

AGENDA 2.3.4

The theological basis for the ordination of men only

(See also Agenda 2.2.3, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3 and 2.3.5)

PROPOSED MOTION

Submitted by Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamilton Vic

BE IT RESOLVED that before any vote is conducted regarding the ordination of both men and women, no less than one hour be set aside to allow the clear presentation of the scriptural case for the ordination of men only.

REASONS FOR THE MOTION

1. Many members of the LCA (including some members of the CTICR) believe the church's teaching is correct, although many others favour the Draft Doctrinal Statement (DDS) prepared by members of the CTICR.
2. Before voting to change the teaching of the church, delegates have the responsibility to hear the church's teaching clearly explained.
3. While there may be several hours set aside for debate on this issue, with each speaker being given three minutes to speak (as there was at Rochedale in 2015); this does not do justice to the church's teaching and all that underpins it.
4. It is fair for all delegates, and also wise, to have the teaching of the church presented in its fullness. Rather than restricting the teaching to the two texts mentioned in the Theses of Agreement (1 Corinthians 14:33b–38 and 1 Timothy 2:11–15) the presentation may include, among other Scriptural texts, the witness of Scripture in 1 Timothy 2:12 in conjunction with 1 Timothy 3:2; 2 Timothy 1:13–14; 2, Timothy 2:1–2; Titus 1:5–9; and Acts 1:21. The Synod can then have confidence that all delegates have had the opportunity to be fully informed.
5. Significant resources have been put into the DDS with the CTICR formulating the document and it being presented across the church at consultation meetings. We feel that to give at least one hour to the presentation of the church's teaching is entirely appropriate, given the ramifications of changing the teaching are likely to be very significant for people right across the church.
6. If the case for the ordination of men only, and the case for the ordination of both men and women (the DDS) are clearly expressed before we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and a vote is taken – it will go some way to fostering understanding and unity as we move forward.