

AGENDA 2.2.3

Ordination of women and men

(See also Agenda 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 2.3.4 and 2.3.5)

PROPOSED MOTION

Submitted by General Church Council

BE IT RESOLVED

1. that the Lutheran Church of Australia amend its public teaching to accept the ordination of both women and men;
2. that Synod affirms the church's teaching on the ministry contained in paragraphs one to ten of Theses of Agreement VI: Theses on the office of the ministry;
3. that Synod adopts '*A theological basis for the ordination of women and men*' as the teaching of the church, replacing the teaching contained in TA VI.11;
4. that Synod directs the General Church Council to attend to the necessary administrative arrangements required to facilitate the entry of women into the office of the public ministry.

REASONS FOR THE MOTION

1. The 18th LCA Convention of Synod (2015) resolved that Synod requests the CTICR to build on its earlier work regarding the ordination of women and men to develop a draft doctrinal statement for GPC and the 19th Convention of Synod that presents:
 - A theological basis for the ordination of women and men
 - A theological basis for why the ordination of women and men need not be church divisive
 - And that GCC resource it. (Resolution 2015:0216)
2. The Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations (CTICR) has prepared two draft doctrinal statements in response to the Synod resolution, namely:
 - 'A Theological Basis for the Ordination of Women and Men' and
 - 'A Theological Basis for why the Ordination of Women and Men Need Not be Church Divisive'.
3. Twenty congregations have submitted identical proposals that the Lutheran Church of Australia amend its public teaching to accept the ordination of both men and women. These proposals do not directly address the Draft Doctrinal Statement since it was not available at the time these congregations prepared and submitted their proposals.
4. General Church Council (GCC) referred these proposals to the GPC for advice and recommendation in accordance with the LCA Constitution and By-Laws.
5. The GPC has recommended to the Convention of Synod that any proposal to change the teaching of the Church in relation to the question of the ordination of women be done in the form of a proposal to adopt the Draft Doctrinal Statement prepared by the Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations called 'A Theological Basis for the Ordination of Women and Men'.
6. The GCC subsequently resolved to submit a proposal to the General Convention of Synod that respects the proposed motions from the congregations on this matter and accepts the recommendation from the GPC.
7. The GCC has taken this action on the basis of the GPC Advice for the sake of the Church as it considers the issue of the ordination of women and men and 'A theological basis for the ordination of women and men' at this General Convention. The proposal submitted does not represent the position of the GCC, or that of its individual members, on the congregational proposals themselves.