointing Non-Lutherans

The following circumstances will be considered for approval of non-Lutheran membership of a governance body. The body which normally elects or appoints the governance body may appoint a non-Lutheran member (NLM) on the following conditions.

- i) not more than two (2) or a maximum of 20%, whichever is the lesser of the total membership of the governing body, may be a NLM
- ii) all NLMs will be practising members of a Christian congregation.
- iii) NLMs may not hold the positions of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or Secretary nor vote on constitutional issues.

Notwithstanding the above policy a special concession may be granted to governance boards of Lutheran aged care services on the following basis:

Clause i) may be altered to read: "three (3) or a maximum of 25% whichever is the lesser. . . .

Where that concession is granted, the following words are inserted into clause

- iii) after "vote on constitutional" and foundational policy issues and a new clause iv) is added to read
- iv) the body which elects or appoints shall determine which issues are foundational and constitutional.