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Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

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.

“Responsible leadership in Church life requires that we understand and hold absolutely to confession that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that our primary task is to proclaim what God has done for us in Jesus Christ, and that we, the Church are God’s agents of reconciliation. These are fundamental convictions, which cannot be lost if we are to witness for Christ.

We are challenged to be responsible leaders like the Good Shepherd to lead and tend the flock, to be about our Father’s business, to be ready to witness for Christ wherever we are, to preach the Gospel and spread the good news. Our baptism is the sign that we have the grace and responsibility to share in the ministry”.

(extract from the Secretary’s report)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana 70th Annual Convention

Notice of Convention

12 January 2013

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 70th Annual Convention of the ELCG which will be held from **Sunday 5 to Tuesday 7 May 2013** at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, New Amsterdam, Berbice.

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 2012 Convention
5. Report of the Vice President
6. Report of the Secretary, and Statistical Report
7. Report of the Treasurer; Presentation of the Auditor's Report, and 2014 Church- wide budget
8. Written Motions/Resolutions
9. 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 2012 by **28 February 2013**. 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 2013** and as such, we look forward to your timely submission of the requested information for inclusion in the Convention Bulletin.

Also, in accordance in 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 2013**.

Convention will be asked to **elect a President** from among Ministers of this Church to fill out the unexpired term of the former President.

We look forward to your participation at the 70th Annual Convention of the ELCG.

Yours in Christ,

Samuel J. Goolsarran
Secretary, ELCG

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana 70th Annual Convention

If our Gospel is hid...

Opening Service

Musical Preludes	09.30h – Musical Prelude / Chorus Singing
Venue:	Ebenezer Lutheran Church Lutheran Courts, New Amsterdam, Berbice
Preacher:	Rev. Moses Prashad, Pastor-Calvary Parish
Liturgist:	Hon. Sandra Kurtzious, Vice- President, ELCG
Celebrant:	Rev. Errol Inshanally, Pastor-St. John Parish
Communion Assistants:	Deacon Shirley Jaundoo, St. Michael Parish Deacon Kampta Karran, Ascension Parish Deacon Amanda Singh, Good Shepherd Parish Deacon Conrad Plummer, Redeemer Parish Deacon Elaine Grannum, Redeemer Parish
Lesson Readers:	1 st Lesson - Deacon Inderjit Eugene, Ebenezer Parish. 2 nd Lesson - Deacon Babsie Pierre, Calvary Parish, Gospel - Rev. Moses Prashad, Pastor, Calvary Parish
Acolytes:	Ebenezer Parish
Ushers:	Ebenezer Parish
Organist:	Mr. Limuel Samuels, Ebenezer Parish



Convention Chaplains:	Deacon Shirley Jaundoo Deacon Patrick Jones
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana 70th Annual Convention

If our gospel is hid...

Convention Programme

Sunday, May 05, 2013

09:30-10:00 Musical Preludes/Chorus singing
10:00-13:00 Opening Worship Service – Word and Sacrament
13:00-14:30 Lunch – Convention Officials and Delegates
14:30-17:00 Registration and Free Time
17:00- 18:00 Dinner
18:00-20:00 Debate by Pastors: **Water Baptism is Necessary for Salvation**
Discussion
Evening Prayers - Chaplains

Monday, May 06, 2013

08:00-08:30 Devotion - Chaplains
08:30-09:30 Panel Discussion on Sub-theme I: **How shall they call on Him?**
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 Panel Discussion on Sub-theme II: **How shall they believe in Him?**
14:00-15:30 Third Business Session
15:30-15:45 Break
15:45-17:30 Fourth Business Session
17:30-17:45 Dinner
18:00 Debate by Deacons: **Lutheran form of worship is outdated**
Closing Devotion - Chaplains

Tuesday, May 07, 2013

08:00-08:30 Devotion - Chaplains
08:30-09:30 Panel Discussion on Sub-theme III: **How shall we follow Him?**
09:30-09:45 Break
09:45-11.15 Fifth Business Session – Elections of President
11:15-12:00 Open discussion on matters affecting Parishes
12:00-12.15 Vote of Thanks
12:15-01:15 **Closing Service of Word and Sacrament**
Liturgist - Deacon Babsie Pierre
Preacher - Rev. Kevin Jacobson
Celebrant - Rev. Diana Honeyghan
Installation of President - Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez
Close of Convention - President

Lunch & Departure

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana 70th Annual Convention

The Executive Council

1. **President**
Vacant since 29 September 2012
2. **Hon. 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. Moses Prashad**
Member, Executive Council, ELCG
Calvary 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 70th Annual Convention

Pastors, Parish & Ministry Directory

Rev. Gloria Sampson *Pastor*
Ascension Parish
120 West Ruimveldt, Georgetown
Tel.# 231-0276/646-3742
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: jgobin47@gmail.com

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

ELCG oversight
Good Shepherd Parish
Rosignol, WBB
Tel. # 327-0489

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

ELCG oversight
Reformation Parish
Berbice River,
Tel.# 645-5661
Email: None

ELCG Oversight
Ebenezer Parish
Lutheran Courts, New Amsterdam, Berbice
Tel. # 333 6593
Email:

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

Chairpersons and Directors

Christian Education Department
Rev Diana Honeyghan, *Chair*
Tel: 333-3425; dianapool@yahoo.com
Deacon Babsie Pierre, *Director*
Tel: 218-1108; Babsie_pierre@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry
Mr Davy Ram, *Chair*
Tel: 220-4853, michael.ram@republicguyana.com
Deacon Shelda Emanuel, *Director*
Tel: 220-2912 Haversham_3@yahoo.com

Lutheran Lay Academy
Rev. Moses Prashad, *Director*
Tel: 226-4227 Mosesprashad@yahoo.com

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

Camp and Retreat Centre
Mr Joseph Bedessi
Tel: 333-

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

Church Vocations
Mr Samuel J Goolsarran, *Chair*
Tel: 222-8955 sjgoolsarran@gmail.com

Worship
Rev Moses Prashad, *Chair*
Tel: 227-3351 calvary@guyanenet.com

Interpretation
President

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

70th Annual Convention

Diaconate

Deacon Inderjit Eugene
Ebenezer 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 Patrick Jones
St. Matthew 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

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

70th Annual Convention

Voting Members of Convention: Ministers & Delegates

<u>Parishes</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
Emmanuel	-	1. Ms. Laureen Mc Calman
St. Michael	-	2. Mr. krishnand Jaichand
St. John	1. Rev. Errol Inshanally	3. Ms. Felicia Ramsarran
Transfiguration	2. Rev. Diana Honeyghan	4. Mr. Clifford Drepaul
Ebenezer	-	5. Ms. Jennifer Jagdeo
Reformation	-	6. Mr. Shabraz Ali
Good Shepherd	-	7. Ms. Shelon Bruce
Advent	3. Rev. Leroy Nicholson	8. Mr. Wayne Bruce
St. Matthew	4. Rev. Sugrim Gobin	9. Ms. Abiola Henry
St. Andrew	-	10. Mr. Ackloo Ramsudh
Redeemer	-	11. Mr. Walter Taylor
Calvary	5. Rev Moses Prashad	12. Ms. Leah Kurtzious
Ascension	6. Rev. Gloria Sampson	13. Ms. Carmen Bailey
		14. Mr. Vincent Mercurius
		15. Mr. Mahendra Singh
		16. Ms. Mavis Campbell
		17. Ms. Evangeline Veerasammy
		18. Mr. Ronleigh Watson
		19. Ms. Joni James
		20. Mr. Donald Shivprashad
		21. Ms. Elsie Lowenfield
		22. Mr. Bevon Cummings
		23. Mr. Arnold Barron
		24. Ms. Juliet Nurse
		25. Mr. Errol Ramdhany
		26. Ms. Selina Lepps

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 Auxiliaries

Mr. Davy Ram, 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
 Dr. Erv Janssen, FLC
 Rev. Thomas Snapp, F/BS
 Ms. Chris Klafs, F/BS
 Rev. Kevin Jacobson, ELKS
 Rev. John O'Connor, ELCIC

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

70th Annual Convention

Convention Committees

1. Committee on Reference and Counsel

Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran - Chairperson
Rev. Sugrim Gobin
Mr. 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 - Chairperson
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
Deacon Shelda Emanuel
Deacon Conrad Plummer
Ms. Elizabeth Paduman

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 Constitutional and Procedural Matters.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

70th 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

70th Annual Convention

Minutes # 845

The following are the Minutes of the 69th Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) held from 6 - 8 May 2012 at Calvary Lutheran Church North Road and Alexander Street, Georgetown (6 May), and Ocean View Convention Centre, Liliendaal, (ECD), Georgetown, Guyana (7 - 8 May, 2012).

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 by “*singspiration*” led by Mr. Davy Ram and accompanied with music by Mr. Wayne Melville from St Andrew Parish.

Leaders of the Service were:-

Preacher:	Rev. Paul D. Moonu – President of the ELCG
Liturgist:	Rev. Diana Honeyghan, Pastor of Transfiguration Parish
Celebrant:	Rev. Moses Prashad, Pastor of Calvary Parish
Lesson Readers:	1 st Lesson: Deacon Lenard George, Good Shepherd Parish 2 nd Lesson: Deacon Beverley Johnson, Advent Parish Gospel: Rev. Paul Moonu, President ELCG
Organist:	Ms. Cecilia. Bose, Calvary Parish

2. Summary of Worship Message:

The President summarized his message as follows:

*“The theme for the 69th Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana: Society in Crisis: The Church’s Response; My Involvement represents three things for us who gathered here today and the many who could not join us. Firstly, it makes a **Confession**, one that says we have abdicated our responsibility to be a good neighbor to each other. Secondly, it issues a **Call** to be our brother’s/sister’s keeper. Thirdly, it demands a **Commitment** to a ministry that is steadfast and enduring.*

We are here today because we have read “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” with an exclusivist eye. So much so we have divided/separated the world into two kingdoms, into Church and State. We have gone so far as to compartmentalize our life. But such exclusivist reading is a poor reading of the text!

The text actually recognizes our responsibility to both worlds, to Caesar and to God, not one or the other but both! Hence, the disciple of Jesus Christ has a responsibility to the State and to the Church. We cannot allow pietism to blot out our responsibility to the other world. We are the common factor in both worlds; hence, an enormous responsibility befalls us. God has given us dominion over His creation. God has given us the prophetic voice. God has called us to community”.

3. Opening Convention:

The President, Rev. Paul Moonu, formally declared the 69th Annual Convention of the ELCG in session.

4. 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: Mr. Hamilton Green, Mayor of Georgetown, Ms. Debra Lowe, Chair of Calvary Parish, Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez, ELCA/DGM, Rev. Rodwell Thom, MAG, USA, Ms. Chris Klafs, F/BS, USA, and Rev. Kenneth Kross, ELKS.

5. Introductions to the Sub-Themes

At 6:00 p.m. there were introductory presentations and discussions on the sub-themes as follows:

- i) **Social Issues**– *domestic abuse, child abuse, and HIV/AIDS* by Ms. Sandra Kurtziuos;
- ii) **Environmental Issues**– *waste management, resource conservation, and green and low carbon economy* by Mr. Davy Ram;
- iii) **Political and Economic Issues**– *good governance, national consensus, income, unemployment and poverty* Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran

Monday, 7 May 2012

6. 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.

7. Assembly and Worship Devotion:

Convention assembled for worship devotion which was conducted at 8.00am by Deacons Elaine Grannum and Gloria Sampson, Convention Chaplains.

8. 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.

9. Workshop I: **Social Issues** – *domestic abuse, child abuse, HIV/AIDS*

There were three simultaneous workshops - on this issue as follows:

Group I with Rev. Diana Honeyghan as Facilitator and Deacon Shirley Jaundoo as Rapporteur and 18 listed participants,

Group II with Rev. Errol Inshanally as Facilitator and Deacon Kampta Karran as Rapporteur and 18 listed participants,

Group III with Rev. Moses Prashad as Facilitator and Deacon Shelda Emanuel as Rapporteur and 18 listed participants.

10. First Business Session: - 7 Ministers and 21 delegates were seated.

The First Business Session was called to order by the Vice President, Ms. Sandra Kurtziuos.

11. Committees:

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

- (a) Committee on Reference:
- (b) Committee on Minutes:
- (c) Committee on Registration, and

Parliamentarian: Deacon Conrad. Plummer

12. Report of the Committee on Registration:

Deacon Babsie Pierre, Chair, presented the Report on Registration as follows:

Ministers	-	07
Delegates:	-	21
Advisory Delegates:	-	07
Deacons:	-	17
Fraternity:	-	07

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

13. 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. Tracey Penux - Absent
St. Michael	-	Ms. Felicia Ramsarran
St. John	Rev. Errol Inshanally	Ms. Grace Lonke
		Mr. Lloyd Hendore
Transfiguration	Rev. Diana Liverpool	Ms. Shelon Bruce
		Mr. Wayne Bruce
Ebenezer	Rev Paul D.Moonu	Ms. Jeanette Crandon
		Mr. Ackloo Ramsudh
Reformation	-	Mr. Walter Taylor - Absent
Good Shepherd	Rev. Burchell Moriah	Ms. Ada Rohan
		Mr. Vincent Mercurius
Advent	Rev. Leroy Nicholson	Ms. Kwisi Ceres
		Mr. Mahendra Singh
St. Matthew	Rev. Sugrim Gobin	Ms. Christina Ramsammy
		Mr. James Ramsammy
St. Andrew	-	Ms. Savita Ramsahai
		Mr. Wayne Melville
Redeemer	-	Ms. La Donna Kissoon
		Mr. Raymond Persaud
Calvary	Rev. Moses Prashad	Mr. Winston Felix
		Ms. Debra Lowe
Ascension	-	Ms. Dynutha Adonis
		Deacon Kampta Karran

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 # 836 of the 68th Convention for Matters Arising:

Amendment to the ELCG Constitution

In keeping with the constitutional procedures for the amendments of the Constitution, Convention considered the proposed amendments which were tabled at the 68th Annual Convention 2011, and **voted to approve**:

- a new Article - **Article VII A - Deacons – Section 1 – 12**, for insertion into the Constitution,
- the amendment of **Article IX – Convention** to include a new sub-section (d), and
- the amendment of **Article XIII – Ministerium** to allow for regular reports of the Ministerium to the Executive Council.

The amended Articles which would be incorporated in the Constitution are appended to these minutes.

Second Business Session: - 7 Ministers and 21 delegates were seated.

16. President's Report:

President Paul Moonu presented his report under the following headings including: *introductory reflection, personnel leadership in Parishes, some types of disharmony in the Church, significant events around the Church, Partners in Ministry, Auxiliaries, Committees, Lutheran Lay Academy, Ministerial Candidates, Guyana Music School, Ministerium and Diaconate joint meetings, and Recommendations.*

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

17. Vice President's Report:

The Vice President, Ms. Sandra Kurtzious reflected on the theme for Convention and the general situation of the Church, and made some recommendation.

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

18. Workshop II: *Environmental Issues; waste management, resource conservation, and green and low carbon economy*

The three workshops groups, as constituted at item 9 above, met to discuss these issues.

Third Business Session: - 7 Ministers and 18 delegates were seated.

19. Secretary's Report:

After an introductory reflection on the *Theme with reference to Church and Society*, the Secretary, Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran presented his report as required in two 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 again called attention that some of the statistical information received were not accurate, and appealed to all Pastors, Deacons, Delegates, and Parish Councils to have these updated and corrected by 1 October 2012.

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

Fourth Business Session – 7 Ministers and 18 delegates were seated.

20. 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** 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 2013 Church-wide Budget:**

Following discussions, particularly on the level of apportionment set at \$1,500.00 per communing member, Convention voted to approve the budget with a projected income and expenditure of \$13,240,000 as presented and printed in the bulletin.

Recommendations from the Finance Committee and Executive Council

In consultation and agreement of the Finance Committee and Executive Council, the Treasurer recommended the revised remuneration for Pastors. After discussion and explanations, Convention voted to approve the following remuneration with effect from 1 January 2012:

- i) New basic salary of \$70,000. per month, and the elimination of entertainment allowance;

- ii) A salary adjustment of \$1,000. for each complete year of service as an ordained Minister in the ELCG to be added to the basic \$70,000. per month;
- iii) Travel allowance for Pastors without Parish cars - \$35,000. per month. Travel allowance for Pastors with Parish cars remain at \$25,000. per month;
- iv) Retirement gratuity of \$15,000. per month; and
- v) 50% of basic salary to a Ministerial Candidate serving/training outside his/her Parish and not under a scholarship programme.

21. Participants enjoyed dinner and viewed a DVD Movie – *Psalms of David*, followed by evening devotions conducted by Deacon Elaine Grannum.

Tuesday 8 May 2012.

22. Morning devotions were conducted by Deacon Elaine Grannum

23. **Workshop III: Political and Economic Issues – good governance, national consensus, income, unemployment and poverty**

The three workshops groups, as constituted at item 9 above, met to discuss these issues.

Fifth Business Session: - 7 Ministers and 21 delegates were seated

24. Reports from Workshops

The Rapporteurs for the Workshops presented a report of their respective group. (The full Reports would be circulated to all participants of Convention and all Parishes)

25. Recommendations from the Officers:

Convention considered and voted to approve the following recommendations for early and timely implementation by Parishes and the Executive Council:

From the President:

1. That all Pastors, Deacons, Parishes establish email addresses, and maintain suitable office with telephone and staff to enable the communication in Parish and Church-wide Ministries.
2. That we uphold confidentiality and professionalism at all levels within the Church.
3. That we place emphasis on getting the assets of the ELCG in order so that we can begin to make major capital investments among which is a new office complex in New Amsterdam.
4. That every effort be made to bringing all parochial records in order and up to date.

From the Vice President:

1. That the ELCG website include resource persons and organizations, with various expertise, so that every member of the ELCG is 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 an annual or bi-annual bulletin of the ELCG be produced to reflect activities and work of the Church with contribution from Parishes and national Church organizations as well as the various activities enjoyed with our overseas partners.
3. That suitable arrangements be made for Youth Leadership training within the ELCG and through other sources, so as to strengthen and sustain the Youth Fellowship

From the Secretary

1. that all Pastors, Deacons and Parish Councils undertake as a matter of priority a review and evaluation of their statistics in keeping with the ELCG Constitution to:
 - a. 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
 - b. 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.

26. Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Council:

Convention **voted to elect** the following persons who were nominated un-opposed to serve on the Executive Council for the years May 2012 to May 2014:

Rev. Paul D. Moonu	-	President
Ms. Sandra E. Kurtzious	-	Vice president
Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran	-	Secretary
Mr. Michael D, Ram	-	Treasurer
Rev. Sugrim Gobin	-	Member
Rev. Moses Prashad	-	Member
Deacon Babsie Pierre	-	Member
Mr. Joseph Bedessie	-	Member

Other Ministers declined to serve on the Executive Council thereby denying the Council of its full complement of four elected Ministers.

28. Convention Project Pledge – New Building for Lutheran Home.

The Treasurer announced that the total pledges received amounted to **\$412,000**.

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. Particular appreciation was expressed to all resource persons and facilitators, administrative support persons, and the representatives of our overseas partners.

The President in turn expressed appreciation to the Secretary for his work and for the support of his wife, Ms. Jhula Goolsarran.

Presentations of tokens gifts of local crafts were made to the representatives of our overseas partners.

30. The 70th Annual Convention would be convened from 5 - 7 May 2013

There being no other tabled business, the business of Convention terminated at 1.15 pm

31. Closing Service and close of Convention

The closing service of word and sacrament was held at the Ocean View Convention Centre with Deacon Babsie Pierre as Liturgist, Rev Errol Inshanally as Preacher, and Rev. Sugrim Gobin as Celebrant.

Rev. Inshanally summarized his message as follows:

“If the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3) What was on the mind of the Psalmist when he issued this distressful call? Obviously he was living in no less dangerous times that threatened to derail his society and shake the very foundation of society.

The 69th Annual Convention of the ELCG has taken as its theme: ‘Society In Crisis, The Church’s Response, My Involvement’. We too face grave uncertainties and perilous times. We have had our eyes and understanding spared with an up-to-date account of the Guyana Society: We have looked at Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and H.I.V/A.I.D.S. We have reviewed the environmental plight and the need for good governance in our political system. But in every congregation and in every pew, we are sure to find someone hurting.

In this Easter season, the Risen Christ is with us to guide this Church and to address whatever threatens God’s good creation. We are Easter people and we believe that in our fast Easter World, Jesus comes to us as He came to Peter and say, “Follow me!”

32. Installation of the Executive Council and Close of Convention

- i. The Rev. Dr. Racquel Roderiguez installed the newly elected Officers and members of the Executive Council.
- ii. The Rev. Paul D. Moonu, President of the ELCG, using the order for the close of Convention, officially declared the session of the 69th Annual Convention 2012 closed.

Respectfully submitted

Samuel J. Goolsarran
Secretary

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

70th Annual Convention

Report of the Vice-President

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”. **Psalm 119:105.**

“**If our Gospel be hid**”, was chosen from among many suggestions put by the Convention Planning Committee, as themes for the 70th Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana. This was done after much deliberation and examination of where the ELCG was over the past decade and where we are today as a Church in our Society, our Worship and our Service in answer to the calling of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The sub themes of our Theme are:

- (a) **How shall they call on him?**
- (b) **How shall they believe in him?**
- (c) **How shall we follow him?**

Brothers and Sisters, as Christians, and as we look around in our society, in our community, in our work places, in our Church, in our homes, the answers are glaring. How bold and prepared are we to preach the Gospel, proclaiming that Jesus is Lord, the Alpha and the Omega? How prepared are we to ensure that every auxiliary in our Church is functioning, every member a part of an auxiliary?

A decade ago, our theme for the 62nd Annual Convention was “**Empowering the Church, Through Strong and Active Auxiliaries**”.

I am convinced that it is through the auxiliaries that we will find our answers to the Sub Themes. Our auxiliaries affords us the opportunities to **call, believe** and **follow** God’s call to us to labour in his vineyard in so many miraculous ways, but we continue to look for leadership instead of being prepared to volunteer ourselves and be leaders, to ignore the sound of God’s calling, because we prefer to listen to our desires and fear of this sinful world.

The past year witnessed a lot of activities in relation to its personnel. The ELCG has seen Ordination, installation, retirement and unfortunately even dismissal in its personnel.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. of Congregations</u>	<u>Pastors</u>
Emmanuel	4	Rev Errol Inshanally (ag.)
St. Michael	5	Rev Diana Honeyghan (ag.)
St. John	3	Rev Errol Inshanally
Transfiguration	3	Rev Diana Honeyghan
Ebenezer	3	Rev Diana Honeyghan and Rev Errol Inshanally on rotational basis.
Reformation	8*	Under ELCG Supervision
Good Shepherd	4	Rev Burchell Moriah (<i>Retired Mar 01, 2013</i>)
Advent	4	Rev Leroy Nicholson
St. Matthew	4	Rev Sugrim Gobin
St Andrew	3	Rev Sugrim Gobin (ag.)
Redeemer	1	Rev Moses Prashad (ag.)
Calvary	1	Rev Moses Prashad
Ascension	4	Rev Gloria Sampson
Total	<u>47</u>	

**Only 6 congregations functioning.*

b) Ordination

Rev Gloria Sampson was Ordained as Pastor of the ELCG on the 12th day of August, 2012, and was installed immediately after as Shepherd of the Ascension Lutheran Parish.

Retirement

On the 24th March, 2013, the ELCG held a Thanksgiving /Farewell Service at the Ebenezer Church, in honour of Rev Burchel Moriah, who retired from active duties as Pastor of the ELCG, and as Shepherd of the Good Shepherd Parish.

Rev Moriah gave selflessly and steadfastly of his time, possession and talent to the ELCG for over 26 years. His humility and faithfulness to God's call was clearly reflected in the tributes and presentations of many of our Lutheran Brothers and Sisters from the various Parishes within the ELCG.

May God continue to richly bless Rev Moriah and his family as he continues to answer and fulfill God's plan and purpose for his life.

Dismissal

Despite private discussions and counseling, as well as a meeting with the Executive Council, over an extended period during the year 2012, Rev Paul Moonu persisted in certain acts of gross misconduct which contravened the Constitution of the ELCG.

Rev Moonu further admitted to committing forgery, and as a consequence on the 29th day of September, 2012, he was dismissed as President and Pastor of the ELCG.

Study Leave

Rev Sugrim Gobin returned during the month of December, 2012, after pursuing and successfully completing the C.P.E. Programme which commenced on the 1st June, 2012, at the Wartburg Theological College, Chicago, USA.

Acting Assignments:

The following are the current acting assignments:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Pastor (acting)</u>
Emmanuel	Rev Errol Inshanally
St. Michael	Rev Diana Honeyghan
St. Andrew	Rev Sugrim Gobin
Redeemer	Rev Moses Prashad

Ministerial Students

The ELCG awaits with joyful anticipation the Ordination of four Ministerial Candidates who successfully completed training over the past year, which will greatly enhance the human resource of the ELCG.

Deacons Conrad Plummer, Amanda Singh, Shirley Jaundoo and Kampta Karran, are scheduled to be Ordained as Pastors of the ELCG at the Opening Service of the 70th Convention of the ELCG.

They have also already received and accepted Calls from various Parishes.

Deaths

Several of our members in the ELCG lost their loved ones, some of whom gave significantly of their time, talent and possession to the physical and spiritual growth of the Church. It would be impossible to eulogize each person who passed, but we extend our sincere condolences to the families of the deceased, with the assurance that God's plans and purpose and his blessing are ever sure for those who work in his vineyard.

Relationships

The ELCG continues to be blessed in the many relationships and partnerships shared with various institutions and organizations in North America, the West Indies and Suriname.

The relationships are with The Lutheran World Federation, (LWF), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, (ELCIC), Volunteer in Mission-ELCIC, Florida-Bahamas Synod, (FBS), Fellowship Lutheran Church (FLC), Ministry Among Guyanese (MAG), Wartburg Theological College (WTS), United Theological College of the West Indies, (UTCWI), Guyana Mission Network (GMN), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (ELKS).

Lutheran World Federation

The ELCG continues to enjoy significant ecumenical relationship with the LWF and has over the years received contributions in the establishment of the Lay Academy and other financial contributions which impacted positively on the growth and success of the ELCG.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has not wavered in its commitment to helping the ELCG financially and by way of human resource.

Whilst there is no Pastor presently attached to the ELCG from the ELCA, the Executive Council welcomed the visit during the month of November, 2012, of Rev Raquel Rodriguez, Area Director, ELCA Global Mission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

During the meeting, Rev Rodriguez expressed the ELCA'S willingness to facilitate consultation between the various partners for the improvement and development of Church relations. Continued support for lay academy training and medical outreach programmes, capacity building for youth and women through training and financial assistance for the Christian Education.

The ELCG warmly welcomes Rev Rodriguez to our 70th Annual Convention.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)

The Eastern Synod- ELCIC in its partnership with the ELCG has exhibited its continued support and commitment through the financial contributions made and the invitation extended to our Church to attend assemblies in Canada.

During the month of June 2012, the ELCG was the recipient of financial contribution. June 5th to 8th 2012, the then ELCG President Paul Moonu, represented the Church at the Assembly of the Eastern Synod held in Canada.

The ELCG will also soon be welcoming the presence of Rev Vivian Roberts, Retired Pastor of the ELCIC, who has offered her services to the ELCG, and will be joining us for two years from the month of June 2013.

The ELCG is grateful for the partnership and warmly welcomes the attendance of Rev John O'Connor to our 70th Annual Convention.

Florida Bahamas Synod

The Florida Bahamas Synod like our other partners, continue to be an important contributor financially, morally and spiritually.

Over the years the FBS has supported the ELCG in the area of Construction, books for the Lutheran Lay Academy, "pension" subsidy to retired pastors and as part of the Medical Mission through their representative Ms Chris Klafs who joined with the team visited and held clinics in several parts of Guyana.

The ELCG is extremely happy to have Rev Thomas Snapp and Ms Chris Klafs join us as we celebrate our 70th Convention in the ELCG.

Fellowship Lutheran Church (FLC)

The Fellowship- Lutheran Church and the ELCG have enjoyed and continue to enjoy an active and fulfilling relationship, which involves music, educational materials, construction, medical outreach, and an annual Mission Week activity which sees a member of the Executive Council or Pastor visiting and being hosted by our partners in Tulsa Oklahoma. The presence of Dr. Erv Jansen, of the FLC, who with his wife Sr. Maurine Jansen, hosts the persons who visit Tulsa.

Dr Jansen was also instrumental in the proposed establishment of the Music Academy within the ELCG, which is expected to be launched next year and he is also the patron for the Guyana Music Festival, and initiates and organizes the visits to Guyana of various medical personnel who have share their expertise with the Government of Guyana.

We extend our deep appreciation to FLC and Dr. Erv and Sr. Mauraine and may God continue to richly bless them.

Ministry Among Guyanese and Guyana Mission Network

MAG and GMN are support groups which play extremely important roles in connecting Guyanese Lutheran in the diaspora to the ELCG.

The ELCG has received tremendous assistance from both groups in the form of financial donations, equipment, educational materials, books, and Human Resource.

The selfless dedication of the Members of these groups, and their invaluable support over the years, have impacted very positively on the lives of many of our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Guyana.

Wartburg Theological Seminary

The main focus of the WTS/ELCG relationship is the hosting of WTS students in January of each year for their cross cultural experience in the ELCG. This year there were three students and a child of one of the students. One student was placed in the Calvary Parish, one in the Redeemer Parish and one in the St. Matthew Parish.

The exchange created many friendships and a stronger appreciation and understanding of God's purpose for us as servants in his vineyard.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (ELKS)

The ELCG welcomes Rev Kevin Jacobson, from our sister church in Suriname.

The past few years have seen the continuous building of relationship between the ELCG and the ELKS through exchange and visits between our Youths and the Evangelical Lutheran Women.

MINISTRIES

Christian Education Department

The Christian Education Department remains a vital component of the ELCG, and has the responsibility, among others, of producing Lenten and Advent Devotional for all Churches within the ELCG, VBS Materials, and any other educational material as may be required in the ELCG.

With the departure of Rev Paul Moonu, who was Director (ag) of the CED, Rev Diana Honeyghan and Deacon Babsie Pierre were appointed Chair and Director respectively with effect from the 1st day of January, 2013.

Committee on Youth Ministry (National Youth Commission)

The National Youth Commission has been very vibrant over the past year and have executed several activities such as Day of prayer in the form of a Prayer Chain, a National Rally, a National Youth Service, National Youth Camp, Camp Counsel Retreat, a Fun Day and Bar-B-Que.

The youths are benefiting from the expertise of Mr. Davy Ram as Chairperson and Deacon Shelda Emanuel who were appointed Chair and Director respectively of the Youth Commission with effect from the 1st day of January, 2013.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Women

The women's auxiliary of the church continues to be a driving force of spiritual activity and worship throughout the Demerara and Berbice Districts.

The National body which comprises of members from both districts, planned activities and programs and various outreach to the less fortunate.

The ELCW still faces the challenge of many of our women being reluctant to join and be involved in the auxiliary.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church Men

Though the men are visible and active in Worship and other activities of the Church, the ELCM enjoyed a very short lifespan.

There is no functioning ELCM in any of the Parishes. It is hoped that the Convention Theme will rekindle the enthusiasm and desire to spread the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour.

Ministerium

The Ministerium met once quarterly under the supervision and guidance of Rev Moses Prashad. The gatherings were intended to bring the Pastors and Deacons together for mutual support and to focus on Ministry.

Standing and Other Committees

The Standing Committees have always been an important instrument of the Church. Through the committees, specialized area of ministry are undertaken with the broader involvement of the laity. These Committees are Mission and Evangelism, Christian Education and Literature, Finance and Stewardship, Committee on Interpretation, Vocations Committee, Committee on Worship and the Camp and Retreat Board.

Mission and Evangelism

This committee's activities focus to a large extent on the partnerships though its functions are much wider as defined in the constitution. The committee has met and reviewed its mandate and will be actively engaging the congregations across the ELCG in seeking to fulfill its mission.

Church Vocations Committee

The Church Vocations Committee has been carrying its mandate and has held meetings in the two districts for auxiliaries and committees, as well as interviewed the Ministerial Candidates.

Committee on Worship

The Committee on Worship met and held discussions on various forms of worship in the church.

Camp and Retreat Centre Board

The Camp and Retreat Board has reported several areas of concern regarding the resuscitation of the Board and the operations at the Centre, which has been inactive for the past two years.

Efforts to convene a meeting and appoint a new Board is presently ongoing and it is anticipated that upon its appointment, recommendations will be submitted for the use and development of the Centre.

Conclusion

Year after year, we see and hear recommendations being made from our Church's President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, but how many of those recommendations do we follow or implement?

Let us therefore examine the past decade and as we prepare to celebrate 270th year of Lutheranism in Guyana, during the month of October, 2013, let us reflect on the journey and what it is to boldly proclaim Jesus Christ as our Saviour, so that we can **call, believe** and **follow** him as he would have us do.

As I close, I am extremely grateful to God, to the Members of the ELCG, and to the Executive Council, and more especially Mr. Samuel Goolsarran and Mr. Davy Ram, the Secretary and Treasurer respectively, whose guidance, support and kind criticism, have impacted very positively on my spiritual and secular life.

"Whatsoever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord, and not for men." Col: 3:23.

Yours in Christ,

.....
Sandra Kurtzious
Vice President

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

70th Annual Convention

Report of the Secretary

Introductory Reflection: Leadership in Church Life

“I am not ashamed (I am proud) of the good news of the Gospel. It is God’s powerful way of saving everyone who in faith believes, whether they are Jews or Gentiles...” (Romans 1:16)

We are remembering and celebrating our faith during this 270th anniversary year and our 70th Annual Convention under the theme: ***If our Gospel is hid...*** (2 Cor. 4:3). We salute all our serving Pastors, Deacons, lay leaders, and staff for their continued dedication and commitment in the ministries of our church. We remember with gratitude and thankfulness, the Guyanese and overseas Pastors, Missionaries, Guyanese Catechists, and Parish workers, who laboured in the ELCG from 15 October 1743 when the Church was founded and rooted in the laity. Particular recognition must be given to those Catechists and Parish workers who through their evangelistic efforts and work in the 1940’s – 1960’s were the instruments for the rapid growth of the Church with the establishment of more than 50 active and growing congregations and some 60 Sunday Schools.

Today, we have 35 Sunday Schools and about 40 functioning congregations, and are struggling to keep the Reformation Parish alive. Migration, due largely to economic and social factors, has had a big impact on our Church resulting in a diaspora of clergy and laity in North America. That, along with fewer Pastors as a result of ongoing migration, has been our recurring explanation for the decline. Yet we note the growing Pentecostal and other churches in many locations where we have congregations. These other churches work actively among the non-Christian communities in evangelistic and other outreach activities. Our inactivity and absence, together with fewer personnel resources no doubt benefit these other churches.

In order to address the personnel, pastoral resources, and the seemingly on-going “maintenance ministry” in our Church, we have re-introduced, and established a more active lay and diaconate training programme leading to the pastoral ministry with the hope of deepening and widening our ministries. How have we done? What has been the impact over the last three years since we commissioned nineteen Deacons? At the opening service of this Convention, four Deacons were ordained, joining the two previously ordained - one in 2010 and the other in 2012. So this year 2013, we joyfully welcome the Rev. Amanda Singh, Rev. Conrad Plummer, Rev. Shirley Jaundoo, and Rev. Kampta Karran as Ministers of the ELCG and Parish Pastors. We wish them God’s blessings in their work and ministry. They face the challenge of transitioning fully into the pastoral office and role, to be Shepherds, working in harmony with former colleague Deacons under the authority of the Parish Councils and Congregations.

As Christians, we are called to witness, and to show the grace of God in our lives in accordance with the gifts God has given each of us: *“Each of you has been blessed with one of God’s many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. So use your gifts well...”* (1 Peter 4: 10). 11)

By our Baptism and our confession of Jesus Christ as Lord, we are committed to the essential task of proclaiming the gospel to all people. This is the responsibility of the ordained minister, the diaconate and the laity. The ordained minister and the diaconate are called and commissioned to fulfill the specific task of preaching the gospel and administering the holy sacraments; called by the laity of the congregation to tend the life of the congregation and parish in the power of the good news of the Word of God.

The Commissioned Deacons and the Ordained Ministers are called to be Shepherds of God’s people, and are under obligation to face up to the demands of accountability to God who calls us, and to the authority of the Church and the Congregation. Ezekiel Chapter 34 makes some compelling statements concerning shepherds of Israel, and the Good Shepherd. The Prophet Ezekiel spoke of shepherds of Israel who failed to properly tend the sheep – God’s people. As a consequence, the Good Shepherd, God, will take charge and sanction those who neglected their responsibility to minister to the people. We are reminded that we are Christians called to servant-leadership in Church and community.

We are all shepherds and leaders. As children of God, we are no longer our own; God paid a price for us. We therefore belong to, and are responsible to God for our life, witness, and vocation. This is the foundation of real and abiding leadership recognizing that since we belong to God, all that we are, and everything we have belong to God.

Responsible leadership in Church life requires that we understand and hold absolutely to confession that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that our primary task is to proclaim what God has done for us in Jesus Christ, that we, the Church are God's agents of reconciliation. These are fundamental convictions, which cannot be lost if we are to witness for Christ. We are challenged to be responsible leaders like the Good Shepherd to lead and tend the flock, to be about our Father's business, to be ready to witness for Christ wherever we are, to preach the Gospel and spread the good news. Our baptism is the sign that we have the grace and responsibility to share in the ministry. (Romans 12:8)

Jesus Christ, our Lord sets the model for the ministry of His Church. The model of ministry is Christ Himself. We are invited to ponder the example our Lord gives of Himself in the Gospel of John Chapter 10, where Jesus describes Himself as the *Good Shepherd*, a Leader who guides His people as a shepherd leads his sheep.

Everyone who wants to lead in the kingdom of God through the Church requires developing "heart qualifications". The image of the shepherd best captures the heart of a godly leader: Shepherds are tender, sincere, keenly attentive, and loving. They guide, correct, protect and feed. John contrasts the good shepherd with the hireling. A hireling receives pay for his job, but has no heart for it. He watches out for the sheep until he no longer benefits.

Jesus teaches that leadership means dedicated servanthood, a quality we are losing in Church life and therefore bring our leadership into question. We believe that the ministry is for all people of God. Responsible leadership means enabling our fellow members, and enabling all the clergy, the diaconate, and the laity to become willing, worthy, and faithful shepherds of God's people.

Love of God and love of people are absolute and fundamental in church life – the example of our Lord Himself – being the Good shepherd who gave up His life for His sheep.

As leaders, we are to cultivate an interior spiritual and wholesome life if we are to succeed in giving to people the example of wholeness, strength, and integrity, inner peace and power. We are reminded that leaders, shepherds, spiritual overseers, servants of God, evangelists, teachers, prophets, and priests and whatever might be our special gifts – preaching, management and administration, counselling – whatever, each or all of these are grounded on a life that is whole, authentic, full of integrity, spiritual depth, and power in Jesus Christ.

When we speak of responsible leadership in Church life, we are talking about our accountability to God with regard to the resources set before us, both personal and corporate in our work in the Church and out of the Church. If we work as to the Lord, it will be a witness to all wherever we are. That can make our daily work truly the Lord's work. We are to do our work for Christ and our work will witness for Christ.

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 2012, met in June, July, September (two meetings) October, November, and December 2012, and in January, February, March, and April 2013 on Church-wide matters. During the period under review, May 2012 to April 2013, the Council considered matters affecting the administration and life of the Church, and made decisions and interventions on several matters, including:

- 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 where none exists. (see Convention Minutes – page 17 of this bulletin)

- ministerial internship for Deacon Gloria Sampson at the St. Matthew Parish, followed by evaluation, examination and approval for the Pastoral Ministry. Following her acceptance of the ELCG Call and of Ascension Parish Call, she was ordained a Minister of the ELCG, and installed as Pastor of the Ascension Parish on 12 August 2012 at Ascension Lutheran Church We welcome the Rev. Gloria Sampson as a Minister of the ELCG
- we have re-activated and updated the ELCG Website – www.elcguyana.org It is current and a work in progress with voluntary webmaster service from Mr. David Goolsarran, a member of Calvary Parish. The ELCG Secretary provides updated content materials.
- 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 of Suriname, GMN of US and MAG of US;
- directed in July 2012 that unauthorized and unconstitutional charging of fees for performing weddings cease. The Council subsequently in February 2013, on the recommendations of the joint Ministerium and Diaconate, approved the request for donations/contributions from Non-Lutheran Christians for both Weddings and Funerals - for the Church \$10,000.; for the Pastor - \$6,000.; for the Organist \$3,500., and for the cleaner \$2,000. Members, whether active or inactive will not be required to give any such contributions.
- financial administration, and office administration matters, including the appointment of Ms. Elizabeth Paduman as Administrative Secretary from January 2013
- overseas representation and conferences; and overseas resource persons for training interventions for the Ministerium and the Diaconate;
- the appointment of the following Directors effective January 2013: Deacon Babsie Pierre – Christian Education Department; Deacon Shelda Emanuel – Youth Ministry, and Rev. Moses Prashad – Lutheran Lay Academy
- The approval of Deacons Conrad Plummer, Amanda Singh, Shirley Jaundoo, and Kampta Karran as Candidates for the Pastoral Ministry and for ordination in keeping with the constitutional requirements on ELCG and Parish Calls.
- Approved the ELCG and Ebenezer Parish Calls to the Rev. Vivian S. Roberts from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (Nova Scotia) to serve as a Minister of the ELCG and Pastor of Ebenezer Parish. The Rev. Roberts is expected to arrive in Guyana in June 2013 for this assignment initially for two years.
- Approved a new retirement age of 70 for Ministers as against the original retirement age of 65;
- Approved the retirement of the Rev. Burchell Alexander Moriah as an active Pastor from 1 March 2013. A farewell service of word and sacrament was held at the Ebenezer Lutheran Church on Sunday 24 March 2013 in honour of, and as a tribute to Pastor Moriah for his long and dedicated service as Pastor in the ELCG. We give thanks for his Ministry and work; and wish him and his family God's blessings and favour.
- Directed the Church Vocations Committee to review the reports of Deacons and of their Parishes/Pastors on their work and to dialogue with the Deacons, their Pastors and Chairpersons of Parish Councils in this connection;
- the consideration and actions relating to property assets of the Church;
- incoming and outgoing correspondence; and regular reports from Officers; and

- on 29 September 2012, after careful investigation and evidence, and due process, “*unanimously voted to dismiss the Rev. Paul Moonu and recalled and cancelled his ordination as Minister effective 29 September 2012... for your admitted forgery as well as gross misconduct as President and Pastor of the ELCG in contravention of the Constitution, despite previous, private counsel and warning...*”

Church-wide Statistics

I am further 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 pages 28-30).

While it is noted that the keeping of accurate parochial records of each Congregation is a constitutional duty of Ministers, 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 Church wide Statistics 2012

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	543	88	58	35	0	0	0	0	0	4
St. Phillip	214	64	42	30	10	5	0	5	0	0
St. Matthias	234	17	11	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 1.	1215	169	111	73	10	5	0	5	0	4
St. Michael										
St. Luke	176	156	40	40	14	12	12	0	0	0
St. Stephen	269	76	12	11	7	2	3	6	0	0
St. Michael	341	141	29	25	13	8	1	0	17	0
St. James	404	179	31	29	13	11	10	0	10	0
St. Barnabas	180	78	40	37	21	16	8	0	15	0
Sub Total 2.	1370	630	152	142	68	49	34	6	42	0
St. John *2										
St. John	1415	631	68	58	15	8	12	0	12	8
St. Peter	155	75	14	9	6	0	5	0	0	0
St. Bartholomew	121	52	40	33	26	0	4	0	5	1
Sub Total 3.	1691	758	122	100	47	8	21	0	17	9
Transfiguration	498	103	30	18	6	0	4	0	0	0
Holy Cross	289	138	35	30	13	0	8	3	4	4
Bethel	421	218	45	40	20	16	13	3	6	4
Sub Total 4.	1208	459	110	88	39	16	25	6	10	8
Ebenezer*3 ('10)										
Ebenezer	2446	2019	456	396	25	10	20	0	5	7
St. Timothy	331	277	3	20	13	3	5	0	10	0
St. Thomas	481	406	47	47	12	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 5.	3258	2702	506	523	50	13	25	0	15	7
Reformation *4										
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

ELCG Church wide Statistics 2012

Parish	Baptised	Confirmed	Commu.	Active	SS	LL	ELCW	ELCM	Bible/C	Choir
Good Shepherd										
Good Samaritan	202	72	20	10	0	0	5	0	6	0
Good Shepherd	570	377	38	30	29	12	1	0	4	0
Nazareth	289	146	14	10	22	0	3	0	4	0
Resurrection	171	99	18	16	12	0	5	0	4	0
Sub Total 7.	1232	694	90	66	63	12	14	0	18	0
Advent *5										
Hope	113	106	60	46	45	0	13	0	14	0
Christ	68	47	35	29	28	0	5	0	12	0
Faith	70	54	39	30	13	0	0	0	6	0
Advent	76	47	40	26	20	0	4	0	7	0
Sub Total 8.	327	254	174	131	106	0	22	0	39	0
St. Matthew										
Bethany	165	82	30	22	8	0	0	0	10	0
St. Matthew	376	151	50	40	10	0	5	0	6	0
Holy Communion	292	40	30	28	40	12	12	0	20	0
Messiah	276	67	16	16	8	0	6	0	6	0
Sub Total 9.	1109	340	126	106	66	12	23	0	42	0
St. Andrew										
Swargia Vani	192	224	41	36	20	10	8	0	7	0
Sadhu S. Singh	232	215	31	31	30	16	12	0	7	0
St. Andrew	307	249	42	42	16	24	0	0	15	0
Sub Total 10.	731	688	114	109	66	50	20	0	29	0
Redeemer *6										
Redeemer	1152	852	114	94	30	0	25	0	9	0
Sub Total 11	1152	852	114	94	30	0	25	0	9	0
Calvary										
Calvary	1218	718	111	84	25	8	10	6	12	13
Sub Total 12.	1218	718	111	84	25	8	10	6	12	13
Ascension										
Epiphany	156	154	30	30	12	5	12	4	15	0
Ascension	708	224	18	17	10	0	0	0	8	0
King of Glory	172	172	20	26	15	5	4	3	0	0
Mt. Zion	331	138	40	21	30	0	0	0	0	15
Sub Total 13.	1367	688	108	94	67	10	16	7	23	15
Grand Total	16034	9109	1914	1547	637	183	235	30	256	56

Statistical Summary – Church-wide

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Pastors:	8	6	7	7
Deacons:	3	18	19	18
Congregations:	46	45	44	44
Sunday Schools:	37	35	33	35
Luther Leagues:	22	26	21	18
ELCW:	26	27	23	29
ELCM:	12	14	12	8
Bible Classes:	15	27	28	30
Choirs:	5	7	8	8
Baptized as at 31 December:		11,325	15,852**	15,956**
Baptized during the year:		172	66	78
Confirmed as at 31 December:		6,841	8,856*	9,018**
Confirmed during the year:		156	54	91
Communing members:		2048	1917	1897
Active Members		1475	1484	1547
Weddings:		Not Reported	77 (42 Ad. Par.)	33 (17Ad. Par.)
Funerals:		Not Reported	38	45
Thanksgiving Service:		Not Reported	109	165

***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 as the base) missing some years;
St. John	- missing some years,
Reformation	- no complete record/records cannot be located
Ascension	- no complete record;
Redeemer	- reported missing records: December 1953 – June 1960; May 1989 – May 1991; February 2002 – May 2003; and June 2005 – May 2008.

- Apart from congregations in the **Reformation Parish, where no organization is functioning**, the following Congregations have:

No Sunday Schools:

- Emmanuel Parish - Nativity, Emmanuel, St. Matthias
- Good Shepherd Parish - Good Samaritan

No Luther Leagues:

- Emmanuel Parish -Nativity, Emmanuel, St. Matthias.
- St. John Parish - St, Bartholomew, St Peter,
- Transfiguration Parish – Transfiguration, Holy Cross
- Ebenezer Parish – St. Thomas
- Good Shepherd Parish - Good Samaritan, Nazareth, Resurrection
- Advent Parish -Faith, Advent, Hope, Christ
- St. Matthew Parish - Bethany, St. Matthew, Messiah
- Redeemer Parish
- Ascension Parish – Ascension, Mt. Zion.

Recommendations: I wish respectfully to bring to Convention attention that the following recommendations were approved by last Convention and to report that very little or no progress has been made, and that since they have already been adopted by Convention, that Parishes take urgent actions to address these challenges:

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, and 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 2013 (new date) 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 2013; (new date); 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 2014 (new date).

Conclusion

We have much work to do and little time. But we are stewards of our time...For Christians, the stewards of time; the period of opportunity is “now”. Every day, every moment is one of opportunity to be redeemed. So, we are to manage our God given time so as to give attention to “first things, first”. The priority of doing the Lord’s work is fundamental especially for leaders in church ministries.

We are all to resolve and pray to become diligent and faithful leaders, responsible to God for the gifts and resources placed in trust to us – the opportunity of time, our skills, knowledge, capacity, and the material blessings in life. Let us work together with God, and we beg you to make good use of God’s kindness to you” (2 Cor. 6: 1). We have the grace and responsibility to share the good news of the Gospel in our life, witness and vocation.

Distinguished participants of Convention, I place on record my thanks and appreciation to all for your 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

70th 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, 2012.

1.0 Income

Total Income for the Year 2012 was \$9,109,572 achieving 87% of our 2012 Budget. However, our local income accounted for only 37.8% of the 2012 Budget. The remaining 49.2% was achieved through grants/gifts from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), Guyana Mission Network, Ministry among Guyanese and funds from Lutheran World Federation for overseas travels during the year.

Please see 2012 Financial Highlights for further details.

1.1 Cash Position

The following is the Cash Position as at Dec 31, 2012:

Cash in Hand	\$	0
Cash at Bank		
-Current Account	\$	1,525,357
-Optimizer Account	\$	6,295,928
-Save & Prosper	\$	7,973,115
Total		<u>\$15,794,399</u>

1.2 Bank Reconciliation

The reconciliation of the Current Account indicates that forty one (41) cheques totaling \$476,300: were outstanding as at December 31, 2012.

1.3 Apportionment

Apportionment budgeted for 2012 was \$2,457,600 coupled with outstanding payments from previous years of \$2,458,457: puts total Parish apportionment outstanding as at Jan 01, 2012 to \$4,916,057: During the year under review, we received payments totaling \$1,885,800: representing 77% of payments due for 2012 and 38% of total outstanding payments.

1.4 Annual Convention 2012

a. *Convention Expenses*

2012 Annual Convention accounts are as follows:

Income

Registration	\$	392,000:
Offering	\$	76,720:
Total Income		<u>\$ 468,720:</u>

Expenses

Rental/Meals/Snack	\$	958,811:
Bulletin/Banners/Photography	\$	124,700:
Hospitality/Hosting	\$	17,400:
Other Expenses	\$	42,460:
Total Expenditure		<u>\$1,143,371:</u>

Deficit **(\$674,651:)**

b. *Convention Project*

Pledges towards the rebuilding of the Lutheran Home as at Dec 31, 2012 are detailed below:

	Pledge	Receipts	Outstanding
2011	465,200	346,000	119,200
2012	412,000	512,200	-100,200
Total	877,200	858,200	19,000

We encourage donors to settle their outstanding balances by Jun 30, 2013.

1.5 Training and Education

During the year funds totaling GY\$2,993,765 were expended in the area of training. This expenditure reflects the thrust and vision of the ELCG in the area of developing and equipping leaders in the church.

Diaconate Workshops	\$ 767,454
Diaconate Stipend	\$1,260,000
LLA Stipend	\$ 592,875
Travels-Overseas Training	\$ 350,244
Other workshops	\$ 23,192
Total	<u>\$2,993,765:</u>

1.6 Donations/Gifts/Bonuses

Gifts from Guyana Mission Network totaling GY\$390,000 were received for and given to the Clergy and Deacons during December 2012.

Also, the EXCO approved bonus totaling GY\$240,000: to all Pastors, Deacons, EXCO members and Employee of the Church as follows:

7 Pastors	\$105,000:
17 Deacons	\$ 85,000:
5 EXCO Members	\$ 50,000:
Total	<u>\$240,000:</u>

1.7 Overseas Grants/Gifts

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\$3,909,346: during 2012 and these funds were designated as follows:

From Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

Medical Outreach Project	US\$5,000:
Christian Education	US\$1,000:
Lay Leaders Training	US\$3,500:
Total	<u>US\$9,500:</u> (GY\$1,881,520)

From Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada:

ELCG Administration	GY\$315,766:
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From Ministry Among Guyanese

ELCG Administration	GY\$995,000:
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From Guyana Mission Network

Printers/Toners	GY\$187,060:
Youth Ministry	GY\$140,000:
Gifts-Pastors/Deacons	GY\$390,000:
Total	<u>GY\$717,060:</u>

1.8 Property/Assets/Capital Acquisitions

a. Property

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.

Additionally, during the year 2012, 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)	\$40,000,000:
ii.	E½ of Lot 686 Plantation Ruimveldt	\$90,000,000:
iii.	W ½ of Lot 50 Section 'A' Buxton, ECD	\$ 6,000,000:
iv.	210 Sheriff Street (Hanson House)	\$50,000,000:

We are currently engaged in discussions with interested parties regarding sale/rental of the aforementioned properties.

b. Capital Acquisitions

During 2012 our Partners in Mission from the Guyana Mission Network and the Ministry Among Guyanese gifted the ELCG with two Laser Printers and a Multi Media Projector respectively.

The printers were assigned to the President's Office and EXCO members while the Projector will be for ELCG use.

1.9 Expenses

Total expenditure for the year amounted to GY\$11,015,248 of which Training and Education accounted for the single largest expenditure of 27% or GY\$2,993,765.

Of the remaining 73%, approximately 11% was expended towards 2012 Convention expenses, while employment cost accounted for approximately 7%.

During the period, the amount of GY\$1,246,750 which was designated for Christian Education Department was transferred.

2.0 Loans Granted

Short term Loan totaling GY\$300,000 which was granted by the ELCG to the National Youth Commission was repaid in full as at Dec 31, 2012.

3.0 Audit

We have received Audited Statements from the following:

- Redeemer
- Advent
- St Matthew
- Ebenezer
- National ELCW
- Emmanuel
- Calvary
- Christian Education
- Good Shepherd
- National Youth Commission

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, 2013.

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

4.0 Finance Administration

Workshops on Finance and Parish Administration were planned and conducted in Mar 2012. These workshops attracted over 90% attendance and benefitted many.

Other workshops on Finance planned for 2013 will 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.

5.0 Budget and Future Outlook

The proposed 2014 budget is set at GY\$12,450,000.00 and reflects an approximate decrease of 5% when compared to the 2013 Budget. This decrease is mainly due to the significant reduction in provisioning for Deacons' stipend by approximately 60%. However, based on our anticipated income, we project an overall deficit of GY\$4,545,100:

In order to further reduce our 2014 financial deficit, we are proposing a 12% increase in Parish apportionment. The proposed contribution per Communing member is set at \$1,700 up from \$1,500.

The Executive Council has discussed and agreed on the way forward as it relates to the following construction/maintenance projects:

- a. Refurbishment of CED House (St Ann's Street, NA, Berbice)
- b. Erection of a New ELCG Administrative Multi-purpose Office Complex (Lutheran Courts, NA, Berbice)
- c. Re-envison/Remodel the Camp and Retreat Centre (Skeldon, Berbice)
- d. Construction of a new Lutheran Home (New Amsterdam, Berbice)
- e. Establishment of the Guyana Lutheran Music Academy (Lutheran Courts, NA, Berbice).

6.0 Recommendations

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

- a. In light of the ongoing financial difficulties faced by some Parishes, we recommend that each self supporting and affluent Parish within the ELCG seek to conscientiously assist other ELCG Parishes in meeting their financial and other obligations.

Further, that the Executive Council, based on criteria set and recommended by the Finance and Stewardship Committee, seek to fully/partially write off specific debts that are outstanding for a specific period by ELCG Parishes.

- b. That Convention reaffirm and mandate that Parishes with separate congregational accounts seek to consolidate same into one/several Parish Account(s) for the benefit of the Parish and its ministry.
- c. That in light of increasing imminent risks, whether human or natural faced by all in Guyana today, and in the interest of safe guarding our assets, that the Convention give approval for the establishment of a Group Fire Insurance Policy for the ELCG with a reputable Insurance Company in Guyana, subject to an assessment and analysis by the Finance and Stewardship committee.
- d. That in order to reflect the true financial position of Parishes and Auxillaries, the Convention mandate that each Parish/Auxilliary by latest May 2016, take the necessary steps to ensure that Balance Sheets are prepared and submitted to the ELCG Treasurer annually (Feb 28). The Finance and Stewardship Committee stand ready to conduct workshops within each Parish on the preparation of Balance Sheets.

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

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. Special Thanks also to the members of the Finance and Stewardship committee for their invaluable contribution, guidance and support.

Let us pray God's blessings on our ministry, especially as we reflect and celebrate 270 years of Lutheran witness in Guyana. We pray for a successful and blessed 70th Annual Convention.

God's Peace and Blessing,

.....
Davy Ram
Treasurer.