

Ms Maria Rudolph

Via email:

20 December 2022

Dear Maria

Grace and peace in Christ to you.

The College of Bishops (CoB) acknowledges the open letter from you dated 11 November 2022 on behalf of the signatories.

The CoB in its duty of pastoral oversight of the Church is concerned with helping the Church and specifically delegates to General Synod to be ushered into a space that honours all and enables all to speak into the matter of ordination.

For the recent 'Town Halls' we have been clear and upfront with regard to the expectations on those participating in the debate emphasising the LCA's standards of ethical behaviour and respectful dialogue both in the forums and for on the floor of General Synod. All delegates were provided copies of these documents in the 'Delegate Resource Kit' distributed prior to the Town Halls.

The CoB with the General Synod Planning Committee is also mindful of the need to provide for the care and wellbeing of delegates and visitors alike during the days of convention. Delegates will be reminded of the LCA's standards of ethical behaviour and respectful dialogue. There is a plan to produce a reflective video on dialogue using both female and male voices to present to delegates prior to and during the convention.

The Friday morning worship service will have a preaching focus to pastorally guide delegates for good and honouring debate.

Following conclusion of the debate and voting, time will be given for prayer and pastoral support to delegates.

Whatever the outcome from the convention, the care of the people of the LCA is the bishops' highest priority.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nigel Long

Secretary of the Church
Lutheran Church of Australia & New Zealand

On behalf of the College of Bishops



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