

AGENDA 14.5

General Pastors Conference Advice

REGARDING THE PROPOSALS ON ORDINATION BEFORE CONVENTION

At Tanunda, during the Wednesday and Thursday sessions at the 2022 General Pastors Conference, 12 and 13 October, the pastors of the church discussed the proposals before Convention which addressed the matter of ordination. The pastors also considered what advice or guidance they should be giving to Convention on this matter. We prayed for the Lord's guiding hand on our deliberations. After small-group work and plenary sessions with debate, the pastors adopted the advice below. We continue to pray for the Lord's guiding hand as we present this advice to the Convention of General Synod in Melbourne in February 2023.

PREAMBLE

In serving the church, the pastors declare that, with the help of God, we desire to be faithful to the Lord of the church and to his word and to remain loyal to our Lutheran confessional witness. We love one another as brothers in Christ.

We acknowledge and lament that we are divided in what we believe is revealed in 1 Corinthians 14 and 1 Timothy 2 as identified in TA VI:11, but we have grown in our recognition of each other's exegetical and conscience concerns in this matter. We assure the church of our ongoing pastoral care for the people of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand in working through the ordination proposals before the Convention of General Synod 2023.

After considering the ongoing theological and pastoral issues relating to the ordination proposals, we offer the following advice.

ADVICE

1. General Pastors Conference supports the advice of the College of Bishops that the agenda of General Synod 2023 must include proposals on the matter of ordination which do not continue debate which leaves us divided.
2. General Pastors Conference believes that the Queensland proposal should be the first considered on the agenda of the Convention of General Synod 2023.
3. General Pastors Conference acknowledges that the Queensland proposal anticipates the ordination of women to the office of the public ministry in communities of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand.
4. General Pastors Conference acknowledges that the Queensland proposal also anticipates the continuity of the ordination of men only in communities of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand.
5. General Pastors Conference advises that the work called for in the Queensland proposal would be undertaken by the General Church Board and the College of Bishops as a matter of priority.
6. A majority of pastors at General Pastors Conference believe that TA 1:4 (particularly 1.4e) can be applied to our current impasse on the issue of ordination but there was not agreement on the outcomes of its application. It is expected TA 1.4 would inform the work by the General Church Board and the College of Bishops in addressing the Queensland proposal.

Pastor Matthew Bishop
Secretary, General Pastors Conference

Dr Nigel Long
Secretary of the Church