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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.

We sometimes question, how important is our contribution as an individual? Brothers and sisters, as we examine the various sub-themes we will recognize that the ills of society, Domestic Violence, HIV/AIDS, Child Abuse, Climate Change and Waste Disposal, as well as the Politics in our country are all part of our everyday lives, and therefore we all have a mutual responsibility to commit ourselves to making a difference in the world, as an individual and as a Church.

*Sandra Kurtzious,
Vice President, ELCG*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana 69th Annual Convention

Notice of Convention

17 January 2012

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 69th Annual Convention of the ELCG which will be held from Sunday 6 to Tuesday 8 May 2012 (Venue and other details to be communicated soon).

The following is the 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 2011 Convention
5. Report of the President
6. Report of the Vice President
7. Report of the Secretary, and Statistical Report
8. Report of the Treasurer; Presentation of the Auditor's Report, and 2013 Churchwide budget
9. Election of Office Bearers
10. Written Motions/Resolutions
11. Close of Convention.

In accordance with Article VII, Section 11 of the Constitution of the ELCG, please be reminded that the Pastors/Deacons are required to submit to the ELCG Secretary, Parish/Congregational Statistical Report for 2011 by 29 February 2012. A copy of the relevant form is attached for your use.

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 by 21 April 2012 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 7 March 2012.

Further, since this is an election year, your attention is called to Article XI of the Constitution, and Section VI of the By-Laws dealing with nominations and elections of Officers and Members to the Executive Council for your guidance.

We look forward to your participation at the 69th Annual Convention of the ELCG.

Yours in Christ,

Samuel J. Goolsarran
Secretary, ELCG
Lutheran Courts, New Amsterdam
Berbice, Guyana.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

69th Annual Convention

Society in Crisis: The Church's Response; My Involvement

Opening Service

Musical Preludes	09.30h – Musical Prelude / Chorus Singing
Venue:	Calvary Lutheran Church Alexander Street & North Road, Georgetown
Preacher:	Rev. Paul D. Moonu, President, ELCG
Liturgist:	Rev. Diana Honeyghan, Pastor-Transfiguration Parish
Celebrant:	Rev. Rev. Moses Prashad, Pastor-Calvary Parish
Communion Assistants:	Deacon Ishwardei Melville, St. Andrew Parish Deacon Kampta Karran, Ascension Parish Deacon Amanda Singh, Good Shepherd Parish Deacon Conrad Plummer, Redeemer Parish
Lesson Readers:	1 st Lesson - Deacon Lenard George, Good Shepherd Parish. 2 nd Lesson - Deacon Beverley Johnson, Advent Parish, Gospel - Rev. Paul D. Moonu, President, ELCG
Acolytes:	Calvary Parish
Ushers:	Calvary, Redeemer, and Ascension Parishes
Organists:	Ms. Cecilia Bose, Calvary Parish Mr. Wayne Melville, St. Andrew Parish



Convention Chaplains:	Deacon Gloria Sampson Deacon Elaine Grannum
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

69th Annual Convention

Society in Crisis: The Church's Response: My involvement

Convention Programme

Sunday, May 06, 2012

09:30-10:00 Musical Preludes/Chorus singing
10:00-13:00 Opening Worship Service – Word and Sacrament
13:00-13:30 Refreshments
13:00-14:30 Lunch - Conventioneers
14:30-18:00 Free Time
18:00-20:00 Introductory Presentations and discussions on Sub-Themes:
Introductions by Ms. Sandra Kurtzious; Mr. Davy Ram; Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran

Monday, May 07, 2012

07:30-08:00 REGISTRATION
08:00-08:30 Devotion - Chaplains
08:30-09:30 Workshop I: Social Issues: domestic abuse; child abuse; HIV/Aids
09:30-10:30 First Business Session
10:30-10:45 Refreshment Break
10:45-12:00 Second Business Session
12:00-13:00 Lunch
13:00-14:00 Workshop II: Environmental Issues: waste management; resource conservation;
green and low carbon economy
14:00-15:30 Third Business Session
15:30-15:45 Break
15:45-17:30 Fourth Business Session
17:30-18:00 Break
18:00 Dinner and Movie, Closing Devotion - Chaplains

Tuesday, May 08, 2012

08:00-08:30 Devotion - Chaplains
08:30-09:30 Workshop III: Political and Economic Issues: good governance; building national
consensus; income, unemployment, and poverty.
09:30-09:45 Break
09:45-11.15 Fifth Business Session – Elections of Executive Council Members
11:15-12:00 Reports from Workshops
12.00-12.15 Vote of Thanks
12:15-01:15 Closing Service of Word and Sacrament
Liturgist - Deacon Babsie Pierre
Preacher - Rev. Errol Inshanally
Celebrant - Rev. Sugrim Gobin
Installation of Executive Council Members
Close of Convention - President

Lunch & Departure

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

69th Annual Convention

The Executive Council

1. **Rev. Paul Dhanraj Moonu**
President, ELCG
Ebenezer Parish
2. **Ms. Sandra Elizabeth Kurtzious**
Vice-President
Redeemer Parish
3. **Mr. Samuel Jerry Goolsarran**
Secretary, ELCG
Redeemer Parish
4. **Mr. Michael Davy Ram**
Treasurer, ELCG
St. Andrew Parish
5. **Rev. Leroy Nicholson** - *until his resignation effective 14 January 2012*
Member, Executive Council, ELCG
Advent Parish
6. **Rev. Sugrim Gobin**
Member, Executive Council, ELCG
St. Matthew Parish
7. **Rev. Diana Honeyghan**
Member, Executive Council, ELCG
Transfiguration Parish
8. **Mr. Joseph Bedessie**
Member, Executive Council, ELCG
Transfiguration Parish
9. **Deacon Babsie Pierre**
Member, Executive Council, ELCG
Calvary Parish

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

69th Annual Convention

Pastors and Parish Directory

Rev. Moses Prashad *Pastor (ag.)*
Ascension Parish
120 West Ruimveldt, Georgetown
Tel.# 646-3742
Email:

Rev. Moses Prashad, *Pastor*
Calvary Parish
North Road, Bourda, Georgetown
Tel. # 226-4227
Email: calvary@guyanenet.com

Rev, Moses Prashad *Pastor (ag)*
Redeemer Parish
208 Sheriff Street, Georgetown
Tel.# 227-3351
Email: redeemer@guyana.net.gy

Rev. Sugrim Gobin, *Pastor (ag)*
St. Andrew Parish
Area B, Lot 1, Chateau Margot, ECD
Tel. #220-2348
Email:

Rev. Leroy Nicholson, *Pastor*
Advent Parish
Bath Settlement, WCB
Tel. # 328-7007

Rev. Burchell Alexander Moriah, *Pastor*
Good Shepherd Parish
Rosignol, WBB
Tel. # 327-0489

Rev. Sugrim Gobin, *Pastor*
St Matthew Parish
Broomhall, Mahaicony
East Coast Demerara
Tel: 220 7281 / 629 4894

ELCG - providing Pastoral services
Reformation Parish
Berbice River,
Tel.# 645-5661
Email: None

Rev. Paul Moonu, *Pastor*
Ebenezer Parish
Lutheran Courts, New Amsterdam, Berbice
Tel. # 333 6593
Email: pdmoonu@yahoo.com

Rev. Diana Honeyghan, *Pastor*
Transfiguration Parish
Lutheran Courts, PO Box 88, Berbice,
Tel.# 333-3425
Email: dianapool@yahoo.com

Rev. Errol Inshanally *Pastor*
St. John Parish
Williamsburg, Corentyne, Berbice
Tel. # 322-5438
Email: einshanally@yahoo.com

Rev. Diana Honeyghan, *Pastor (ag.)*
St. Michael Parish
Philippi, Corentyne, Berbice
Tel. # 333-5881

Rev. Errol Inshanally, *Pastor (ag.)*
Emmanuel Parish
Skeldon, Corriverton, Berbice
Tel. # 339-3349

Rev. Paul D. Moonu, *Interim Director*
Christian Education Department, and Lutheran Lay Academy
Lutheran Courts, New Amsterdam,
Tel. # 333-5881

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
69th Annual Convention

Diaconate

Deacon Gloria Sampson
Ascension Parish

Deacon Kampta Karran
Ascension Parish

Deacon Ramnarine Kanai
Ascension Parish

Deacon Babsie Pierre
Calvary Parish

Deacon Conrad K. Plummer
Redeemer Parish

Deacon Elaine Grannum
Redeemer Parish

Deacon Shelda Emanuel
St. Andrew Parish

Deacon Ishwardei Melville
St. Andrew Parish

Deacon Beverly Johnson
Advent Parish

Deacon Inderjit Eugene
Ebenezer Parish

Deacon Leeta Chutkhan
Transfiguration Parish

Deacon Lansford John
St. John Parish

Deacon Shirley V. Jaundoo
St. Michael Parish

Deacon Keith V. Hazel
Emmanuel Parish

Deacon Neil K. Jagessar
Emmanuel Parish

Deacon Leonard F. Peters
Emmanuel Parish

Deacon Lenard George
Good Shepherd Parish

Deacon Amanda Singh
Good Shepherd Parish

Deacon Patrick Jones
St. Matthew Parish

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

69th Annual Convention

Voting Members of Convention: Ministers & Delegates

<u>Parishes</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
Emmanuel	-	1. Ms. Tracey Penux 2. Mr.
St. Michael	-	3. Ms. Felicia Ramsarran 4. Mr.
St. John	1. Rev. Errol Inshanally	5. Ms. Grace Loncke 6. Mr. Lloyd Hendore
Transfiguration	2. Rev. Diana Honeyghan	7. Ms. Shelon Bruce 8. Mr. Wayne Bruce
Ebenezer	3. Rev Paul D.Moonu	9. Ms. Oslene Hicken 10. Mr. Ackloo Ramsudh
Reformation	-	11. Mr. Walter Taylor 12. Ms.
Good Shepherd	4. Rev. Burchell Moriah	13. Ms. Ada Rohan 14. Mr. Vincent Mercurius
Advent	5. Rev. Leroy Nicholson	15. Ms. Kwisi Ceres 16. Mr. Mahendra Singh
St. Matthew	6. Rev. Sugrim Gobin	17. Ms. Christina Ramsammy 18. Mr. James Ramsammy
St. Andrew	-	19. Ms. Savita Ramsahai 20. Mr. Wayne Melville
Redeemer	-	21. Ms. La Donna Kissoon 22. Mr. Raymond Persaud
Calvary	7. Rev Moses Prashad	23. Mr. Winston Felix 24. Ms. Debra Lowe
Ascension	-	25. Ms. Dynutha Adonis 26. Deacon Kampta Karran

Other Members of Convention

Advisory Delegates:

i) Voice

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

ii) Voice in connection with Organizations

Deacon Shelda Emanuel, Chair, Youth Ministry
 Ms. Jeanette Crandon, President, ELCW

iii) Voice in connection with respective Parish

Deacons – as listed on page 7

iv) Parliamentarian

Deacon Conrad Plummer

v) Fraternity/Partner Agencies – voice on recognition of Chair

Dr. Raquel Rodriguez, ELCA/DGM
 Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer, ES, ELCIC
 Rev. Rodwell Thom, MAG USA
 Ms. Veronica Thom, MAG USA
 Ms. Chris Klafs, F/BS, USA
 Rev. Kenneth Kross, ELKS
 Ms. Joan Kross, ELKS

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

69th Annual Convention

Convention Committees

1. Committee on Reference and Counsel

Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran - Chairman
Rev. Sugrim Gobin
Mr. Michael Davy Ram

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 - Chairman
Deacon Kampta Karran
Deacon Shirley Jaundoo

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

Deacon Babsie Pierre - Chairperson
Ms. Yvonne Seepersaud
Deacon Shelda Emanuel
Deacon Conrad Plummer

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

Deacon Conrad Plummer

Terms of Reference

To advise on all Constitutional and Procedural Matters.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
69th 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

69th Annual Convention

Convention Minutes # 836

The following are the Minutes of the **68th Annual Convention** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) held from 1 - 3 May 2011 at Calvary Lutheran Church North Road and Alexander Street, Georgetown (1 May), and Ocean View Convention Centre, Lillendaal, (ECD), Georgetown, Guyana (2-3 May).

1. Opening Worship:

The Opening Worship Service which was held at Calvary Lutheran Church, Alexander Street and North Road, Georgetown began at 10.00 a.m. The service was preceded with “*singspiration*” led by Mr. Davy Ram and accompanied by music Teachers, Mr. Eric Sayre and Michael Murchinson from Fellowship Lutheran Church, Tulsa Oklahoma, USA.

Leaders of the Service were:-

Preacher:	Rev. Paul D. Moonu	-President of the ELCG
Liturgist:	Mr. Davy Ram	-Treasurer of the ELCG
Celebrant:	Rev. Diana Liverpool	-Pastor of the Transfiguration Parish
Lesson Readers:	1 st Lesson:	-Deacon Shirley Jaundoo – St. Michael Parish
	2 nd Lesson:	-Deacon Keith Hazell – Emmanuel Parish
	Gospel:	-Rev. Paul Moonu – Ebenezer Parish
Organist:	Ms. Cecilia. Bose,	Calvary Parish

2. Summary of Worship Message:

The President summarized his message as follows:

*“The theme chosen for Annual Convention 2011, “**Arise, Go, Preach**” is a call to take to the road with the Good News. This call is made clear in Matt 28: 16-20; Mark 16: 15, 16; Luke 24: 46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8. Each of these, places a mandate on the disciples of Jesus Christ and continuity upon everyone who has been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ. This mandate assumes the call to Arise, Go, Preach! To present Jesus Christ to sinful humanity, in order that they may come to put their trust in God, through Him, to receive Him as their Saviour and serve Him as their King in fellowship of His Church. Evangelism is everyone’s business, it’s not a choice we make but a responsibility placed upon us by our baptism. The goal of evangelism is very clear:*

- i) Make disciples – seeking to bring them into a right relationship to the Son of God.*
- ii) Baptize them – seeking to bring them into a right relationship to the church of God.*
- iii) Teach them – seeking to bring them into a right relationship to the Word of God.*

***Arise, Go, Preach** =Make disciples, baptize them, and teach them”.*

3. Commissioning of Deacon:

Mr. Patrick Jones of St. Matthew Parish having been called and endorsed, served as a diaconate candidate for one year under the Rev. Sugrim Gobin, and having been examined and approved by the Executive Council, was duly commissioned as a Deacon of the ELCG by the President, the Rev. Paul Moonu at the opening service of Convention.

4. Opening Convention:

The President, Rev. P. Moonu, formally declared the 68th Annual Convention of the ELCG in session, after which the Vice President Ms. Sandra Kurtzious welcomed and extended cordial greetings to all including the ELCG's overseas partners.

5. Welcome and Greetings:

Greetings were brought from: Mr. Hamilton Green, Mayor of Georgetown, Ms. Debra Lowe, Chair of Calvary Parish, Ms. Aretha Ernst of ELKS, Suriname, Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert of ELCIC of Canada, Dr. Erv. Janssen, FLC, USA, and Ms. Chris Klafs, F/BS, USA.

6. Musical Evening

At 6:30 p.m., all present participated and enjoyed an evening of music by Mr. Eric Sayre and Michael Murchinson of FLC, USA.

Monday, 2 May 2011

7. Registration

The registration of Ministers, Delegates, Advisory Delegates, Deacons, and Fraternity Representatives was conducted by the Committee on Registration from 7.30 am at the Ocean View Convention Centre at Liliendaal.

8. Assembly and Worship Devotion:

Convention assembled for worship devotion which was conducted at 8.00am by Deacons Amanda Singh and Lenard George, Convention Chaplains.

9. Convention Sessions:

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

10. Presentation:

"How shall they hear? God is counting on you".

Deacon Shelda Emanuel presented the Sub-theme *"How shall they hear? God is counting on you"* under the Theme *"Arise, Go, Preach"*. The summary of her presentation was:

"Christ desires that the message of salvation should be heard by everyone and He has given us a mandate to ensure that this is done. This message should be "preached" so that those who hear it would know that salvation is found only in Christ. All believers are tasked with the responsibility of finding ways to ensure that the message is heard. It is only when people hear the message that they will believe in Jesus, repent of their sins, confess Jesus as Lord and Saviour and be baptized for the remission of sins".

11. First Business Session: - 5 Ministers and 24 delegates were seated.

The First Business Session was called to order by the Vice President, Ms. Sandra Kurtzious. At the invitation of the Chair, Deacon Conrad Plummer, in his capacity as Parliamentarian, advised the Convention of the rules, regulations and procedures which would guide the conduct of the business sessions.

12. Committees:

The Vice President announced the following Committees:-

- (a) **Committee on Reference:**
Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran - Chair
Rev. Sugrim Gobin
Mr. Michael D. Ram
- (b) **Committee on Minutes:**
Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran - Chair
Deacon Shirley Jaundoo
Ms. Maharani Sukhnandan
- (c) **Committee on Registration:**
Deacon Babsie Pierre - Chair
Deacon Elaine Grannum
Ms. Yvonne Seepersaud

Parliamentarian:

Deacon Conrad. Plummer

13. Report of the Committee on Registration:

Deacon Babsie Pierre presented the Report on Registration as follows:

Ministers	-	5
Delegates:	-	24
Advisory Delegates:	-	6
Deacons:	-	19
Fraternity:	-	5

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

14. Roll Call:

The Secretary, Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran called the Roll:-

Ministers and Delegates present/absent were:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
Emmanuel		Ms. Loirain McCalman Mr. John Jagessar
St, Michael	-	Ms. Neomey Ramjaiwan Mr. Shawn Leitch
St. John	-	Ms. Allison Adams Mr. Lloyd Hendore - Absent
Transfiguration	Rev. Diana Liverpool Ms.	Merlyn Henry Mr. Joseph Bedessei
Ebenezer	Rev Paul D.Moonu	Ms. Oslene Hicken Mr. Ackloo Ramsudh

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
Reformation	-	Mr. Walter Taylor Ms. Leah Kurtzious
Good Shepherd	Rev. Burchell Moriah	Ms. Viola Harilall Mr. Vincent Mercurius
Advent	Rev. Leroy Nicholson	Ms. Jean Shepherd Mr. Dave Bassoo
St Matthew	Rev. Sugrim Gobin	Ms. Debby Frank Deacon Partick Jones
St. Andrew	-	Ms. Sabiva Ramsahai Mr. Terance Ram
Redeemer	-	Ms. Morlin Ramcharran Deacon Conrad Plummer
Calvary	-	Mr. Winston Felix Ms. Debra Lowe
Ascension	-	Ms. Selina Lepps Mr. Errol Ramdhany – <i>absent in the am</i>

15. Agenda, Convention Programme and Time Schedule:

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

16. Presentation of Minutes # 825 of the 67th Convention for Matters Arising:

Convention noted the following:

- i) Rev. Sugrim Gobin reminded all that the threshold for tax exemption on all income was \$40,000.00 with effect from 1 January 2011.
- ii) ELKS contributed \$10,000.00 towards the Convention Project, and
- iii) St. Michael contribution was \$10,000.00 and not \$25,000.00.
- iv) The Treasurer, Mr. Davy Ram would make the necessary adjustments in the financial records

Second Business Session: - 5 Ministers and 24 delegates were seated.

17. President's Report:

The President presented his report under the following heading:

- I) General comments and observation dealing with Evangelism; its message and methods, Church-wide management and administration, and constitutional matters;
- II) Personnel (Pastoral) assignment and responsibility;
- III) International church relations and partnership,
- IV) Church Ministries,
- V) The Ministerium and Diaconate, and
- VI) Recommendations.

The following questions/comments/observations were made on this report:-

- (a) No mention of ELCM was made in the report.
- (b) What further training was underway for Deacons?
- (c) If an adult was baptized, should he/she be confirmed too? It was pointed out that there should be adequate instructions of adults, and that parents and sponsors should be properly instructed on Baptism and the responsibilities of parents and sponsors in advance of any arrangements for baptism.
- (d) Would the revised Diaconate Policy be included in the constitution?
- (e) The view was expressed that the current Constitution and By-laws which recently came into force should be given time to be translated into practice at the Church-wide and Parish levels, and that all concerned should make every effort to bring this about.

The President's response:

- a) No report was received from the ELCM.
- b) Resource persons would come at their availability to hold further lectures and "intensives".
- c) Adults understood the oath taken at Baptism so there was no need for formal confirmation.
- d) The Diaconate Ministry would be included in the Constitution; the proposed amendment would be tabled at this Convention.

Convention voted to receive the Report of the President with appreciation.

18. Vice President's Report:

The Vice President reflected on the Theme and stressed that:

*"Faithfulness to the call, commitment to the ministry, and energy for the work and zeal for the labour are products of hearing God's call – always. Lack of passion for the ministry, fault-finding and constant whining are symptoms that the call of God is becoming a distant echo. It is hoped that the theme **"Arise, go Preach"**, will assist the E.L.C.G. to emerge from this Convention more alert and responsive to God's call".*

After discussion, Convention voted to receive the Report of the Vice President with appreciation.

19. Presentation:

Rev. Diana Liverpool presented on the Sub theme 'Whom shall I send? The spirit is prompting you', and summarized her message as follows:

"God's work begins when God calls and we respond. God is a sending God. Those who are sent by God are first called by him. God sends whom he calls. EVERYONE is called to SOMETHING. The prophet Isaiah was a sinner; he cried tears of repentance to God and was forgiven. When he heard the Call whom shall I send, he didn't stop to think that maybe someone else was more qualified. (Sometimes "patience" is just reluctance) Instead, Isaiah was eager to serve. 'Who will go for us,' God asked? Isaiah said, 'send me.' Today God continues to call people...

God sends people to preach, labour and to reconcile sinners to Him. They are further sent to be: encouragers, intercessors, to evangelize, to welcome persons to church, prepare church for worship, help the destitute... As we are sent and as we go, our motivation, our desires, our hearts longing and prayers must be for the salvation of those who are without Christ. God calls us to go forth. Much blessing will come from this. Jesus said, (Matthew 28:19), "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Third Business Session: - 5 Ministers and 25 delegates were seated.

20. Secretary's Report:

The Secretary, Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran presented his report as required in two parts as follows:

- i) The work of the Executive Council which included approval of a revised Diaconate Policy; a new policy on Bi-vocational Ministry for Pastors; and proposed amendments to the ELCG Constitution for the inclusion of the Diaconate Ministry. (Appended to these Minutes as attachment I)
- ii) The annual parochial reports from all the Parishes. He emphasized the importance for every Parish and Congregation to compile accurate records and statistics. He noted that some of the statistics received were not accurate and appealed to all Pastors, Deacons, Delegates, and Lay leaders to have these updated and corrected by 1 September 2011.

After discussion, Convention voted to receive the Report of the Secretary with appreciation.

Fourth Business Session – 5 Ministers and 24 delegates were seated.

21. The Report of the Treasurer:

The Treasurer, Mr. Davy Ram presented his report as required in three Parts as follows:

- i) **The Treasurer's Report**, showing income, cash position, bank reconciliation, apportionment, convention expenses, convention project, special funds, gifts/donations/bonuses, overseas grants and sale of properties. He disclosed that gifts were received from three persons of the Church in the amount of \$ 245,000. as subsidy for 2011 Convention.

After discussions and explanations on designated funds, deficit budget, outstanding payments by parishes, and increases in apportionment, 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 2012 Church-wide Budget:**

Following discussions, particularly on the level of apportionment, and the intimation by the Treasurer that the proposed deficit budget was realistic with the expectation of US\$ 25,000 from overseas income, Convention voted to approve the budget as presented and printed in the bulletin.

22. Evening devotions were conducted by Deacons Amanda Singh and Lenard George.

Tuesday 3 May 2011

23. Morning devotions were conducted by Deacons Amanda Singh and Lenard George.

24. Presentation:

Pastor Paul D. Moonu presented on the Sub-theme *“When will they go? The world is waiting on you”*. In summary, President Moonu asserted:

“To answer the question of when, we must all grapple with the announcement of Jesus and when He began His ministry. After John was arrested, Jesus entered into Capernaum and announced, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” “The time is fulfilled” and “the kingdom of God” are important concepts that must be understood so that we come to grips with the imperatives “repent and believe in the good news.” This ministry has begun in and with Jesus Christ. Expectations are that it be continued with the disciples and by everyone named by the name of Christ. The “when” is a current imperative on all of us. It is both current and futuristic. The now has its influence on tomorrow”.

Fifth Business Session: - 5 Ministers and 22 delegates were seated

25. Proposed Amendment to the ELCG Constitution

The Secretary, Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran, tabled on behalf of the Executive Council, proposed amendments to the Constitution, (appended to the Secretary’s Report – p 41 -43 of 2011 Convention Bulletin) designed to give constitutional recognition to the Diaconate Ministry and Deacons. The proposed amendments, which were under the signatures of all members of the Executive Council, would be considered at the 2012 Convention in keeping with the procedure for amendments to the Constitution. (See Attachment II – page 22 - 24)

26. Recommendations from the Officers:

The Secretary, Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran presented the recommendations from the Officers as follows:

Recommendations from President:

- i) That a national attempt be made to bring the parochial records in order. In many cases this is either not updated, preserved or in existence.
Convention accepted this recommendation for immediate action.
- ii) That a committee be set up to thoroughly review the Constitution and By-laws. The present Constitution and By-laws has too many anomalies.
Convention referred this matter to the Executive Council for consideration
- iii) That the Church seeks to employ an Administrator or have the Office of the President be full-time. A similar thing should be sought after in the Parish.
Convention agreed in principle for this in the future, and referred it to Executive Council.
- iv) That the financial affairs of Parishes be looked into. That record keeping, accountability and systems be regularized and standardized.
Convention accepted this recommendation for immediate action.
- v) That each Parish, Pastor and Deacon should be in possession of an email address. This makes for easier communication. That each Parish office be equipped with a telephone and answering machine, computer, printer and internet facilities.
Convention agreed in principle to this recommendation and referred it to the Parishes for their consideration and action.

Recommendations from the Vice President:

- a) That an Annual Rally be held for every Member of the E.L.C.G.
- b) That half-yearly Training Seminars be held for Auxiliaries.

Convention received both recommendations and referred them to the Executive Council for consideration.

Recommendations from the Secretary:

- a) That all Parishes undertake as a matter of priority a review and evaluation of the statistics to verify accuracy, and as appropriate, revise and reconstruct them, and to bring all Parish/Congregational registers up to date by 1 September 2011; and
- b) That the Ministerium ensure that all Pastors and Deacons are fully trained to keep proper parochial records, and emphasize the importance of absolute care and security of such records

Convention accepted both recommendations for immediate action.

Proposal from the Treasurer

The Treasurer, Mr. Davy Ram presented the following proposal:

That an 8% on all income in the Parish be considered for apportionment instead of the current practice of setting apportionment on the number of communing member for future budgets beginning in 2013. This would be a fairer system.

After discussion and explanation, Convention referred this proposal to Parishes and the Executive Council for consideration.

27. Other Matters for information:

In the general discussion, Convention was informed that:

- the Camp and Retreat Centre would be developed into a Retreat Centre,
- the Vice President was heading a Committee to examine and make recommendations on all property assets of the Church,
- the ELCG would work with the NELCW to rebuild and operate the Lutheran Home, and
- The rebuilding of the Lutheran Home would be the Convention 2011 Project.

28. Convention Project – New Building for Lutheran Home: (Pledge on attached list)

29. Vote of Thanks

The Secretary, Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran expressed grateful thanks and appreciation to all for their attendance, active participation, and service in various capacities.

The Vice President in turn expressed appreciation to the Secretary for his work.

She then presented tokens crafted from an indigenous material and engraved with the ELCG logo to all the representatives of our overseas partners.

30. The 69th Annual Convention would be convened in May 2012.

There being no other tabled business, the business of Convention terminated at 1.30pm

31. Closing Service and close of Convention

The closing service of word and sacrament was held at the Ocean View Convention Centre with Ms. Sandra Kurtzious as Liturgist, Rev Leroy Nicholson as Preacher, and Rev. Paul Moonu as Celebrant.

The Rev. Paul D. Moonu, President of the ELCG, using the order for the close of Convention, officially declared the 68th. Annual Conventions closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel J. Goolsarran
Secretary

Convention Project – New Building for Lutheran Home

1. Emmanuel	5,000
2. St Michael	10,000
3. St John	5,000
4. Transfiguration	25,000
5. Ebenezer	20,000
6. Reformation	10,000
7. Good Shepherd	20,000
8. Advent	10,000
9. St Matthew	20,000
10. St Andrew	25,000
11. Redeemer	50,000
12. Calvary	30,000
13. Ascension	10,000
14. Christian Education	10,000
15. Sandra Kurtzious	10,000
16. National ELCW	10,000
17. Youth Commission	5,000
18. Savita Ramsahai	5,000
19. Rev. Paul Moonu	10,000
20. Rev. Leroy Nicholson	2,000
21. Dcn. Elaine Grannum	5,000
22. John Jagessar	5,000
23. Dcn. Neil Jagessar	5,000
24. Rev. Sugrim Gobin	5,000
25. Mrs. Zabeda Gobin	5,000
26. Dcn. Leela Chutkhan	5,000
27. Dcn. Lansford John	5,000
28. Jean Shepherd	5,000
29. Dcn. Gloria Sampson	5,000
30. Dcn. Shirley Jaundoo	5,000
31. Dcn. Ishwardai Melville	5,000
32. Anonymous	5,000
33. Dcn. Patrick Peters	5,000
34. Dcn. Shelda Emanuel	5,000
35. Rev. Diana Liverpool	6,000
36. The Karran family	2,000
37. Dave Bassoo	5,000
38. Yvonne Seepersaud	5,000
39. Dcn. Babsie Pierre	5,000
40. Ackloo Ramsudh	4,000
41. Dcn. Amanda Singh	2,000
42. Dcn. Inderjit Eugene	5,000
43. Demerara District ELCM	16,200
44. Dcn. Patrick Jones	3,000
45. Dcn. Beverly Johnson	4,000
46. Joseph Bedessi	5,000
47. Chris Klafs	5,000
48. St. Timothy	20,000
49. Merlyn Henry	4,000
50. Ms. Oslene Hicken	2,000
51. Rev. Peter Kuhnert	10,000
	<u>465,200</u>

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
Proposed amendments to the ELCG Constitution and By-Laws:**

A. After Article VII – Ministers, Section 12, insert the following new article as Article VII A – Deacons:

“ARTICLE VII A – Deacons

- Section 1. The term “deacons” shall be interpreted to be all commissioned lay persons in the active full-time or bi-vocational service of this Church. The deacon is commissioned into the ministry of word, sacraments and service.
- Section 2. This Church shall define the standards of acceptance into, and continuance in the diaconate ministry.
- Section 3. Commission of deacons and reception shall be a function of this Church. Each candidate for commission or for reception shall be examined by the Executive Council of this Church prior to taking a decision on commission or reception.
- Section 4. Upon commission of a deacon and upon the reception of a deacon, his/her name shall be placed on the diaconal roll and his/her name shall be removed from the diaconal roll upon resignation or dismissal or death or transfer.
- Section 5. Every Deacon shall assist the Minister in his/her duties that are not restricted to the office of the Pastor. The Deacon shall preach the Word, administer the Sacraments and conduct public worship consistent with the faith and practices of this Church, and shall lead a life befitting the holy office. In keeping with the word and service ministry, the Deacon shall minister in areas of specific and special needs of the Congregation(s) and Parish: the Deacon shall care for the people individually and as a congregation, visit the sick and distressed, administer sick communion, engage in work of charity and benevolence, oversee and supervise such ministries, work with the youths, men and women, teach catechetical classes, supervise Sunday school and upon request, conduct special services in homes and bury the dead. The Deacon shall endeavour to bring into the congregation/s those outside the Church. The Deacon shall inculcate piety in individual and family life. The Deacon shall in the absence of a Pastor and at the request of the Congregational/Parish Council install regularly elected members of the Congregational /Parish Council.
- Section 6. No person who belongs to any organization which is anti-Christian or which claims to possess in its teachings and ceremonies that which the Lord has given solely to his Church, or which requires of its members a pledge of secrecy, shall be ordained, commissioned or otherwise received into the Ministry of this Church, nor shall any person so ordained or received by this Church or be retained in its ministry if he subsequently joins such an organization, or if it is subsequently known that anyone commissioned belonged to such an organization.
- Section 7. The Deacon shall serve in the Parish from which he/she received endorsement. However, the Deacon, upon the request of a Parish and the agreement of the Executive Council, following consultations with the relevant Parishes, shall serve

any other parish as long as harmony exists between parishioners and the Deacon.

Section 8. Each Deacon shall be a member of a congregation in the Parish, which he/she serves.

Section 9. Responsibility for discipline of deacons and the imposition of penalties up to and including deposition, recall or termination from the diaconal office is vested in this Church. There shall be an investigating committee appointed by the Executive Council as the need arises. The membership and function shall be as specified by the By-Laws.

Section 10. If it becomes necessary in the interest of the Church, the Executive Council, after consultation with the relevant Parish Council, may terminate the services of a deacon after giving not less than three months notice or payment in lieu of such notice.

Section 11. Deacons shall attend all Conventions of this Church, all Parish Council and Congregational/Parish Council meetings. In cases of unavoidable absence, the absentee shall submit a reasonable excuse to the Secretary of this Church or Parish Council as appropriate. Any deacon, who after two warnings, is absent without excuse from further Conventions or Parish Council/Congregational meetings, shall be liable to discipline.”

Section 12. Deacons shall attend all joint meetings with the Ministerium

B. Article IX – Convention, Section 7, insert (d) as a new item as follows:

“d) Deacons in connection only with matters pertaining to their Parishes”

3. Article XIII – Ministerium

i) Section 2 (f), delete the words “the President and”; and insert the word “regularly” after the words “Council of this Church;” and delete the words “ two months before the regular Convention of this Church”

Approved by the Executive Council on 12 March 2011 and tabled at the 68th Convention of the ELCG in May 2011 for consideration and determination at the 69th Convention 2012).

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
69th Annual Convention

Report of the President

Please refer ELCG 2012 Convention Bulletin Supplement.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

69th Annual Convention

Report of the Vice President

***“In as much as you have done it for the least of your brothers, you have done it unto me”
Matt: 25:40.***

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; as I reflect on the past year in our work in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, I questioned how many of us were faithful to God’s call to **“Arise, go, Preach”**? How many of us began with enthusiasm and zeal, only to fall by the way side, as the pressures of the secular world engulfed us?

This year, our convention theme examines the “Society in Crisis” and questions the Church’s response and our personal involvement. Thus demanding our attention to examine what really is our purpose, what really is our Lutheran Identity?

In reflecting, I am compelled to make reference to the Lutheran World Federation Draft Strategy for the years 2012-2017, as in 2017 we will celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Lutheran Reformation. In that document we are reminded that to be Lutheran is to be freed by Grace to love and serve the neighbor. Our services in the world and our care for creation are integral to our Lutheran identity”.... We reach out to, engage and work beside other faith communities to promote understanding and build relationships for a better world. As Lutheran churches, we understand that God’s mission requires that we have a public role in society, relating to others, the good will and sharing our commitments.”

We sometimes question, how important is our contribution as an individual? Brothers and sisters, as we examine the various sub-themes we will recognize that the ills of society, Domestic Violence, HIV/AIDS, Child Abuse, Climate Change and Waste Disposal, as well as the Politics in our country are all part of our everyday lives, and therefore we all have a mutual responsibility to commit ourselves to making a difference in the world, as an individual and as a Church.

It is time that we boldly proclaim the word of God, telling the truth about what is happening in our lives and in our community, take initiatives individually and collectively and by so doing we will be able to make a positive change to poverty, conflict and human suffering.

It would be remiss of me if recognition was not given to the various outreach programs conducted by the Parishes in the ELCG. Feeding Programs to schools, Coffee Mornings for the less fortunate, visiting the shut-ins, distribution of hampers, counseling sessions, etc. It is through these programs that we discover and recognize the dire need for our work in society, through which we fulfill our mission to proclaiming and witnessing the gospel for all people.

As we examine the work of the ELCG over the past few years, we are heartened by the development in the area of theological training, but question the continuing need for the Pastoral presence or guidance in the Reformation Parish. To this end, efforts are being made to make short term assignments of our Deacons and Lay persons in that area.

It is also recognized that the auxiliaries of our Church, especially the Youth Groups and the Men’s Groups is in a state of apathy, and therefore efforts will be made to examine the needs and renew our efforts to resuscitate and sustain the enthusiasm and spiritual commitment to its mission.

Recommendations:

I respectfully recommend the following:

1. That a website of resource persons, with various expertise, be created, so that every member of the ELCG, are able to access their service, thus fulfilling our convention theme and ultimately our Lutheran Identity, to provide relief to the poor, by our equitable distribution of power, resources and opportunities.
2. That there be an annual or bi-annual bulletin of the ELCG, with activities and plans, with contribution from every Parish, as well as the various activities enjoyed with our overseas partners.
3. That there be a Youth Leadership training within the ELCG, alternatively, that Youths be sent for Leadership training, so as to strengthen and sustain the Youth Fellowship.

I extend deep gratitude to every member of the ELCG, who have guided and supported me this past year, and ask that we continue to contribute individually and collectively to bring relief, hope and renewed faith to the less fortunate.

In Christ,

Sandra Kurtzious
Vice President, ELCG

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

69th Annual Convention

Report of the Secretary

Introductory reflection

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of the sight of the blind, to release the oppressed.” (Luke 4: 18 - words quoted by Jesus from Isaiah 61: 1)

Jesus proclaimed that this was His own mission. It must therefore, be the mission of the His Church. In the Old Testament, God revealed himself as the Liberator of the oppressed and the Defender of the poor. In the New Testament, Christ sets love for our neighbour as an essential condition for Christians to follow. And in His concern for people in trouble or need, Jesus challenges us in a very compelling way. *“I tell you solemnly, whatever you did to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.”*(Matthew 25:40)

The message is clear; Christian love of neighbour and justice cannot be separated. They go together. The Gospel demands that the Church, following in the footsteps of its Lord and Master, identify itself with the poor and oppressed, and their struggles and proclaim the good news of the kingdom God, where God’s will is done.

Society in crisis: the Church’s response; my involvement – the theme for this Convention with reference to social, environmental, and political and economic matters. These can relate to a range of issues including that of fundamental human rights, open racism or subtle racism, discrimination, abuse of and neglect of children and women, the pandemic of HIV/Aids and substance abuse, the protection of the environment, corrupt and unethical practices, public accountability, good governance, and the challenge for national political consensus, bearing in mind that Government and Parliament are servants of the people.

We know that God created a good world with no sin and evil; but the sin of disobedience disrupted God’s good, orderly world. Sin and evil are powerful forces at work in the world from the fall of man at the Garden of Eden and throughout the history of human civilization with crises after crises among all the generations throughout the world. Even so, God in Jesus Christ continues to shower blessings at every turn, and we are reminded by the sign of the rainbow of God’s ongoing commitment for the preservation of creation.

Where do we stand on these issues of crises in Society by our own conduct and behaviour, in our advocacy, and in our Christian witness? Do we have the moral authority to speak to these themes? The themes can be looked at from a Biblical Christian perspective. Every Christian in his/her vocation is to be influenced in individual, corporate and public decision making and conduct by our Biblical teachings

and moral imperatives and standards including the Ten Commandments, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and the golden rule. This calls to mind our Christian stewardship responsibly in individual, private, corporate, and public life, for we are accountable to God for all our conduct and decisions/actions. We are to recognize that the **Lord is my Shepherd**, (not the state is my shepherd).

In every generation there are few people who are prepared to take Jesus seriously, at His word. What would it be like if we were one of them? The question comes to us with renewed force. Where is Jesus asking us to travel, not yesterday, but today and tomorrow?

The Mission of Jesus and His Church involves not power – but compassion. We are to show God's supreme authority over all, not by power plays, not by force of arms, or social pressure, or intellectual power, but by the words and works of love, which rescue, and heal and reconcile. It is the Church's mission **"to be present in the heart of the community by proclaiming good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, and joy to the afflicted."** It is about the way of the cross of Jesus Christ; taking up the cross in service to others and bearing it, because Christ died on it for our sins and by His glorious resurrection, graciously secures our salvation of eternal life through faith in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

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, and
- ii) the annual parochial reports from all the Parishes.

I am pleased to report accordingly.

The Executive Council, since last Convention in May 2011, met in June, July, October, and November, 2011, and in January, February, March, and April 2012 on Church-wide matters. During the period under review, May 2011 and April 2012, the Council considered matters affecting the administration and life of the Church, and took decisions and made interventions on several matters, including:

- the appointment/assignment of Pastors, Acting Pastors, Contact Pastors and Deacons in Parishes;
- ongoing relationship and partnership with ELCA/DGM, FLC, Florida –Bahamas Synod, Wartburg Seminary, Lutheran World Federation, Eastern Synod of the Lutheran Church of Canada, ELKS, GMN, and MAG;
- parish administration workshops for Pastors, Deacons, and Officers of Parish Councils;
- financial administration, and office administration matters;
- overseas representation and conferences;
- overseas resource persons for training interventions for the Ministerium and the Diaconate;
- several personnel matters and issues of concern involving clergy, deacons, staff, and parishes through interviews, dialogues, and meetings;

- matters pertaining to the Christian Education Department and the National Youth Camp
- The approval of **five Deacons** as Candidates for the Pastoral Ministry who would be prepared through appropriate exposure, assignments, and training to be followed by the constitutional procedure for examination interview, approval for ordination, and Parish Call prior to a decision on ordination;
- the consideration and actions relating to property assets of the Church;
- incoming and out going correspondence; and
- regular reports from Officers.

I am also pleased to present the Church-wide Statistics as submitted by Pastors/Parishes. There are still gaps and inaccuracies in the statistics from some parishes and reports of records/congregational registers not located. This situation in such parishes needs to be addressed by Pastors, Deacons, and Parish Councils. (See Notes on page 32).

While it is noted that the keeping of accurate parochial records of each Congregation is a constitutional duty of the Pastors, it is also by extension, the responsibility of Deacons, and Officers of Parish Councils in keeping with the framework of our Constitution and By-laws. The submitted figures are tabulated / collated in the following pages.-

ELCG Churchwide Statistics 2011

Parish	Baptised	Confirmed	Comm.	Active	SS	LL	ELCW	ELCM	Bible/C	Choir
Emmanuel *1										
Nativity	224	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emmanuel	542	90	65	46	0	0	0	0	0	4
St. Phillip	212	58	39	25	10	14	0	5	0	5
St. Matthias	234	17	12	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 1.	1212	165	116	78	10	14	0	5	0	9
St. Michael										
St. Luke	173	153	43	37	15	9	9	0	4	0
St. Stephen	266	72	12	9	6	0	0	0	4	0
St. Michael	340	137	25	21	11	5	0	0	15	0
St. James	403	176	30	28	11	6	8	0	6	0
St. Barnabas	178	68	30	26	18	5	6	0	9	0
Sub Total 2.	1360	606	140	121	61	25	23	0	38	0
St. John *2										
St. John	1409	626	70	45	13	0	9	0	0	0
St. Peter	120	60	20	15	10	0	5	0	0	0
St. Bartholomew	121	51	30	21	0	0	3	0	0	0
Sub Total 3.	1650	737	120	81	23	0	17	0	0	0
Transfiguration	496	103	30	25	6	0	0	2	0	0
Holy Cross	288	136	36	34	18	2	9	5	8	5
Bethel	418	215	48	45	23	20	18	2	7	5
Sub Total 4.	1202	454	114	104	47	22	27	9	15	10
Ebenezer*3 ('10)										
Ebenezer	2443	2008	456	254	28	24	23	0	26	18
St. Timothy	327	275	25	19	14	3	8	9	7	0
St. Thomas	480	406	54	46	18	12	0	0	15	0
Sub Total 5.	3250	2689	535	319	60	39	31	9	48	18
Reformation *4										
Grace	31	30	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atonement	19	24	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
ST. Paul	20	20	9	9	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	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hururu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riverside	28	27	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Olivet	23	22	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 6.	156	157	59	59	0	0	0	0	0	0

ELCG Churchwide Statistics 2011

Parish	Baptised	Confirmed	Commu.	Active	SS	LL	ELCW	ELCM	Bible/C	Choir
Good Shepherd										
Good Samaritan	200	69	26	18	0	0	0	0	6	0
Good Shepherd	566	373	34	28	27	10	0	4	8	7
Nazareth	278	135	14	10	22	0	0	0	4	0
Resurrection	169	99	28	21	21	0	0	0	5	0
Sub Total 7.	1213	676	102	77	70	10	0	4	23	7
Advent *5										
Hope	112	106	78	69	43	9	6	0	18	0
Christ	62	45	40	35	30	4	7	0	14	0
Faith	70	54	39	38	0	0	0	0	6	0
Advent	74	47	44	37	14	0	0	0	5	0
Sub Total 8.	318	252	201	179	87	13	13	0	43	0
St. Matthew										
Bethany	165	82	21	18	10	0	0	0	5	0
St. Matthew	376	150	45	35	10	0	5	0	0	0
Holy Communion	290	36	28	26	36	14	12	20	25	0
Messiah	276	68	16	16	10	0	6	0	6	0
Sub Total 9.	1107	336	110	95	66	14	23	20	36	0
St. Andrew										
Swargia Vani	191	223	40	35	25	12	9	0	8	0
Sadhu S. Singh	231	214	30	28	15	15	8	0	7	0
St. Andrew	307	251	42	37	16	24	6	0	15	0
Sub Total 10.	729	688	112	100	56	51	23	0	30	0
Redeemer *6										
Redeemer	1149	843	102	87	25	6	30	6	12	0
Sub Total 11	1149	843	102	87	25	6	30	6	12	0
Calvary										
Calvary	1211	713	100	89	23	12	10	7	14	14
Sub Total 12.	1211	713	100	89	23	12	19	7	14	14
Ascension										
Epiphany	154	154	30	30	12	5	12	4	15	0
Ascension	707	224	18	17	10	0	0	0	0	0
King of Glory	173	173	26	26	15	5	4	3	0	0
Mt. Zion	327	43	32	22	30	0	15	4	15	15
Sub Total 13.	1361	594	106	95	67	10	31	11	30	15
Grand Total	15,918	8,910	1917	1484	595	216	228	71	289	73

Statistical Summary - Churchwide

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Congregations:	45	44
Sunday Schools:	35	33
Luther Leagues:	26	21
ELCW:	27	23
ELCM:	14	12
Bible Classes:	27	28
Choirs:	7	8
Baptized as at 31 December:	11,325	15,852*
Baptized during the year:	172	66
Confirmed as at 31 December:	6841	8856*
Confirmed during the year:	156	54
Communing members:	2048	1917
Active Members	1475	1484
Pastors:	6	7
Deacons:	18	19
Weddings:	Not Reported	77 (42 Advent Parish)
Funerals:	Not Reported	38
Thanksgiving Service:	Not Reported	109

***updated record*

Notes:

- *1 - *6 – Emmanuel, St. John, Ebenezer, Reformation, Advent, Redeemer and Ascension Parishes.

The figures from these Parishes seem inaccurate and/or incomplete with reports that Congregational registers could not be found for all the years, for example:

Advent	-no records prior to 1997;
Ebenezer	-(2010 figures used in this report) missing some years;
St. John	-missing some years,
Reformation	-no complete record;
Ascension	-no complete record;
Redeemer	-reported missing records from December 1953 – June 1960, May 1989 – May 1991, February 2002 – May 2003, and June 2005 – May 2008.

2. Apart from congregations in the Reformation Parish, the following Congregations have:

No Sunday Schools:

- Emmanuel Parish -Nativity, Emmanuel, St. Matthias
- St. John Parish -St. Bartholomew
- Good Shepherd Parish -Good Samaritan
- Advent Parish -Faith

No Luther Leagues:

- Emmanuel Parish -Nativity, Emmanuel, St. Matthias, St. Stephen
- St. John Parish -St. John, St. Bartholomew, St Peter,
- Transfiguration Parish - Transfiguration
- Good Shepherd Parish -Good Samaritan, Nazareth, Resurrection
- Advent Parish -Faith, Advent
- St. Matthew Parish -Bethany, St. Matthew, Messiah
- Ascension Parish –Ascension, Mt. Zion.

Recommendations: I wish respectfully to recommend:

1. that all Pastors, Deacons and Parish Councils undertake as a matter of priority a review and evaluation of their statistics as required by the Constitution to:
 - i) verify accuracy, and as appropriate, revise and reconstruct them to ensure that all Parish and Congregational registers are up to date, and are properly secured, and
 - ii) report to the Executive Council by 1 October 2012 on the actions and outcomes resulting from the review;
2. that all Pastors, Deacons, and Parish Councils, where applicable, establish active Youth Ministries – Sunday Schools, Luther Leagues in every Congregation of the Parish, and report to the Executive Council by 1 October 2012; and
3. 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 urgency, and forge a consensus on appropriate actions to strengthen congregational ministries in the Parishes, and report the outcomes of such encounters to next Convention in 2013.

Distinguished participants of Convention, I place on record my thanks and appreciation to all for their support and cooperation as we work together in the interest of the Church in our common task to proclaim the good news of the Gospel.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel J. Goolsarran
Secretary, ELCG

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana 69th 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, 2011.

1.0 Income

Total Income for the Year 2011 was \$14,563,856. While overall, we achieved and surpassed our budget by approximately 75%, our local operating income accounted for only 67% of the 2011 Budget. Sale of land contributed to 27% of the total Income. The remaining 34% of Income was achieved through grants from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) during the year.

Please see 2011 Financial Highlights for further details.

1.1 Cash Position

The following is the Cash Position as at Dec 31, 2011:

Cash in Hand	\$	0
Cash at Bank -Current Account	\$	3,680,446
-Optimizer Account	\$	6,247,159
-Save & Prosper	\$	7,772,471
Total		<u>\$17,700,074</u>

1.2 Bank Reconciliation

The reconciliation of the Current Account indicates that ten (10) cheques totaling \$80,000: were outstanding as at December 31, 2011.

1.3 Apportionment

Apportionment budgeted for 2011 was \$2,055,000 coupled with outstanding payments from previous years of \$1,573,257: puts total Parish apportionment outstanding as at Dec 31, 2011 to \$3,807,857: We received approximately 37% or \$1,349,400: of this money during the year. We received further payments in 2012 totaling \$972,200 or 25.5% of the outstanding balance. We will continue to work with Parishes to realize the remaining 37.5% by June 30, 2012.

1.4 Annual Convention 2011

a. *Convention Expenses*

2011 Annual Convention accounts are as follows:

<u>Income</u>	
Registration	\$ 330,000:
Special Gifts	\$ 245,000:
Offering	\$ 75,500:
Total Income	\$ 650,500:

<u>Expenses</u>	
Rental/Meals	\$ 626,864:
Bulletin/Banners	\$ 145,000:
Hospitality/Hosting	\$ 86,472:
Other Expenses	\$ 45,800:
Total Expenditure	\$ 904,136:

Deficit **(\$253,636:)**

b. Convention Project

The total pledge towards the rebuilding of the Lutheran Home as the designated 2011 Convention Project was GY\$465,200. Outstanding pledges as at Dec 31, 2010 totalled GY\$45,000. However only GY\$346,000 was received for the 2011 Convention Project. We received a further amount of GY\$125,200: early 2012. We will seek to have all pledges remitted to the ELCG by June 30, 2012.

1.5 Special Funds- Pakistan

ELCG undertook to request from its membership, contribution for flood hit Pakistan towards the end of 2010. During Dec 2010 and the first quarter of 2011, we received contributions totaling GY\$83,720.

1.6 Clergy/Family Assistance

During the year funds totaling GY\$540,000 were received from Fellowship Lutheran Church to assist the family of Rev. Errol Inshanally while he was on study leave. A balance of GY\$80,000 was held as at Dec 31, 2010. The total funds was paid in full to Rev Inshanally's family by Dec 31, 2011.

1.7 Donations/Gifts/Bonuses

Gifts from Guyana Mission Network totaling GY\$353,225 were received during the year. These were given to the Clergy in equal portions.

Also, the EXCO approved bonus totaling GY\$235,000: to all Pastors, Deacons, EXCO members and Employee of the Church as follows:

7 Pastors	\$105,000:
18 Deacons	\$ 90,000:
3 EXCO Members	\$ 30,000:
1 Admin Staff	\$ 10,000:
Total	<u>\$235,000:</u>

1.8 Overseas Grants

During the year, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has continued its support of the ministry in Guyana. To this end, the ELCG benefitted from grants totaling US\$25,000 during 2011 and these funds were designated as follows:

Medical Outreach Project	US\$10,000:
Christian Education	US\$ 5,000:
Lay Leaders Training	US\$10,000:
Total	<u>US\$25,000:</u>

1.9 Sale of Property

The Executive Council through recommendations of the Properties Committee 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.

During the year, the Executive Council took a decision to dispose of the property located at 210 Sheriff Street (Hanson House). The Council is seeking \$50,000,000.00 for this property. The Council also recently received an offer for the renovation and rental of the said property from an international organization and is awaiting the submission of a written offer to this effect before final consideration.

The Executive Council also received offers for the land at Buxton North, ECD which was formerly utilized for the Holy Trinity Sanctuary. The Council is seeking \$4,000,000.00 for this property.

Land in the East Ruimveldt area is currently under consideration for disposal and the Executive Council is currently engaging interested parties in negotiations.

1.10 Calendars 2010 and 2011

We are pleased to report that approximately 95% of 2011 Calendar payments were received while GY\$30,000 was paid to 2010 accounts. We will seek to recover all outstanding Calendar funds from Parishes by June 30, 2012.

2.0 Expenses

Total expenditure for the year amounted to GY\$7,265,525.00 of which 37% was towards designated accounts spending.

Of the remaining 63%, approximately 20% was expended towards 2010 and 2011 Convention expenses, while employment cost accounted for 13%.

2.1 Assets and Capital Acquisitions

During 2011 our Partners in Mission from the Guyana Mission Network and the Ministry Among Guyanese pledged two Laser Printers and a Multi Media Projector. The Printers were received early 2012 and the Projector is en route. The printers will be assigned to the President's Office and EXCO members while the Projector will be for ELCG use.

Other minor acquisitions for the President's office totaled GY\$18,000.

2.2 Loans Granted

Short term Loans totaling GY\$100,000 which were granted by the ELCG to the ELCG Camp and Retreat Centre were repaid in full as at Dec 2011.

3.0 Audit

We have not received audited Statements from the following:

-St John Parish
-Ascension Parish
-National ELCW

-Reformation Parish
-ELCG Camp and Retreat Centre

Additionally, we have not received financial report from the National ELCW for the year ended Dec 31, 2011.

We encourage these Parishes/Committees to have their accounts audited and submit same to the ELCG by June 30, 2012.

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

4.0 Budget and Future Outlook

As expected, our budget continues to grow and for 2013 the proposed budget sits at GY\$13,240,000.00

Expenses relating to Training/Seminars, Convention and Stipend for Deacons' Cross training accounts for approximately 36% (GY\$4.7M) of the 2013 Budget.

In order to further reduce our 2013 financial deficit, we are proposing a 25% increase in Parish apportionment. The proposed contribution per Communing member is set at \$1,500 up from \$1,200.

The anticipated income from the sale of property has been earmarked for the following projects:

- i. Renovation of Christian Education Director House, Theater Alley, New Amsterdam
- ii. Building of a modern two-storeyed Administrative/Multi Purpose Office for the ELCG at Lutheran Courts, New Amsterdam.
- iii. Rebuilding of the Lutheran Home, New Amsterdam, Berbice

5.0 Administration

Workshops on Finance and Parish Administration were planned for 2011, but due to several factors, were not conducted until early 2012. These workshops attracted over 90% attendance and benefitted many.

Other workshops on Finance are planned for 2012 which will directly target Parish 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.

6.0 Recommendations

In consultation and agreement with the Finance Committee, I place the following recommendations before the Convention for favourable consideration and approval:

- a. That the basic salary of all Pastors be increased to GY\$70,000 per month subject to the elimination of Entertainment allowances.
- b. That in addition to basic salary, that Pastors be entitled to an annual salary increment of GY\$1,000.00 per month for each year served as an ordained minister within the ELCG.

- c. That Travel Allowances for Pastors *without* Parish cars be increased from GY\$25,000.00 per month to GY\$35,000.00 per month. Travel Allowances for Pastors with Parish cars remain at GY\$25,000.00 per month.
- d. That Retirement Gratuity be increased from GY\$10,000.00 to GY\$15,000.00 per month. Only Pastors over 65 years of age and having served a minimum of 5 years in the ordained ministry of the ELCG will be entitled to this benefit.
- e. That Each Ministerial Candidate serving/training outside of their Parish and not under any scholarship programmed be entitled to 50% of Basic salaries paid to Pastors.

If the foregoing recommendation finds favour with the Convention, I further recommend the increases be retroactive to Jan 01, 2012.

7.0 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.

Let us pray God's blessings on our ministry, corporate and individual and for a successful and blessed 69th Annual Convention.

God's Peace and Blessing,

Davy Ram
Treasurer.