

AGENDA 2.3.14

Examination of avenues to provide a pastoral support agency

PROPOSED MOTION

Submitted by St Peter's Lutheran Church, Hobart Tas

BE IT RESOLVED that a thorough examination of avenues to provide support and assistance be conducted with a view to creating a body such as a pastoral guild to provide such support and advice to those accused of disciplinary matters.

REASONS FOR THE MOTION

1. A body does not exist to support and assist pastors and church workers should a complaint be brought against them.
2. Currently pastors and church workers are very vulnerable and could potentially incur significant expense in defending themselves against allegations.
3. The church provides many resources to the Professional Standards Department (PSD) so that they can prosecute matters where allegations of misconduct have been made; however there are currently no resources available to ensure those accused can receive advice or defend matters. This has created an imbalance and results in the church failing in its duty of care towards its pastors and other church workers where allegations have been made.
4. Given the lack of assistance currently available it also results in a lack of accountability for the PSD as those charged generally lack the resources to fight unjust allegations.