 

ORDINATION RESOLUTION WAY FORWARD

WORKING GROUPS

Group 1: Synod Agenda and Outcomes Planning

Group 2: Theological Requirements

Group 3: Constitutional Requirements

Group 4: Governance Requirements

Group 5: Pastoral Care

Group 6: Candidacy of both Women and Men for Ordination in the LCANZ

Group 7: Communications

Group 8: Finance and Budgeting

**Members**

Chairpersons: Appointed by a joint meeting of General Church Board (GCB) and
College of Bishops (CoB)

Members: Expressions of interests submitted, reviewed by Standing Committee
on Nominations, and appointed by a joint meeting of GCB and CoB

**Selection**

Members of all working groups will need to satisfy the following criteria:

* Understand the resolution of General Synod 2021-2023
* Be committed to the transaction of the resolution
* Work within strict timelines to allow for Synod 2024 preparation work to be done
* Understand, appreciate and be pastorally sensitive to different convictions on ordination.

In addition to the above, we are looking for persons in one or more of the following categories
in order to bring diversity to the working groups:

* Knowledge, skills and/or experience in Lutheran doctrine of ecclesiology
* Knowledge, skills and/or experience in LCA Constitution and By-laws, and constitutional change
* Knowledge, skills and/or experience in governance and the governance structures
of the LCA
* Knowledge, skills and/or experience in Lutheran pastoral care ministry
* Strong relationship building skills
* Appreciation of ecclesiastical policy and processes regarding ordination in the LCANZ
* Knowledge, skills and/or experience in communication and engagement methodologies
* Supports ordination of men only
* Supports ordination of both women and men.

**Time commitment**

The time commitment may vary from working group to working group. You should allow for
a two-hour meeting every fortnight along with additional time for consideration of issues.

**Scope of working groups**

Indicative scope of the working groups include:

**Group 1: Synod Agenda and Outcomes Planning**

1. Consider the key matters in the progress of debate on ordination at General Synod 2024
2. Analyse potential outcomes of various proposal options
3. Prepare delegates for the agenda of General Synod 2024
4. Determine matters for ‘town halls’ and other churchwide engagements

**Group 2: Theological Requirements**

1. Review the history of the debate on ordination of women and men in the LCANZ
2. Review Lutheran ecclesiology which admits one church and two practices of ordination
3. Review theological concerns of one church and two practices
4. Review the application of TA 1:4 to the Ordination Resolution Way Forward
5. Review theological considerations in the adoption of ordaining both women and men in overseas Lutheran churches
6. Consider theological implications for interchurch relations if both women and men were ordained in the LCANZ
7. Ensure there are adequate theological statements addressing the two positions on ordination

**Group 3: Constitutional Requirements**

1. Review constitutional matters involved in Ordination Resolution Way Forward
2. Review constitutional processes to facilitate proposals to be put to General Synod 2024

**Group 4: Governance Requirements**

1. Review background to original St Andrews Lutheran Church Brisbane proposal
2. Review governance options proposed in previous work of GCB
3. Investigate governance issues in proposed models that may be considered in the Ordination Resolution Way Forward
4. Consider governance implications should General Synod 2024 resolve to divide into two churches
5. Prepare institutions and the communities of the church for potential outcomes of General Synod 2024

**Group 5: Pastoral Care**

1. Address pastoral concerns for various stakeholders (persons and communities) in the consideration of the resolution
2. Consider bishops’ oversight in districts in the work of pastoral care
3. Consider the pastoral care implications of any ordination proposal to the
2024 General Synod
4. Develop support mechanisms for those on the working groups and the project team
5. Develop support mechanisms for delegates preparing for and attending
2024 General Synod
6. Develop support mechanisms for people who might be considering leaving the LCANZ on the issue of ordination

**Group 6: Candidacy for both Women and Men for Ordination in the LCANZ**

1. Develop pathways for ordination that would be available to both women and men
in the LCANZ
2. Review current training already undertaken by women who are potential candidates for ordination
3. Develop ordination requirements for both women and men
4. Develop fieldwork and formation requirements that would apply to both women and men as ordination candidates
5. Consider District and Churchwide ministries that would be available to ordained women and men
6. Develop requirements for preaching in the LCANZ
7. Determine pastoral concerns/matters in the consideration of women as candidates for ordination
8. Ensure that pathways are clear for the six months prior to 2024

**Group 7: Communications**

1. Engage with stakeholders
2. Promote the work of the Ordination Resolution Way Forward
3. Prepare delegates and the church for General Synod 2024
4. Communicate with stakeholders outside the LCANZ through to Synod 2024 and afterwards

**Group 8: Finance and Budgeting**

1. Consider financial implications of options for Ordination Resolution Way Forward
2. Develop strategies to budget for options
3. Provide costings for proposals on ordination before General Synod 2024