

## AGENDA 2.3.20

# Dispensing with the title of 'Bishop'

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## PROPOSED MOTION

*Submitted by Christ Church, Murray Bridge SA*

**BE IT RESOLVED** that we dispense with the title 'Bishop' for those in the leadership of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand and we replace it with another suitable title and that General Church Council bring back suitable titles to the next General Synod (some suggestions: General Leader, General Overseer, District Leader, District Overseer).

## REASONS FOR THE MOTION

1. The word 'bishop' in today's Australia and New Zealand carries with it negative baggage, eg sexual misconduct and authoritarianism.
2. We believe it is counterproductive for mission. Why would the people we are seeking to reach want to be associated with what they see as an institution whose leaders' title carries such negativity?
3. The word 'Bishop' defined by dictionary.com is 'a member of the highest order of the ministry'. This does not agree with our theology. Jesus said; "You know that the rulers in this world Lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and give His life as a ransom for many ". (Mark 10:42–45)

Might it be time, worldwide, to make a change from a world that has lost its meaning and carries so many negative and divisive feeling? Let's take the lead and use a term that allows us to fill it with meaning.