(5) Lutheran hymnal and supplement

Although it was made very clear that Lutheran hymnals no longer sell well, synod agreed that the church could be surveyed to see how many people would purchase copies if they are reprinted. The main concerns about the old hymnbook are the use of these and thou and non-inclusive language. Congregations were encouraged to do what we are doing – use Together in Song and new versions of hymns, as well as contemporary songs. (Green?!) 

(6) Seminary – Australian Lutheran College; redevelopment

The convention voted to rename the Seminary Australian Lutheran College. The Seminary site is to be redeveloped at break-even cost and synodspeople will be able to vote for or against the new plans when they come to hand. (Green)

(7) Elections

Chief election results were President: Mike Semmler; Vice-president David Stolz.

(8) Judicial process

A new process has been put in place for resolving disputes in the church. (Green)

(9) Our church 2020 A multicultural church in mission

There was a constant reminder of the extent to which Australia had become a multicultural society. Eg 22% born overseas and 35% of Sydney’s population! We were encouraged to be a multicultural church in mission with the release of a book by this name.

4. Its back to us “How are they to hear?”

The constant refrain of convention was the theme, “How are they to hear?” How will the church in PNG hear, when there are no Australian Pastors serving there? How will the church in SE Asia here unless the LCA continues to send theological lecturers there? How will we hear unless pastors are recruited? How will the people in our country hear unless we teach our children and tell our friends?

What do people need to hear? God so loved the world so that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in him will not perish but will have eternal life?

What about you, will you give generously to support mission? Will it be go or stop (green or red)? Will you pray for the world and for all who tell the good news? Will it be go or stop (green or red)? Will you grow in your learning so that you can tell the good news? Will it be go or stop (green or red)? Will you worship regularly so that you grow in faith? Will it be go or stop (green or red)? How are they to hear? Amen.
HOW ARE THEY TO HEAR?

Words of encouragement, comfort and hope preached by Dr John Thiel, Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, cnr Charles and Florence Sts, Murray Bridge

**Basis:** Romans 10:14  
**Date:** Sunday 19th October, 2003 (19 a P; Convention Report)

1. The theme and the location

   The fourteenth general synod of the Lutheran Church of Australia was held at Stanwell Tops, a convention centre in a spectacular Blue Mountains style setting. Pastors Conference preceded the convention.

   The theme of the Convention was “How are they to hear?”, based on Romans 10:14.

2. Introduction to the Convention Bag and examination of some of the contents

   One of the great things about going to convention is the free bag given to delegates. These keep becoming more and more elaborate, and have been provided by the Lutheran Laypersons League.

   Inside the bag are various goodies – including a ruler, a biro and a notepad. We also have a worship book for the worship services which preceded every day’s sessions, a name tag (with a computerized printout of meals paid for on the back), a book including agenda and reports, a book of nominations and a red and green voting card.

3. How the voting went on some of the top decisions

   (1) Vote concerning LWF

      This was easily the most heavily debated motion, both at pastor’s conference and at convention. It had been decided by our leaders that a 2/3 majority would be required, though that is normally the criterion for a doctrinal decision. Furthermore the majority had to be 2/3 of the entire convention enrolment. After long discussions, the result was (red card).

   (2) Vote concerning Anglican-Lutheran relations

      After many years of talks the Anglican-Lutheran relationship has stepped up in intensity. It was proposed that “we undertake to continue to work together towards a Concordat for full communion and reconciliation of ministries, with full eucharistic sharing and interchangeability of members and ordained ministries Australia-wide.” Arrangements have been made for eucharistic sharing in remote localities, where Anglicans subscribe to the doctrine of the real presence in Holy Communion. (Green)

   (3) Women’s issues

      It was resolved to postpone further discussions about women’s ordination until the next convention, following further studies including studies on interpreting the Bible.

      Some changes have occurred. Women can be elders, women can be layreaders, and women are encouraged to serve in theological roles in the schools of the church. (Green)

   (4) Human embryo experimentation

      A motion was passed suggesting the human embryo experimentation could lead to a lack of respect for human life. (Green)