

DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS AND THEOLOGICAL OPINIONS (DSTO)

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D. MINISTRIES IN THE CHURCH

The relationship between graduation from Luther Seminary and ordination

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1. **Graduation** from Luther Seminary is the Seminary's official certification that a person, male or female, has successfully completed the course of studies prescribed for those who wish to serve in the public ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. It does not of itself admit to the public ministry.
2. **Ordination** is the Church's setting apart, authorising and vesting with authority and responsibility in the name of Jesus Christ and His Church qualified persons for the office of the public ministry. It is the Church's public acknowledgement that a person is *rite vocatus* (AC XIV). 'Ordination, though not a Sacrament, is a solemn ecclesiastical rite in which a duly qualified person (1 Tim 3:2–7; Titus 1:5–9), having accepted a call by a congregation or the Church, is received by the Church as a gift from the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 4:1; Titus 1:5) and publicly declared to be a minister of the New Testament, his call thereby being ratified and publicly acknowledged and the blessing of the Lord is invoked upon him with the laying on of hands.' (Theses of Agreement, VI.8).