

AGENDA 2.3.5

No further amendments to Theses of Agreement on ordination of women regarding the Office of the Ministry

(See also Agenda 2.2.3, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3 and 2.3.4)

PROPOSED MOTION

Submitted by St John's Lutheran Church, Minyip-Warracknabeal Vic

BE IT RESOLVED that no further discussion come before Synod to amend the Theses of Agreement VI regarding the Office of the Ministry.

REASONS FOR THE MOTION

1. The inaugural Synod in 1966, bringing the ELCA and the UELCA together, after prayerful consideration agreed and voted to accept the Theses of Agreement regarding the Office of the Ministry.
2. Three subsequent Synods; namely 2000, 2006 and 2015, after earnest and sincere prayer to God for His guidance on this matter voted to uphold the current Theses of Agreement on the Office of the Ministry in the LCA.
3. To uphold the authority of Synod to make binding decisions on the LCA and not negate this authority, Synod's decisions must be honoured.
4. Must we not obey God's guidance and His will as demonstrated at all four Synods of the LCA?
5. Like all confessional statements, the Theses of Agreement are always under the authority of the Word of God. Are we being influenced and perhaps deceived by "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." *Doctrinal Statements and Theological Opinions Volume 1A. Theses of Agreement: The permanent status of Theses of Agreement*. Is it not man's wisdom, i.e the wisdom of this world, made foolish by God (1 Cor 1:20), being put before the authority of Scripture in interpreting God's Word for us?
6. Should we not remember Luther's warning after the Reformation, "Until now you have heard the true, faithful Word; now beware of your own thoughts and your own wisdom. The devil will light the candle of reason and deprive you of your faith". *The Church Through the Ages*, p443.

This is a doctrinal matter, and a decision has been made in accordance with God's will and the will of LCA Synods on four occasions.