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Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

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**Administrative
Office**

Lutheran Courts
P.O. Box 88
New Amsterdam
Guyana, SA.

Auditor

Lancelot A. F. Atherly
F.C.C.A.
64 Brickdam, Stabroek
Georgetown
Guyana, SA.

Celebrating 500 Years of the Reformation

As a Church, we are journeying towards the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017. Started by Martin Luther, the Reformation movement began in 1517 in Wittenberg, Germany.

As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana prepare to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 together with the worldwide Lutheran Communion, we want to emphasize that it is an opportunity for us to grow closer together in witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a diverse and inclusive family, exploring together what it means to be Lutheran today.

We commit to an ongoing Reformation that strengthens our Lutheran fellowship as it lives and works together for a just, peaceful and reconciled world and continue to witness in many different and challenging contexts.

Let us celebrate and be proud of our Lutheran heritage!

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana 73rd Annual Convention

Notice of Convention

19 January 2016

In accordance with Article IX, Sect. 4 of the Constitution and, Sect. V: Item 4 of the By-Laws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG), notice is accordingly given for the convening of the 73rd Annual Convention of the ELCG which will be held from Sunday 1 May to Tuesday 3 May 2016 at Ebenezer Lutheran Church and Lutheran Hall, New Amsterdam.

Draft Business Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Announcement of Committees by the Vice President
3. Report of the Committee on Registration and Credentials and Conduct of Elections
4. Matters arising from Minutes of 2015 Convention
5. Report of the President '*concerning the life and all aspects of the work of the this Church*'
6. Report of the Vice President
7. Report of the Secretary '*on the work of the Executive Council and Statistical Reports from Parishes*'
8. Report of the Treasurer; Presentation of the Auditor's Report, and 2017 Administration Budget, and other financial matters
9. Report and recommendations from the 500th Reformation Anniversary Committee
10. Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Council
11. Written Motions/Resolutions
12. Close of Convention.

The Executive Council has approved the following theme and Sub-themes for Convention 2016:

Theme: *Liberated by God's Grace*
Sub-themes: *Salvation – is not for sale*
Human Beings – are not for sale
Creation – is not for sale

In accordance with Article VII, Section 11 of the Constitution of the ELCG, please be reminded that Pastors/Deacons are required to submit to the ELCG Secretary, Parish/Congregational Statistical Report for 2015 by 29 February 2016. A copy of the relevant form is attached for your use – one for each Congregation.

The Convention Bulletin will be compiled and distributed to all members of Convention in accordance with Sect. V: Item 6 of the by-laws of the Constitution prior to the opening of Convention and as such, we look forward to your timely submission of the requested information for inclusion in the Convention Bulletin.

Also, in accordance with Article IX, Sect. 5 of the Constitution and Section II: Item 2 and 3 of the By-Laws of the Constitution, please be reminded that you are required to forward the names of the two Convention delegates (one male, one female) to the Secretary by latest 1 March 2015.

We look forward to your participation at the 73rd Annual Convention of the ELCG.

Yours in Christ,



Samuel J. Goolsarran

Secretary, ELCG

Lutheran Courts, New Amsterdam, Berbice, Guyana.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
73rd Annual Convention

“Liberated by God’s Grace”

Opening Service

Musical Preludes 08:30 am – Musical Prelude / Chorus Singing

Venue: Ebenezer Lutheran Church
Lutheran Courts, New Amsterdam, Berbice

Preacher: Rev. Leroy Nicholson, President, ELCG

Liturgist: Deacon Leeta Chutkan, Transfiguration Parish

Celebrant: Rev. Amanda Singh, Good Shepherd Parish

Communion Assistants: Rev. Shirley Jaundoo, St. Michael Parish
Rev. Leonard Fitzpatrick Peters, St. John Parish
Rev. Patrick Jones, Emmanuel Parish
Mr. Ackloo Ramsudh, Ebenezer Parish
Ms. Mavis Campbell, Advent Parish
Mr. Mahendra Singh, Advent Parish

Lesson Readers: 1st Lesson - Rev. Sugrim Gobin
2nd Lesson - Ms. Lauren McCalman
Holy Gospel - Rev. Leroy Nicholson, President, ELCG

Acolytes: Ebenezer Parish and Transfiguration Parish

Ushers: Ebenezer Parish and Transfiguration Parish

Music: Guyana Lutheran Music Academy
-Ms. Claire Folts
-Ms. Kelli Jo Lair
-Ms. Twyla Sommersell



Opening of Convention Rev. Leroy Nicholson, President, ELCG

Welcome Hon. Sandra Kurtzious, Vice President, ELCG

Greetings from Fraternal Representatives

Convention Chaplain: Mr. Michael Davy Ram, Treasurer, ELCG

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
73rd Annual Convention

“Liberated by God’s Grace”

Convention Programme

Sunday, May 01, 2016

08:30 - 9:00 Musical Prelude/Chorus singing
9:00 - 13:00 Opening Worship Service – Word and Sacrament
Opening of Convention and Greetings
13:00-14:30 Lunch – Convention Officials and Delegates
14:30-17:00 Registration and Open Time; Executive Council meeting with Overseas Partners
17.00-18.00 Dinner
18:00-20:00 GLMA Talent Show/ Art and Craft displays
Evening Prayers - Chaplain

Monday, May 02, 2016

08:00-08:30 Devotion - Chaplain
08:30-09:45 Presentation and discussion on Sub-theme 1 –“*Salvation – Not For Sale*”
Presenter - Mr. Michael Davy Ram, Treasurer-ELCG
Moderator- Hon Sandra Kurtzious, Vice President, ELCG
09:45-10:45 First Business Session
10:45-11:00 Refreshment Break
11:00-12:00 Second Business Session
12:00-13:00 Lunch
13:00-14:15 Presentation and discussion on Sub-theme 2 –“*Human Beings – Not For Sale*”
Presenter - Deacon Babsie Pierre, Calvary Parish
Moderator- Mr. Terry Bayney, Redeemer Parish
14.15-15.15 Third business Session
15.15-15.30 Break
15.30-17:00 Fourth Business Session
17:30-17:45 Dinner
18:00-20:00 Camp Fire and Closing Devotion – Rev. Shirley Jaundoo and Ebenezer Parish

Tuesday, May 03, 2016

08:00-08:30 Devotion - Chaplain
08:30-09:45 Presentation and Group discussion on Sub-theme 3 –“*Creation – Not For Sale*”
Presenter – Ms. Dynutha Adonis, Treasurer- National Youth Ministry, ELCG
Moderator- Deacon Shelda Emanuel, St Andrew Parish
09:45-10:00 Break
10:00-11:30 Fifth Business Sessions – Elections
11:30 -12.00 Vote of Thanks
12:00-01:15 Closing Service of Word and Sacrament
Liturgist - Ms. Sharon Sulker, Transfiguration Parish
Preacher - Rev. Gloria Sampson, Ascension Parish
Celebrant - Rev. Conrad Plummer, Redeemer Parish
Communion Assistants - Dec. Lenard George and Dec. Inderjit Eugene

Installation of Elected Officers: - Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez
Close of Convention - President

Lunch & Departure

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
73rd Annual Convention

“Liberated by God’s Grace”

Convention Committees

1. Committee on Reference and Counsel

Rev. Sugrim Gobin - Chairperson
Hon. Sandra Kurtzious
Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran

Terms of Reference

A resolution of general character which is not germane to the pending question or report shall be given to the Committee on Reference and Counsel by the Delegate proposing such resolution. The Committee shall report all such resolutions to the Convention with its recommendations. Memorials from Parishes shall be submitted to the Committee at the commencement of Convention for the Committee’s study and recommendations to Convention. Other duties of the Committee shall be to recommend special orders for the hearing of representatives, to grant or deny permission to distribute printed matters not issuing from the Office of the Secretary, and to give such to the President as he may desire in the course of Convention.

2. Committee on Minutes

Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran - Chairperson
Rev. Shirley Jaundoo
Deacon Leeta Chutkhan
Mr. Joseph Bedessie

Terms of Reference

The Committee on Minutes shall approve draft Minutes of the Convention and report thereon to the Executive Council. Approval of the Minutes of Convention shall be the responsibility of the Executive Council of this church at its first regular meeting after Convention and the Executive Council shall implement all actions of Convention without delay.

3. Committee on Registration and Credentials and Conduct of Elections

Ms. Lauren McCalman - Chairperson
Ms. Jeanette Crandon
Ms. Jenny George
Ms. Ada Rohan

Terms of Reference

To register all Delegates, Pastors, Advisory Delegates, Deacons, Representatives of Fraternity and Partner Agencies.
To present a report at the first business session on registration and recommend the seating of participants in accordance with the Constitution.
To conduct elections in keeping with the Constitution and By-laws.

Parliamentarian: Rev. Conrad Plummer

Terms of Reference: To advise on Constitutional and Procedural Matters.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
73rd Annual Convention

“Liberated by God’s Grace”

The Executive Council

1. **Rev. Leroy Nicholson**
 President
 Advent Parish

2. **Hon. Sandra Elizabeth Kurtzious**
 Vice-President
 Redeemer Parish

3. **Mr. Samuel Jerry Goolsarran**
 Secretary
 Redeemer Parish

4. **Mr. Michael Davy Ram**
 Treasurer, ELCG
 St. Andrew Parish

5. **Rev. Sugrim Joseph Gobin**
 Member, Executive Council, ELCG
 St. Matthew Parish

6. **Rev. Shirley Jaundoo**
 Member, Executive Council, ELCG
 St. Michael Parish

7. **Mr. Joseph Bedessie**
 Member, Executive Council, ELCG
 Transfiguration Parish

8. **Ms. Lauren McCalman**
 Member, Executive Council, ELCG
 Emmanuel Parish

9. **Rev. Amanda Singh**
 Member, Executive Council, ELCG
 Good Shepherd, Parish

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

73rd Annual Convention

Pastors, Parish & Ministry Directory

Rev. Gloria Sampson *Pastor*
Ascension Parish
120 West Ruimveldt, Georgetown
Tel.# 231-0276/646-3742

Rev. Conrad Plummer, *Acting Pastor*
Calvary Parish
North Road, Bourda, Georgetown
Tel. # 226-4227
Email: calvary@guyananet.com
Email: jgobin47@gmail.com

Rev. Conrad Plummer, *Pastor*
Redeemer Parish
208 Sheriff Street, Georgetown
Tel.# 227-3351/ ckassoc@networksgy.com
Email: redeemer@guyana.net.gy

Rev. Sugrim Gobin, *Contact Pastor*
St. Andrew Parish
Area B, Lot 1, Chateau Margot, ECD
Tel. #220-2348
Email: jgobin47@gmail.com

Rev. Sugrim Gobin, *Pastor*,
St Matthew Parish,
Broomhall, Mahaicony, ECD
Tel: 220 7281 / 629 4894
Email: jgobin47@gmail.com

Rev. Leroy Nicholson, *Pastor*
Advent Parish
Bath Settlement, WCB
Tel. # 327-0489/328-7007
E-mail:nicholsonleroy@yahoo.com

Rev. Amanda Singh, *Pastor*
Good Shepherd Parish
Rosignol, WCB
Tel. # 2323144 / jonathansingh42@gmail.com

ELCG oversight
Reformation Parish
Berbice River,
Tel.# 645-5661

Rev. Shirley Jaundoo, *Acting Pastor*
Ebenezer Parish
Lutheran Courts, New Amsterdam, Berbice
Tel. # 333 6593
Email: bless_shirley@yahoo.com

Rev. Leroy Nicholson, *Acting Pastor*
Transfiguration Parish
Lutheran Courts, PO Box 88, Berbice,
Tel.# 333-3425
Email: nicholsonleroy@yahoo.com

Rev. Patricks Peters, *Pastor*
St. John Parish
Williamsburg, Corentyne, Berbice
Tel. # 322-5438
Email:

Rev Shirley Jaundoo, *Pastor*
St Michael Parish
Philippi, Corentyne, Berbice
Tel. # 333 5881/
E-mail: / bless_shirley@yahoo.com

Rev. Partick Jones, *Pastor*
Emmanuel Parish
Skeldon, Corriverton, Berbice
Tel. # 339-3349/ Email:
E-mail:jpjones529@aol.com

Chairpersons and Directors

Christian Education Department
Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran, *Chair*
Tel: 222 8955; sjgoolsarran@gmail.com

Rev. Shirley Jaundoo, *Director*
Tel: 333 5881: bless_shirley@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry
Mr. Dave Basso, *Chair*

Mr. Wayne Melville, *Director*

Lutheran Lay Academy
Rev. Leroy Nicholson, *Director*:

Finance and Stewardship
Mr. Davy Ram, *Chair*
Tel: 220-4853, michael.ram@republicguyana.com

Mission and Evangelism
Mr. Davy Ram, *Chair*
Tel: 220-4853, michael.ram@republicguyana.com

Church Vocations
Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran, *Chair*

Worship
Rev. Leroy Nicholson, *Chair*

Interpretation
Rev. Leroy Nicholson, *Chair*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
73rd Annual Convention

“Liberated by God’s Grace”

Diaconate

Deacon Inderjit Eugene
Ebenezer Parish

Deacon Leeta Chutkhan
Transfiguration Parish

Deacon Babsie Pierre
Calvary Parish

Deacon Elaine Grannum
Redeemer Parish

Deacon Shelda Emanuel
St. Andrew Parish

Deacon Ishwardei Melville
St. Andrew Parish

Deacon Neil K. Jagessar
Emmanuel Parish

Deacon Beverley Johnson
Advent Parish (on leave)

Deacon Keith V. Hazel
Emmanuel Parish

Deacon Lenard George
Good Shepherd Parish

Deacon Lansford John
(on leave)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

73rd Annual Convention

“Liberated by God’s Grace”

Members of Convention: Ministers, Delegates & Overseas Partners

<u>Parishes</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
Emmanuel	1. Rev. Patrick Jones	1. Ms. Lauren McCalman
St. Michael	2. Rev. Shirley Jaundoo	2. Mr. Aaron Chand
St. John	3. Rev. Leonard F. Peters	3. Ms. Olive Sukhoo
Transfiguration	-	4. Mr. Rayan Ramsarran
Ebenezer	-	5. Ms. Angelica Dhuman
Reformation	-	6. Mr. Ramcharran Pitamber
Good Shepherd	4.Rev. Amanda Singh	7. Ms. Shellon Bruce
Advent	5. Rev. Leroy Nicholson	8. Mr. Wayne Bruce
St. Matthew	6. Rev. Sugrim Gobin	9. Ms. Mignon Skeete
St. Andrew	-	10. Mr. Burchell Archer
Redeemer	7. Rev. Conrad Plummer	11. Mr.
Calvary	-	12. Ms.
Ascension	8. Rev. Gloria Sampson	13. Ms. Renita Singh
		14. Mr. Christopher Wordsworth
		15. Mr. Vedesh Ross
		16. Ms. Deneisha Thompson
		17. Ms. Paulette Stephen
		18. Mr. Sahrpier Hussain
		19. Ms. Thamesha Watson
		20. Mr. Deoram Shiwprasad
		21. Ms Jocelyn Rickford
		22. Mr. Terry Baney
		23. Mr. Robert Perry
		24. Ms. Elocia Smith
		25. Mr.
		26. Ms. Tameka King

Other Members of Convention

i) Advisory Delegates with Voice

Ms. Sandra Kurtzious, Vice President, ELCG
 Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran, Secretary, ELCG
 Mr. Michael Davy Ram, Treasurer, ELCG
 Mr. Joseph Bedessei, Member Ex. Co. ELCG

ii) Voice in connection with Auxiliaries

Mr. Dave Bassoo, Chair- Youth Ministry
 Ms. Merlyn Henry - President, ELCW

iii) Voice in connection with respective Parish

Deacons – as listed on page 8

iv) Overseas Partner – Voice on recognition of Chair

Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez, ELCA-DGM
 Mr. Keith Myra, ELCIC
 Ms. Chris Klafs, FBS

v) Parliamentarian

Rev. Conrad Plummer

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
73rd Annual Convention

Convention Rules of Order

SECTION XV – RULES OF ORDER (By-Laws)

Item 1. Debate and Decorum:

- (a) Every delegate and Minister shall have the right to speak once on all questions. After all those desiring to do so have spoken she/he shall have the right to speak again.
- (b) Every delegate and Minister shall obtain the recognition of the chair before speaking.
- (c) The mover of any proposition shall have the right to close the debate.
- (d) Every delegate and Minister shall confine herself/himself strictly to the question before the Convention.

Item 2. Voting:

- (a) Every delegate and Minister shall have the right to vote on all questions.
- (b) Any delegate or Minister shall have the right to have his/her dissent, with reasons, recorded on any question or part thereof.

Item 3. Motions and Resolutions:

- (a) Every delegate and Minister shall have the right to make a motion or offer a resolution.
- (b) Every motion or resolution shall be presented to the Secretary in writing.
- (c) Every motion or resolution, unless otherwise indicated, shall require for confirmation a majority vote of the voting body present.

Item 4. Rules of Order:

All parliamentary rules and practices not covered by the Constitution and By-Laws shall be determined by Robert's Rules of Order latest edition.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

73rd Annual Convention

Convention Minutes # 878

Theme: Why Wait? Act upon your Faith

The following are the Minutes of the 72nd Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) held from 3 – 5 May 2015 at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, and Lutheran Hall, New Amsterdam, Berbice.

1. Sunday 3 May 2015: Opening Worship

The Opening Worship Service began at 9.30 a.m. The service was preceded by “*singspiration*” led by Mr. Michael Davy Ram and the GLMA Music Teachers, Ms. Clair Folts, Ms. Kelli Lair, and Mr. Daniel Sailer.

Leaders of the Service were:-

Preacher:	Rev. Vivian Roberts, Pastor of Ebenezer Parish
Liturgist:	Rev. Leroy Nicholson, Pastor Advent Parish
Celebrant:	Rev. Shirley Jaundoo, Pastor St. Michael Parish
Lesson Readers:	1 st Lesson: Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran, Redeemer Parish
	2 nd Lesson: Ms. Alana Hafeez, St Andrew Parish
	Gospel: Rev. Vivian Roberts, Ebenezer Parish

Music: Guyana Lutheran Music Academy Teachers

2. Ordination of New Ministers

Having been examined and approved for ordination by the Executive Council, and having accepted the ELCG Pastoral Call, and were in possession of a Parish Pastoral Call, the Assembly witnessed the ordination by the Rev. Sugrim Gobin of the following Ministerial Candidates into the Pastoral Ministry of the ELCG:

- i. Deacon James Patrick Jones; and
- ii. Deacon Leonard Fitz Patrick Peters.

3. Presentation of Certificates

The Vice President, Hon. Sandra Kurtzious presented ordination certificates to the Rev. James Patrick Jones, and the Rev. Leonard Fitz Patrick Peters.

The Vice President also presented certificates of participation to the following Lay Academy Students who successfully completed a two-year course of training for lay persons:

Hapworth Thom, Arnold Barron, Vincent Mercurius, Mahendra Singh, Mavis Campbell, Alvin Ramnarine, Ackloo Ramsudh, Merlyn Henry, Sharon Sulker, and Ivy Dindial.

4. Opening Convention:

The Vice President, Hon. Sandra Kurtzious formally declared the 72nd Annual Convention of the ELCG to be in session.

5. Welcome and Greetings:

The Vice-President, Ms. Sandra Kurtzious welcomed and extended cordial greetings to all including the ELCG's overseas partners.

Greetings were also brought from: Rev. Dr, Raquel Rodriguez, ELCA/DGM; Rev. Douglas Reble, ELCIC; Rev. Thomas Unrath, F/BS; and Rev. Kenneth Kross, ELKS.

Greetings were also received from the Lutheran World Federation, Wartburg Theological Seminary, and the Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud.

6. Registration and Meetings

The registration of Ministers, Delegates, Advisory Delegates, Deacons, and Fraternal Representatives was conducted by the Committee on Registration from 2.30 pm.

The Executive Council met at 3.00 pm with representative of our overseas partners attending Convention – ELCA-DGM; ELCIC, F/BS; and ELKS for discussion on matters of mutual interest, and accompaniment.

The day's events were concluded with a musical evening led by the Music Teachers of the GLMA, and others along with a display of Christian Education materials.

Monday, 4 May 2015

7. Assembly and Worship Devotion:

Convention assembled for worship devotion which was conducted at 8.00 am by Deacon Shelda Emmanuel and Youth Representatives, Convention Chaplains.

8. Convention Sessions:

Hon. Sandra Kurtzious, Vice President, in line with the Constitution, presided at the Convention sessions. She welcomed and extended greetings to all in attendance.

9. Sub-themes:

The sub-themes were each addressed by a lead presenter, followed by discussions in four groups and report back in plenary sessions. The following were the sub-themes and lead presenters:

- i. Be "Marvellers": Mr. Michael Davy Ram, Presenter
- ii. Be Movers: Deacon Shelda Emanuel, Presenter
- iii. Be Messengers: Rev. Gloria Sampson, Presenter.

The first sub-theme: *Be "Marvellers"* was presented.

10. First Business Session:

Nine (9) Ministers and twenty three (23) delegates were registered by the Secretary as voting members of Convention based on submission from Parishes.

The First Business Session was called to order by the Vice President, Hon. Sandra Kurtzious.

11. Committees:

The Vice President announced the composition of the following Convention Committees as printed in the Bulletin, page 9:-

- i. Committee on Reference
- ii. Committee on Minutes
- iii. Committee on Registration, and

Parliamentarian: Rev. Conrad Plummer

12. Report of the Committee on Registration:

Mr. Joseph Bedessie, Chair, presented the Report on those in attendance as follows:

Ministers	-	9
Delegates:	-	23
Advisory Delegates:	-	5
Deacons/Ministerial Candidates:	-	10
Fraternal representatives	-	4

Convention voted to accept the report of the Committee on Registration.

13. Roll Call:

The Secretary, Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran called the Roll of voting members of Convention. Present were: 9 Ministers and 19 Delegates as follows:

<u>Parishes</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
Emmanuel	1. Rev Patrick Jones	1. Ms. Lauren McCalman
St. Michael	2.Rev. Shirley Jaundoo	2. Mr. David Persaud
St. John	3. Rev. Leonard F. Peters	3. Ms. Olive SuKkoo
Transfiguration	-	4. Mr. Clifford Drepaul
Ebenezer	4. Rev. Vivian Roberts	5. Ms. Ms. Agnes Mc Allister
Reformation	-	6. Mr. Rancharran Pitamber
Good Shepherd	5.Rev. Amanda Singh	7. Ms. Sharon Sulker
Advent	6. Rev. Leroy Nicholson	8. Mr. Wayne Bruce
St. Matthew	7. Rev. Sugrim Gobin	9. Ms. Stepheney Bowry
St. Andrew	-	10. Mr. Ackloo Ramsudh
Redeemer	8. Rev. Conrad Plummer	11. Mr.
Calvary	-	12. Ms.
Ascension	9. Rev. Gloria Sampson	13 .Ms. Viola Harsingh
		14. Mr. Gregory James
		15. Mr. Vedesh Ross
		16. Ms. Shaneza Noble
		17. Ms. Joy Stephen
		18. Mr. Saphier Hussain
		19. Ms. Fiona Rambissoon
		20. Mr. Wayne Melville
		21. Ms. Joycelyn Rickford
		22. Mr. Bevon Cummings
		23. Mr. Chris Gravesande
		24. Ms. Ms. Elocia Smith
		25. Mr.
		26. Ms. Burnadette Adonis

Delegates absent were: Mr. David Persaud, Mr. Bevon Cummings, Mr. Wayne Bruce and Ms. Bernadette Adonis.

14. Agenda, Convention Programme and Time Schedule :

Convention voted to accept the Business Agenda, Convention Programme and Time Schedule as printed in the Bulletin.

15. Presentation of Minutes # 867 of the 71st Convention for Matters Arising:

Convention noted that actions were still to be taken on some of recommendations from the Officers at the 71st. Convention, 2014, and urged all Pastors, Deacons, Delegates and Parish Councils to review the recommendations, and take the necessary actions as appropriate.

Second Business Session: - 9 Ministers and 19 delegates were seated.

16. President's Report:

In the absence of the President, this was presented to Convention by the Secretary Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran. The President, Rev. Moses Prashad (President until 28 February 2015) in his report reflected on the theme *Why Wait? Act upon your faith*. He also reported on the general situation of the Church including Pastoral assignments, personnel actions, international relations and partnerships, ministries and standing committees, the Ministerium and Diaconate, and the Lutheran Lay Academy. The report contained the following recommendations:

- i. Each Parish in the ELCG is unique and diverse. Parishes must strive to share their human and financial resources where possible so that the entire ELCG can benefit.
- ii. Neighbouring Parishes should seriously consider collaboration in some areas of ministry such as Luther Leagues, Sunday School, ELCW and Revival Services. This helps to build bonds of friendship and fellowship and makes our church more visible.
- iii. Ministerium must be a forum to celebrate what is uplifting in the in the parishes and a challenge to rebuild or restructure the setbacks which inhibit vibrancy in the parish.
- iv. Ongoing Theological and Practical Education for pastors, deacons and lay leaders must be sourced immediately.
- v. While ministry is for all of God's people, none excluded our commissioned deacons and ordained pastors whether full-time or bi-vocational have made themselves available to serve. This must be evident in practice.
- vi. The EXCO must continue the practice of support to the parishes through meetings especially in times of conflicts and challenges.

After discussion, Convention voted to receive the Report of the President with appreciation, and also approved the recommendations for appropriate actions by all concerned including the Executive Council, Pastors, Deacons, Delegates to Convention and Parish Councils.

17. Vice President's Report

The Vice- President, Hon. Sandra Kurtzious reflected on Convention theme and her responsibility as Chair of the Executive Council and Convention business sessions. The report contained the following recommendations:

- i. Those members of the ELCG who are blessed with various expertise create a Directory to which our members may go, to obtain the necessary relief from the social challenges they may be experiencing.
- ii. That periodic seminars be held within the ELCG to bring awareness, teach various skills, and suggested preventative measures, to eliminate or reduce the social ills of society affecting the Members and people within the communities of our Parishes.
- iii. That in an effort to have the ELCG be more visible and proactive in society, that the church causes to be placed in the newspapers, or present on Television, periodically, written biblical commentary and opinions on social issues affecting Guyana.

Convention received the report of the Vice-President with appreciation, and also approved the recommendations for appropriate actions by all concerned including the Executive Council, Pastors, Deacons, Delegates to Convention and Parish Councils.

18. The second Sub-theme

The second sub-theme *Be Movers* was presented by Deacon Shelda Emanuel.

Third Business Session: - 9 Ministers and 19 delegates were seated.

19. Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran, after an introductory reflection on the theme for Convention, presented his report in two other parts as follows:

- i. The work of the Executive Council, and
- ii. The annual parochial reports from all the Parishes.

The Secretary reiterated the importance for every Parish and Congregation to compile and preserve accurate records and statistics. He once again observed that some of the statistical information received was not accurate, and appealed to all Pastors, Deacons, Delegates, and Parish Councils to have these updated and corrected as matter of urgency. The report contained the following recommendations:

- i. that all Pastors, Deacons and Parish Councils undertake as a matter of urgency, a review and evaluation of parochial statistics and record them as required by the Constitution:
 - a. to verify accuracy, and as appropriate, revise and reconstruct them, and to ensure that all Parish and Congregational registers are up to date, and are properly secured;
 - b. that all Pastors, Deacons, and Parish Councils, where applicable, establish active Youth Ministries – Sunday Schools, Luther Leagues, confirmation classes in every Parish catering for all the Congregations;
 - c. that the Executive Council, after an examination and review of these statistics and other relevant information, meet and confer with the relevant Pastors, Deacons and Parish Councils on the state of affairs in the Congregations/Parishes as a matter of priority, and forge a consensus on appropriate actions to strengthen congregational ministries in the Parishes, and present a special report of the outcomes of such encounters and follow up to next Convention in 2016.

After discussion, Convention voted to receive the Report of the Secretary with appreciation, and also approved the recommendations for appropriate actions by all concerned including the Executive Council, Pastors, Deacons, Delegates to Convention and Parish Councils.

Fourth Business Session: 9 Ministers and 20 delegates were seated including Ms. Bernadette Adonis.

20. The Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer, Mr. Michael Davy Ram presented the Treasurer's report as required in three Parts as follows:

- i. The Treasurer's Report included information on: income, cash position, bank reconciliation, apportionment, convention expenses, convention project, special funds, gifts/donations/bonuses, overseas grants, sale of properties, and assets and capital acquisitions. After discussions and explanations, Convention voted to receive the report of the Treasurer with appreciation.
- ii. The Auditor's Report by L.A. Atherly and Company, Chartered Accountants was presented by the Treasurer. After discussions and explanations, Convention voted to adopt the Auditor's report.
- iii. The 2016 Church-wide Budget: Following discussions, particularly on apportionment set at \$2000. per active member, Convention voted to approve an expenditure budget of \$12,860,000. presented on page 48 of the Bulletin.

21. Recommendations from the Treasurer

After discussions, Convention voted to approve the following recommendations:

- i. Each Parish with outstanding sums owing to the ELCG for more than one year be and hereby mandated by the Convention to forward a proposed plan of settlement of these outstanding sums to the ELCG Executive Council by June 30, 2015.
- ii. Convention approve an increase to GYD\$2,000 per Active member from GYD\$1,700: per Active member for 2016. This increase is the equivalent of approximately GY\$167.00 per month or GY\$5.50 per day per Active member.
- iii. In the interest of responsible financial management and planning, that each Parish be mandated to submit an annual budget to the ELCG Executive Council by March 31 annually for the current year. This will assist in understanding and planning for the Parish's financial needs and will give early indication of the Parish's financial well-being.

Recommendations i) and ii) above were requesting all Pastors, Deacons and Parish Councils to take timely actions.

22. ELCG Balance Sheet of Assets

Convention also agreed in principle to have the balance sheet of the ELCG's assets prepared for the record.

Tuesday 5 May 2015

Morning devotions were conducted by Convention Chaplains.

23. Third Sub-theme

The third sub-theme *Be Messengers* was presented by Rev. Gloria Sampson.

Fifth Business Session: 9 Ministers and 21 delegates were seated including Mr. Bevon Cummings.

24. Election of ELCG President and Secretary

Convention elected the Rev. Leroy Nicholson as President, and Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran as Secretary to complete the unexpired terms until the end of Convention May 2016.

25. Convention Pledges – Christian Education Ministry

The total pledges from Parishes, auxiliaries, and individuals amounted to \$315,000.

26. Vote of Thanks

Deacon Babsie Pierre expressed grateful thanks and appreciation to all for their attendance, active participation, and service in various capacities. Particular appreciation was expressed to the representatives of our overseas partners.

27. Presentations

The Treasurer, Mr. Michael Davy Ram, and Rev. Vivian Roberts, outgoing Pastor of Ebenezer Parish, were presented with an ELCG plaque each in recognition of their committed and dedication to the Lord's work.

Presentations of token gifts with ELCG logo on cups, T. Shirts, key rings, and commemorative postage stamps, and local craft were made to the representatives of our overseas partners.

They all expressed thanks and appreciation.

28. The 73rd Annual Convention would be convened from 1 – 3 May 2016.

There being no other tabled business, the business of Convention terminated at 12.15 pm.

29. Closing Service and close of Convention

The closing service of word and sacrament was conducted by Mr. Christopher Wordsworth as Liturgist, Rev. Sugrim Gobin as Preacher, and Rev. Patrick Jones as Celebrant.

30. Installation of Elected ELCG Officers

The Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez installed the newly elected Officers, Rev. Leroy Nicholson, President, and Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran, Secretary.

The Rev. Leroy Nicholson, President of the ELCG, using the Order for the Close of Convention, officially declared the 72nd Annual Convention 2015 closed.

Respectfully submitted



Samuel J. Goolsarran

Secretary

(Minutes approved by Executive Council Meeting on 13 June 2015)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
73rd Annual Convention

Notes

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

73rd Annual Convention

Report of the President

1. Reflection: *Liberated by God's Grace*

If you were to ask 100 persons on the street, “*How do you get to heaven?*” you’d get a lot of different answers that could be summarized by the idea that you have to earn your way to heaven. Ideas that are based on works, not Grace. You may summarize their understanding in one word: “do.”

But it’s a gift, and you don’t work for a gift. It is free! You can’t earn it, you can’t buy it, and you can’t work for it.

So on the other hand; if you were to summarize Christianity in one word, it is the word “*done.*” Jesus Christ has already paid the price on the Cross.

We are about 2,500 years too late! What needed to be done for Salvation, for Human-beings and Creation has already been done, and we can’t do anything more about it. The plan to provide Grace for every person is finished.

A quotation from the LWF web site, challenges us to take note that these words go to the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ and to the soul of the Lutheran Reformation. They are linked to Luther’s key insight that helped triggered the Reformation – Christians attain salvation only by the Grace of God. We call this “*Justification by Faith Alone*”.

“*Liberated by God’s Grace*”, is the main theme of our celebrations leading up to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. It will also be the theme of the 12th Assembly of The Lutheran World Federation in Windhoek, Namibia.

All our celebrations, worships, studies and engagements over the next year and a half will focus on how the gracious love of God, through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, opens up opportunities for us as faithful Christians to reach out as healers and reconcilers to a world torn apart by strife and inequality.

As we will be engaged in several dialogues, let’s ask – liberated by God’s grace, from what and for what? The response will reflect the reality of life where we live, but we believe we are called to be responsible citizens in God’s world and good stewards of God’s creation.

We are freed/liberated by the grace of God to be engaged in this Christian ministry with conviction that, *Salvation – Not for sale, Human-beings – Not for sale, Creation – Not for sale.*

2. Personnel

Parishes	Number of Congregations	Pastors	Deacons
Emanuel	4	Rev. Patrick Jones	Keith Hazel
St. Michael	5	Rev. Shirley Jaundoo	-
St. John	3	Rev. Leonard F. Peters	-
Transfiguration	3	Rev. Leroy Nicholson (ag)	Leeta Chutkhan
Ebenezer	3	Rev. Shirley Jaundoo (ag)	Inderjit Eugene
Reformation	5	President and Executive Council, ELCG	-
Good Shepherd	4	Rev. Amanda Singh	Lenard George
Advent	4	Rev. Leroy Nicholson	Beverly Johnson
St. Matthew	4	Rev. Sugrim Gobin	-
St. Andrew	3	Rev. Sugrim Gobin, (O/sight Pastor)	Ishwardei Melville Shelda Emanuel
Redeemer	1	Rev. Conrad Plummer	Elaine Grannum
Calvary	1	Rev. Conrad Plummer(ag)	Babsie Pierre
Ascension	4	Rev. Gloria Sampson	-
13	44	8	9

3. Comments

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana has (8) Pastors and (10) Deacons. To guarantee Pastoral services to all Parishes, the ELCG has assigned (2) Pastors to serve in acting capacities, another (2) have been designated "Oversight Pastors."

During the past year Rev. Leroy Nicholson along with lay leaders Mr. Arnold Baron and Mr. Hapworth Thom have conducted worship services and administered the Sacrament of Holy Communion to shut-ins in the Reformation Parish.

The effort to a sustainable ministry in the Reformation Parish was strengthened by a two-day visit by the President and Vice-President of the ELCG, Pastor Gloria Sampson along with (6) lay persons.

4. Internship, Ordination and Assignments

Deacons Patrick Jones and Patrick Peters have successfully completed their Internship after being placed in the Emmanuel and St. John Parishes respectively, and were ordained during the opening Service of our 72nd Annual Convention.

After a successful candidacy, Deacon Babsie Pierre was assigned to the St. Andrew Parish for her internship and was issued with a call from Calvary Parish. Deacon Pierre will be ordained during the opening service of the E.L.C.G 73rd Annual Convention.

5. Resignation and Release

Rev. Moses Prashad has resigned as Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana with effect from 28th February, 2015.

The Rev. Vivian Roberts also, after two years of powerful witness/Pastoral service in the Ebenezer Parish and the ELCG in general, has resigned. Pastor Vivian Roberts along with her husband Erick Roberts departed our shores in June, 2015.

The ELCG expressed heartfelt thanks to Rev. Moses Prashad, Rev. Vivian Roberts and her very supportive husband Erick Roberts.

After careful consideration, The Executive Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, at its statutory meeting held on the 13th June, 2015, took a decision to relieve Mr. Neil Jagessar of his responsibilities as deacon of the Emmanuel Parish and of the ELCG. He was encouraged to continue his service as a lay person in the Emmanuel Parish.

6. Relationships

a. The Lutheran World Federation

The LWF is a Global Communion of Christian Churches in the Lutheran Tradition. The LWF acts on behalf of its member Churches in areas of common interest, such as ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, human rights, communication and various mission and development. Its Secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland. The Rev. Martin Junge is the General Secretary.

The ELCG has been kept informed of development in the service of the LWF and has received invitations to participate in events sponsored and hosted by the LWF.

In March of 2015, Pastor Shirley Jaundoo attended a theological program in Germany.

Mr. Michael Davy Ram attended the LWF Council meeting from the 17th to the 22nd June, 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland and was appointed Council Member on the 18th June, 2015. Mr. Ram was voted and approved for the following appointments by the LWF Council:

- i. Member of the LWF council
- ii. Chair of the LWF Committee on Advocacy and Public Voice
- iii. Member of the LWF Committee on Constitution and Membership.

By virtue of the above appointments, Mr. Ram is one of fourteen Officers of the LWF and attended the Meeting of Officers in Switzerland in November 2015.

Pastor Amanda Singh and the Hon Sandra Kurtzious attended the L.W.F. Seminar in Germany under the Theme:- Reformation, Power and Politic, with strong emphasis placed on Reformation and Empowerment of Women.

Ms. Thamesha Watson represented the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana at a Workshop for young Reformers held in Wittenberg, Germany from the 22nd August to 4th September, 2015.

Ms. Watson also participated in a Conference of Parties (COP) 21 in Le Bourget, France, from 27th November to the 11th December, 2015. She represented Latin America and the Caribbean as a youth delegate for the Lutheran World Federation.

Mr. Michael Davy Ram and Ms. Thamesha Watson also attended the LWF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Conference held in Bolivia in April 2015 in the capacities of LWF Council Member and LWF Youth Representative respectively.

The LWF – DMD in collaboration with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (ELKS) conducted a workshop on Human and

Institutional Capacity Development (HICD)/Diakonia, in the Ebenezer Parish, in New Amsterdam, Berbice, during 22nd – 24th October, 2015.

Through an invitation from the LWF, Rev. Leroy Nicholson attended the Newly Elected Leaders Induction Program in Geneva, Switzerland and Wittenberg Germany from the 27th September to 10th October, 2015. It was a time for information and reflection under the theme: “Risk and Chances of Leadership”.

b. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

The ELCG continues to share a treasured relationship with the ELCA. Vocabulary has denied us the ability to find the more preferred words to express our gratitude for the presence and impact of Rev. Raquel Rodriguez over the years. We were blessed at our 72nd Annual convention in May, 2015 by her timely journey with us.

c. Ministry Among Guyanese (M.A.G)

This Committee is located in the Metropolitan New York area and is the Executive Body of the Guyanese Lutherans in Diaspora. It comprises former Guyanese Pastors and Lay persons whose desires are to support the ministry of the E.L.C.G. However, our relationship with M.A.G. has become dormant.

d. Wartburg Theological Seminary (W.T.S)

The E.L.C.G has become a favored site over the years of Wartburg Theological Seminary (W.T.S) in Dubuque, Iowa in their January Cross Cultural Immersion Program. The E.L.C.G has over the years, hosted several students through the kind partnership of the parishes which received them. Maggie Rose Berndt, Barbara Ann Jones, Dara Quin Stull, Mycth Pierre Noel Dorvillier were the four students on the Cross Cultural Immersion Program in January 2015. Mycth Dorvillier was accompanied by her teenage daughter.

e. Guyana Mission Network

The Guyana Mission Network continues to play a vital role in the life of the E.L.C.G under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud. The G.M.N is instrumental in providing the Pastor’s Diaries, Lutheran Study Bibles, with copy given to every Pastor, and Deacon. It also provides Bibles and other literature for the Christian Education Department. The G.M.N has over the past years, provided monetary Christmas gifts to Pastors and Deacons for which the ELCG is very appreciative.

f. Fellowship Lutheran Church

Fellowship Lutheran Church is an E.L.C.A Congregation in Tulsa Oklahoma. Since 1996 it has reached out to the E.L.C.G in many ways through various supporting programs and visits that have mutually enriched one another’s ministries and missions. They have contributed toward assisting retired Pastors and were instrumentals in establishing the Music Academy.

Dr. Erv Janssen has been with this partnership since its inception. Even though he no longer holds the reign on the partnership in mission program he is not to be counted out. His heart is in the right place.

g. Florida Bahamas Synod (FBS)

The Companion Synod relationship with FBS is one of accompaniment. The Vice President of the E.L.C.G the Hon. Sandra Kurtzious participated in the Florida/Bahamas Synod Assembly held in Orlando Florida from the 16th – 22nd June, 2015.

The visit by Ms. Chris Klafs and two others to the ELCG last summer is evidence of a continuing relationship with F/BS. Sister Chris has made numerous trips to Guyana; some personal and some where she teamed up with others. Most, however, were on behalf of F/BS.

A Tri-Party Memorandum of understanding is to be finalised between the Florida/Bahamas Synod, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana and signed by the three parties.

h. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (E.L.K.S)

Last year we were graced with the presence of Rev. Kenneth Kross and team at our 72nd Annual Convention.

In September, 2015, the E.L.C.G President, with an eighteen-member team, (including four other Pastors) attended a GLOCAL event in Suriname.

This program was filled with electrifying worship activities in which our youths were very impressive in their areas of responsibility. Everyone left the program with a renewed appreciation for partnerships/ accompaniments.

As neighbors, we look forward for greater participation and continued dialogue with our mutual ministries.

i. Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (E.L.C.I.C)

This partnership between the E.L.C.G and the Eastern Synod of the E.L.C.I.C has come a long way since it was ratified in 2002 at a ceremony held at the 59th Annual Convention of the ELCG.

The most recent ministry of short-term missionaries Rev. Vivian Roberts, retired Pastor of the E.L.C.I.C and her husband Erick Roberts, retired Professor at the Ebenezer Lutheran Parish is an example of the mutual support and value, the Eastern Synod of the E.L.C.I.C placed on this relationship.

We record with gratitude and appreciation the contributions of Rev Jacob Fredericks and wife Valerie Fredericks to the E.L.C.G along with Pastor Barry Lang and his wife, who in a very sacrificial way, "blazed the trail" for more short-term missionaries.

The Eastern Synod – E.L.C.I.C in its partnership with the E.L.C.G has exhibited its continuous support and commitment through its financial contributions made and invitations extended to the E.L.C.G to attend Assemblies in Canada.

7. Ministries

a. Lutheran Lay Academy

The Rev. Dr. Winston D. Persaud – Professor of Wartburg Theological Seminary continues to give support to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana in its preparation of Pastors and Deacons for their Christian Vocation. Dr. Persaud conducted sessions on the T.E.A.M. Program on 25th July and 1st August, 2015 in the Lutheran Lay Academy Hall, New Amsterdam, Berbice and 30th July, 2015 in the Redeemer Parish Hall. He was accompanied by one of his two sons.

Dr. Persaud is currently assisting in developing a syllabus for the Lutheran Lay Academy so that classes may resume by mid 2016.

b. Christian Education Department

The Christian Education Department remains an integral dimension of the E.L.C.G. The Committee continues to take a “hands on” approach to the work of the CED with regular meetings to assess and advise on the work done at the department.

Besides supplying the needs for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, the Department has produced Advent and Lenten Devotional booklets.

c. Evangelical Lutheran Church Men

The National E.L.C.M no longer exists. This is in spite of the abundance of experience, expertise, and talents existing among the men. The problem seems to be one of leadership. This is a paradox since the men of the Church offer leadership in the Congregations, workplaces, social organizations and committees. The time is now for the men of our church to garner their leadership skills and use them as good stewards in God’s Mission. This should not be too difficult, since there are a few functioning E.L.C.M at the Congregational level.

d. Evangelical Lutheran Church Women

The Evangelical Lutheran Church Women held its 34th Annual Convention from the 12th to the 14th July, 2015 under the theme, *“Women why wait? Act upon your faith, it’s time, come and get involved and play your part.”*

Both the Demerara and Berbice districts E.L.C.W. held their annual Advent rally for 2015, and their social outreach program targeting the elderly from within their community.

e. The Guyana Lutheran Music Academy

The dream a Guyana Lutheran Music Academy was realized in September 2014 after dedication and selfless effort by musicians Eric Sayre and Mike Murchinson, support from Fellowship Lutheran Church and various groups in the United States of America and Guyana.

This institution has given hope to the E.L.C.G for every Congregation to have their worship experience accompanied with music provided by our graduated students from the academy. The E.L.C.G expresses gratitude to the hard working, dedicated and friendly teachers, Twyla Joi Sommersell, Claire Folts, Kelli Jo Lair, Daniel Sailer who have taken on this challenge with great enthusiasm under the leadership of Executive Director, Eric Sayre.

8. Standing and Other Committees

The standing Committees have always been an important instrument of the Church. Through the committees, specialized areas of ministry are undertaken with the broader involvement of the Laity. These committees include The Mission and Evangelism Committee, Church Vocation Committee, Christian Education and Literature Committee, Finance and Stewardship Committee, Committee on Worship and the Camp and Retreat Centre Board.

a. Church Vocations Committee

The Church Vocations Committee continues to provide an important service to the E.L.C.G. The following candidates were interviewed and recommended by the C.V.C to be part of the next Diaconate Program:-

- i. Mr. Ackloo Ramsudh – Ebenezer
- ii. Mr. Mahendra Singh – Advent
- iii. Ms. Sharon Sulker – Transfiguration
- iv. Ms. Mavis Campbelle – Advent

b. Committee on Youth Ministry

Very early in 2015 the committee on Youth Ministry circulated its plans of activities. Under visionary leadership from, Chairperson Mr. Michael Davy Ram and Director Shelda Emmanuel, the Committee on Youth Ministry upheld the discipline of ensuring their plans were executed.

At one of their statutory meetings, the youths requested autonomy to take charge of their affairs. Following the recommendation from the Chairperson, Mr. Ram and approval of the ELCG Executive Council, Mr. Dave Bassoo was appointed as Chairperson and Mr. Wayne Melville as Director. Mr. Michael Davy Ram is now the liaison officer to the Executive Council on Youth Ministry.

The N.Y.M recognizes the sacrificial and committed contribution from Deacon Shelda Emmanuel and expresses sincere gratitude.

c. Committee on the 500th Reformation Anniversary

At the E.L.C.G. Joint Reformation Service held October 2015, the following Committee was commissioned with the responsibility to plan for the ELCG 500th Anniversary Celebration of the Reformation.

- i. Rev. Amanda Singh
- ii. Rev. Shirley Jaundoo
- iii. Ms. Sandra Kurtzious
- iv. Mr. Samuel Goolsarran
- v. Ms. Thamesha Watson
- vi. Mr. Dave Bassoo
- vii. Ms. Merlyn Henry
- viii. Mr. Michael Davy Ram - Chair

This Committee will report during the ELCG 73rd Annual Convention.

9. Ministerium

Ministerium met on 31st October, 2015. Each Pastor and Deacon was allowed to highlight several aspects of their parish ministry. A time of mutual sharing was also facilitated as an effort to support the different auxiliaries and strengthen worship.

There was a presentation by Rev. Leroy Nicholson on “One Principle of Interpersonal Leadership”, encouraging a Win-Win approach.

The Ministerium is intended to allow Pastors and Deacons to lend/give support to each other in their witness to Christ.

The bond among Pastors and Deacons was again strengthened by a Christmas social held on the 17th December, 2015, and was hosted by the St. Andrew Parish. It was really a time for bonding and offering of shoulders to each other. Ministerium took note of those who could not attend because of different reasons.

Ministerium expresses gratitude and appreciation to the St. Andrew Parish for their warm welcome and hospitality.

10. Recommendations

Because of the wisdom seen in The Rev. Moses Prashad's recommendations, I am appealing for us to continue striving to make them realities in our church.

- i. Considering the unique and diverse nature of each Parish in the E.L.C.G., Parishes should strive to share their human and financial resources where possible so that the entire Church can benefit.
- ii. Neighboring Parishes should seriously consider collaboration in some areas of ministry such as Luther League, E.L.C.W., E.L.C.M. and Revival Services so that bonds of friendship and fellowship may be built and make our Church more visible.
- iii. Over the years, the anomalies/irregularities in the Constitution have left rooms for interpretations that confuse and leave questions regarding the true meaning of its By-Laws and articles. A committee must be given the responsibility to address those areas in our Constitution.
- iv. The E.X.C.O should continue its practice of support to Parishes through meetings with the Parish Councils.

11. Acknowledgement/ Conclusion

The presidency of the E.L.C.G has allowed me the privilege to visit all except one parish within the E.L.C.G. Some being official Parish visits whereas others were as guest preacher/speaker.

Those visits also provided opportunities to discuss inter-personal relationships which affect God's mission and ministry. Interactions in the Parishes were also based on discussions on how maximum usage of personnel, assets and resources can be realized since leaders are able to lead better when they have a support base.

As one year as your President comes to an end, I wish to express gratitude to all the Members of the Executive Council. I could not have asked for a better team to work with. The motivation and inspiration during the past year were made possible as a result of the hard-working and dedicated members of the Executive council, especially the honest and constructive feedbacks from our Treasurer and Vice-President.

With our present approach in addressing matters of concern, the E.L.C.G is set for growth and expansion in every auxiliary/ministry. These signals are clear through the very strong relationship established between the Executive Council and the Parish Councils within the E.L.C.G.

Also I wish to express thanks to my colleagues in the Ministerium, and our very efficient and competent Administrative Secretary, Ms. Elizabeth Paduman.

Last, but not least, I wish to thank my family, especially my wife Janice and friends for their unfailing love and support. God's blessings to all!

Rev. Leroy Nicholson
President

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

73rd Annual Convention

Report of the Vice-President

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his Grace.” Eph: 1: 7

The Theme chosen for the 73rd Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana is the Theme being used for the celebration in the year 2017 of our 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. It is the hope and expectation that every Member of the ELCG as well as Lutherans in the world would recognize the significance and timely reminder that we are liberated, only by God’s Grace.

The definition of Liberated or Liberate, says “to set someone free, especially from imprisonment or oppression”. And over the next few days there will be presentations and discussions, as we seek to examine how we are Liberated through the sub-themes which says emphatically that Salvation- *Not for Sale*, Creation - *Not for Sale* and Human Being - *Not for Sale*.

Over the past year, as in recent years, the ELCG continue to experience challenges in various areas of our Church, those being.

Our Pastoral Manpower remains depleted, notwithstanding the ordination of Reverends Patrick Peters and Patrick Jones, at our 72nd Annual Convention, and who are presently presiding in the St. John and Emanuel Parish respectively, on the Corentyne Coast, and the intended ordination of Deacon Babsie Pierre which will occur during this Convention.

Ideally, the Church would be in a much better position, if there were two Pastors in each Parish, given the geographical outlay of the Congregations in each Parish. For though blessed by the valuable assistance given by our Deacons, they too are not positioned physically to adequately serve consistently, those congregations which are alternated with the Pastor’s presence.

Consequently, the Church is tremendously blessed with and continues to lean heavily on the contributions and the abundance of theological talent of our Lay Persons. It is through these servants of God, with the support of the Pastors and Deacons, that we experience the selflessness of giving and the definition of our sub themes. Our Lay Persons are therefore urged to continue to pursue their calling by becoming students of the Lutheran Lay Academy which will serve to perfect their skills to joyfully add to our numbers of Pastors or Deacons.

Whilst a few of our Parishes and/or congregations remain steadfast in carrying out the mission of their auxiliaries, several others are suffering from a state of apathy.

The ELCW continues to carry the torch in their outreach programs and fellowship, followed by the Sunday Schools and Youth Groups. However, notwithstanding the presence of the Men in the Parishes and the visible contributions being made by them individually, there is but a token few functioning Men’s Fellowship Group. The ELCG remains grateful for those who have answered the call and boldly proclaim God’s words and his faithfulness to those who seek him.

As we continue to work in God’s Vineyard, let us reflect on how Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ liberated us through his suffering and death on the Cross, and let us purpose in our hearts to diligently commit ourselves to making the Church and its Mission more visible, so that many may know and experience that Grace which is sufficient for those who believe.

It would be remiss of me, if notwithstanding the President's report, I failed to acknowledge with deep gratitude, the continued joy and bond of friendship and fellowship as well as the benefits gained from our Partners in North America, Latin America and South America. It is my hope that as we continue our preparations to celebrate 500 years of the Reformation, we would continue to build bridges and networks throughout God's world, to reach and teach as many as possible that they too can be liberated through God's Grace.

My deep appreciation to the Executive Council, and the entire membership of the ELCG as well as our Partners, for the kindness and support given me during my tenure as Vice President.

Grace and Peace

Sandra Kurtzious
Vice President

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

73rd Annual Convention

Report of the Secretary

Reflection: *Liberated by God's Grace*

From the holy Bible, Grace is defined as *"the kindness and love of God our Saviour towards man...not by works of righteousness which we have done...being justified by grace (Titus 3:4-7)*. Grace then is set in contrast with law (Rom. 11: 6) under which God demands righteousness from men, as, under grace. The law is connected with Moses and works; grace in Jesus Christ and faith (John 1:17; Rom. 10 4 -10). Under law, blessings accompany obedience; grace bestows blessings as a free gift.

In its fullness, grace began with the ministry of Jesus Christ involving His death and resurrection, for Jesus came to die for sinners. It is clearly revealed in Scripture that salvation and righteousness are received by faith in the crucified and resurrected Saviour with holiness of life and good works following as the fruit of salvation.

The Old Testament talked about and promised God's grace, but the richness was revealed and made available only in Christ. God's grace comes to us through Jesus Christ. In the New Testament, Christ brought forgiveness and reconciliation in gracious love.

Grace comes through Christ and it's cost is seen in the Suffering Servant, made clear in Christ, who *"emptied Himself of divinity,"* who became *"obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"*

As believers in Christ, we live under grace. We are individuals with a variety of gifts, but we are to use the gifts given to us according to the measures of God's grace. It means acting in humility and love, giving and forgiving – to be *"kind toward one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."* All of our activities must be the consciousness of God's grace towards us. By God's grace, though a sinner, we are counted as saints, and we are to be gracious and graceful.

We will face obstacles in the Christian life – the hostility of people, as Jesus Himself faced hostility. The Christian race is a demanding cross-country-long distance race; not a short dash and finished. The race course - is loving all people, and being merciful as Jesus taught us. We are to run with a humble attitude every day by faith in God's grace; we are to run in a determined way with no obstacles set up by ourselves.

To live and be under the state of grace, is to know that one's relation to God is determined not by merit – by the works of the law, but by faith in Christ as the revealer of God's merciful love. It is fundamental Christian teaching that salvation is a free gift, the undeserved favour of God. Every day we run, we run by faith in *God's grace*. And we run to obtain what Christ has already obtained for us – a crown that will last forever in life eternal, fully *liberated by God's Grace*.

Work of the Executive Council and Church-wide Statistics

The Secretary is required to submit a report to the Annual Convention of this Church based on:

- i. the work of the Executive Council
- ii. the annual parochial reports from the Parishes.

I am pleased to report accordingly.

1. The Executive Council

Since last Convention in May 2015, the Executive Council met in June, July, (at Ascension Parish) August, (at Emmanuel Parish) September,(Advent Parish), October (at St Matthew Parish) November, and December 2015, and in January, February,(at St Andrew Parish) March and April, 2016. The Council addressed Church-wide matters and had dialogue with Parish Councils on their Parish Ministries. The venue for the other meetings was Lutheran Office NA.

During the period under review, May 2015 to April 2016, the Council considered matters in relation to the administration and the ministries of the Church, considered and made decisions and interventions on several matters, including:

- a. The follow-up of the approved Convention recommendations from the officers, particularly those calling for a review and updating of parochial records; and for the establishment of active Sunday Schools and Luther Leagues in every congregation/ and parish where none exists.
- b. Mr. Joseph Bedessie acted as Secretary pro tem in the absence of the Secretary from some meetings.
- c. The Council, at its first meeting after the last Convention, reviewed the Constitutional duties of each Officer and the Executive Council for the guidance to all in the Council.
- d. Following the departure of the Rev. Moses Prashad as Pastor and President of this Church in March 2015, the Council, at its meeting in June, appointed President Leroy Nicholson as Chair on the Interpretation and Worship Committees and the Ministerium.
- e. The Council also appointed Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran to serve as Chair of the Church Vocations Committee with Mr. Michael D. Ram as another member of this Committee.
- f. As was the case with the immediate past President, the Council requested President Nichoson to serve as Acting/Contact Pastor of the Reformation Parish.
- g. Approved the participation of ELCG representatives of Pastors, Youths and adults at ELKS GLOCOL Event in Suriname in September 2015.
- h. Relieved Neil Jagessar as a deacon of this Church, granted leave to Deacon Beverley Johnson on medical grounds, and noted the non-assignment of Deacon Landsford John.
- i. Hosted at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, a Human Resource and Institutional Development Workshop sponsored by the LWF for representatives of the ELCG and ELKS in October 2015
- j. Appointed the Rev. Shirley Jaundoo as Acting Pastor of the Ebenezer Parish from October 2015.
- k. Selected, on the recommendation of the Church Vocations Committee, Mr. Ackloo Ramsudh (Ebenezer), Mr. Mahendra Singh (Advent), Ms. Sharon Sulker (Transfiguration), and Ms. Mavis Campbell (Advent) to be in the Diaconate programme.

- l. Approved, on the recommendation of the Committee of the Youth Ministry, Mr. Dave Bassoo as Chairperson and Mr. Wayne Melville as Director of the Youth Ministry.
- m. Council's addressed matters of concern within the Executive Council, and on separate controversies in Good Shepherd and Ebenezer Parishes, and issues which arose among some of our delegates to the GLOCAL Event in Suriname in November 2015.
- n. Appointed a Committee on 500th Reformation celebration under the Chair of Mr. Michael D. Ram.
- o. Approved the Deacon Babsie Pierre for ordination within the Constitutional procedures of this Church.
- p. The ELCG Website – www.elcguyana.org is current with webmaster service from Mr. David Goolsarran, a member of Calvary Parish. The ELCG Secretary provides updated content materials. On-going relationship and partnership with ELCA/DGM, Lutheran World Federation, Eastern Synod of the Lutheran Church of Canada, Florida–Bahamas Synod, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Fellowship Lutheran Church, OK USA, ELKS of Suriname, GMN of USA and MAG of USA;
- q. The Executive Council sponsored a joint meeting of the Executive Council and Standing Committees on 30 January 2016 at Lutheran Courts, NA on Parish Administration and for the Committees to plan and present their programme of work for 2016.
- r. The continuing development of Pastors, Deacons and lay leaders through training interventions in July/ August 2015 by Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud, Professor of Systematic Theology at Wartburg Theological Seminary, USA.
- s. Approved ELCG representatives to attend and participate in overseas conferences, consultations, and seminars sponsored by the LWF, DGM-ELCA, FLC, and the F/BS.
- t. Supporting the work of the Guyana Lutheran Music Academy (GLMA) with classes being conducted at Lutheran Hall, New Amsterdam, Berbice. This venture continues in association and Co-operation Agreement with Fellowship Lutheran Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA with a national Board under the Chair of the Vice-President, Hon. Sandra Kurtzious, with Mr. Eric Sayre as GLMA Director, and Mr. Michael Davy Ram as Treasurer .
- u. Actions on recommendations relating to property assets of the Church from a Committee under the Chair by the Vice President, Hon. Sandra Kurtzious.
- v. Incoming and outgoing correspondence; and
- w. Received regular reports from Officers and Chairs of Standing Committees.

2. Church-wide Statistics

I am also pleased to present the Church-wide Statistics as submitted by Pastors/Parishes. The submitted figures are tabulated/collated in the following pages, along with a comparative summary over the last five years.

ELCG Church-wide Statistics 2015

Parish	Baptised	Confirmed	Commu. 2 / 3 times	Active 4 +Com	SS	LL	ELCW	ELCM	Bible/C	Choir
Emmanuel										
Nativity	224	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emmanuel	546	90	58	34	0	8	0	0	0	0
St. Phillip	218	63	39	30	8	0	5	5	0	0
St. Matthias	235	15	12	7	8	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 1.	1223	168	109	71	16	8	5	5	0	0
St. Michael										
St. Luke	178	156	15	13	8	13	0	0	0	0
St. Stephen	269	76	12	6	3	0	0	0	0	0
St. Michael	344	145	29	14	9	11	0	0	12	0
St. James	404	182	26	14	3	6	8	0	0	0
St. Barnabas	180	79	30	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 2.	1375	638	112	60	23	30	8	0	12	0
St. John										
St. John	1413	622	24	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Peter	145	75	14	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Bartholomew	101	42	28	18	18	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 3.	1659	739	66	46	18	0	0	0	0	0
Transfiguration	499	104	18	15	4	0	6	0	0	0
Holy Cross	294	140	29	29	12	0	7	3	8	4
Bethel	428	221	54	54	32	17	8	2	12	3
Sub Total 4.	1221	465	101	98	48	17	21	5	20	7
Ebenezer										
Ebenezer	2451	2096	182	179	24	22	20	0	19	11
St. Timothy	337	334	23	18	15	0	0	0	6	0
St. Thomas	481	408	50	40	4	8	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 5.	3269	2838	255	237	43	30	20	0	25	11
Reformation 2011/2										
Grace	31	30	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atonement	19	24	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ST. Paul	20	20	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Hermon	14	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Carmel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reformation	21	22	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hururu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riverside	28	27	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Olivet	23	22	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 6.	156	157	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Church-wide Statistics 2015

Parish	Baptised	Confirmed	Comm. 2 / 3 times	Active 4 +Com	SS	LL	ELCW	ELCM	Bible/C	Choir
Good Shepherd										
Good Samaritan	202	71	12	11	0	0	1	1	5	0
Good Shepherd	581	390	56	46	12	16	1	5	9	0
Nazareth	283	138	27	22	21	6	2	1	9	0
Resurrection	178	107	19	14	7	0	2	1	3	0
Sub Total 7.	1244	706	114	93	40	22	6	8	26	0
Advent										
Hope	126	111	53	41	48	6	16	0	14	0
Christ	80	52	41	27	17	5	0	0	7	0
Faith	85	60	26	22	15	0	0	0	4	0
Advent	78	50	32	24	21	0	0	0	4	0
Sub Total 8.	369	273	152	114	101	11	16	0	29	0
St. Matthew										
Bethany	162	82	24	20	12	0	0	0	0	0
St. Matthew	378	152	50	42	12	10	7	0	6	0
Holy Communion	302	40	40	32	20	8	10	0	10	0
Messiah	276	67	15	15	0	0	6	0	6	0
Sub Total 9.	1118	341	129	109	44	18	23	0	22	0
St. Andrew										
Swargia Vani	193	229	46	33	12	7	7	0	9	0
Sadhu S. Singh	247	227	32	32	30	15	12	0	4	0
St. Andrew	334	278	49	42	10	13	0	0	8	0
Sub Total 10.	774	734	127	107	52	35	19	0	21	0
Redeemer										
Redeemer	1173	854	112	102	35	0	25	12	21	0
Sub Total 11	1173	854	112	102	35	0	25	12	21	0
Calvary										
Calvary	1237	722	146	75	15	0	5	3	0	13
Sub Total 12.	1237	722	146	75	15	0	5	3	0	12
Ascension										
Epiphany	157	154	19	19	7	0	0	0	7	0
Ascension	709	224	15	13	15	0	0	0	8	0
King of Glory	178	181	13	10	3	0	0	0	3	0
Mt. Zion	337	138	23	20	15	0	0	0	20	0
Sub Total 13.	1381	697	70	62	40	0	0	0	38	0
Grand Total	16,199	9,332	1,552	1,174	475	171	148	33	195	31

Statistical Summary – Church-wide: 2011 - 2015

Particulars	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Pastors	7	7	9	7	8
Deacons	19	18	13	13	10
Congregations	44	44	44	44	44
Sunday Schools	33	35	35	33	31
Luther Leagues	21	18	19	16	16
ELCW	23	29	26	22	18
ELCM	12	8	14	8	9
Bible Classes	28	30	25	27	24
Coirs	8	8	8	4	4
Baptized as at 31 December	15,852	15,956	16,034	16,050	16,144
Baptized during 2015	66	78	66	103	55
Confirmed as at 31 December	8,856	9,018	9,109	9,222	9,269
Confirmed during 2015	54	91	29	51	63
Communing members	1,917	1,897	1,543	1,477	1,552
Active Members	1,484	1,547	1,232	1,179	1,174
Total in Sunday School	698	637	569	575	475
Total in Luther League	243	183	176	172	171
Total in ELCW	259	235	209	234	148
Total in ELCM	72	30	54	59	33
Total in Bible Class	150	256	241	290	195
Weddings	77	33	35	46	29
Funerals	38	45	51	53	53
Thanksgiving Service	109	65	133	161	95

Closing Observations

I am constrained to repeat previous observations and recommendations as follows:

1. The figures from some Parishes seem inaccurate and/or incomplete with reports that Congregational registers could not be found for all the years particularly as these relate to baptized and confirmed members. These were noted in 2014 and 2015 bulletins of reports, and are still valid observations.

2. Apart from Congregations in the Reformation Parish, where no organization is functioning, the following Congregations have:

No Sunday Schools:

- i. Emmanuel Parish -Nativity, Emmanuel.
- ii. St. Michael Parish -St. Barbanas
- iii. St. John Parish -St. John, St. Peter
- iv. Good Shepherd Parish -Good Samaritan
- v. St Matthew Parish -Messiah

Five (5) Parishes with 7 Congregations are without Sunday Schools

No Luther Leagues:

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------|---|
| i. | Emmanuel Parish | -Nativity, St. Phillip, St. Matthias. |
| ii. | St Michael Parish | -St. Stephen, St. Barnabas |
| iii. | St. John Parish | -St John, St, Bartholomew, St Peter, |
| iv. | Transfiguration Parish | -Transfiguration, Holy Cross |
| v. | Ebenezer Parish | -St. Timothy |
| vi. | Good Shepherd Parish | -Good Samaritan, Resurrection |
| vii. | Advent Parish | -Faith, Advent, |
| viii. | St. Matthew Parish | -Bethany, Messiah, |
| ix. | Redeemer Parish | -Redeemer |
| x. | Calvary Parish | -Calvary |
| xi. | Ascension Parish | -Ascension, Epiphany, King of Glory, Mt. Zion |

Eleven (11) Parishes with 23 Congregations are without Luther Leagues.

I wish respectfully to repeat the following recommendations that Parishes take urgent actions to address these challenges as follows:

- i. that all Pastors, Deacons and Parish Councils undertake as a matter of urgency, a review and evaluation of parochial statistics and record them as required by the Constitution:
- ii. to verify accuracy, and as appropriate, revise and reconstruct them, and to ensure that all Parish and Congregational registers are up to date, and are properly secured; and
- iii. that all Pastors, Deacons, and Parish Councils, where applicable, establish active Youth Ministries – Sunday Schools, Luther Leagues, confirmation classes in every Parish catering for all the Congregations;
- iv. that the Executive Council, after an examination and review of these statistics and other relevant information, meet and confer with the relevant Pastors, Deacons and Parish Councils on the state of affairs in the Congregations/Parishes as a matter of priority, and forge a consensus on appropriate actions to strengthen congregational ministries in the Parishes, and present a special report of the outcomes of such encounters and follow up to next Convention in 2017.

It was a great honour and privilege to serve as Secretary of the ELCG for the last six years. It is time for a new Secretary as I had indicated in 2014. 'God willing', I am prepared to serve in another capacity on the Executive Council, if elected.

I place on record my grateful thanks and appreciation to all for their support and assistance as we work together in the interest of the Church in our common task to proclaim the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel J. Goolsarran
Secretary, ELCG

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
73rd Annual Convention

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

73rd Annual Convention

Report of the Treasurer

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! The following is the report of the Treasurer for the year ended December 31, 2015.

1.0 Income

While the Total Income for the Year 2015 was \$17,936,231: surpassing our budget by 47%, only \$4,726,972 (26%) represents local income, falling below our 2015 Budget of \$12,225,000: by approximately 61%. The remaining 121% was achieved through grants/gifts/refunds from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Fellowship Lutheran Church, Guyana Mission Network, the Lutheran World Federation and Guyana Lutheran Music Academy (GLMA) tuition fees.

Please see 2015 Financial Highlights for further details.

1.1 Cash Position

The following is the Cash Position as at Dec 31, 2015:

Cash in Hand	\$	0
Cash at Bank -Current Account	\$	8,169,301
-Optimizer Account	\$	25,119,415
-Save & Prosper	\$	8,621,553
Total		<u>\$41,910,269</u>

1.2 Bank Reconciliation

The reconciliation of the Current Account indicates that nine (9) cheques totaling \$161,700: were outstanding as at December 31, 2015.

1.3 Apportionment

Apportionment budgeted for 2015 was \$2,094,400 coupled with net outstanding payments of \$5,576,857 puts total Parish apportionment outstanding as at Jan 01, 2015 to \$7,671,257:

During the year under review, we received payments totaling \$2,477,100: representing approximately 32% of total outstanding payments. At the close of the year 2015, total Parish Apportionment outstanding has decreased marginally by 7% when compared to the corresponding period of 2014.

1.4 Convention Project

Last year, the 72nd Annual Convention focused on enhancing the ministry of Christian Education Department and designated same as the 2015 Convention Project.

Pledges are detailed below:

Pledge	GY\$355,000
Received during 2015	GY\$303,000
Outstanding Pledges	<u>GY\$ 52,000</u>

We encourage donors to settle their outstanding balances by Jun 30, 2016.

1.5 Donations/Gifts/Bonuses

Gifts from Guyana Mission Network totaling GY\$420,000 were received for and given to the Clergy and Deacons during December 2015 as follows:

9 Pastors @ GY\$30,000 each	GY\$270,000:
9 Deacons @ GY\$15,000 each	GY\$135,000:
Total	<u>GY\$405,000:</u>

Additionally, the EXCO approved gift of GY\$15,000: for one employee of the Church during the year.

The GMN also contributed to National Youth Camp 2015 in the sum of GY\$241,200:

1.6 Overseas Grants/Gifts/Refunds

During the year, our partners overseas continued their support of the ministry in Guyana. To this end, the ELCG benefitted from grants/gifts totaling GY\$10,047,014 during 2015 and these funds were designated as follows:

From Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

Annual Grant

Christian Education	US\$ 2,000:
Lay Leaders Training	US\$ 7,000:

Special Fund

Christian Education	US\$20,000:
Companion Synod Gift dsg ELCG Admin	US\$749.97
Total	US\$ 29,749.97 (GY\$5,953,187:)

From Lutheran World Federation

Refund for travels to Bolivia, Germany, Switzerland	GY\$1,859,814:
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Refund for hosting HIDC Workshop	GY\$1,686.013:
Total	GY\$3,545,827:

From Guyana Mission Network

Gifts-Pastors and Deacons	GY\$420,000:
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From St Timothy Lutheran Church, Florida

Christian Education	GY\$122,000: (US\$610:)
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From Chris Klafs

Christian Education	GY\$ 6,000: (US\$30:)
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1.7 Property/Assets

a. Property- Land

The EXCO through recommendations of the Properties Committee in 2011 approved the sale of the land held at Plegt Anchor. An advance of GY\$4,000,000 was received and deposited to the ELCG account. However, this transaction is still incomplete due to a pending legal matter.

Additionally, the EXCO considered and approved the sale of lands owned by the ELCG at the following locations:

- i. W½ of Lot 686 Plantation Ruimveldt (GPL) GY\$40,000,000: (Down Pyt GY\$20M)
- ii. E½ of Lot 686 Plantation Ruimveldt GY\$60,000,000: (Down Pyt GY\$22.5M)
- iii. 120 West Ruimveldt GY\$40,000,000: (Sale in Progress)
- iv. W ½ of Lot 50 Section 'A' Buxton, ECD GY\$ 6,000,000: (Advertised for Sale)
- v. 9 Smythtown, Theater Alley, NA GY\$ 3,500,000: (To be advertised for Sale)

We are currently engaged in discussions with interested parties regarding sale of the aforementioned properties. Down payments totaling GY\$42,500,000: were so far received.

b. Property –Motor Vehicle

The ELCG bus that was sold to Transfiguration Parish was resold in October 2014 to a member of the Transfiguration parish for the sum of GY\$275,000.00. Proceeds of this sale was received by the ELCG and subsequently transferred to the Transfiguration Parish during 2015.

2.0 Expenses

Total expenditure for the year amounted to GY\$15,432,836: of which GY\$10,383,165 was spent from Designated/Special Fund and GY\$5,049,671: represented spending for Operating expenses.

2.1 Maintenance

a. "Hanson House"

Work commenced on the Hanson House renovation project in 2014 and continued in 2015. So far, we have expended funds to erect a new perimeter fence and to clean the compound of debris. We expect to continue renovations in 2016.

We provide below a summary of expenditure:

2014	
Fence	GY\$375,000:
Clearing Debris	GY\$100,000:
Total	<u>GY\$475,000:</u>

2015	
Fence (Labour Charges)	GY\$275,000:
Clearing Debris	GY\$171,000:
Total	<u>GY\$446,000:</u>

b. ELCG Bus – BJJ 9671

The Mini Bus BJJ 9671 previously used for the Medical Mission was handed over to the ELCG during 2013. The bus was refurbished and we outline the associated costs below:

<u>2013</u>	
Mechanical Repairs and Maintenance	GY\$180,700:
Paint and Body Work	GY\$170,000:
New Tyres	GY\$175,000:
Total	<u>GY\$575,700:</u>

2014

Mechanical Repairs and Maintenance	GY\$ 27,500:
New Battery	GY\$ 32,000:
Legal Fees for transfer	GY\$ 42,500:
Signage/Keys	GY\$ 3,400:
Total	<u>GY\$105,400:</u>

2015

License/Fitness/Insurance	GY\$ 79,340:
Total	<u>GY\$ 79,340:</u>

Grand Total **GY\$710,440:**

2.2 Assets/Capital Expenditures

During 2015, GY\$489,839 was spent in this area and we provide an expense summary below:

Assets-Answering System/Clock	GY\$ 29,839:
Legal/Valuation Fees	GY\$185,000:
Transfer of Funds-Sale of Bus	GY\$275,000:
Total	<u>GY\$489,839:</u>

2.3 Convention Expenses 2015

2015 Annual Convention accounts are as follows:

Income

Registration	GY\$ 323,600:
Offering	GY\$ 116,690:
Total Income	<u>GY\$ 440,290:</u>

Expenses

Rental of Tents	GY\$ 35,000:
Meals/Snack	GY\$ 403,000:
Snacks for Opening Service	GY\$ 110,792:
Registration	GY\$ 32,000:
Bulletin/Banners/Photography	GY\$ 132,500:
Hospitality/Hosting	GY\$ 58,500:
Total Expenditure	<u>GY\$ 771,792:</u>

Deficit **(GY\$331,502:)**

2.4 Training and Education/Ministerial Candidates

During the year funds totaling GY\$578,400 were expended in the area of training and education. This expenditure reflects the continued thrust and vision of the ELCG in the area of developing and equipping leaders in the church.

HIDC Workshop (LWF sponsored)	GY\$1,913,595:
Training-Intensive	GY\$ 89,000:
Cost of Books	GY\$ 21,957:
Diaconate Stipend (Ministerial Candidate)	GY\$ 210,000:
Total	<u>GY\$2,234,552:</u>

2.5 Loans Granted

Short term Loan totaling GY\$300,000 which was granted by the ELCG to the National Youth Ministry was repaid in full as at Dec 31, 2015.

3.0 Audit

We have received Audited Statements from the following:

- Ascension
- Calvary
- St. Andrew
- St Matthew
- Advent
- Good Shepherd
- Ebenezer
- St. John
- St Michael
- Emmanuel
- Christian Education
- National Youth Ministry
- National ELCW

Audit Statements are outstanding from the following:

- Reformation
- Transfiguration
- Redeemer

Audit Report from one Parish revealed significant breaches/irregularities for the second consecutive year. This matter will be further investigated through the Executive Council.

We encourage Parishes/Committees that have not submitted their audited statements to have their accounts audited and submit same to the ELCG by June 30, 2016.

The ELCG (Executive Council) accounts were audited by our Auditors L.A. Atherly & Company and a copy is attached.

4.0 Finance Administration

A discussion on Finance and Parish Administration was conducted in January 2016 at the joint meeting of the Executive Council and Committees/Parish Councils. This workshop attracted attendance in excess of 45 persons and was considered fruitful and beneficial to all.

We are yet to plan other workshops on Finance that will target Parish Chairpersons and Treasurers. These workshops will examine and seek to standardize the accounting systems and procedures employed within the ELCG and also will provide training in this area.

5.0 Budget and Future Outlook

The proposed 2017 budget is set at GY\$10,250,000 and reflects a significant decrease as compared to the 2016 Budget. New provisions were made in the 2017 Budget for an Executive Assistant (Administrator) for the ELCG and increased cost for the 500th Reformation Anniversary observances/celebrations.

However, based on our anticipated income, we project an overall deficit of GY\$2,178,500: or approximately 21% of the budget.

In order to further reduce our 2017 financial deficit, we are proposing a 11% increase in Parish apportionment. The proposed contribution per Communing member is set at \$2,250 up from \$2,000.

In 2014 Convention approved recommendation 6f which required each Parish to submit to the Executive Council by March 31 annually, their Parish Budgets. We have received submission from the following Parishes:

- St Michael - GY\$1,966,000:
- Transfiguration - GY\$5,373,020:
- Ebenezer - GY\$7,379,890:
- Good Shepherd - GY\$2,021,200:
- St Andrew - GY\$5,300,000:

We remind Parishes to submit their Budgets as soon as possible.

The Executive Council remains committed to and continues its discussion on the way forward as it relates to the following:

- a. Re-envision/Remodel the Camp and Retreat Centre (Skeldon, Berbice). This facility has been assigned to the stewardship of the Emmanuel Parish but is being re-examined by a committee appointed by the Executive Council. The National Youth Ministry has its representatives on this Committee and they are working towards bringing this project to fruition. Additional assistance has been pledged by the Lutheran World Federation through the *Living Reformation Project*. A Project document was prepared and presented by the Youths.
- b. Renovation of the “Hanson Property” is expected to continue in 2016. An estimated sum of GY\$15M is expected to be expended on this project.
- c. To work along with Parishes and provide guidance and support for more effective and self sustainable Parish ministries.

6.0 Recommendations

I place the following recommendations before the Convention for favourable consideration and approval:

I recommend that the Convention approve the following:

- i. An increase in Parish Apportionment from GYD\$2,000: to GYD\$2,250 per active member for 2017. This increase is the equivalent of GY\$187.50 (from \$167:) per month per active member.
- ii. Pastors’ basic salary increase from GY\$70,000: to GY\$75,000: per month. All other allowances remain unchanged.
- iii. The ELCG Administrative Secretary’s monthly salary increase from GY\$50,000 to GY\$55,000 per month.

We hope that the foregoing recommendations find favour with the Convention.

7. Conclusion

Once again, I express Thanks to the Executive Council and the membership of the ELCG for this opportunity to serve in the capacity of Treasurer. I pray for a successful and blessed 73rd Annual Convention.

God's Peace and Blessing,

Davy Ram
Treasurer

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