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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 are to work hard, and be organized. There is no excuse for laziness, sloppiness and half-heartedness in the Kingdom of God. If it is God's work we are doing, we must do it with all of our might. But let us not think that it is all up to us. We are more likely to be effective once we get rid of the idea that it is all up to us. Jesus remains Sovereign Head of His Church with the Holy Spirit at work. We recognize our own weakness and echo the Psalmist words: **"I will go in the strength of the Lord God"** (Psalm 71: 16) Then we will not faint or fail, for we are reliant on God's strength to do His work".*

(Extract from Secretary's Report to Convention 2014)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
71st Annual Convention

Notice of Convention

15 January 2014

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 71st Annual Convention of the ELCG which will be held from **Sunday 4 May to Tuesday 6 May 2014** at Ebenezer Lutheran Church and Lutheran Hall, New Amsterdam, Berbice.

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 2013 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 2015 Administration Budget
9. Election of Officers and Members of the Executive
10. Written Motions/Resolutions
11. Close of Convention.

The Executive Council has approved the following theme and Sub-themes for Convention 2014:

Theme: ***I will build my Church***

Sub-themes: ***God's work, our hands***
God's will, our commitment
God's reward, our hope

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 2013 by **28 February 2014**. A copy of the relevant form is attached for your use – one for each Congregation.

The Convention Bulletin will be compiled and distributed to all members of Convention in accordance with Sect. V: Item 6 of the by-laws of the Constitution by **18 April 2014** 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 3 March 2014**.

Since this is an election year for Officers and Members of the Executive Council, your attention is drawn to **Article X – Officers** of the Constitution, and to **Section VI – Elections of the By-Laws** of the ELCG. Nominations to any position on the Executive Council are required to be made strictly in keeping with these constitutional provisions. All nominations shall be submitted to the Executive Council by 15 March 2014 to be kept confidentially.

We look forward to your participation at the 71st Annual Convention of the ELCG.

Yours in Christ,

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

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana 71st. Annual Convention

I will build my Church...

Opening Service

Musical Preludes	9.00 am – Musical Prelude / Chorus Singing
Venue:	Ebenezer Lutheran Church Lutheran Courts, New Amsterdam, Berbice
Preacher:	Rev. Moses Prashad, Pastor Calvary Parish
Liturgist:	Mr. Michael Davy Ram, Treasurer ELCG
Celebrant:	Rev. Vivian Roberts, Pastor Ebenezer Parish
Communion Assistants:	Rev. Conrad Plummer, Redeemer Parish Deacon Babsie Pierre, Calvary Parish Deacon Ishwardei Melville, St. Andrew Parish Deacon Patrick Peters, Emmanuel Parish Deacon Beverley Johnson, Advent Parish
Lesson Readers:	1 st Lesson - Mr. Joseph Bedessie, Transfiguration Parish 2 nd Lesson - Deacon Inderjit Eugene, Ebenezer Parish, Gospel - Rev. Moses Prashad, Pastor, Calvary Parish
Acolytes:	Ebenezer Parish
Ushers:	Ebenezer Parish
Organist:	Mr. Limuel Samuels, Ebenezer Parish



Opening of Convention – Welcome – Greetings from Fraternal Representatives

Convention Chaplains:	Rev. Leroy Nicholson, Advent Parish Deacon Elaine Grannum, Redeemer Parish
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana 71st Annual Convention

I will build my Church...

Convention Programme

Sunday, May 04, 2014

09:00-9:30	Musical Preludes/Chorus singing
9:30-13:00	Opening Worship Service – Word and Sacrament Opening of Convention and Greetings
13:00-14:30	Lunch – Convention Officials and Delegates
14:30-17:00	Registration and Free Time
17:00- 18:00	Dinner
18:00- 20:00	Musical Evening Evening Prayers - Chaplains

Monday, May 05, 2014

08:00-08:30	Devotion - Chaplains
08:30-09:30	Panel Discussion on Sub-theme I: God's work, our hands
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: God's will, our commitment
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	Musical Evening Closing Devotion - Chaplains

Tuesday, May 06, 2014

08:00-08:30	Devotion - Chaplains
08:30-09:30	Panel Discussion on Sub-theme III: God's Reward, our hope
09:30-09:45	Break
09:45-11.15	Fifth Business Session – Elections of Officers and Members of Executive Council
11:15-12:00	Open discussion on matters affecting the Church
12:00-12.15	Vote of Thanks
12:15-01:15	Closing Service of Word and Sacrament Liturgist - Rev. Diana Honeyghan Preacher - Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez Celebrant - Rev. Gloria Sampson Communion Assistants - Rev. Shirley Jaundoo, Deacon Neil Jagessar, Rev. Amanda Singh
	Installation of Executive Council: - Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez
	Close of Convention - President

Lunch & Departure

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
71st Annual Convention

The Executive Council

1. **Rev. Moses Prashad**
President
Calvary Parish

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

6. **Rev. Diana Honeyghan**
Member, Executive Council, ELCG
Transfiguration Parish

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

8. **Deacon Babsie Pierre**
Member, Executive Council, ELCG
Calvary Parish

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

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

71st Annual Convention

Pastors, Parish & Ministry Directory

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

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

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

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

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

Rev. Leroy Nicholson, *Pastor*
Advent Parish
Bath Settlement, WCB
Tel. # 327-0489/328-7007

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

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

Rev. Vivian Roberts
Ebenezer Parish
Lutheran Courts, New Amsterdam, Berbice
Tel. # 333 6593
Email: vsroberts@yahoo.ca

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

Rev. Diana Honeyghan, *Pastor (ag.)*
St. John Parish
Williamsburg, Corentyne, Berbice
Tel. # 322-5438
Email: dianapool@yahoo.com

Rev Shirley Jaundoo, *Pastor*
St Michael Parish
Philippi, Corentyne, Berbice
Tel. # 333 5881/ bleesshirley@yahoo.com

Rev. Vivian Roberts, *Pastor (ag.)*
Emmanuel Parish
Skeldon, Corriverton, Berbice
Tel. # 339-3349/ Email: vsroberts@yahoo.ca

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

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
Rev. Moses Prashad, President, Chair

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

71st Annual Convention

Diaconate

Deacon Inderjit Eugene
Ebenezer Parish

Deacon Patrick Jones
St. Matthew Parish

Deacon Leeta Chutkhan
Transfiguration Parish

Deacon Beverley Johnson
Advent Parish

Deacon Babsie Pierre
Calvary Parish

Deacon Keith V. Hazel
Emmanuel Parish

Deacon Elaine Grannum
Redeemer Parish

Deacon Leonard F. Peters
Emmanuel Parish

Deacon Shelda Emanuel
St. Andrew Parish

Deacon Neil K. Jagessar
Emmanuel Parish

Deacon Ishwardei Melville
St. Andrew Parish

Deacon Lenard George
Good Shepherd Parish

Deacon Lansford John
St. John Parish

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

71st Annual Convention

Voting Members of Convention: Ministers & Delegates

<u>Parishes</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
Emmanuel	-	1. Ms. Lauren McCalman
St. Michael	1.Rev. Shirley Jaundoo	2. Mr. Raymond Jagessar
St. John	.	3. Ms. Indera Latchman
Transfiguration	2. Rev. Diana Honeyghan	4. Mr. Clifford Drepaul
Ebenezer	3. Rev. Vivian Roberts	5. Ms. Regina Lashley
Reformation	-	6. Mr. Rancharran Pitamber
Good Shepherd	4.Rev. Amanda Singh	7. Ms. Sharon Sulker
Advent	5. Rev. Leroy Nicholson	8. Mr. Arthur Swieney
St. Matthew	6. Rev. Sugrim Gobin	9. Ms. Mignon Skeete
St. Andrew	-	10. Mr. Burchell Archer
Redeemer	7. Rev. Conrad Plummer	11. Mr. Walter Taylor
Calvary	8. Rev Moses Prashad	12. Ms.
Ascension	9. Rev. Gloria Sampson	13. Ms. Carmen Bailey
		14. Mr. Vincent G. James
		15. Mr. Marcelous Patram
		16. Ms. Shaneza Noble
		17. Ms. Evangeline Veerasammy
		18. Mr. Ronleigh Watson
		19. Ms. Alana Hafeez
		20. Mr. Dinesh Persaud
		21. Ms. Elsie Lowenfield
		22. Mr. Bevon Cummings
		23. Mr. Arnold Barron
		24. Ms. Juliet Nurse
		25. Mr. Donald Francis
		26. Ms. Burnadette Adonis

Other Members of Convention

i) Advisory Delegates with Voice

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

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

Dr. Raquel Rodriguez, ELCA-DGM
 Mr. Keith Myra, ELCIC
 Rev. Jaime Dubon, F- BS
 Ms. P.J. May, F- BS
 Mr. Eric Sayre, GLMA – FLC

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:

Rev. Conrad Plummer

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

71st Annual Convention

Convention Committees

1. Committee on Reference and Counsel

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

Terms of Reference

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

2. Committee on Minutes

Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran - Chairperson
Rev. Shirley Jaundoo
Deacon Shelda Emanuel

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
Mr. Joseph Beddesie
Ms. Jeanette Crandon
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

71st 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

71st Annual Convention

Convention Minutes # 857

Theme: ... if our Gospel be hid...

The following are the Minutes of the **70th Annual Convention** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) held from 5 – 7 May 2013 at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, New Amsterdam, Berbice.

1. Opening Worship:

The Opening Worship Service began at 10.00 a.m. The service was preceded by “*singspiration*” led by Rev. Diana Honeyghan and Transfiguration Choir.

Leaders of the Service were:-

Preacher: Rev. Moses Prashad – Pastor of Calvary Parish
Liturgist: Hon. Sandra Kurtzious, Vice President, ELCG
Celebrant: Rev. Errol Inshanally, Pastor of St John Parish
Lesson Readers: 1st Lesson: Deacon Inderjit Eugene, Ebenezer Parish
2nd Lesson: Deacon Babsie Pierre, Calvary Parish
Gospel: Rev. Moses Prashad, Pastor, Calvary Parish

Organist: Mr. Lemuel Samuels, Ebenezer Parish

2. Ordination of new Ministers:

The Assembly witnessed the ordination by the Rev. Moses Prashad and the Rev. Errol Inshanally the following Deacons into the Pastoral Ministry of the ELCG:

- i) Deacon Shirley Jaundoo
- ii) Deacon Kampta Karran
- iii) Deacon Conrad Plummer
- iv) Deacon Amanda Singh

3. Summary of Worship Message:

The President summarized his message as follows:

“... the Church is in possession of two tremendous gifts given to her by God. These gifts are 'this ministry' and 'our Gospel.' The fact that in October of this year the ELCG will be celebrating 270 years of the proclamation of the Gospel ministry means that the ELCG cherishes and values these gifts entrusted to us by God.

But deep introspection especially at this particular juncture of the life of our Church might probably reveal that we are not maximizing the use of these gifts. Today our love for Christ is challenged by so many favourable and unfavourable circumstances that our in-depth and wholehearted connectedness to our Saviour might just be ebbing little by little. We might just be in that position which could be considered neither cold nor warm.

St Paul, however, reminds us that broken and fragile as we are; clay jars, the two treasures still remain gifts to us to be used for God's glory. Our strengths and weaknesses, qualifications and limitations must through the Spirit be infused with boldness and courage to make Christ known or we will be guilty of hiding the Gospel. Creation is groaning. The glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ is the Good News we proclaim so that darkness can give way to light, sin to forgiveness, blindness to sight and death to abundant life”.

4. Opening Convention:

The Rev. Moses Prashad, formally **declared the 70th Annual Convention of the ELCG in session.**

5. Welcome and Greetings:

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

Greetings were also brought from: Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez, ELCA/DGM; Dr. Erv Janssen, FLC; Rev. Kevin Jacobson, ELKS; Rev. John O'Conner, ELCIC; and Rev. Thomas Snapp, F/BS. Greetings were also received from the Lutheran World Federation, Wartburg Theological Seminary, the Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud, and the Rev. Paul Tidemann

6. Registration

The registration of Ministers, Delegates, Advisory Delegates, Deacons, and Fraternal Representatives, was conducted by the Committee on Registration from 4.00 pm.

7. Debates:

- i) "**Water Baptism is Necessary for Salvation**" was debated between two Pastoral teams on 5 May 2013 at 6.00pm followed by discussion and interactions with the audience. Rev. Moses Prashad (leader), Rev. Sugrim Gobin, and Rev. Gloria Sampson versus Rev. Errol Inshanally (leader), Rev. Diana Honeyghan, and Rev. Leroy Nicholson.
- ii) "**Lutheran Form of Worship is Outdated**" was debated between two teams of Deacons on 6 May 2013 at 6.00pm followed by discussion and interactions with the audience. Deacon Kampta Karran (leader), Deacon Amanda Singh, and Deacon Shelda Emanuel versus Deacon Conrad Plummer (leader), Deacon Shirley Jaundoo, and Deacon Babsie Pierre.

Monday, 6 May 2013

8. Assembly and Worship Devotion:

Convention assembled for worship devotion which was conducted at 8.00am by Deacons Shirley Jaundoo and Patrick Jones, Convention Chaplains.

9. Convention Sessions:

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

10. Sub-themes:

- i) *How shall they call on Him?*
- ii) *How shall they believe in Him?*
- iii) *How shall we follow Him?*

These sub-themes were presented through panel discussions and audience interactions by a single panel comprising Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez (moderator), Rev. Sugrim Gobin, Rev. Errol Inshanally, Mr. Davy Ram, Deacon Shelda Emanuel, and Rev. Diana Honeyghan.

The first sub-theme *How Shall they call on Him* was presented

11. First Business Session: - 6 Ministers and 26 delegates were seated.

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

12. 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

13. Report of the Committee on Registration:

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

Ministers	-	6
Delegates:	-	26
Advisory Delegates:	-	5
Deacons/Ministerial Candidates:	-	15
Fraternal representatives	-	6

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 were:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
Emmanuel	-	Ms. Lauren McCalman Mr. Krishnand Jaichand
St, Michael	-	Ms. Felicia Ramsarran Mr. Clifford Drepaul
St. John	Rev. Errol Inshanally	Ms. Jennifer Jagdeo Mr. Shabraz Ali
Transfiguration	Rev. Diana Liverpool	Ms. Shelon Bruce Mr. Wayne Bruce
Ebenezer	-	Ms. Abiola Henry Mr. Ackloo Ramsudh
Reformation	-	Mr. Walter Taylor Ms. Leah Kurtzious
Good Shepherd	-	Ms. Carmen Bailey Mr. Vincent Mercurius
Advent	Rev. Leroy Nicholson	Ms. Mavis Campbell Mr. Mahendra Singh
St Matthew	Rev. Sugrim Gobin	Ms. Evangeline Veerasammy Mr. Ronleigh Watson
St, Andrew	-	Ms. Joni James Mr. Donald Shivprashad
Redeemer	-	Ms. Elsie Lowenfield Mr. Bevon Cummings
Calvary	Rev. Moses Prashad	Mr. Arnold Barron Ms. Juliet Nurse
Ascension	Rev. Gloria Sampson	Mr. Errol Ramdhanny Ms. Selina Lepps

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 # 845 of the 69th Convention for Matters Arising:

Convention **noted** that actions were still to be taken on some of recommendations from the Officers at the 69th Convention, 2012, and **urged** all Pastors, Deacons and Parish Councils to review the recommendations, and take the necessary actions as appropriate

17. **Second Business Session:** - 6 Ministers and 26 delegates were seated..

18. Vice President's Report:

The Vice President, Ms. Sandra Kurtzious reflected on the theme for Convention and the general situation of the Church including Pastoral assignments, personnel actions, international relations and partnerships, ministries and standing committees, and the 270th anniversary of the ELCG.

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

19. The second Sub-theme

The second sub-theme *How shall they believe in Him* was presented by the panel.

Third Business Session: - 6 Ministers and 26 delegates were seated.

20. Secretary's Report:

After an introductory reflection on **Leadership in Church Ministries**, the Secretary, Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran presented his report in two other parts as follows:

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

The Secretary reiterated the importance for every Parish and Congregation to compile and preserve accurate records and statistics. He 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 2013**.

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

Fourth Business Session – 6 Ministers and 26 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** 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 2014 Church-wide Budget:**

Following discussions, particularly on the level of apportionment set at \$1700. per communing member, **Convention voted to approve** the budget with a projected income and expenditure of \$12,450,000..as presented and printed in the bulletin.

Recommendations from the Finance Committee

In consultation and agreement of the Finance Committee, the Treasurer presented the following recommendations:

- 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 Auxiliaries, the Convention mandate that each Parish/Auxiliary 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.*

After discussions, Convention **voted to approve** the foregoing recommendations.

22. Election of ELCG President:

Convention **voted unanimously** to elect the **Rev. Moses Prashad** as President of the ELCG to fill the unexpired term (until the 2014 Convention in May) of the Office of President.

23. Convention Project Pledge – for Lutheran Home.

The total pledges made at Convention amounted to **\$275,000**.

24. Tuesday 7 May 2013.

25. Morning devotions were conducted by Convention Chaplains

26. Third Sub-theme

The third sub-theme *How shall we follow Him* was presented by the panel.

Fifth Business Session: - 6 Ministers and 25 delegates were seated

i) Amendment to the By-laws

Based on a written motion signed by five members of Convention in line with Section XVI – Amendments - of the By-Laws, and with **the** concurrence of the Executive Council, Convention **unanimously approved** the amendment to Article VII – Parish Council, Section 4(e) by adding the sentence **“This term limit may not apply to members elected to the position of Parish Treasurer”** after the word “re-election”

ii) Open Discussions on Parish matters

The following matters were raised during this session:

- a) The pressing need for pastoral services in the Reformation Parish
- b) Emanuel Parish – the deteriorating situation of the physical facilities of the Camp and Retreat Centre, and the need to review the situation in the Parish with three Deacons and a Pastor.
- c) Ascension Parish - The non-functioning of the Deacon, and seemingly high apportionment.

These matters were for the attention of Executive Council for consideration and necessary action.

27. 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 the representatives of our overseas partners.

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

28. The 71st Annual Convention would be convened from **4 - 6 May 2014.**

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

29. Closing Service and close of Convention

The closing service of word and sacrament was conducted by Deacon Babsie Pierre as Liturgist, Rev. Kevin Jacobson as Preacher, and Rev. Diana Honeyghan as Celebrant.

Rev. Jacobson summarized his message as follows:

“Let God refocus our eyes and attention off the business meetings, financial reports of the church, all the words that have been spoken in debates, preaching and discussions and onto the living treasures that dwell in your circle of friends. Seven treasures stand before you, they are fragile - like clay pots - they often feel empty and alone. But together, led by Christ, we have the opportunity to fill the empty spaces in these human vessels; God’s desire is that each vessel leaves here holding onto many valuable treasures! Combine these three lessons:

1) seven positive comments or actions to one negative,

2) “the Mad Hugger” and bold experiences, and

3) using your senses is the best teacher.

Now we have our sermon for this morning.”

30. Installation of the ELCG President and Close of Convention

i) The Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez **installed** the newly elected President, the Rev. Moses Prashad.

ii) The Rev. Moses Prashad, President of the ELCG, using the order for the close of Convention, officially declared the 70th Annual Convention 2013 closed.

Respectfully submitted

Samuel J. Goolsarran
Secretary

(Approved by Executive Council meeting on 15 June 2013)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

71st Annual Convention

Report of the President

Reflection: Worship! What happens and where does it lead us?

When we are baptized we become Christians. This is a once in a life time experience. However, in most instances the movement from being a child of Christ to speaking for Christ and about Christ occurs gradually over our entire lifetime as Christians. But what might be the best place to shape and sharpen our capacity “to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His Love” I believe the answer is regular weekly participation in worship.

Among the many acts of the Holy Spirit in the early church, it would be helpful to notice v.42 of Acts Chapter 2: “They devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to bread and wine and to prayer.” The Holy Spirit from the onset created a direct outward movement in the church through specific experiences of worship; teaching and hearing the proclaimed word, celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion, fellowship and prayer. It was from this gathering where worship was central, miraculous signs and powerful messages outpoured, lives were impacted and believers were added to the church.

The context of worship might change but the content never changes. Our journey through life has moments of celebration as well as new challenges and dilemmas. Sunday Worship, nevertheless, must so immerse us that we are able to recognize and acknowledge God’s greatness. Conversely, worship ought to help us find resources in Jesus Christ to face each turn and to discover new angles from which to examine our problems. Worship helps us to find brothers and sisters within the fellowship who offer support as we struggle with difficult decisions. In worship we receive God’s grace for the forgiveness of sins when we falter. All this, nevertheless, must lead somewhere.

We are called to be a people who are able to articulate our faith. When we depart from the congregation after singing, “The Church is one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;” should we not be able to tell someone how the church has been the foundation of our life? If we heard a message one Sunday that our God cares “for the lilies in the fields and the birds in the air,” should we not be able to tell someone who feels unloved and bereft of companionship that God loves them in spite of how they feel and how people treat them?

The ELCG can learn and probably incorporate evangelistic strategies from other churches. Telling others about Jesus Christ must, however, never rest on the isolated testimony or experiences of any one individual. Instead, consistent participation in congregational life through worship is the medium by which the Spirit works to equip and empower us to make Jesus known.

We live in a competitive world and even in the church there is widespread competition. There is a tussle for the soul of the sheep. Without the sheep there would be no flock and the absence of a flock means no church. What then are our expectations when we enter the worship space every Sunday? Yes, we expect God to meet us, greet us, touch us, and turn to us. But why? So that we can similarly turn to and touch others in Jesus’ Name.

I appeal to all parishioners to be more vocal about what happens to us in our worship experiences as we relate with others. Let us heed this call, for I believe this is what the Spirit is saying to the ELCG at this juncture of her history.

LEADERS IN PASTORAL MINISTRY

<i>Parishes</i>	<i>No. of Congregations</i>	<i>Pastors</i>	<i>Deacons</i>
Emmanuel	4	<i>Rev. Vivian Roberts</i>	<i>Neil Jagessar Keith Hazel Patrick Peters</i>
<i>St. Michael</i>	5	<i>Rev. Shirley Jaundoo</i>	-
St. John	3	<i>Rev. Diana Honeyghan (Ag.)</i>	Lansford John
Transfiguration	3	<i>Rev. Diana Honeyghan</i>	<i>Leeta Chutkhan</i>
Ebenezer	3	<i>Rev. Vivian Roberts</i>	<i>Inderjit Eugene</i>
Reformation	6	<i>ELCG</i>	
Good Shepherd	4	<i>Rev. Amanda Singh</i>	<i>Lenard George</i>
Advent	4	<i>Rev. Leroy Nicholson</i>	<i>Beverly Johnson</i>
St. Matthew	4	<i>Rev. Sugrim Gobin</i>	<i>Patrick Jones</i>
<i>St. Andrew</i>	3	<i>Rev. Sugrim Gobin (Ag.)</i>	<i>Ishwardei Melville Shelda Emanuel</i>
<i>Redeemer</i>	1	<i>Rev. Conrad Plummer</i>	<i>Elaine Grannum</i>
<i>Calvary</i>	1	<i>Rev. Moses Prashad</i>	<i>Babsie Pierre</i>
<i>Ascension</i>	4	<i>Rev. Gloria Sampson</i>	-
<i>Total:</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>9</i>
			<i>13</i>

Comments

The ELCG has nine (9) Pastors and thirteen (13) Deacons. Three of the Pastors are serving in acting capacities in other parishes. The time is long overdue for the Nativity congregation in the Emmanuel Parish to open its doors for worship. The Reformation Parish in the Berbice River is now served by two (2) congregations in Kwakwani area and four (4) in the lower Berbice River - (1) Grace (De Veldt) (2) Atonement (Ebini) and (3) Reformation (Kimbria) (4) St. Paul (Maria Henrietta). Members from the Ebini and Kimbria area usually worship at Reformation.

During the period under review the President, Deacons Lenard George and Patrick Jones. and lay leaders Hapworth Thom and Arnold Baron conducted worship services in the Reformation Parish. Five members from Reformation Parish have been identified for training after which they will be accorded the dispensation of Word and Sacrament.

There is an "out-station" Sunday School of the Ascension Parish under the house of former Deacon Ramnarine Kanai in Recht Dor Se, Parfait Harmonie, West Bank Demerara. Mrs. Dolly Karan and her daughter Kavita Sookdeo must be commended for availing themselves and their resources to give service at this location.

Ordination and Installation

Interns Amanda Singh, Conrad Plummer, Shirley Jaundoo and Kampta Karan were ordained as Pastors of the ELCG at the opening service of Convention on 5th May, 2013. These Pastors were subsequently called and installed in the respective parishes. Rev. Amanda Singh (Good Shepherd), Rev. Conrad Plummer (Redeemer) Rev. Shirley Jaundoo (St. Michael) Rev. Kampta Karan (Emmanuel). On 23rd June 2013, Rev. Vivian Roberts of the ELCIC was installed in the Ebenezer Parish.

Resignations

- (a) In the month of August, 2013 Rev. Errol Inshanally resigned from the ELCG and accepted ordination as a Deacon in the Anglican Church. Rev. Inshanally has since migrated with his family to Jamaica. The church would like to express heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Inshanally for his nearly three decades of service. The ELCG conveys best wishes to Rev. Errol and his family in their future endeavours.
- (b) After being given a period to reflect on his role and responsibilities, Deacon Ramnarine Kanai communicated to the ELCG in April, 2014, that he would no longer continue to serve as a Deacon in the Ascension Parish.

Interns

The Executive Council and Vocations Committee had discussions with Deacons Patrick Peters and Patrick Jones. These conversations led the Executive Council to place these two Deacons on an initial six months' internship with the possibility of moving on to ordained service. Deacon Patrick Jones remains in the St. Matthew Parish for his assessment, while Deacon. Patrick Peters interns jointly in the Emmanuel and St. John Parishes.

Death

The entire ELCG deeply regretted the passing of Rev. Kampta Karran on 5th June, 2013 after only one month in the ordained ministry. A huge funeral service was held at Calvary Lutheran Church to celebrate the life of Rev. Karran. Our sincere condolences go out to Rev. Karran's wife Dolly, his daughter Kavita and their immediate family. The ELCG would also in a significant way like to acknowledge and express our sympathy to those members of our church and our overseas partners who lost their loved ones. We remember God's promise that the just will be rewarded.

Partners in Ministry

No church exists by itself and for itself. The ELCG enjoyed shared relationships with other brothers and sisters in Christ in Guyana and around the world.

(a) Ecumenical Gatherings

We are active in participation in the events of the recently resuscitated Guyana Council of Churches of which the ELCG has been a long standing member.. Other Pastors and their parishes are also part of ecumenical groups in their areas.

(b) Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

Through publications, seminars and conferences, the LWF provides opportunities for us to be updated on theological issues and for networking with Lutheran Ministries around the world. Discussions were held with Rev. Patricia Cuyatti on her visit to Guyana in October, 2013. Rev. Patricia is LWF's Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean. Vice President Sandra Kertzious, Rev. Moses Prashad and Rev. Diana Honeyghan attended conferences in South and Central America sharing ELCG positions and practices on Gender Issues, Service and Sustainability in the Church and Empowering the Church for Transformation. The LWF's theme for 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 is: *Liberated by God's Grace: (i) Salvation is not for sale. (ii) Creation is not for sale. (iii) Humans are not for sale.* A member of our church has made a substantial contribution on behalf of the ELCG to LWF for a tree which will be planted at Luther Garden in Wittenberg, Germany This tree-planting exercise – a tree by each member church - is part of the celebration 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Celebrating Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

The ELCA shares a treasured relationship with us. We highly value Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez's presence and impact over the years. As Area Director, ELCA Global Ministries for Latin America and the Caribbean, she has ensured that notwithstanding the global economic crunch, financial assistance is still made available to the ELCG for specific ministries.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)

The ELCG had quite an active year with the ELCIC. Dr. Kunhert and his team visited in October 2013. They discussed collaboration with ELCG and the Government to offer services in Mental Health. A substantial donation was received from ELCIC for capacity building. We received Rev. Vivian Roberts along with her husband Eric in June, 2013. Long in advance, Keith Myra, treasurer of the Eastern Synod booked his ticket to attend our 71st Annual Convention. Rev. John O'Connor also graces us with his presence when he is in Guyana.

Florida-Bahamas Synod

Rev. Tom Unrath is now the Florida Bahamas Synod's representative to the ELCG and ELKS. He replaces Ms. Kris Klalf. A joint meeting with EXCO, ELKS and Rev. Tom Unrath in February 2014 explored several areas of training: Spanish/English, Leadership Development and cross cultural exchanges of pastors and interns between Guyana and Surinam.

Fellowship Lutheran Church

Dr. Erv Jansen was appointed the liaison person between FLC and ELCG. FLC has developed several major initiatives with ELCG. They are supporting a retirement pension scheme for pastors and will commence the Music Academy in September, 2014. This summer Rev. Conrad Plummer and his wife Pat will be ELCG's representatives at FLC's Mission Week.

Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS)

Christine Salser and Jenifer Michael were the two students from WTS for their normal cross cultural practicum. Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud on his yearly visits conducted an Intensive on: *The Pastor in Church and Society*. Rev. Persaud will continue to offer Theological training to leaders in our church in July 2014 on the theme: *Witnessing to Christ*. Matt and his wife who are both musicians, will accompany Pastor Winston on this mission. We thank Rev. Persaud for his untiring work on formation for ministry with our pastors, deacons and lay leaders.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Surinam (ELKS)

Youths from the ELKS attended our Youth Camp. Representatives from ELKS participated in our Intensive. Rev. Kevin Jacobson was present at our Convention in May, 2013, as well as our 270th Anniversary celebrations. Ms Danielle Dokman of the ELKS who is a ministerial student of UTCWI will be on internship in the ELCG during the months of July – August 2014.

Ministry Among Guyanese (MAG)

Our relationship with MAG this year was unusually quiet. However, a substantial cash donation was received from this partner for ELCG's Ministries.

Guyana Mission Network (GMN)

Pastors and Deacons continue to receive Christmas gifts from GMN. The Pastor's diary, repairs to hymnals, the supply of bibles to the Christian Education Department, and sourcing appropriate texts for our Intensives are all invaluable help we have received from GMN. Presently, GMN is soliciting donations of musical instruments and equipment for our Music Academy.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church (NY)

Rev. Bob Fritch and a team from his church visited in November, 2013. Their generous financial donation to the Lutheran Home is appreciated.

Peace Lutheran Church (Texas)

A group of about twenty members along with Rev. Rodwell Thom from Peace Lutheran Church will be participating in ELCG's ministries during July-August, 2014. ELCG acknowledges PLC's financial contribution to the National Youth Commission (NYC) and welcomes Rev. Thom and his team.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana – Ministries

1. Christian Education Department (CED)

The Christian Education Department is an integral dimension of the ELCG. This department continues to provide Advent and Lenten devotional booklets to all our parishes. Materials for our Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible School and other educational resources are also produced by the CED. During the period under review, the CED held Sunday School and VBS workshops, a seminar on the use of puppets in Sunday Schools, and a presentation/discussion on the Liturgy.

2. Committee on Youth Ministry

Early in the calendar year the Committee on Youth Ministry circulated its plan of activities. Under astute leaders, the Committee on Youth Ministry upholds the discipline of ensuring their plans are executed. The National Youth Service, National Rally, National Youth Camp, Camp Counsellors' Retreat and Fun Day were some of the successful events.

3. Evangelical Lutheran Church Women (ELCW)

The ELCW (National) meets quarterly. Though the Auxiliary does not receive the full support of all the women in the ELCG, it has remained steadfast in its commitment to God's mission. A workshop on *Suicide, Domestic Issues and Healthy Living* was held both in Berbice and Demerara. Advent and Pentecost Rallies, Easter Fellowship and National Day Service were major activities of the ELCW. Feeding programmes, distribution of hampers and clothing, and visits to shut-ins are areas of ministry which remains the focus of this Auxiliary. This year at its National Day Service, the ELCW will examine the theme: *For I was hungry; I was thirsty; I was a stranger. (Matt. 27:35)* The ELCW (National) and EXCO are in discussions to forge the way ahead for the Lutheran Home.

4. Evangelical Lutheran Church Men (ELCM)

While we do acknowledge the contributions of men in God's work within the ELCG and even beyond the walls of our congregation, efforts must be made to resuscitate the ELCM (National).

5. Lutheran Lay Academy (LLA)

The LLA commenced classes in March 2014. The lecturers are: Rev. Vivian Roberts (O.T./N.T.), Mr. Eric Roberts (Theology), Rev. Leroy Nicholson (Worship and Evangelism), Rev. Moses Prashad (Preaching and Pastoral Care). Eighteen students are enlisted at the Berbice location and eleven in Demerara.

MINISTERIUM

Ministerium met on 30th October, 2013. There were two presentations/discussions by Rev. Moses Prashad and Mr. Eric Roberts. This session of Ministerium was intended to provide the tools for adequately preparing pastors and deacons for the Worship Service and their Pastoral Role, Preparing for and conducting the Worship Service, Preparation of and proclaiming the Word, and A Professional Approach to their calling were some of the topics discussed.

Committees

The Standing Committee of ELCG focused on specialized ministry. As stated before two ministerial candidates are presently engaging the attention of the Church Vocations Committee. The Mission and Evangelism Committee was able to present the theme: *'Encounters with Jesus'* to be used in all parishes for their mid-week Lenten services. Six new Good Friday meditations on the words from the Cross were sourced by the Worship Committee from pastors and deacons.

Property and Assets

- (a) After some legal hurdles the EXCO was able to secure appropriate documentation for the bus formerly used in the Ascension Parish.
- (b) Years of indifference to our lands and buildings have taken a new turn. By determination and hard work, the ELCG has now moved to selling some of its lands that are not in use. The cash earned from these sales is intended to be used for capital works now and in the future.

Recommendations

1. Each parish must enlist at least two members in the Music Academy.
2. EXCO should consider holding sessions of the Music Academy in Demerara.
3. Urgent necessary repairs to the Camp and Retreat Centre are a priority. Thereafter, a Board comprising capable persons must be appointed to manage the Centre.

4. Discussions between the EXCO and ELCW (National) on the Lutheran Home have been too prolonged. Semblance of this project should be evident by our 271st Anniversary in October 2014.
5. Neighbouring parishes should have at least two Sunday School and Youth rallies every year.
6. Every parish is encouraged to hold one week of Revival Services during the year.
7. One pastor or deacon or lay person must consider availing himself/herself once each month to conduct worship services in the Berbice River.

Conclusion

If I am to point out one 'exalted moment' during my term in office, it would be the fellowship and worship experience at our 270th Anniversary celebrations. This is said to be the largest gathering of the ELCG at an event of this nature. Months of preparation and planning bore much fruit.

The presidency of the ELCG has allowed me the privilege to visit all except one parish. Those visits provided opportunities to discuss inter-personal relationships which affect God's mission and ministry. Interactions in the Parishes were also the basis of how maximum use can be made of personnel, assets and resources.

Leaders are able to lead well when they have a support base. I would like to thank the Executive Council, all Pastors, Deacons and all the other members of ELCG who have journeyed with me. Do remember that the load becomes lighter and much is accomplished when we work together.

God's blessings to all.

Moses Prashad, Rev.
President.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

71st Annual Convention

Report of the Vice-President

“Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, live in union with him, keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught, and be filled with Thanksgiving”. Colossian 2: 6-7.

Once again we gather as Christians to celebrate and give thanks to God our Father as we pass another milestone in the life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana. Our Convention has and will always be a time for deliberating and examining the work done and to be done in God’s vineyard and more importantly, ways in which we can improve and bring a revival to our hope, faith and commitment in our spiritual journey as Christians.

Over the past fiscal year, in my capacity as Vice President of the ELCG, I presided over our monthly Statutory Meetings, which alternated between the Head Office at Lutheran Courts or at a Venue in Demerara. Several very important areas of worship and administrative matters were addressed and successfully executed. At the first Statutory Meeting after the 70th Convention, the Council focused on the issues which were raised and recorded in the Convention Minutes as well as the recommendations offered by the President, Vice President and Secretary in their Convention Report.

The Executive Council also placed great emphasis on the Assets of the ELCG, under, the supervision of the various Parishes of the ELCG, and to this end, was able to garner substantial revenue from the sale of unused and unoccupied plots of land. The proceeds of which will be utilized in the refurbishing and repairing of ELCG buildings which are in dire need of repairs. This exercise is still in progress.

The year 2013 also saw us celebrating our 270th Anniversary of Lutheranism in Guyana, which culminated in a well attended and spirit filled Rally at the Ebenezer Lutheran Church during the month of October, 2013. Deep appreciation is extended to the Planning Committee, the Ebenezer Family and several individuals who selflessly gave of their time, talent and possession which contributed to the huge success of the event.

The launching of the Lutheran Home Project, which is spearheaded by the Lutheran Church Women in Guyana was also done at the 270th Anniversary Rally, and the collecting of funds for this project is ongoing. The Executive Council urges everyone to give their support for the successful realization of this project by contributing their time, talent and possession as needed.

In the fiscal year 2013 /2014 the Church also enjoyed the visit of several of our Christian Brothers and Sisters from North America, Suriname and South America., as we continue to partner and work in Our Lord Vineyard.

The year began with the usual student internship from the Wartburg Seminary with two female students, followed by Rev Dr. Racquel Rodriguez Director of Global Mission from the ELCA, Rev Vivian Roberts and her spouse Bro. Eric Roberts, who are here with us for two years giving and working selflessly among our congregations, Prof Rev Dr. Winston Persaud, who visits annually and makes sterling contribution by way of presentations and lectures to the Ministerium and Diaconate and other groups in the ELCG, Rev Robert Fritch and a Team from Our Saviour Lutheran Church in New York, USA, Rev Mark Luscombe from the ELCA, Ms Linda Tideman-Minnick and Group from St. Luke Mission, Illinois USA, Dr. Patricia Cuyatti, LWF Area Secretary for the Latin America and the Caribbean, and Pastor Thomas Unrath – Chair of Florida-Bahamas Synod.

We continue to thank God for the joy of our partnership, and to all those persons and organizations for the joy of fellowship and service to each other. The ELCG is truly blessed to enjoy such companionship.

Our Convention Theme **“I will Build my Church”** speaks to us as individuals, auxiliaries, congregation, parish and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, as a whole. How are we to build the Church? What are our expectations as we build?

Brothers and Sisters, as we listen to the report of our President, our Secretary and our Treasurer, I urge us all to examine the strengths and the weaknesses of the foundation used to maintain each area of our

Church. Let us honestly and prayerfully seek ways in which we can individually and collectively work towards achieving Christ's call to Build his Church.

Our sub-themes;

God's Work, our hands: How many of us are willing and ready to put our hands to the plough without looking back? Using our expertise and time with humility, to support and build on the foundation our church already has? To ensure that the less fortunate and work of our father is heard and glorified. Or are we ashamed to confess publicly and be seen as disciples of God?

Gods Will, our commitment; How many of us are prepared to give total commitment to what we do in God's vineyard? Or are we waiting to see first if anyone else will, before we commit ourselves? How often have we volunteered our time and talent only to have our promises fall by the wayside after the initial start? What do we need to help us remain committed to God's Will?

God's Reward, our Hope. As Christians my friends, we all know of God's promise in the Gospel according to St. Mark Chapter 10 V 29-30 **"And I tell you, that those who leaves home, or brother or sister or mother or father or children or fields for me or for the Gospel, will receive much more in this present age. They will receive a hundred times more houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields, and persecutions as well; and in the age to come, they will receive eternal life"**.

I therefore challenge each and every one participating in this 71st Convention, to identify one thing they wish to change, or to improve or to revive in their Congregation, Parish or the ELCG, and remain steadfast and committed in their work towards achieving that Goal, which will not only enhance our worship but bring Glory and Honour to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who paid the ultimate price by dying on the Cross to save us all.

Grace and Peace.

**Sandra Kurtzious
Vice President**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

71st Annual Convention

Report of the Secretary

Reflection: *I will build my Church: God's work, our hands*

Some biblical examples of 'call and obedience' in building God's Church, doing God's work:-

From the beginning God has entrusted people to do His work. After God gave Adam the privilege to cultivate the land and tend the animals, God left the work of the Garden of Eden in Adam's hands. (Gen. 2: 15 – 20). We also recall that thousands of artists and craftsmen built a tabernacle and temple for God's presence and a dwelling place on earth. (See Ex. 35 – 38; 1Kings 6) - **God's work, human hands.**

When Jesus proclaimed the new reign of God's kingdom on earth, Jesus invited people to help, and told His disciples that ***"The harvest is truly plentiful, but the labourers are few, therefore pray the Lord of the Harvest to send out labourers into His harvest"***. (Matthew 9:38). Jesus here speaks of the need for workers, messengers to bring the good news in a world longing for God's rule. Jesus is calling on us today as labourers to build His Church – to plant seeds in His name to enlarge the assembly of believers of all ages in every congregation, in every parish of the ELCG.

In Caesarea, Philippi upon God's revelation, Peter declared. ***"You are the Messiah, the son of the living God"***. Jesus responded ***"so you are Peter, which means 'a rock'. On this rock I will build my church, and death itself will have no power over it"*** (Matthew 16:18). Just as in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus told a story about a wise person building a house on the rock, a sure solid foundation (Matthew 7:24), so Jesus declares that He is going to do just that with His Church. Jesus is not going to build an actual Church building. Jesus is establishing a community of all those who believe in Him as our Lord and Saviour. And this community of believers starts then and there, at Caesarea Philippi, with Peter's declaration of the Messiah, God's Anointed King.

We acknowledge in our confessions that there is ***"one holy, Christian Church. It is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel"*** The emphasis is on Jesus' Church, God's Church, not ours, not the Pastor's, not the Deacon's, not that of any of us in the laity. We are reminded that the Church is the gathering of all believers called into being by the power of the Holy Spirit, and held together by the gifts of Christ in the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Indeed, baptized into Christ we become part of the whole assembly of all believers in faith in Jesus Christ. (The Book of Concord).

We also recall Jesus' first encounter with Peter on the shores of the Sea of Galilee where a miraculous catch of fish is reported in Luke 5:1 -11, and where Peter and the others were called to become 'fishers of men' to bring in people instead of fish. In obedience to that call, they gave up everything and followed Jesus. Similarly, in the name of Jesus, we are called to be fishers of women, men, young people and children in the communities of all of our congregations.

In John's Gospel, (Chapter 21: 15 -19), after Jesus and His disciples had finished eating breakfast, which Jesus had prepared, Jesus spoke to Simon Peter and called on him to feed and tend the flock of the Church. Jesus invested time with Peter. Jesus wanted to help Peter recover from his sin on the night he denied Jesus three times. This conversation, this dialogue between Jesus and Peter is one of the compelling conversations in the Bible. The most remarkable thing about it is that by way of forgiveness, Jesus gives Peter a job to do – a new commission. When Peter declares his love, Jesus says, – ***feed my lambs; take care of, tend my sheep; feed my sheep.*** Then Jesus said to Peter, ***"Follow me"***. This is a reaffirmation of Peter's call, with that of the other disciples, and the recognition of Peter's leadership in the Apostolic band of disciples.

Peter, in obedience to the Master's call, grew strong in the Lord. He became a great shepherd and leader of the Church. He loved Jesus and looked after His sheep, and in the end giving his own life for the sheep. No one can ask for more. Jesus never asks for less.

Are we obeying the commission we have from our Lord to feed the children with the word of God, to take care of the women and men and to feed them with God's word?

Jesus grants the privilege of sharing in His work here on earth. We must never forget, however that, we cannot perform our tasks through our own abilities alone, but only as God works in and through us. While God directs us to put our hands on the plough, we must always be aware of the ultimate source of our power. God is the strength of our life. There can be no true progress spiritually without the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us in life and in all we do. How easy it is for Christian workers to get the impression that we have got to do it all. We are sometimes told, and we imagine that God is waiting for us to get on with things. If we don't organize it, it won't happen. If we don't, people will not receive the good news, they won't hear it. If we don't change the world, it would not be changed. God's church will be built, if not by us, by other labourers who faithfully labour in His vineyard.

We are sometimes told that 'God has no hands but our hands'. What a thought? It is not by our might or power. Whose hands made the sun rise this morning? Whose breath guided us to think, and pray, and love, and hope? Who is the Lord of the world anyway? The Holy Spirit enables us to work for Jesus; and through Jesus the sovereign God, the Creator. Neither the institutional Church, nor individual members can upstage Him.

We are reminded by Paul, writing on the divisions in the Corinthian Church that the true foundation and leader of the church is Jesus Christ, and that we are God's servants, working together - ***"Apollos and I are merely servants who helped you to have faith. It was the Lord who made it all happen. I planted the seeds, Apollos watered them, but God made them sprout and grow"*** – (1Cor. 3:5 - 6). God's work, human hands.

Paul never claimed credit for the numerical increase in his ministry; nor did he attribute it to anyone else. Rather he gave credit to God. In spite of difficulties and challenges, God is growing His Church. We are to be faithful in our ministries and leave the results to God who is the One who blesses and builds His church.

Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia, when their message was rejected stated: ***"The Lord has given us this command, "I have placed you here as a light for the gentiles. You are to take the saving power of God to people everywhere on earth."*** (Acts 13: 47) – Paul's mission is to build the assembly of believers among the non-Jews, the gentile communities.

In Paul's farewell address to the Ephesians' Elders, he encouraged them strongly to keep the faith, watch over themselves and believers as overseers and to ***"Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood"*** (Acts 20: 28). They/we are to be "little Christs" to our neighbors, faithful to the Gospel, and to be ready to bear our cross for the sake of our faith, always keeping in mind that Christ is the head of the Church.

We are to work hard, and be organized; there is no excuse for laziness, sloppiness and half-heartedness in the Kingdom of God. If it is God's work we are doing, we must do it with all of our might. But let us not think that it is all up to us. We are more likely to be effective once we get rid of the idea that it is all up to us. Jesus remains Sovereign Head of His Church with the Holy Spirit at work. We recognize our own weaknesses and are to be guided by the words of the Psalmist: ***"I will go in the strength of the Lord God"*** (Psalm 71: 16) Then we will not faint or fail, for we are reliant on God's strength to do His work by obedience to Jesus' great commission ***"Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. I will be with you always, even until the end of world"*** (Matthew 28:18 – 20)

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 2013, met in June, July, September, November, and December 2013, and in January, February, and April 2014 on Church-wide matters. During the period

under review, May 2013 to April 2014, the Council considered matters affecting the administration and the ministries 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.
- Installation on 19 May 2013 Parish Pastors: Rev. Conrad Plummer – Redeemer Parish, Rev. Amanda Singh – Good Shepherd Parish, Rev. Shirley Jaundoo – St Michael Parish, and Rev. Kampta Karran – Emmanuel Parish.
- Unexpectedly, Rev. Kampta Karran died on the 5 June 2013. The ELCG felt the pain of his passing together with his family and loved ones.
- Acceptance into the Pastoral Ministry by the Rev. Vivian Roberts of ELCIC and her installation as Pastor of the Ebenezer Parish on 23 June 2013. We welcome the Rev. Vivian Roberts and her husband, Eric Roberts into the Ministry of the ELCG.
- Noted with regret the departure of the Rev. Errol Inshanally by resignation to join the Diaconate of the Anglican Diocese in Jamaica, following his commissioning on 24 August 2013 as a Deacon of the Anglican Church. The ELCG expressed its appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Inshanally for his many years of faithful service in this Church.
- The ELCG Website – www.elcguyana.org is current and continues to be a work in progress with webmaster service from Mr. David Goolsarran, a member of Calvary Parish. The ELCG Secretary provides updated content materials.
- On-going relationship and partnership with ELCA/DGM, Lutheran World Federation, Eastern Synod of the Lutheran Church of Canada, Florida–Bahamas Synod, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Fellowship Lutheran Church, Ok. USA, ELKS of Suriname, GMN of USA and MAG of USA;
- The Executive Council sponsored a Seminar on *Parish Management and Administration: Constitutional Framework and Financial Management* for Pastors, Deacons, Parish Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, Secretaries, and Treasurers on 8 March 2014 at Ebenezer Lutheran Church. The ELCG Secretary presented on the Constitutional Framework - emphasizing the duties of the Pastor with overall responsibility for the Parish as Pastor and Chief Executive Officer; the duties of the Deacon in an assistant/supportive role to the Pastor; and duties of Parish Council and its Officers. The ELCG Treasurer presented on *Parish Financial Administration*.
- The continuing development of Deacons and Pastors through training interventions by Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud and accompanying Theologians from Wartburg Theological Seminary;
- Overseas representation and conferences; and overseas resource persons for training interventions for the Ministerium and the Diaconate;
- The Parish Councils of Advent and Transfiguration, in keeping with the Constitutional requirement to call/renew calls to Pastors after a tour of duty of four years, have renewed, the parish calls for another term for Pastors Leroy Nicholson and Diana Honeyghan respectively;
- Adopted a policy of two weeks' vacation leave annually with pay, where applicable, to Deacons effective from January 2014;
- Designated the Stanleytown, Berbice, Parsonage for the Lutheran Home to be run by the ELCW with the support of a Board of the Home and the ELCG;
- Approved the establishment of Guyana Lutheran Music Academy with classes to be conducted at Lutheran Hall, New Amsterdam, Berbice. This venture is in association and co-operation agreement with Fellowship Lutheran Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA;
- Accepted the resignation of Deacon Ramnarine from the Diaconate Ministry on account of work other commitments on Sundays.
- The consideration and actions relating to property assets of the Church;
- Incoming and outgoing correspondence; and
- Regular reports from Officers and Chairs of Standing Committees..

Church-wide Statistics

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 those parishes needs to be addressed by Pastors, Deacons, and Parish Councils.

The submitted figures are tabulated / collated in the following pages, along with a comparative summary over the last five years.

ELCG Church-wide Statistics 2013

Parish	Baptised	Confirmed	Comm. 2 / 3 times	Active 4 +Com	SS	LL	ELCW	ELCM	Bible/C	Choir
Emmanuel										
Nativity	224	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emmanuel	543	91	51	28	0	0	0	0	0	4
St. Phillip	218	69	37	31	8	8	0	6	8	0
St. Matthias	234	15	9	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 1.	1219	175	97	66	8	8	0	6	8	4
St. Michael										
St. Luke	176	156	40	13	7	8	3	0	0	0
St. Stephen	269	76	12	7	3	0	0	0	0	0
St. Michael	341	141	29	20	10	8	0	0	15	0
St. James	404	179	26	15	2	9	10	0	10	0
St. Barnabas	180	78	40	22	10	12	8	0	8	0
Sub Total 2.	1370	630	147	77	32	37	21	0	33	0
St. John										
St. John	1409	619	64	60	12	6	6	0	7	6
St. Peter	145	75	12	8	6	0	5	0	0	0
St. Bartholomew	100	40	30	20	20	0	4	0	5	1
Sub Total 3.	1654	734	106	88	38	6	15	0	12	7
Transfiguration	498	103	19	15	6	0	5	1	4	0
Holy Cross	290	138	26	26	15	2	8	4	7	6
Bethel	422	218	50	45	17	14	5	2	10	3
Sub Total 4.	1210	459	95	86	38	16	18	7	21	9
Ebenezer										
Ebenezer	2451	2088	163*	140*	22	15	29	0	15	10
St. Timothy	331	330	23	21	12	2	3	0	7	0
St. Thomas	481	405	46	46	7	0	0	0	7	0
Sub Total 5.	3263	2823	232	207	41	17	32	0	29	10
Reformation 2011/2										
Grace	31	30	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atonement	19	24	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ST. Paul	20	20	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Hermon	14	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Carmel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reformation	21	22	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hururu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riverside	28	27	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Olivet	23	22	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 6.	156	157	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*REVISED

ELCG Church-wide Statistics 2013

Parish	Baptised	Confirmed	Commu. 2 / 3 times	Active 4 +Com	SS	LL	ELCW	ELCM	Bible/C	Choir
Good Shepherd										
Good Samaritan	200	69	9	8	0	0	1	1	0	0
Good Shepherd	567	373	24	15	26	8	3	4	0	0
Nazareth	278	135	20	19	26	0	2	1	0	0
Resurrection	169	99	15	14	10	0	4	1	0	0
Sub Total 7.	1214	676	68	56	62	8	10	7	0	0
Advent										
Hope	119	106	54	47	48	11	14	7	14	0
Christ	71	47	36	25	24	9	5	0	9	0
Faith	75	55	36	30	10	0	0	0	0	0
Advent	76	45	36	23	24	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 8.	341	253	162	125	106	20	19	7	23	0
St. Matthew										
Bethany	165	82	25	20	8	0	0	0	6	0
St. Matthew	376	152	45	40	10	0	6	0	6	0
Holy Communion	294	40	30	30	30	12	12	0	12	0
Messiah	276	67	16	16	10	0	6	0	6	0
Sub Total 9.	1111	341	116	106	58	12	24	0	30	0
St. Andrew										
Swargia Vani	193	225	42	37	15	0	7	0	8	0
Sadhu S. Singh	236	221	25	26	35	15	12	0	4	0
St. Andrew	327	277	55	55	16	19	0	0	15	0
Sub Total 10.	756	723	122	118	66	34	19	0	27	0
Redeemer										
Redeemer	1160	849	118	106	28	0	25	15	9	0
Sub Total 11	1160	849	118	106	28	0	25	15	9	0
Calvary										
Calvary	1229	720	113	103	25	8	10	5	26	13
Sub Total 12.	1229	720	113	103	25	8	10	5	26	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	176	179	20	26	15	5	4	3	0	0
Mt. Zion	334	138	40	21	30	0	0	0	0	15
Sub Total 13.	1374	695	108	94	67	10	16	7	23	15
Grand Total	16057	9235	1543	1232	569	176	209	54	241	58

Statistical Summary – Church-wide

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Pastors:	8	6	7	7	9
Deacons:	3	18	19	18	13
Congregations:	46	45	44	44	44
Sunday Schools:	37	35	33	35	35
Luther Leagues:	22	26	21	18	19
ELCW:	26	27	23	29	26
ELCM:	12	14	12	8	14
Bible Classes:	15	27	28	30	25
Choirs:	5	7	8	8	8
Baptized as at 31 December:		11,325	15,852	15,956**	16034**
Baptized during the year:		172	66	78	66
Confirmed as at 31 December:		6,841	8,856*	9,018**	9109**
Confirmed during the year:		156	54	91	29
Communing members:		2048	1917	1897	1543**
Active Members		1475	1484	1547	1232**
Total in Sunday School	778	783	698	637	569
Total in Luther League	349	213	243	183	176
Total in ELCW	256	265	259	235	209
Total in ELCM	92	84	72	30	54
Total in Bible Class	241	200	150	256	241
Weddings:			77	33	35
Funerals:			38	45	51
Thanksgiving Service:			109	65	133

****updated record**

Observations

1. The figures from some Parishes seem inaccurate and/or incomplete with reports that Congregational registers could not be found for all the years. These were noted in 2013 bulletin of reports and are still valid. (Ref. page 30)
2. 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,
- St Michael Parish – St. Stephen’
- Transfiguration Parish – Transfiguration,
- Ebenezer Parish – St. Thomas
- Good Shepherd Parish - Good Samaritan, Nazareth, Resurrection
- Advent Parish -Faith, Advent,
- St. Matthew Parish - Bethany, St. Matthew, Messiah,
- St. Andrew Parish – Swargia Vani
- Redeemer Parish - Redeemer
- Ascension Parish – Ascension, Mt. Zion.

Closing Observations

I wish respectfully to bring to Convention attention that the following recommendations were endorsed by the 2012 and 2013 Conventions, and to report that very little or no progress has been made, and that since they have already been adopted by previous Conventions, that Parishes take urgent actions to address these challenges as follows:

1. that all Pastors, Deacons and Parish Councils undertake as a matter of priority, a review and evaluation of parochial statistics, and record them as required by the Constitution:
 - i) To verify accuracy, and as appropriate, revise and reconstruct them, and to ensure that all Parish and Congregational registers are up to date, and are properly secured; and
 - ii) that all Pastors, Deacons, and Parish Councils, where applicable, establish active Youth Ministries – Sunday Schools, Luther Leagues, confirmation classes in every Parish catering for all the Congregations;
 - iii) 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 2015.

I wish to reiterate in summary the conclusion in my 2013 report:

We have much work to do and little time. We are stewards of our time... the period of opportunity is “now”...We are to manage our 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. We receive the gift of God’s grace, and have the responsibility to share the good news of the Gospel in our life, witness and vocation.

Distinguished members of Convention, I place on record my grateful 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 of Jesus Christ

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel J. Goolsarran
Secretary, ELCG

I will build my Church...

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

71st 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, 2013.

1.0 Income

Total Income for the Year 2013 was \$14,199,459 surpassing our 2013 Budget of \$13,240,000: by 7%. However, our local income accounted for only 38% of the 2013 Budget. The remaining 62% was achieved through grants/gifts from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) Guyana Mission Network and Ministry among Guyanese during the year.

Please see 2013 Financial Highlights for further details.

1.1 Cash Position

The following is the Cash Position as at Dec 31, 2013:

Cash in Hand		\$	0
Cash at Bank	-Current Account	\$	6,181,757
	-Optimizer Account	\$	6,327,072
	-Save & Prosper	\$	8,154,025
Total			<u>\$20,662,853</u>

1.2 Bank Reconciliation

The reconciliation of the Current Account indicates that twelve (12) cheques totaling \$166,000: were outstanding as at December 31, 2013.

1.3 Apportionment

Apportionment budgeted for 2013 was \$2,890,500 coupled with net outstanding payments of \$3,030,257: puts total Parish apportionment outstanding as at Jan 01, 2013 to \$5,920,757: During the year under review, we received payments totaling \$1,642,200: representing 57% of payments due for 2013 and 28% of total outstanding payments.

1.4 Annual Convention 2013

a. *Convention Expenses*

2013 Annual Convention accounts are as follows:

Income

Registration	\$ 408,000:
Offering	\$ 88,480:
Special Gifts	\$ 150,000:
Total Income	<u>\$ 646,480:</u>

Expenses

Rental/Meals/Snack	\$ 571,200:
Bulletin/Banners/Photography	\$ 118,715:
Hospitality/Hosting	\$ 52,120:
House keeping	\$ 20,345:
Total Expenditure	<u>\$762,380:</u>

Deficit **(\$115,900:)**

b. *Convention Project*

Pledges towards the rebuilding of the Lutheran Home as at Dec 31, 2013 are detailed below:

	Pledge	Receipts	Outstanding
2011	465,200	346,000	119,200
2012	412,000	512,200	-100,200
2013	355,000	357,000	-2,000
Total	1,232,200	1,203,200	17,000

We encourage donors to settle their outstanding balances by Jun 30, 2014.

1.5 270th Anniversary Celebrations

The ELCG celebrated 270th anniversary during October 2013 at a Divine Worship Service and Rally held at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, New Amsterdam, Berbice. The financial accounts are as follows:

Income

Registration and Merchandise	\$1,086,950:
Offering	\$ 93,700:
Special Gifts	\$ 25,000:
Total Income	<u>\$1,205,650:</u>

Expenses

Merchandise	\$1,810,632:
Meals and Transportation	\$ 335,793:
Rental	\$ 30,000:
Media and Advertising	\$ 123,882:
Bulletin and Stationery	\$ 6,725:
Plaque and Certificates	\$ 13,400:
Total Expenditure	<u>\$2,320,432:</u>

Deficit **(\$1,114,782:)**

Outstanding payments for merchandise are being followed by the Treasurer.

1.5 Training and Education

During the year funds totaling GY\$675,760 were expended in the area of training and education. This expenditure reflects the continued thrust and vision of the ELCG in the area of developing and equipping leaders in the church.

Workshops	\$150,760
Diaconate Stipend	\$525,000
Total	<u>\$675,760:</u>

The significant cost reduction when compared to the previous year is due to a reduced number of overseas Facilitators.

1.6 Donations/Gifts/Bonuses

Gifts from Guyana Mission Network totaling GY\$510,000 were received for and given to the Clergy and Deacons during December 2013 as follows:

10 Pastors	\$300,000:
14 Deacons	\$210,000:
Total	<u>\$510,000:</u>

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

Funds totaling GY\$46,000: were received from overseas friends of the Karran family. This money was given to the Karran family.

Also, funds totaling GY\$60,000: was received from an overseas member of the Emmanuel Parish, the sum of which was transferred to that Parish.

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\$8,950,613 during 2013 and these funds were designated as follows:

From Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

Christian Education	US\$ 3,000:
Lay Leaders Training	US\$10,500:
Total	<u>US\$13,500: (GY\$2,664,122:)</u>

From Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada:

Lay Leaders Training	GY\$1,152,491:
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From Ministry Among Guyanese

To be designated	GY\$2,412,000:
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Our Saviour Lutheran Church

To be designated	GY\$2,010,000:
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From Guyana Mission Network

Gifts-Pastors and Deacons	GY\$ 510,000:
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From Peace Lutheran Church, Texas

Youth Ministry	GY\$ 202,000:
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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 and 2013, 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	\$60,000,000: (Revalued 2013)
iii.	120 West Ruimveldt	\$40,000,000:
iv.	W ½ of Lot 50 Section 'A' Buxton, ECD	\$ 6,000,000:
v.	210 Sheriff Street (Hanson House)	\$50,000,000:

We are currently engaged in discussions with interested parties regarding sale/rental of the aforementioned properties. Down payment totaling GY\$42,500,000: were received during the first Quarter of 2014 and these transactions will conclude before the end of this year.

The decision to sell the "Hanson House" has been reconsidered by the EXCO and approval was granted to retain this property.

b. Assets/Capital Expenditures

During 2013 the following were acquired for the ELCG Administrative Office:

- 1 Computer -GY\$166,500:
- 1 4-Drawer Filing Cabinet -GY\$ 71,746:

Additionally the sum of GY\$1,810,632 was expended to purchase 270th anniversary memorabilia of which included the cost of GY\$350,000: for the design and printing of 270th anniversary Commemorative Stamps.

1.9 Expenses

Total expenditure for the year amounted to GY\$9,331,003 of which Assets/Capital Acquisitions accounted for the single largest expenditure of approximately 23% or GY\$2,092,878.

Of the remaining 77%, approximately 8% (GY\$762,380:) was expended towards 2013 Convention expenses, while salaries/stipend accounted for approximately 16% (GY\$1,465,300:).

During the period, Gifts and Bonuses accounted for approximately 8% (\$706,800). This included GY\$510,000: received from Guyana Mission Network and designated Christmas gifts for Pastors and Deacons.

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, 2013.

3.0 Audit

We have received Audited Statements from the following:

- Redeemer
- Advent
- St Matthew
- Ebenezer
- Emmanuel
- Calvary
- St Michael
- 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

A Workshop on Finance and Parish Administration was conducted in Mar 2014. This workshop attracted attendance in excess of 60 persons and was considered fruitful and beneficial to all.

Other workshops on Finance planned for 2014 will target Parish Chairpersons and Treasurers. These workshops will examine and seek to standardize the accounting systems and procedures employed within the ELCG and also will provide training in this area.

5.0 Budget and Future Outlook

The proposed 2015 budget is set at GY\$12,225,000 and reflects a marginal decrease when compared to the 2013 Budget. This decrease is mainly due to a further reduction in provisioning for Deacons' stipend and a review of utility expenditures. However, based on our anticipated income, we project an overall deficit of GY\$3,989,000: or approximately 33% of the budget.

In order to further reduce our 2014 financial deficit, we are proposing a 17% increase in Parish apportionment. The proposed contribution per Communing member is set at \$2,000 up from \$1,700.

The Executive Council has committed to and continues its discussion on the way forward as it relates to the following construction/maintenance projects:

- a. Refurbishment of CED House (St Ann's Street, NA, Berbice). The building is targeted for complete renovation during May 2014.

- b. Erection of a New ELCG Administrative Multi-purpose Office Complex (Lutheran Courts, NA, Berbice). This is placed on hold due to other priority projects.
- c. Re-envision/Remodel the Camp and Retreat Centre (Skeldon, Berbice). This facility has been assigned to the stewardship of the Emmanuel Parish and much is expected to be done within 2014 in relation to refurbishing and use of the facility.
- d. Construction of a new Lutheran Home (New Amsterdam, Berbice). Discussions are ongoing with the National ELCW and a first proposal was submitted. The EXCO awaits the final proposal in order to approval this project.
- e. Establishment of the Guyana Lutheran Music Academy (Lutheran Courts, NA, Berbice). This project is on schedule and the GLMA is set for inauguration in September 2014. The infrastructure has been renovated to accommodate the GLMA and other activities.
- f. Renovation of the "Hanson House" is slated for 2014. An estimated sum of GY\$15M is expected to be expended on this project.

6.0 Recommendations

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

- e. That the ELCG continues to depend heavily on our overseas partners and donor agencies for financial support to assist with the cost of administration and other projects. Further, there are significant sums of Apportionment fees owed to the ELCG by several Parishes. We therefore recommend that:
 - i. Each Parish with outstanding sums owing to the ELCG for more than one year be and hereby mandated by the Convention to forward a proposed plan of settlement of these outstanding sums to the ELCG Executive Council by June 30, 2014.
 - ii. With immediate effect, Apportionment Fees be paid to the ELCG no later than **May 31 annually** for the current year.
 - iii. The Convention approve an increase to GYD\$2,000 per Communing member from GYD\$1,700: per Communing member for 2015. This increase is the equivalent of GY\$167: per month per Communing member.
- f. In the interest of responsible financial management and planning, that each Parish be mandated to submit an annual budget to the ELCG Executive Council by **March 31 annually** for the current year. This will assist in understanding and planning for the Parish's financial needs and will give early indication of the Parish's financial well-being.

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.

I pray for a successful and blessed 71st Annual Convention.

God's Peace and Blessing,

.....
Davy Ram
 Treasurer

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
71st Annual Convention

Convention Resolutions

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
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Notes