

Ms Maria Rudolph

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

1 February 2023

Dear Maria

Grace and peace in Christ to you.

The General Church Board (GCB) and College of Bishops (CoB) thanks you on behalf of the signatories for the letter of 16 January 2023.

I will address each of your points separately.

1. A designated time slot for women on the convention agenda

The GCB acknowledged and was empathetic of the call to hear the voice of women called to the ordained ministry. However, at this late stage, and with a very full agenda, the GCB agreed this request for a separate space on the agenda could not be accommodated. Post-Convention, the GCB and CoB gives assurance to provide ways that the church can listen and facilitate women's voices. Should the Queensland proposal be adopted by the General Synod, women will be involved in the work anticipated in the proposal.

2. Managing debate on ordination

The College of Bishops letter to you of 20 December 2022, speaks to your concerns on this point.

3. Voting on Constitutional and Doctrinal changes

The LCA Constitution is clear that a two-thirds majority of all delegates **registered** at the convention is required to amend, alter add or repeal the constitution and for a matter of doctrine to be deemed the official position of the Church. The relevant parts of the Constitution and By-laws are:

**Article 13.2** "any motion to amend, alter, add or repeal shall require a two-thirds majority of all the delegates registered at the convention."

**By-law 7.3.28.3** For a resolution on a matter of doctrine to be deemed to be the official position of the Church it shall require a two-thirds majority of all the registered delegates at the convention.



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Registration

**By-law 7.2.5** All delegates and consultants shall register for the convention at the time and place announced by the Secretary.

While all votes are tallied as formal (yes or no), informal and absentee number is noted, the test in determining the outcome is whether the two-third majority required (as detailed above) has been achieved.

Thank you for the heart you have for the LCANZ; for its wellbeing and serving the mission of Christ to the world.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Long', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Dr Nigel Long  
Secretary of the Church  
Lutheran Church of Australia & New Zealand

On behalf of the General Church Board and College of Bishops