

PROPOSALS FROM DISTRICTS AND CONGREGATIONS

AGENDA 2.3.1

Ordination of both men and women

(See also Agenda 2.2.3, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 2.3.4 and 2.3.5)

PROPOSED MOTION

Submitted by St Luke's Lutheran Church, Palmerston North NZ

BE IT RESOLVED that

- a. the Lutheran Church of Australia/New Zealand amend its public teaching to accept the ordination of both men and women; and
- b. the LCA/NZ invite properly gifted, trained, prepared and called women to serve as ordained pastors alongside the male pastors of this church, exercising the office of the keys by proclaiming the gospel, pronouncing the absolution, and administering the sacraments, to the glory of God and for the extension of his Kingdom.

REASONS FOR THE MOTION

1. In response to the 2015 LCA General Synod resolution the Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations (CTICR) has prepared a Draft Doctrinal Statement on the ordination of both women and men, and a statement giving the theological basis for why the ordination of women and men need not divide the church. The CTICR has consulted widely with the church concerning these documents.
2. The Draft Doctrinal Statement shows that the ordination of both women and men is consistent with the Lutheran Church's confessional statements on the ordained ministry (AC 5 and 14) which focuses on making the gospel of Jesus Christ widely available through the means of grace, and which contains nothing that excludes women from entering the ordained ministry.
3. 'The Permanent Status of Theses of Agreement' (A26) states that "the Theses of Agreement are always under the authority of the Word of God, and therefore there must always be a readiness to submit them to the critical scrutiny of God's Word and accordingly confirm them, or amend or repudiate them when further study of God's Word shows them to be inadequate or in error." This change of public teaching regarding the ordination of women reflects a more comprehensive reading of the Scriptures regarding the eligibility of called and trained women for the pastoral office.

Also submitted by the following congregations, using identical text:

1. *St Stephen's Lutheran Congregation, Adelaide SA*
2. *Holy Cross Lutheran Congregation, Belconnen ACT*
3. *St Paul Lutheran Congregation, Blair Athol SA*
4. *St Andrew's Lutheran Congregation, Brisbane Qld*
5. *Golden Grove Lutheran Church SA*
6. *St Peter's Lutheran Congregation, Indooroopilly Qld*
7. *Ipswich Lutheran Parish Qld*
8. *Mawson Lakes Community Church SA*
9. *Good News Lutheran Congregation, Middle Park Qld*
10. *The Finnish Lutheran Church of Brisbane, Mt Gravatt Qld*
11. *Nunawading/Waverley Parish, Vic*
12. *Our Saviour Lutheran Congregation, Rochedale Qld*

13. *Bethany Lutheran Congregation Sunbury Vic*
14. *St Paul's Lutheran Congregation, Sydney NSW*
15. *Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship, Toowoomba Qld*
16. *Church of the Good Shepherd Tuggeranong Lutheran Parish, ACT*
17. *Victor Harbor Lutheran Church, SA*
18. *St Paul's Lutheran Congregation, Wellington NZ*
19. *Immanuel Woden Valley Lutheran Church, Lyons ACT*