1. NAME

1.1 The name of the Council shall be the Council for Ministry Support (hereafter called “the Council”).

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Council shall be:

2.1 To promote the objects of the Lutheran Church of Australia and of the Victorian District (see appendix ‘A’);

2.2 To assist congregations of the District to promote their objects (see appendix ‘B’).

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 The Council shall consist of two (2) pastors and six (6) lay persons;

3.2 One (1) pastor and three (3) lay persons shall be elected by a Convention of the Synod;

3.3 District Church Council (DCC) shall appoint one (1) pastor and three (3) lay persons after consideration of the recommendations of the Council and a report from the Electoral Committee;

3.4 The term of service for all members shall be one District synodical term of two calendar years, commencing on 1st January following the Convention of the Synod;

3.5 Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election, but they shall not normally serve for more than twelve years;

3.6 Executive personnel shall serve as consultants, without voting rights, to the Council.

4. OFFICERS and APPOINTMENTS

4.1 The Council members elected by a District Convention of Synod shall, as soon as practical following District Convention, but not later than (four) 4 weeks after such Convention, recommend to DCC additional persons for appointment;

4.2 The Council shall elect a Chairperson from within its membership at its first full meeting following District Convention of Synod. The chairperson shall be elected for the synodical term and be eligible for re-election but would not normally serve for more than three consecutive terms;

4.3 Should a pastor hold the office of chairperson, the position shall become vacant immediately upon acceptance by that pastor of a call to another District of the Church;

4.4 Should the office of Chairperson become vacant the Council must elect a replacement at its next meeting;
4.5 The Council may elect a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary and other officer bearers from within its membership at its first full meeting following Convention of Synod. The persons elected shall serve for the synodical term and be eligible for re-election;

4.6 The Council may elect an Executive Committee comprising office bearers, together with such other persons as the Council determines;

4.7 The Council may appoint sub-committees, task forces, or consultants as necessary to fulfil its objects and where prescribed nominate appointments for consideration by DCC.

4.8 The Council shall appoint all sub-committees, Boards, Councils and Committees that are under the Council’s area of oversight as soon as practical after a regular Convention of Synod. As a general rule, such appointments shall be for a term of two years from the commencement of the new calendar year after the Convention of Synod.

5. DUTIES

The duties of the Council shall be;

5.1 To work cooperatively with the District Bishop, DCC, and the Council for Lutheran Education VIC, NSW & TAS, so that a coordinated and homogeneous approach to mission and ministry within the District occurs;

5.2 To develop and present a draft Mission Plan incorporating an Annual Plan and Budget for consideration by District Church Council;

5.3 To implement the Council’s approved Mission Plan and Annual Plan;

5.4 To ensure that congregational ministry resources are evaluated and pastors and congregations briefed as to appropriate use.

5.5 To analyse and interpret the results of the District’s annual statistical return and to submit a report to District Synod, through District Church Council.

6. MEETINGS

6.1 The Council shall meet as often as is necessary and not less than eight times per year.

7. ACCOUNTS

7.1 The District Administrator shall keep such books of account as are necessary for the proper and efficient functioning of the Council;

7.2 The books of account shall be and remain the property of the District;

7.3 The Council shall be responsible for financial planning, budgeting and reporting as is necessary within its areas of responsibility and as established by its approved Mission and Annual Plan.

8. RULES

8.1 The Council shall be governed by the policies and procedures of the District.
APPENDIX ‘A’ – Objects of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

The objects of the Church are:

(a) to fulfil the mission of the Christ Church in the world by proclaiming the Word of God and administering the sacraments in accordance with the Confessions of the Church laid down in Article II of the LCA Constitution;

(b) to unite in one body Evangelical Lutheran congregations in Australia and New Zealand for the more effective work of the Church;

(c) to promote and maintain true Christian unity in the bond of peace;

(d) to ensure that preaching, teaching, and practice in the Church are in conformity with the Confessions of the Church;

(e) to provide pastors and teachers and other church workers for service in the Church and its congregations, and for this purpose to establish and maintain institutions for their training;

(f) to encourage every congregation to carry out its mission to its local community;

(g) to establish, develop, and support new congregations where it is not possible for individual congregations to do so;

(h) to support and cooperate with selected churches in other lands as they seek to carry out their mission;

(i) to endeavour to foster unity by witness in dialogue with other Christian church bodies;

(j) to establish and maintain schools and other institutions and to foster all other means whereby the members of the congregations receive Christian education;

(k) to cultivate uniformity in worship, ecclesiastical practice and customs in accord with the principles laid down in the Formula of Concord, Article X;

(l) to publish, procure, and distribute literature compatible with the Confession and principles of the Church;

(m) to minister to human need in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and to provide institutions and agencies for this purpose;

(n) to take such action as is necessary for the protection of the congregations, pastors, and other church workers in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights.

APPENDIX ‘B’
The Objects of the Congregation are:

(a) To glorify the Triune God in its worship and in its work;

(b) To bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ through the proclamation of the Gospel in accordance with the Confession and practice of the Church;

(c) To gather into the Congregation such persons as are, or desire to become, members of the Church for their edification through the Word and the Sacraments;

(d) To help the members to dedicate their God-given spiritual, material and physical gifts to the service of their Lord;

(e) To enable the members to reach out into the community in their daily lives and in their Congregational activities as bearers of the Gospel;

(f) To exercise discipline over its members in conformity with the Scriptures and the Confession of the Congregation;

(g) To join with the Church and the District in building and extending the Kingdom of God;

(h) To acquire, dispose of or otherwise deal with real and personal property in the interest of the work of the Church and the Congregation.