

# Lutheran Church of Australia

Commission on Worship

## INTRODUCTIONS TO STATEMENTS

The following are introductions to the Statements by the Commission on Worship. (Click on a heading to locate the actual statement. All are in pdf format.)

### [1. The altar and its design](#)

The catalyst for this statement was the question regarding the altar and Lutheran worship, and the growing interest in free-standing altars and their suitability for worship. The Commission was requested to make a statement. The statement was originally produced by the Department of Visual Arts, which began its work considerably before 1986, not long after the establishment of the Department with its specific mandate. It inherited the task from the previous Commission, 19-20 July 1979.

### [2. The colours and seasons of the church year](#)

The catalyst for this statement was a dispute in the church re the colour of white or green for the 'season' of Epiphany (the post-Epiphany, pre-Lent period in the church year), the adjustments in the Christian year in other Lutheran and Christian churches and finally some confusion among LCA clergy with a growing interest in vestments, paraments, and their colours. The statement was drawn up by the Department of Liturgics and submitted to the Commission.

### [3. The difference between blessing and consecration](#)

The catalyst for this was the production of the church rites for dedication/consecration and blessing. The Department of Liturgics produced the statement which has been adopted by them.

### [4. The distribution of Holy Communion, with reference to possible infection.](#)

The catalyst was concern, especially regarding AIDS and Hepatitis B. There was worry, written and spoken, by members of the church. The statement was drawn up and produced by the Department of Liturgics, with the help of Dr Overduin.

### [5. Guidelines for the use of drama within the liturgy of the church](#)

The catalyst was growing use and growing misuse of overt drama in the church; also some complaints of malpractice. The statement was drawn up by the Department of Liturgics and submitted to the Commission.

### [6. Guidelines for modern English in hymns.](#)

The catalyst was a growing use of 'modern' hymns and songs in worship, the criticism of unsuitable language for worship and the production of *The Supplement*, generally. The Department of Hymnody submitted the statement and adopted it.

### [7. Guidelines for the use of the Passover Haggadah](#)

The catalyst was a growing use of the Haggadah in congregations as a Maundy Thursday liturgical service. Growing influence from the United States aided and abetted that. Direct queries to the Department were submitted. The Department of Liturgics drew up and submitted the statement which was adopted by the Commission on Worship.

### [8. The location of the Baptismal font.](#)

The catalyst was a general enquiry into Church design and the search for Lutheran reasons for the inclination to establish the font in the chancel. The Department of Visual Arts produced this statement for adoption by the Commission.

### [9. Marriage in a garden setting](#)

The catalyst was growing concern expressed that churches were being rejected as places for conducting weddings. Some direct enquiries were made from pastors. The Department for Liturgics drew up the statement and adopted it.

### [10. Permissible Lectionaries](#)

See the published introduction.

#### [11. Principles for the tunes of hymns](#)

Has its own introductory statement. The catalyst for it was the production of *The Supplement* and the use of alleged unacceptable tunes and music in the worship of the church. The Department of Music produced it and adopted it.

#### [12. Principles for the words of hymns](#)

This statement has its own published introduction. The catalyst was the production of *The Supplement to the Hymnal*.

#### [13. Principles governing the use of language in the liturgy of the church](#)

The catalyst was again the production of *The Supplement*, but also widespread criticism of so-called 'self made' liturgies in the church. The Department of Liturgics submitted it to Commission on Worship for adoption.

#### [14. Public worship and its environment](#)

It contains its own introduction. A catalyst was the mandate given to the new Department of Visual Arts, which submitted it for adoption to the Commission on Worship.

#### [15. The Purpose of the visual arts in worship](#)

The catalyst was the framing of the new constitution and also departmental self-study. The Department of Visual Arts submitted this for adoption.

#### [16. Rationale for synodical decision for approved orders with Holy Communion](#)

The catalyst was presidential and General Church Council concern about liturgical chaos in the church and the subsequent GCC resolution submitted to the 1987 General Synod.

The statement was prepared by the Department of Liturgics and submitted to the Commission for adoption. It was published for delegates' perusal in the 1993 (??) Synod Report Book.

#### [17. The use of multipurpose worship centres](#)

The catalyst for this was new area churches, opening up with limited resources. The Department of Visual Arts drew up and submitted this statement to the Commission on Worship.

#### [18. The use of the service with Holy Communion for the ministry to the sick](#)

The catalyst for this was the growing demand and use of healing services in the church and some alleged malpractices. The Department of Liturgics drew up and submitted the statement to the Commission on Worship for adoption.

#### [19. The Paschal candle](#)

The catalyst for this statement was an increased interest in the paschal candle and numerous queries regarding its proper liturgical use. Some so-called 'undesirable' practices were reported. The Department of Liturgics drew it up and submitted it to the Commission for adoption.

#### [20. Liturgical Vestments and the Alb](#)

The catalyst was a growing interest and use of the alb in the LCA, and queries re the permissibility, the history, and the appropriate use of the vestment. The Department of Liturgics drew up the statement and submitted it to the Commission for adoption.

#### [21. Lenten celebrations](#)

The catalyst was an inclination voiced by particularly the BCL to turn mid-week Lenten services into catechetical sessions. The statement was drawn up by the Department of Liturgics and submitted for distribution.

#### [22 Frequency of communion](#)

#### [23 Use of assistant ministries in the liturgy](#)

#### [24. The Lutheran approach to theology of worship](#)

The reasons were the new format of the Departments and the need for them all to base their function on a common understanding of Lutheran liturgical theology. Prepared by the Department of Liturgics with the help of CTICR and submitted to the Commission.

#### [25 Children in corporate worship](#)

#### [26 Guidelines for the involvement of vicars in the leading of public worship](#)

#### [27 The role of the lay reader in regular corporate worship](#)

#### [28 Parts of the service for musical settings](#)

#### [29 Guidelines for services on special occasions](#)

#### [30 Preparing the service with Holy Communion](#)

31 The Prayer of the Church

32 The celebration of the Lord's Supper with Thanksgiving

33 The distribution of the Sacrament of the Altar

34 The Chasuble

35 Solidarity in Worship: The Lutheran understanding of Adiaphor

36 The Collect (Prayer Of The Day)

37 The Liturgical Duties Of The Presiding Minister

38 The Blessing Of People In The Divine Service

39 The Use Of Scriptural Sentences In The Divine Service