

Table of Contents



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

Notice of Convention	2
Opening Service	3
Convention Programme	4
The Executive Council	5
Pastors, Parish and Ministry Directory	6
Diaconate	7
Ministers, Delegates, Advisory Delegates, Fraternities	8
Convention Committees	9
Rules of Order (By- Laws)	10
Convention Minutes	11 - 16
President Report	17 - 22
Vice-President Report	23 - 24
Secretary's Report	25 - 32
Treasurer's Report <i>(includes Budget & Auditor's Report)</i>	33 - 49

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.

"As ELCG meets for her seventy-second Annual Convention, it cannot be denied that worship has been central to our faith. Worship certainly nourishes faith. But it has to be equally acknowledged that the empowerment we receive from worship has not been impacting the world around us in a significant way. This Convention is, therefore, an appropriate time for ELCG to ask herself, how we can transform the internal and the external experiences of God's faithfulness to us into identifiable beneficial actions to others ... Faith encompasses a believer's entire life. Faith is holistic. Faith then must never be exercised or should be solely confined to the Church and in the Church. We must remember, God loves the world and Jesus surrendered his life for the world."
(Extract from President's Report to the ELCG 72nd Annual Convention)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana 72nd Annual Convention

Notice of Convention

16 January 2015

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 72nd Annual Convention of the ELCG which will be held from **Sunday 3 May to Tuesday 5 May 2015** 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 2014 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 2016 Administration Budget
9. Election of President and Secretary
10. Written Motions/Resolutions
11. Close of Convention.

The Executive Council has approved the following theme and Sub-themes for Convention 2015:

Theme: ***Why Wait? Act Upon Your Faith***
Sub-themes: ***Be "Marvellers"***
Be Movers
Be Messengers

In accordance with Article VII, Section 11 of the Constitution of the ELCG, please be reminded that Pastors/Deacons are required to submit to the ELCG Secretary, Parish/Congregational Statistical Report for 2014 by **28 February 2015**. 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 **17 April 2015** 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 2 March 2015**.

We look forward to your participation at the 72nd Annual Convention of the ELCG.

Yours in Christ,



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

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
72nd Annual Convention

Why Wait? Act Upon Your Faith!

Opening Service

Musical Preludes 9.00 am – Musical Prelude / Chorus Singing

Venue: Ebenezer Lutheran Church & Lutheran Hall
Lutheran Courts, New Amsterdam, Berbice

Preacher: Rev. Vivian Roberts, Pastor, Ebenezer Parish

Liturgist: Rev. Leroy Nicholson, Pastor, Advent Parish

Celebrant: Rev. Shirley Jaundoo, Pastor, St. Michael Parish

Communion Assistants: Rev. Conrad Plummer, Redeemer Parish
Rev. Amanda Singh, Pastor, Good Shepherd Parish
Deacon Ishwardei Melville, St. Andrew Parish
Deacon Leeta Chutkhan, Transfiguration Parish
Deacon Inderjit Eugene, Ebenezer Parish
Deacon Elaine Grannum, Redeemer Parish

Lesson Readers: 1st Lesson - Acts 8: 26 – 40
 - Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran, Redeemer Parish
 2nd Lesson – 2 Corinthians 5:17 – 21
 - Ms. Alana Hafeez, St. Andrew Parish
 Gospel – John 15: 1 – 8
 - Rev. Vivian Roberts, Ebenezer Parish

Acolytes: Ebenezer Parish

Ushers: Ebenezer Parish

Music: Guyana Lutheran Music Academy
 -Ms Claire Folts
 -Ms. Kelli Laire
 -Mr Daniel Sailer



Opening of Convention – Hon. Sandra Kurtzious, Vice President, ELCG

Welcome

Greetings from Fraternal Representatives

Convention Chaplains: Deacon Shelda Emanuel and Youth Ministry

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
72nd Annual Convention

Why Wait? Act Upon Your Faith!

Convention Programme

Sunday, May 03, 2015

09:00 - 9:30 Musical Prelude/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 Open Time; Executive Council meeting with Overseas Partners
17:00-18:00 Dinner
18:00-20:00 Musical Evening/ Art and Craft displays
Evening Prayers - Chaplains

Monday, May 04, 2015

08:00-08:30 Devotion - Chaplains
08:30-09:45 Presentation and group discussion on Sub-theme 1 -*Be "Marvellers"*
Presenter - Mr. Michael Davy Ram
09:45-10:45 First Business Session
10:45-11:00 Refreshment Break
11:00-12:00 Second Business Session
12:00-13:00 Lunch
13:00-14:15 Presentation and group discussion on Sub-theme 2 -*Be Movers*
Presenter - Deacon Shelda Emanuel
14.15-15.15 Third business Session
15.15-15.30 Break
15.30-17:00 Fourth Business Session
17:30-17:45 Dinner
18:00-20:00 Art and Craft displays/ Closing Devotion - Chaplains

Tuesday, May 05, 2015

08:00-08:30 Devotion - Chaplains
08:30-09:45 Presentation and Group discussion on Sub-theme 3 -*Be Messengers*
Presenter - Rev. Gloria Sampson
09:45-10:00 Break
10:00-11:15 Fifth Business Sessions – Elections of President and Secretary (half term-1year)
11:15-12:00 Discussion on written, tabled matters impacting the Church
12:00-12:15 Vote of Thanks
12:15-01:15 Closing Service of Word and Sacrament
Liturgist - Mr. Christopher Wordsworth
Preacher - Rev. Sugrim Gobin
Celebrant - Deacon Partick Jones
Communion Assistants - Deacon Leeta Chutkhan & Deacon Patrick Peters

Installation of Elected Officers: - Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez
Close of Convention - President

Lunch & Departure

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
72nd Annual Convention

Why Wait? Act Upon Your Faith!

The Executive Council

1. **Rev. Moses Prashad**
President, ELCG (until 28 February 2015)
Calvary Parish

2. **Hon. Sandra Elizabeth Kurtzious**
Vice-President, ELCG
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. Shirley Jaundoo**
Member, Executive Council, ELCG
St. Michael Parish

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

8. **Ms. Lauren McCalman**
Member, Executive Council, ELCG
Emmanuel Parish

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

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana 72nd Annual Convention

Pastors, Parish & Ministry Directory

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

Rev. Conrad Plummer, *Acting Pastor*
Calvary Parish
North Road, Bourda, Georgetown
Tel. # 226-4227
Email: calvary@guyananet.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, *Contact Pastor*
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

Chairpersons and Directors

Christian Education Department
Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran, *Chair*
Tel: 222 8955; sjgoolsarran@gmail.com
Rev. Shirley Jaundoo, *Director*
Tel: 333 5881: bless_shirley@yahoo.com

Committee on Youth Ministry
Mr. Michael Davy Ram, *Chair*
Tel: 220-4853, michael.ram@republicguyana.com
Deacon Shelda Emanuel, *Director*
Tel: 220-2912 Haversham_3@yahoo.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. Vivian Roberts, *Acting Pastor*
Transfiguration Parish
Lutheran Courts, PO Box 88, Berbice,
Tel.# 333-3425
Email: vsroberts@yahoo.ca

Rev. Shirley Jaundoo, *Contact Pastor*
St. John Parish
Williamsburg, Corentyne, Berbice
Tel. # 322-5438
Email: bless_shirley@yahoo.com

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

Rev. Shirley Jaundoo, *Contact Pastor*
Emmanuel Parish
Skeldon, Corriverton, Berbice
Tel. # 339-3349/ Email: bless_shirley@yahoo.com

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

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

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
72nd Annual Convention

Why Wait? Act Upon Your Faith!

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

72nd Annual Convention

Members of Convention: Ministers, Delegates & Fraternities

<u>Parishes</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
Emmanuel	1, Rev. Patrick Jones	1. Ms. Lauren McCalman
St. Michael	2. Rev. Shirley Jaundoo	2. Mr. David persaud
St. John	3. Rev. Patrick Peters	3. Ms. Olive Sukhoo
Transfiguration	-	4. Mr. Clifford Drepaul
Ebenezer	4. Rev. Vivian Roberts	5. Ms. Agnes Mc Allister
Reformation	-	6. Mr. Ramcharran Pitamber
Good Shepherd	5. Rev. Amanda Singh	7. Ms. Sharon Sulker
Advent	6. Rev. Leroy Nicholson	8. Mr. Wayne Bruce
St. Matthew	7. Rev. Sugrim Gobin	9. Ms. Stephanie Bowry
St. Andrew	-	10. Mr. Ackloo Ramsudh
Redeemer	8. Rev. Conrad Plummer	11. Mr.
Calvary	-	12. Ms.
Ascension	9. Rev. Gloria Sampson	13. Ms. Viola Harsingh
		14. Mr. Gregory James
		15. Mr. Vedesh Ross
		16. Ms. Shaneza Noble
		17. Ms. Joyce Stephens
		18. Mr. Saphier Hussain
		19. Ms. Fiona Rambisson
		20. Mr. Wayne Melville
		21. Ms Jocelyn Rickford
		22. Mr. Bevon Cummings
		23. Mr. Chris Gravesande
		24. Ms. Elocia Smith
		25. Mr.
		26. Ms. Bernadette Adonis

Fraternities and 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
 Mr. Joseph Bedessei, Member Ex. Co. ELCG

ii) Voice in connection with Auxiliaries

Mr. Michael Davy Ram, Chair- Youth Ministry
 Ms. Jeanette Crandon - President, ELCW

iii) Voice in connection with respective Parish

All Deacons – as listed on page 7

iv) Parliamentarian

Rev. Conrad Plummer

v) Overseas Partners – Voice on recognition of Chair

Dr. Raquel Rodriguez, ELCA-DGM
 Rev. Thomas Unrath & Mrs. Anita Unrath, FBS
 Ms. Chris Klafs and Ms. Kathy Hoefler, FBS
 Rev. Kenneth Kross & Mrs. Joan Kross, ELKS
 Mr. Reza Karg, ELKS
 Rev. Douglas Reble, ELCIC

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana 72nd 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 Leeta Chutkhan

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

Mr. Joseph Beddesie - Chairperson
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

Rev. Conrad Plummer

Terms of Reference

To advise on Constitutional and Procedural Matters.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
72nd 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 72nd Annual Convention

Convention Minutes # 867

Theme ... *I will build my Church...*

The following are the Minutes of the **71st Annual Convention** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) held from 4 – 6 May 2014 at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, and Lutheran Hall, New Amsterdam, Berbice.

1. Sunday 4 May 2014: Opening Worship

The Opening Worship Service began at 9.30 a.m. The service was preceded by Chorus singing led by Mr. Michael Davy Ram and the St. Andrew Youths.

Leaders of the Service were:-

Preacher: Rev. Moses Prashad, President, ELCG
Liturgist: Mr. Michael Davy Ram, Treasurer, ELCG
Celebrant: Rev. Vivian Roberts, Pastor of Ebenezer Parish
Lesson Readers: 1st Lesson: Mr. Joseph Bedessie, Transfiguration Parish
2nd Lesson: Deacon Inderjit Eugene Ebenezer Parish
Gospel: Rev. Moses Prashad, President ELCG

Organist: Mr. Lemuel Samuels, Ebenezer Parish

2. Summary of Worship Message:

The President summarized his message as follows:

"The ELCG has potential. This was reflected at our 270th Anniversary Worship Service and Day of Fellowship in October 2013. In addition, it is fair to say that we have pastors, deacons and capable non-commissioned lay leaders to adequately serve in each of our forty five congregations. Yet, in many areas of our Church's ministry we have fallen below expectations. The absence of Sunday Schools, Luther Leagues, ELCW'S, ELCM'S, and Bible Studies, coupled with unkept church environment is not good news. Our 71st Annual Convention is time for deep introspection. While retreat, defeat and surrender are not options; keeping our heads high in the midst of our struggles is the way forward. This posture will help us to hear Jesus' call anew and afresh: Who do you say I am?"

Peter's confession; "You are the Messiah, Son of the living God" is what we echo in the second article of the Nicene or Apostles' Creed every Sunday in worship. And Jesus' answer to us is the same as Peter.

(1) Jesus calls Peter by his name just as he names us as His disciples. This suggests intimacy, relationship and our 'choseness' to serve.

(2) Jesus seals and grounds us. Peter you are the rock. Peter's confession is rock-like. It is the best and ultimate confession of Jesus. When lived out, it makes the disciple unflinching and unmoveable in his/her responsibilities.

(3) Jesus commissions us. On this rock I will build my church. It is on the confession that resides in our hearts and comes from our lips; Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God that the lost is found, forgiven and welcomed into the Kingdom of God".

3. Opening Convention:

The Rev. Moses Prashad, formally declared the 71st Annual Convention of the ELCG to be 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: Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez, ELCA/DGM; Mr. Keith Myra, ELCIC; and Rev. Jaime Dubon, FBS.

Greetings were also received from the Lutheran World Federation, Wartburg Theological Seminary, the Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud, and the Rev. Paul Tidemann.

5. Registration and Meetings

The registration of Ministers, Delegates, Advisory Delegates, Deacons, and Fraternal Representatives was conducted by the Committee on Registration from 2.30pm.

The Executive Council met at 3.00pm with our overseas partners for discussion on matters of mutual interest, followed by a business session. (Separate minutes # 866)

Monday, 5 May 2014

6. Assembly and Worship Devotion:

Convention assembled for worship devotion which was conducted at 8.00am by Deacon Elaine Grannum and Rev. Leroy Nicholson, Convention Chaplains.

7. 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.

8. Sub-themes:

The sub-themes were presented by panel members and audience contributions as follows:

- i) *God's work, our hands*: Panelists – Mr. Samuel J Goolsarran, Deacon Patrick Jones, and Rev. Vivian Roberts;
- ii) *God's will, our commitment*: Panelists – Rev. Sugrim Gobin, Hon. Sandra Kurtzious, and Deacon Patrick Peters
- iii) *God's rewards, our hope*: Panelists – Deacon Shelda Emanuel, and Rev. Conrad Plummer

The first sub-theme: *God's work, our hands* was presented by the first panel.

9. First Business Session: - 9 Ministers and 23 delegates were seated.

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

10. 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: Rev. Conrad Plummer

11. Report of the Committee on Registration:

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

Ministers	-	9
Delegates	-	23
Advisory Delegates	-	6
Deacons/Ministerial Candidates	-	13
Fraternal representatives	-	4

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

12. Roll Call:

The Secretary, Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran called the Roll of voting members of Convention:-

Ministers and **Delegates** present were:

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

13. Agenda, Convention Programme and Time Schedule :

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

14. Presentation of Minutes # 857 of the 70th Convention for Matters Arising:

Convention noted that actions were still to be taken on some of recommendations from the Officers at the 70th Convention, 2013, and urged all Pastors, Deacons and Parish Councils to review the recommendations, and take the necessary actions as appropriate

15. Second Business Session: - 9 Ministers and 23 delegates were seated.

16. President's Report:

The President, Rev. Moses Prashad in his report reflected on *Worship – What happens and where does it lead us?* He also reported on 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 President with appreciation, also approved the recommendations for appropriate actions by all concerned.

17. Vice President Report

The Vice- President reported on her responsibility as Chair of the Executive Council and Convention business sessions, actions on property assets, 270th Anniversary celebration, the proposed Lutheran Home, overseas relations, and a brief reflection on the theme and sub-themes of Convention.

Convention received the report of the Vice–President with appreciation.

18. The Second Sub-theme

The second sub-theme ***God's will, our commitment*** was presented by the panel.

Third Business Session: - 9 Ministers and 23 delegates were seated.

19. Secretary's Report:

The Secretary, Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran included his presentation on the first Sub-theme- *God's work, our hands*, as an introductory reflection, and then 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 once again called attention that some of the statistical information received was not accurate, and appealed to all Pastors, Deacons, Delegates, and Parish Councils to have these updated and corrected as matter of urgency.

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

Fourth Business Session – 9 Ministers and 23 delegates were seated.

20. The Report of the Treasurer:

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mr. Michael Davy Ram (on account of the death of his mother), Rev. Sugrim Gobin, a former ELCG Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's 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 Rev, Sugrim Gobin.

After discussions and explanations, Convention voted to adopt the Auditor's report.

- iii) **The 2015 Church-wide Budget:** Following discussions, particularly on apportionment set at \$1,700.00 per communing member, Convention voted to approve the budget based on active members as against communing members, and directed that the budget be accordingly adjusted.

Recommendations from the Treasurer:

- 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.*
- iv. *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.*

After discussions, Convention voted to approve recommendations i, ii. and iv and rejected recommendation iii above.

21. Tuesday 6 May 2014

Morning devotions were conducted by Convention Chaplains

22. Third Sub-theme

The third sub-theme *God's rewards, our hope* was presented by the panel.

Fifth Business Session

9 Ministers and 21 delegates were seated. Stanley Latchman replaced Arthur Swieney, and Videsh Ross replaced Marcelous Patram as delegates of the Transfiguration and Advent Parishes respectively.

23. Convention Pledge – Conference chairs and tables.

The total pledges from Parishes, auxiliaries, and individuals amounted to \$439,000.

24. Resolution

After discussions, Convention voted to approve the following written and signed resolution: *"be it resolved that apportionment be calculated at the same amount of \$1,700.00 but as per active membership, that is members who have communed at least four times a year and made financial contributions"*

25. Election of Executive Council Officers and Members

Convention voted to elect the following Officers and Members of the Executive Council:

Rev. Moses Prashad -	President	Calvary Parish
Hon. Sandra Kuttzious -	Vice President	Redeemer Parish
Mr. Michael Davy Ram	Treasurer	St. Andrew Parish
Rev. Conrad Plummer	Member	Redeemer Parish
Rev. Diana Honeyghan	Member	Transfiguration Parish
Rev. Amanda Singh	Member	Good Shepherd Parish
Ms. Juliet Nurse	Member	Calvary Parish
Mr. Joseph Bedessie	Member	Transfiguration Parish

Although, the Secretary, Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran indicated that would not wish to serve another term as Secretary, no one accepted nomination, and so no successor was elected to the position of Secretary.

26. 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.

27. Presentation of Gifts

Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran was presented with an ELCG plaque with the words *“In recognition of your selfless and dedicated service to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana: May 4, 2014”*

Presentations of token gifts with ELCG logo on Cups, T-Shirts, Key rings, and Commemorative Postage Stamps were made to the representatives of our overseas partners.

They all expressed thanks and appreciation.

28. The 72nd Annual Convention would be convened from 3 - 5 May 2015.

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 Rev. Diana Honeyghan as Liturgist, Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez as Preacher, and Rev. Gloria Sampson as Celebrant.

30. Installation of the newly elected ELCG Council

- i) The Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez **installed** the newly elected Council.
- ii) The Rev. Moses Prashad, President of the ELCG, using the Order for the Close of Convention, officially declared the 71st Annual Convention closed.

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel J. Goolsarran, Secretary
6 May 2014

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

72nd Annual Convention

Report of the President

A. Reflection: *Why Wait? Act on your Faith!*

Many doctors have affirmed that a patient's faith is a huge asset in any type of treatment. In fact doctors have been heard saying, "**her faith has done more for her than the treatment.**" It is for this reason that in our daily experiences we look for some measure of reliability as a necessary qualification before we seek aid. While in the secular world faith can be described as confidence in someone or something, faith in Christianity is specific. Karl Barth, one of modern Christianity's most influential theologians puts it this way, "**faith is simply following its object.**"

Christians uphold God as the object of faith. We believe it is God who initiates faithfulness. God's unqualified acceptance of us through the teachings, healings, miracles, suffering, death, resurrection, ascension and coming again of Jesus are the foundation of our faith. However, a clear teaching on faith throughout the Bible is the concept of passivity in relationship to activity. God's engagement with Adam and Eve involved "**till and manage** the garden and **refrain from eating** from the tree in the middle of the garden." Noah had to **build** an ark, Abraham was continuously on the **move** and Moses was called from shepherding flocks to **shepherding** people.

As ELCG meets for her seventy-second Annual Convention, it cannot be denied that worship has been central to our faith. Worship certainly nourishes faith. But it has to be equally acknowledged that the empowerment we receive from worship has not been impacting the world around us in a significant way. This Convention is, therefore, an appropriate time for ELCG to ask herself, how we can transform the internal and external experiences of God's faithfulness to us into identifiable beneficial actions to others.

Faith encompasses a believer's entire life. Faith is holistic. Faith then must never be exercised or should be solely confined to the Church and in the Church. We must remember, God loves the world and Jesus surrendered his life for the world.

Nevertheless, while we do know that our faith takes a broad sweep at everyone and everything, unless our faith is adequately programmed, we might not be suitably equipped to act out our faith. This must lead the ELCG to examine at all levels, the content and style of what we offer to foster faith. Are we concentrating heavily on belief and ignoring experience? Are we leaning too heavily in the cognitive domain? Do we need to broaden the appeal to the emotions, the physical, the psychological and the spiritual? Faith that is allowed to express itself in experiences is likely to be more instructive and influential to us and those outside the Church. Every day we encounter God who cares, loves, forgives, provides, helps and heals. Gratitude to God is a required response but God's faithfulness to us will bear much more fruit when others are exposed to it. We can well imagine how people were **positively affected** when the woman with the issue of blood said, "It is I who touched you," or the words of the centurion, "Just say the word and my servant would be healed," or the other centurion at the foot of the cross who declared, "Surely this man was the Son of God," or the Samaritan woman who went into her village with the words, "Come see a man who told me everything I did. Could he be the Christ?"

This must lead us to examine the heroes of faith in Hebrews Chapter 11 which paints this picture. It was by faith Abel **offered** a better sacrifice, Enoch did not **experience** death, Abraham **journeyed** although he did not know where he was going, Isaac **blessed** Jacob, Moses **refused** to be the son of Pharaoh's daughter and the people **passed** through the Red Sea. Moreover, it was **resurrection** faith that fired the disciples to take the church into the world. Faith is never passive; it is always active and dynamic. Eventually when our life on earth

is over, Jesus' commendation to us remains, "Well done my good and faithful servant." This, of course, has to be faith that speaks of involvement, not secretive or silent faith.

B. Leaders in Pastoral Ministry

Parishes	Number of Congregations	Pastors	Deacons
Emanuel	4	Rev. Shirley Jaundoo (Oversight Pastor)	Neil Jagessar Patrick Jones, (Intern)
St. Michael	5	Rev. Shirley Jaundoo	Keith Hazel, (Assigned)
St. John	3	Rev. Shirley Jaundoo (Oversight Pastor)	Patrick Peters, (Intern) Lansford John
Transfiguration	3	Rev. Vivian Roberts (Ag)	Leeta Chutkhan
Ebenezer	3	Rev. Vivian Roberts	Inderjit Eugene
Reformation	6	ELCG	
Good Shepherd	4	Rev. Amanda Singh	Lenard George
Advent	4	Rev. Leroy Nicholson	Beverly Johnson
St. Matthew	4	Rev. Sugrim Gobin	
St. Andrew	3	Rev. Sugrim Gobin (Oversight Pastor)	Ishwardei Melville Babsie Pierre, (Intern)
Redeemer	1	Rev. Conrad Plummer	Elaine Grannum
Calvary	1	Rev. Conrad Plummer(Ag)	Shelda Emanuel,(Assigned)
Ascension	4	Rev. Gloria Sampson	
Total: 13	45	7	13

C. Comments

The ELCG has seven (7) Pastors and thirteen (13) Deacons. While two (2) Pastors are serving in acting capacities, another two (2) have been designated "Oversight Pastors."

During the period under review Rev. Moses Prashad, Deacon Patrick Jones and lay leaders Hapworth Thom and Arnold Baron conducted worship services and administered the sacrament of Holy Communion to shut-Ins in the Reformation Parish.

Mrs. Dolly Karran and Mrs. Kavita Karran-Sookdeo, together with Hapworth Thom and Arnold Baron are now in the process of transforming the Sunday School in Recht-Door-Zee into an informal Church setting.

D. Internship and Assignments

Deacons Patrick Jones and Patrick Peters have had their internships extended to the month of April 2015. Deacon Jones has been placed in the Emmanuel Parish and Deacon Peters serves in the St. John Parish. Deacon Babsie Pierre is a candidate for the ordained ministry. She is interning in the St. Andrew Parish. Deacon Keith Hazel has been assigned to the St. Michael Parish while Deacon Shelda Emanuel will serve at Calvary Parish for six months.

E. Resignations

In the month of October 2014, Rev. Diana Honeyghan resigned from ELCG from 30 November 2014. Rev. Moses Prashad tendered his resignation effective 28th February, 2015. The ELCG thanked both of these Pastors for their services and conveyed best wishes to them in their future endeavours.

F. Partners in Ministry

The ELCG continues to enjoy shared relationships with other brothers and sisters in Christ in Guyana and around the world.

1. Ecumenical Gatherings

Across the ELCG Pastors and their Parishes are engaged in ecumenical relationships with different groups.

2. 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.

Rev. Patricia Cuyatti, LWF's Area Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean visited in November 2014. The following Pastors and lay persons benefited from activities planned by LWF: Rev. Leroy Nicholson (Brazil), Mr. Michael Davy Ram (Slovenia and Bolivia), Rev. Shirley Jaundoo (Germany) and Ms. Thamesha Watson (Bolivia).

The LWF has received favourable consideration from the ELCG, for the nomination of Mr. Michael Davy Ram to the LWF Council. This nomination is expected to be confirmed at the LWF Council meeting in June 2015.

3. 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 Mission for Latin America and the Caribbean, she has implemented a process for ELCG to receive financial assistance for specific ministries. Rev. Raquel's journey with us has always been timely. She graced our Convention in May 2014 and returned in November 2014. Dr. Raquel expressed the desire to pursue internal Theological Education for our spiritual leaders.

4. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)

Rev. Peter Kunhert and twenty Mental Health workers visited from October 26 – November 5, 2014. They worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Health offering their services to different communities.

Rev. John O'Connor who visits Guyana every year always avails himself for pastoral service.

The ELCG continues to receive financial assistance from ELCIC for capacity building. In the month of June 2015, Rev. Moses Prashad represented the ELCG at the ELCIC Eastern Synod Assembly in Toronto.

5. Florida/Bahamas Synod (FBS)

Bishop Robert Schaeffer and Rev. Tom Unrath were guests of the ELCG in late October 2014.

Rev. Diana Honeyhan and Mr. Michael Davy Ram attended the FBS Caribbean Consultation Florida in June 2014 as well as the FBS General Assembly. Resulting from this consultation, a Memorandum of Understanding was developed between FBS, ELKS, and ELCG.

Vice-President Sandra Kurtzious and Deacon Shelda Emanuel attended a fall gathering of FBS women in the month of November 2014 in Florida.

6. Fellowship Lutheran Church (FLC)

Fellowship Lutheran Church continues to support several major initiatives in the ELCG. They have contributed towards financially assisting retired pastors and was instrumental in establishing the Music Academy in September 2014. Rev. Conrad

Plummer and his wife Patricia were ELCG's representatives at FLC's Mission Week.

7. Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS)

Claire Ackley, Sara Kayser, Paul Theiss, Roger Fears and Matthew Lugert were the five students on the Cross Cultural Practicum Programme in January 2015.

Rev. Winston Persaud conducted an Intensive on Witnessing to Christ and led the Bible Studies at Youth Camp. The ELCG wishes to thank Rev. Persaud for his untiring work on formation for ministry with our pastors, deacons, lay leaders and youths.

8. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Surinam (ELKS)

Ms. Danielle Dokman of the ELKS, a ministerial student at UTCWI, interned for one month in the St. John Parish. During this time she had the opportunity to participate in our Youth Camp and attend the Intensive on Witnessing to Christ. ELCG is exploring the possibility of on-going Theological Training from ELKS for our pastors, deacons and lay leaders.

9. Ministry Among Guyanese (MAG)

Our relationship with MAG has virtually become dormant.

10. 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 materials for our Intensives are all available help we have received from GMN.

The ELCG deeply regrets the passing of Rev. Paul Tidemann who was the "rock" behind GMN. We do convey our deepest condolences to his family.

11. Peace Lutheran Church (PLC)

ELCG wishes to acknowledge Rev. Rodwell Thom's assistance. Calvary and Advent Parishes benefited from a monetary gift for different aspects of their parish ministry.

12. The Guyana Lutheran Music Academy (GLMA)

Through years of hard work, dedication, passion and selfless efforts by Eric Sayre, Fellowship Lutheran Church and Teams in the United States of America and Guyana, a vision has been realized- the establishment of the GLMA in September 2014. This institution has become an environment and a haven to learn music in a relaxed and comfortable setting and can be considered one of the highlights of the past year.

Expressions of thanks would not be enough to extend to the hardworking and very friendly teachers, Claire Folts, Kelli Laire and Daniel Sailer who has taken on their roles with great enthusiasm under the leadership of its Executive Director, Eric Sayre.

G. 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 and even our overseas partners. Materials for our Sunday Schools,

Vacation Bible School, other educational and worship resources are also produced or provided by the CED. During the period under review the CED held Sunday School and VBS workshops.

2. Committee on Youth Ministry

The Committee on Youth Ministry has already circulated its plan of activities for Year 2015. Under astute leaders, this Committee upholds the discipline of ensuring that their plans are executed. A Seminar on Communication, Camp Counselor's Retreat, Youth Camp and Fun Day were some of its successful events.

This Committee has recommended to the ELCG Executive Council, Ms. Thamesha Watson (St Andrew Parish) and Mr. Joshua Seepersaud (Transfiguration Parish) as the LWF Youth representatives for Guyana. These nominations were favourably considered and acceptable by the ELCG and the LWF.

3. Evangelical Lutheran Church Women (ELCW)

The ELCW (National) meets quarterly. This arm of our Church focuses on specific areas of ministry. Its National Day Service at Fairfield Community Centre was a success. Seminars on Domestic Violence, Neglect and Abuse together with Outreach Programmes were planned and executed. The ELCW provided support to two students enlisted in the Distance Education Programme in Berbice. A donation was given to the Women's Conference in Florida. Deacon Shelda Emanuel and Vice President Sandra Kertzious represented the ELCW. The Lutheran Home Project was shelved because of the challenge of sustaining a ministry of this nature.

4. Evangelical Lutheran Church Men (LCM)

This is an area of our Church's ministry which needs to be given consideration and attention. Notwithstanding the challenges, there are groups of men in our parishes who are making significant contributions to the work of the Lord.

5. Lutheran Lay Academy (LLA)

The enthusiasm and commitment of students towards this programme has diminished to such an extent that nearing the end of the first year, the Georgetown group has fizzled out to about four while the Berbice contingent is six.

At least five students from the previous batch of the LLA will be interviewed by the Vocations Committee/EXCO for possible entry into the Diaconate Ministry.

The 2011/2013 batch of LLA students will receive their certificates at Convention 2015.

6. Committees

The Vocations Committee deliberated on reports received on Interns Patrick Peters and Patrick Jones. Meetings were held with the Interns and their present placements were arranged. Deacon Babsie Pierre's application for the ordained ministry was favourably considered by the Committee and she was appropriately placed.

The Mission and Evangelism Committee explored several possible Themes for the Lenten season but finally accepted the concept of a "Time for Renewal." An entire draft for the season was circulated for use in all parishes.

H. Ministerium

Ministerium met on the 13th December 2014. Each parish was allowed to highlight several aspects of their ministry. A time of mutual sharing followed in an effort to complement, support and strengthen Worship, Evangelism, Luther Leagues, ELCW's, Sunday Schools and the pastoral identity.

I. Property and Assets

The Lutheran Lay Academy Hall was refurbished. The Christian Education House was completely restructured and the Hanson House is presently under renovation.

Two portions of land on Mandela Avenue were sold. Deeds of Gift were issued to two persons for plots of land east of Advent Lutheran Church. The Deeds of Gift were based on evidence of purchase.

All documentation for the ELCG bus has been completed. The bus is available for use.

J. Recommendations

- I. Each Parish in the ELCG is unique and diverse. Parishes must strive to share their human and financial resources where possible so that the entire ELCG can benefit.
- II. Neighbouring Parishes should seriously consider collaboration in some areas of ministry such as Luther Leagues, Sunday School, ELCW and Revival Services. This helps to build bonds of friendship and fellowship and makes our church more visible.
- III. Ministerium must be a forum to celebrate what is uplifting in the in the parishes and a challenge to rebuild or restructure the setbacks which inhibit vibrancy in the parish.
- IV. Ongoing Theological and Practical Education for pastors, deacons and lay leaders must be sourced immediately.
- V. While ministry is for all of God's people, none excluded our commissioned deacons and ordained pastors whether full-time or bi-vocational have made themselves available to serve. This must be evident in practice.
- VI. The EXCO must continue the practice of support to the parishes through meetings especially in times of conflicts and challenges.

K. Gratitude

Members of the Executive Council are usually stretched to the limit. Pastors and Deacons sometimes work beyond the call of duty. Committees and Auxiliaries spend invaluable time to plan and effect activities and events. The laity has displayed their support. Work in the Lord's vineyard is never completed. Thanks to all. Let us continue to vigorously invest the one or the two or the five talents given to us by God so that God in Christ can be seen and known through faith in action.

Respectively submitted to the 72nd Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana.

Rev. Moses Prashad
President, ELCG

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

72nd. Annual Convention

Report of the Vice-President

WHY WAIT? ACT UPON YOUR FAITH!

“My friends, what good is it for one of you to say that you have faith if your actions do not prove it? Can that faith save you? Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat. What good is there in your saying to them, “God Bless you! Keep warm and eat well!” if you don't give them the necessities of life? So it is with faith, if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead.” James 2: 14-17.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, since our immediate Past President Rev Moses Prashad has presented a comprehensive report on the activities and status of the ELCG for the last Fiscal Year, I have focused on the theme chosen for this our 72nd Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, and will also make some observations on where we have been and where we want to go in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana. In so doing I identified one compelling word, WHY?

So often in our daily lives and more importantly our Christian lives, so many issues and challenges arise, which beg the question WHY? And if it does not directly affect us or our families, we often dismiss it and move on, not giving it the importance and value it deserves.

When we concluded the last session of our 71st Convention in May, 2014, we heard the various recommendations submitted by our President, our Vice President, our Secretary and our Treasurer, recommendations which were submitted and adopted with the hope that it would be put into practice by all of our Parishes thus bringing more vibrancy, and physical and spiritual growth to our Church. Some of those recommendations were achieved and some were not. The question is WHY?

Our Church continues to experience challenges in various areas of our ministry as well as human resource. We saw the resignations and departure from Guyana, of Rev Diana Honeyghan and Rev Moses Prashad, both of whom served tirelessly and selflessly in God's vineyard until their migration. We will also be bidding farewell during the month of June, 2015, to Rev Vivian Roberts and her spouse Brother Eric Roberts, whose two years assignment comes to an end. The ELCG benefited tremendously from their spiritual guidance and invaluable contributions made in various areas of the Ministry throughout the Parishes in the Berbice area. May God continue to richly bless his servants in every area of their lives as they listen and obey his calling.

The statistics presented in Rev Prashad's report reveals that there are 45 congregations in the ECG, with a total of 7 Pastors and 13 Deacons, and given the geographical location of the congregations, the ELCG often faces the challenge of adequately serving these congregations. However, tremendous help have been received and continue to come from the lay persons in the Church, whose talents, ability and willingness to serve in various areas of the Ministry has significantly alleviated the shortcomings. Additionally, the ELCG is also blessed by its continued fellowship and walk with our overseas partners, as we continue to exchange visits, guidance and support in the form of Theological Students, Pastoral Personnel, teachings and monetary assistance all to the Glory of God.

In reflecting on the above, I returned to the word '**Why**', why if our church, has been experiencing these things, and has received the Blessings of God in so many ways and through so many media, why do so many of us as individuals still seem reluctant to take up positions or the call to perform duties in various areas in our church? We see the dire need for the

resuscitation of various auxiliaries, the Youth Groups in various congregations, the Men's Group, the Sunday school, visits to the Reformation Parish to name a few? We are a Church built on Faith, but have we acted in accordance with our faith? We have very dedicated and faithful men and women of God in the ELCG who are capable of making significant contributions to the revival and sustenance of our auxiliaries and other areas of our church yet there seem to be a reluctance to boldly say "Here am I Lord, send me."

How many of us have ever visited another congregation and be part of the Sunday Worship? How many of us with our various expertise have submitted to the Executive Council or their Parish or even Congregation their willingness to serve in areas of their expertise; Is it a fear of the unknown, or a lack of faith that our contributions might not be of any value to our worship? Brothers and Sisters, the word of God says in The Letter from James Chapter 2: V. 26. "**So then, as the body without the spirit is dead, also faith without actions is dead.**"

Are we going to be invisible, yet pride ourselves on being a faithful servant of God? Brothers and Sisters, we as Christians, are very aware of the critical need for the presence of God in the lives of each and every one. We read about and witness the heinous acts of crime, and destruction on the lives of the weak and defenseless, especially the aged persons and minors, we pray every day for God's Grace and his forgiveness, and his guidance and protection, but are we doing our part, are we acting upon our faith in the teachings and commands of the Bible, to go into the highways and the byways, and fearlessly teach and preach the word of God, if not then **why** not?

In closing, I thank God for his everlasting mercies as I carry out my mandate as Vice President in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana. I also thank the Members of the Executive Council as well as all those persons who supported and guided me throughout the period. May God continue to richly bless you and your families, as we look forward to continue serving in his vineyard.

I respectfully submit the following recommendations for your vote and approval:

1. Those members of the ELCG who are blessed with various expertise create a Directory to which our members may go, to obtain the necessary relief from the social challenges they may be experiencing.
2. That periodic seminars be held within the ELCG to bring awareness, teach various skills, and suggested preventative measures, to eliminate or reduce the social ills of society affecting the Members and people within the communities of our Parishes..
3. That in an effort to have the ELCG be more visible and proactive in society, that the church causes to be placed in the newspapers, or present on Television, periodically, written biblical commentary and opinions on social issues affecting Guyana.

Grace and Peace,

Sandra Kurtzious
Vice President, ELCG

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

72nd Annual Convention

Report of the Secretary

Reflection: ... Act Upon Your Faith!

“When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick, you took care of me, when I was in jail, you visited me” (Matthew 25: 35 – 36).

“Faith without works is dead” (James 2:17) is a regular quoted verse which challenges us to express our faith in good deeds – **to act upon our faith**, for faith produces good works. There must be consistency of faith/belief and actions. If one has faith, one will produce good works. Mere words cannot clothe or fill a person in need. Without clothing and food such words are hollow sounds.

To be sure, James is very conscious of God’s Grace. James taught that pure religion involves receiving the saving Word, doing the word in a pure and undefiled way, to work the works of justice and charity; to keep oneself unstained by avoiding involvement in injustice, and oppression which surrounds us everywhere

Faith and works can be described as two sides of the same reality. Faith is the inner side of action; works are the outward expressions of faith. James calls for a unity of faith and action. Jesus taught that if a rich person sees a person in need and closes his heart against the person he cannot claim that he loves God. Love of God shows itself in action. To be sure the kingdom of God is to show concern for the *“least of these sisters and brothers of mine”*.

It was reported that when Missionary Stanley Jones met with Mahatma Ghandi, he asked the Mahatma a searching question: How can Christianity make a stronger impact in India? Ghandi thoughtfully replied that three things would be required:

- ***“First, Christians must begin to live more like Jesus;***
- ***Second, the Christian faith must be presented without any adulteration;***
- ***Third, Christians must emphasize love, which is at the heart of the Gospel”.***

We are messengers of God’s love, and we are to be human mirrors who reflect without distortion, a growing likeness of our Lord.

Christ Jesus, our Lord taught that the glory of His Church would be in its kindness to the poor, the oppressed and the disadvantaged. We are the Church as a new creation in Christ, and God, the Holy Spirit is at work in us to bring our **“will”** and our **“work”** in line with the model of Jesus’ own life. **Faith** and **works** are both signs of a deep trust in the power of God’s wisdom in us to grow in faith; and to use God’s gifts to change those things that can and should be changed in the name of Jesus – acting on our faith without waiting.

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 the Parishes.

I am pleased to report accordingly.

i) **The Executive Council**, since last Convention in May 2014, met in June, July, September, November, and December 2014, and in January, February, and April, 2015 on Church-wide matters. During the period under review, May 2014 to April 2015, the Council considered matters in relation to the administration and the ministries of the Church, considered 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 in every congregation where none exists.
- Conferred with our overseas partners – Rev. Dr. Raquel Rodriguez, ELCA-DGM; Mr. Keith Myra, ELCIC; and Rev. Jaime Doubon, and Ms. PJ May, F-BS on matters of mutual concern and sharing of information of common interest, and the reaffirmation of the value of our partnership.
- Authorize Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran who was in Geneva, Switzerland attending the International Labour Organization (ILO) Annual Conference, to go to Wittenberg, Germany to plant a tree in **Luther Garden** on behalf of the ELCG. This was done on the 10 June 2014 as part of the LWF project - **500 years of reformation – 500 trees in Wittenberg**. The ELCG Tree, **Mespilus Germanica (Common Medlar)** is identified as number 229 in the Luther Garden, Wittenberg.
- Mr. Joseph Bedessie acted as Secretary until 13 September 2014 when Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran was appointed unanimously by the Executive Council to fill the vacant position of Secretary until the next Convention when an election would be held for Secretary for the remainder of the term.
- Other changes occurred in the Executive Council during the period of review with the resignations as members of the Executive Council for various reasons of Rev, Conrad Plummer, Ms, Juliet Nurse, and Rev. Diana Honeyghan and whose position were respectively filled by the Rev. Sugrim Gobin, Ms. Lauren Mc.Calmam and Rev. Shirley Jaundoo as members of the Executive Council.
- Approved two years leave of absence for the Rev. Diana Honeyghan, and did not accept her resignation given her contractual obligations to this Church.
- Appointed Rev. Shirley Jaundoo as Director of the Christian Education Director, and Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran as Chair of the Committee on Christian Education and Literature from 1 November 2014.
- Assignment of Deacons Patrick Jones and Patrick Peters at Emmanuel and St. John Parishes respectively from 1 January 2015 as ministerial Candidates under the guidance of the Rev. Vivian Roberts..
- Confirming his earlier intimation, and by letter dated 13 December 2014, Rev. Moses Prashad formally tendered his resignation as a Pastor, and consequently as President of the ELCG with effect from 28 February 2015. The Council accepted his resignation and expressed its gratitude for his effective service as a Pastor, Member of the Executive Council, service in other areas of Church-wide Ministries, and as President of the ELCG from May 2013. It was noted that Rev. Moses Prashad had no contractual or financial obligations outstanding with the ELCG.

The Vice President, constitutionally assumed the general administrative responsibilities carried by the President, while the Pastoral responsibilities, inherent in the Office of President were being delegated by the Executive Council to other Pastors until the next Convention when an election would be held for President for the remainder of term.

- 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 joint meeting of the Executive Council and Standing Committees on 29 November 2014 for the orientation of Committee Members, to review their Terms of reference and to plan their programme of work for the year 2015.
- The continuing development of Pastors, Deacons and lay leaders through training interventions by Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud, Professor of Systematic Theology at Wartburg Theological Seminary, USA.
- Approved ELCG representatives to attend and participate in overseas conferences, consultations, and seminars sponsored by the LWF, DGM-ELCA, FLC, and the FBS.
- Nominated Mr. Michael Davy Ram to serve as a member of LWF Council, and Chair of its Advocacy Committee;
- Supporting the work of the Guyana Lutheran Music Academy (GLMA) with classes being conducted at Lutheran Hall, New Amsterdam, Berbice. This venture is in association and Co-operation Agreement with Fellowship Lutheran Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA with a national Board under the Chair of the Vice-President, Hon. Sandra Kurtzious, with Mr. Eric Sayre as GLMA Director, and Mr. Michael Davy Ram as Treasurer .
- Actions on recommendations relating to property assets of the Church from a Committee under the Chair by the Vice President, Hon. Sandra Kurtzious.
- Incoming and outgoing correspondence; and
- Regular reports from Officers and Chairs of Standing Committees.

ii) Church-wide Statistics

I am also pleased to present the Church-wide Statistics as submitted by Pastors/Parishes.

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

ELCG Church-wide Statistics 2014

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	545	89	57	36	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Phillip	218	69	43	35	5	5	4	5	0	0
St. Matthias	234	13	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 1.	1221	171	107	76	5	5	4	5	0	0
St. Michael										
St. Luke	177	156	16	13	7	6	4	0	0	0
St. Stephen	269	76	12	6	3	0	0	0	0	0
St. Michael	404	145	29	9	13	11	0	0	15	0
St. James	343	179	26	17	3	9	10	0	10	0
St. Barnabas	180	79	38	14	12	10	8	0	8	0
Sub Total 2.	1373	635	121	59	38	36	22	0	33	0
St. John										
St. John	1413	622	22	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Peter	145	75	12	8	6	0	0	0	0	0
St. Bartholomew	101	42	30	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 3.	1659	739	64	46	6	0	0	0	0	0
Transfiguration	498	104	19	15	7	0	6	0	0	0
Holy Cross	294	141	29	29	12	3	7	3	6	4
Bethel	426	221	54	54	20	12	6	2	10	3
Sub Total 4.	1218	466	102	98	39	15	19	5	16	7
Ebenezer										
Ebenezer	2451	2084	182	167	22	25	30	0	18	11
St. Timothy	333	331	23	15	12	3	4	0	8	0
St. Thomas	480	406	48	45	6	12	0	0	10	0
Sub Total 5.	3264	2821	253	227	40	40	34	0	36	11
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 2014

Parish	Baptised	Confirmed	Commu. 2 / 3 times	Active 4 +Com	SS	LL	ELCW	ELCM	Bible/C	Choir
Good Shepherd										
Good Samaritan	202	70	10	10	0	0	3	1	5	0
Good Shepherd	577	374	24	24	22	0	4	4	8	0
Nazareth	280	136	21	20	16	0	2	1	6	0
Resurrection	176	103	19	19	5	0	2	1	4	0
Sub Total 7.	1235	683	74	73	43	0	11	7	23	0
Advent										
Hope	121	106	50	43	48	8	14	7	16	0
Christ	76	52	41	25	20	11	5	0	12	0
Faith	82	58	30	26	13	0	0	0	0	0
Advent	78	50	32	24	19	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total 8.	357	266	153	118	100	19	19	7	28	0
St. Matthew										
Bethany	167	82	22	20	10	0	0	0	0	0
St. Matthew	377	152	47	42	10	0	7	0	6	0
Holy Communion	298	40	40	30	30	10	12	0	12	0
Messiah	276	67	14	14	6	0	6	0	6	0
Sub Total 9.	1118	341	123	106	56	10	25	0	24	0
St. Andrew										
Swargia Vani	193	224	38	36	16	7	7	0	10	0
Sadhu S. Singh	245	221	26	26	43	15	12	0	6	0
St. Andrew	334	278	56	55	20	15	0	0	18	0
Sub Total 10.	772	723	120	117	79	37	19	0	34	0
Redeemer										
Redeemer	1167	852	115	102	35	0	25	10	12	0
Sub Total 11	1167	852	115	102	35	0	25	10	12	0
Calvary										
Calvary	1235	722	113	98	25	10	6	5	22	13
Sub Total 12.	1235	722	113	98	25	10	6	5	22	13
Ascension										
Epiphany	156	154	22	16	6	0	0	0	7	0
Ascension	708	224	15	13	12	0	0	0	13	0
King of Glory	177	181	13	10	1	0	0	0	3	0
Mt. Zion	337	138	23	20	20	0	0	0	15	0
Sub Total 13.	1378	697	73	59	39	0	0	0	38	0
Grand Total	16153	9273	1507	1183	575	172	234	59	290	31

Statistical Summary – Church-wide: 2010 - 2014

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Pastors:	6	7	7	9	7
Deacons:	18	19	18	13	13
Congregations:	45	44	44	44	44
Sunday Schools:	35	33	35	35	33
Luther Leagues:	26	21	18	19	16
ELCW:	27	23	29	26	22
ELCM:	14	12	8	14	8
Bible Classes:	27	28	30	25	27
Choirs:	7	8	8	8	4
Baptized as at 31 December:	11,325	15,852	15,956**	16034**	16,057
Baptized during the year:	172	66	78	66	103
Confirmed as at 31 December:	6,841	8,856*	9,018**	9109**	9235
Confirmed during the year:	156	54	91	29	51
Communing members:	2048	1917	1897	1543**	1507
Active Members	1475	1484	1547	1232**	1183
Total in Sunday School	783	698	637	569	575
Total in Luther League	213	243	183	176	172
Total in ELCW	265	259	235	209	234
Total in ELCM	84	72	30	54	59
Total in Bible Class	200	150	256	241	290
Weddings:		77	33	35	46
Funerals:		38	45	51	53
Thanksgiving Service:		109	65	133	161

****updated record**

Closing 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 particularly as these relate to baptized and confirmed members. 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
- **St. John Parish** – St. John, St. Bartholomew
- **Good Shepherd Parish** - Good Samaritan
- **Ascension Parish** – King of Glory

No Luther Leagues:

- **Emmanuel Parish** - Nativity, Emmanuel, St. Matthias.
- **St. John Parish** – St John, St, Bartholomew, St Peter,
- **St Michael Parish** – St. Stephen
- **Transfiguration Parish** – Transfiguration,
- **Good Shepherd Parish** - Good Samaritan, Nazareth, Resurrection
- **Advent Parish** - Faith, Advent,
- **St. Matthew Parish** - Bethany, St. Matthew, Messiah,
- **Redeemer Parish** - Redeemer
- **Ascension Parish** – Ascension, Epiphany, Mt. Zion, King of Glory,

I wish respectfully to repeat the following recommendations that Parishes take urgent actions to address these challenges as follows:

1. that all Pastors, Deacons and Parish Councils undertake as a matter of urgency, 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 priority, and forge a consensus on appropriate actions to strengthen congregational ministries in the Parishes, **and present a special report of the outcomes of such encounters and follow up to next Convention in 2016.**

I place on record my grateful thanks and appreciation to all for their support and cooperation as we work together in the interest of the Church in our common task to proclaim the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel J. Goolsarran
Secretary, ELCC

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
72nd Annual Convention

Notes

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana 72nd 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, 2014.

1.0 Income

Total Income for the Year 2014 was \$53,376,610: of which \$42,775,000 represent sale of assets. The real income of \$10,601,610: fell below our 2014 Budget of \$12,450,000: by approximately 15%. However, our local income accounted for only 31% of the 2014 Budget. The remaining 54% was achieved through grants/gifts/refunds from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) Guyana Mission Network and the Lutheran World Federation.

Please see 2014 Financial Highlights for further details.

1.1 Cash Position

The following is the Cash Position as at Dec 31, 2014:

Cash in Hand	\$	0
Cash at Bank -Current Account	\$	991,610
-Optimizer Account		\$30,047,575
-Save & Prosper		\$ 8,367,690
Total		<u>\$39,406,874</u>

1.2 Bank Reconciliation

The reconciliation of the Current Account indicates that eight (8) cheques totaling \$251,596: were outstanding as at December 31, 2014.

1.3 Apportionment

Apportionment budgeted for 2014 was \$3,224,900 coupled with net outstanding payments of \$4,278,557 puts total Parish apportionment outstanding as at Jan 01, 2014 to \$7,503,457: During the year under review, we received payments totaling \$1,926,600: representing 60% of payments due for 2014 and 26% of total outstanding payments. At the close of the year 2014, total Parish Apportionment outstanding has increased to \$5,576,857.00

During the year 2014, no payments were received from the following Parishes:

- Ebenezer
- Reformation
- Calvary

The following Parishes have settled their accounts fully and must be commended:

- Good Shepherd
- St Matthew
- St Andrew

1.4 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

Further discussions with the National Evangelical Lutheran Church Women (NELCW) on this project, resulted in the recommendation by the NELCW not to proceed since there are impeding factors that will not make this a successful venture.

The Convention will therefore have to make a decision on the allocation of the funds so far received for the Lutheran Home Project.

In 2014, the Convention Project was then changed to the acquisition of furnishings for the LLA Hall. The following were amounts pledged and received:

	Pledged 2014	Receipts 2014	Outstanding as at Dec 31, 2014
Total	439,000	180,000	259,000

We encourage donors to settle their outstanding balances by Jun 30, 2015.

1.5 Donations/Gifts/Bonuses

Gifts from Guyana Mission Network totaling GY\$512,550 were received for and given to the Clergy and Deacons during December 2014 as follows:

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

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

Also, funds totaling GY\$100,000: were received from an overseas affiliate of the women of the ELCG-Berbice Region, the sum of which will be transferred to the ELCW-Berbice Region.

1.6 Overseas Grants/Gifts/Refunds

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\$3,497,262 during 2014 and these funds were designated as follows:

From Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

Christian Education	US\$ 2,000:
Lay Leaders Training	US\$ 7,000:
Total	<u>US\$ 9,000: (GY\$1,787,955:)</u>

From Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada:

Refund of President's Travel	GY\$175,698:
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From Lutheran World Federation

Refund for travels to
Brazil and Switzerland GY\$820,059:

From Guyana Mission Network

Gifts-Pastors and Deacons GY\$512,550:

From Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Florida

ELCG Administration GY\$201,000:

1.7 Property/Assets

a. Property- Land

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. However, this transaction is still incomplete due to a pending legal matter.

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) GY\$40,000,000: (Sold for \$30,000,000:)
- ii. E½ of Lot 686 Plantation Ruimveldt GY\$60,000,000: (Sold for \$40,000,000:)
- iii. 120 West Ruimveldt GY\$40,000,000:
- iv. W ½ of Lot 50 Section 'A' Buxton, ECD GY\$ 6,000,000:

We are currently engaged in discussions with interested parties regarding sale 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. Property –Motor Vehicle

The ELCG bus that was sold to Transfiguration Parish was resold in October 2014 to a member of the Transfiguration parish for the sum of GY\$275,000.00. This money is in the ELCG account and will be transferred to the Transfiguration Parish by May 31, 2015.

2.0 Expenses

Total expenditure for the year amounted to GY\$34,633,524: of which Assets/Capital Acquisitions accounted for the single largest expenditure of approximately 61% or GY\$21,087,920.00

Of the remaining 39%, approximately 11% (GY\$3,972,455:) was expended towards maintenance.

During the period, funds designated for and advanced to the CED totaling 973,029: were transferred to CED account while Gifts and Bonuses accounted for approximately 2% (\$758,000:). This included GY\$510,000: received from Guyana Mission Network and designated Christmas gifts for Pastors and Deacons.

2.1 Maintenance

a. Guyana Lutheran Music Academy

The Guyana Lutheran Music Academy was launched in September 2014 and is housed in the LLA Hall (Lutheran Courts, NA, Berbice). The infrastructure has been renovated to accommodate the GLMA and other activities. We provide below a summary of expenditure:

Renovations	GY\$3,589,861:
Furnishings	GY\$ 913,740:
Total	<u>GY\$4,503,601:</u>

b. "Hanson House"

Work commenced on the Hanson House renovation project. So far, we have expended funds to erect a new perimeter fence and to clean the compound of debris. We expect to continue renovations in 2015.

We provide below a summary of expenditure:

Fence	GY\$375,000:
Clearing Debris	GY\$100,000:
Total	<u>GY\$475,000:</u>

c. Refurbishment of ELCG Bus

During the period March 2013 and 2015, the ELCG Bus was refurbished at a total cost of GY\$673,040: and is now road worthy.

We provide below a summary of expenditure:

Repairs and Mechanical Maintenance	GY\$148,200:
Air Conditioning Unit	GY\$ 60,000:
Body work and respraying	GY\$170,000:
Tyres and Battery	GY\$207,000:
Documentation and Legal Fees	GY\$ 87,840:
Total	<u>GY\$673,040:</u>

2.2 Assets/Capital Expenditures

a. CED House

During 2014, an extensive sum was spent on the refurbishing and furnishing the former CED House at St. Ann's Street, New Amsterdam for use by the GLMA Music Teachers. We provide an expense summary below:

Renovations	GY\$11,933,408:
Furnishings	GY\$ 2,577,000:
Total	<u>GY\$14,510,408:</u>

b. Furnishings-ELCG

The ELCG acquired 26 Tables and 80 Chairs at a cost of GY\$908,457: These furnishings are used in the LLA/GLMA Hall.

c. Legal/Processing Fees

Additionally, expenses relating to Legal/Processing Fees for sale of Land assets totaled GY\$3,675,000: during the year 2014.

2.3 Convention Expenses 2014

2014 Annual Convention accounts are as follows:

Income

Registration	\$ 288,000:
Offering	\$ 83,520:
Special Gifts	\$ 225,000:
Total Income	<u>\$ 596,520:</u>

Expenses

Rental of Tents	\$ 35,000:
Meals/Snack	\$ 574,091:
Bulletin/Banners/Photography	\$ 125,000:
Hospitality/Hosting	\$ 10,170:
Housekeeping	\$ 40,339:
Stationery	\$ 3,735:
Total Expenditure	<u>\$ 788,335:</u>

Deficit **(\$191,815:)**

2.4 Training and Education/Ministerial Candidates

During the year funds totaling GY\$578,400 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	GY\$ 88,400:
Diaconate Stipend (Ministerial Candidates)	GY\$490,000:
Total	<u>GY\$578,400:</u>

2.5 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, 2014.

3.0 Audit

We have received Audited Statements from the following:

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

Audit Statements are outstanding from the following:

- Reformation
- Transfiguration
- St John

Audit Report from one Parish revealed significant breaches and irregularities. This matter will be further investigated through the Executive Council.

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, 2015.

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 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\$12,860,000 and reflects a marginal increase when compared to the 2014 Budget.

This increase is mainly due to a further provisioning for Maintenance, Committee expenses and administration.

However, based on our anticipated income, we project an overall deficit of GY\$5,452,000: or approximately 42% of the budget.

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

Last year Convention approved recommendation 6f which required each Parish to submit to the Executive Council by March 31 annually, their Parish Budgets. We have received submission from the following Parishes:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------|
| • Ebenezer | - | GY\$6,240,900: |
| • Good Shepherd | - | GY\$2,071,200: |
| • St Andrew | - | GY\$5,000,000: |

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

- a. Re-envision/Remodel the Camp and Retreat Centre (Skeldon, Berbice). This facility has been assigned to the stewardship of the Emmanuel Parish but is being re-examined by a committee appointed by the Executive Council.
- b. Renovation of the "Hanson House" is expected to continue in 2015. An estimated sum of GY\$15M is expected to be expended on this project.

- c. To work along with Parishes and provide guidance and support for more effective and self sustainable Parish ministries.

6.0 Recommendations

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

- a. 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, 2015.
 - ii. Convention approve an increase to GYD\$2,000 per Active member from GYD\$1,700: per Active member for 2016. This increase is the equivalent of approximately GY\$167.00 per month or GY\$5.50 per day per Active member.
- b. 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.

7. 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 72nd Annual Convention.

God's Peace and Blessing,

Davy Ram
Treasurer, ELCG