

Ms Maria Rudolph

Via email: [maria.rudolph@lca.org.au](mailto:maria.rudolph@lca.org.au)

7 July 2022



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Dear Maria

Grace and peace in Christ to you.

Both the General Church Board (GCB) and the College of Bishops (CoB) received the open letter at their respective meetings in May 2022. The letter along with others received were included in the information for the joint GCB/CoB session on May 20.

The meeting was convened to again consider the continued debate within the LCA on the matter of the ordination of women and men, and the proposals before the General Synod for the 20th regular convention.

The LCA is divided on this matter and seemingly at an impasse. GCB and CoB lament the ongoing division in our Church exhibited by the Synod debates throughout the 21st century, on the question regarding who can be ordained to the office of the public ministry.

The GCB and COB agreed that the agenda of the in-person sessions of General Synod in 2023 must include proposals on the matter of ordination which do not continue debate which leaves us divided.

Since the meeting Bishop Paul Smith has been visiting with districts and parishes that have proposals before the Synod in February 2022 to discuss with them how the matter will be conducted at the convention.

In the lead up to the convention the Churchwide Office will be facilitating information resources for delegates on the proposals on the question of ordination. This will include a mail out to delegates, a video introducing the proposals to support congregations discuss the issue, discussion in The Lutheran and on-line 'town hall' forums.

I also make you aware that the CoB is driving a much needed and overdue discussion in the LCA of the future of ministry in the church. This includes development of pathways for specific ministries, considering the framework that is required for the church to support and enable ministry and mission in a changing church, and ordering of the ministry.

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As the LCANZ continues to wrestle with the ordination question and the future of ministry in the church, I encourage you and your co-signatories to continue to engage with us and others together as the LCANZ in discerning God's plans for His Church.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nigel Long  
Secretary of the Church  
Lutheran Church of Australia & New Zealand  
On behalf of the College of Bishops  
cc Rev Mike Fulwood, WA Bishop