

Why Wait? Act Upon Your Faith - 72nd Annual Convention of the ELCG

Georgetown/GUYANA (LWI) - The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) held its 72nd Annual Convention from 03 to 05 May, 2015 at the Ebenezer Lutheran Church and Lutheran Hall, in New Amsterdam, Berbice. The theme guiding the Convention was "Why Wait? Act Upon Your Faith."

Membership of the convention, formed by Ministers, Delegates and Fraternities, engaged in the ELCG's business receiving and approving reports from the Executive Council (Pastor President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) from activities developed in 2014. The Secretary's report included the statistical information of the church. The Treasurer's report brought together the Auditor's Report and the 2016 Administration Budget.

Three Sub Themes: Be Marvellers, Be Movers, and Be Messengers were presented by a Layperson, Deacon and Clergy respectively followed by plenary sessions a panels through audience contribution during the second and third day of Convention. The event was occasion to fill two vacancies, that of the President and Secretary for the remaining period of the term ending May 2016. Elect the Executive Council Officers and Members of the ELCG are which remains as follow:

- Rev Leroy Nicholson - Pastor President (elected May 05, 2015)
- Ms. Sandra Elizabeth Kurtzious - Vice President
- Mr. Michael Davy Ram - Treasurer
- Mr. Samuel Jerry Goolsarran - Secretary (elected May 05, 2015)
- Rev. Shirley Jaundoo - Member Executive Council
- Rev. Amanda Singh - Member Executive Council
- Rev. Sugrim Gobin - Member Executive Council
- Ms. Lauren McCalman - Member Executive Council
- Mr. Joseph Bedissie - Member Executive Council

The ELCG develops ministry through the service of seven Pastors and thirteen Deacons. The church is composed of 45 Congregations with a total of 13 Parishes. The work of the ELCG is developed through the Christian Education Department (CED) that is an integral dimension of the church providing diverse educational materials; the Committee on Youth Ministry ensuring vibrant activities for youth; the Evangelical Lutheran Church Women (ELCW) that at national level engages in diverse activities like seminars on Domestic Violence, Neglect and Abuse; the Evangelical Lutheran Church Men (ELCM) that make significant contribution to the work of God; and the Lutheran Lay Academy (LLA) engaged in theological education for Deacons and continuous education for pastors.

In his report, Rev. Moses Prashad, former Pastor President of the ELCG shares: "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."

The ELCG is member of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) since 1947. In 2013, the ELCG has celebrated its 270th Anniversary which speaks of the relevance of the Gospel and love of God through the mission of God. The ELCG recognizes the support of the LWF through conferences as opportunities to update on theological issues and for networking with Lutheran ministries around the world.

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