

Sharing a message sent to the College of Bishops and General Church Board

The following text is extracted from a letter sent to the College of Bishops and the General Church Board in March 2021. It was written by one of our more senior and wise SDC members.

Thank you for your invitation for church members to offer an opinion on ways for the LCA/NZ to move forward in our present crisis.

I believe we should stay together as the Holy Spirit has led us and continue and develop our present practice of men and women preaching and leading worship.

I believe that we should have a short term aim to ordain qualified women, called by God, this year.

I am 78 years old and have worked most of my life in mission. God called me and I trusted the church to obey God and ordain women and men.

1 Corinthians 13 encapsulates for me how the LCA/NZ needs to move forward, IN LOVE, God's love, not the hatred of misogyny which we now practise.

1 Corinthians 13:13 "So now faith, hope and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love."

The General Conventions which I have attended proved to me that politics is driving our church. We are still living under Graeco- Roman law. A political minority hold the power.

We need to move forward and accept the Gospel and in "love, come to life" and ordain the women and men whom God calls to be pastors.

Jesus said, John 13:35 "you are my disciples if you have love for one another".

I am very sad that the next generation of qualified women is being rejected and the majority of "people in the pews" are being ignored.

May the Holy Spirit rest on you as you take courage and lead the LCA/NZ out of this crisis before General Convention.

Blessings and love to you all.