



Concordia Lutheran Church Duncraig

Address	172 Glengarry Drive Duncraig WA 6023
Office	Tues-Fri 9:30-1pm 08 9246 3376
Connect	concordia.duncraig.wa@lca.org.au concordiachurch.org.au fb.me/ConordiaLC

Introduction

Our awareness has been raised that there have been contrasting experiences among Lutheran congregations where some do not encourage, or even discourage, the participation of women in ministry, worship and leadership.

Ordination of women has been an ongoing issue in many denominations and is presenting a point of contention in the LCA, other denominations, and churches in other countries. Broader participation in ministry and liturgical services, however, should not be conflated with the ordination issue, and historically this has not been handled consistently.

We must acknowledge that the view of women being of lesser position generally in the church has occurred through both intentional and unintentional actions, and that at times damage is furthered when alternative views are quietened in favour of the status quo.

We believe that it is our responsibility to intentionally state our positions on the role of women in the church. This needs to be done in love and communication with other congregations and with the LCA Offices, but requires our public and visible support to facilitate further discussions. This includes affirming the role of women and our intentions to continue raising this awareness and discussion within the congregation, the Lutheran Church of Australia, and the body of Christ.

Following discussions between members with other congregations, the Congregational Ministry Team, and Pastor, the Church Council have discussed and prepared the following proposals to articulate our beliefs on women in ministry in the congregation and the Church.



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Resolutions

At a duly convened meeting of the congregation at Concordia Lutheran Church Duncraig on 24 November 2019 the congregation by a greater than $\frac{3}{4}$ majority resolved:

That as a congregation we:

1. confirm the existing practice of women being trained and included in all aspects of the ministry of the congregation (including Church Council and Congregational Ministry Team membership, visitation, etc)
2. confirm the existing practice of women being trained and involved with leading worship services (including liturgy, music, communion, prayer, any scripture readings, etc).
3. endorse the conclusions in *A Theological Basis for Ordination of Men and Women* as prepared by the Lutheran Church of Australia Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations for the 2018 General Convention of Synod so as to:
 - a. affirm the Lutheran doctrine of ministry as in the *Theses VI*, while publicly seeking and aspiring to an ordering of the ministry which is not gendered, and
 - b. affirm Concordia Duncraig's commitment towards gender inclusiveness even while the Lutheran Church of Australia's ordering of ministry is gendered.
4. affirm and extend that we will seek a balanced gendering of leadership and committees, according to the giftings available in the congregation.
5. affirm the position that, as per the special meeting of 2 June 2019, the pastor should have the authority to discern suitable people to give appropriate teaching in the local congregation.
6. endorse that the congregation will support the pastor in inviting appropriately qualified people, including women, to preach on occasion at Concordia Duncraig, and in each instance we will seek the consent of the Bishop as per our constitution.
7. will communicate our affirmed positions to the wider church
 - a. to inform the Bishop, pastors and congregations of the LCA of Concordia Duncraig's affirmed proposals 1-6.
 - b. to inform the College of Bishops of our special meeting resolution of 2 June 2019 to seek to move back towards the pastor's discretion in preaching.
 - c. that we intend to regularly seek the Bishop's consent for appropriately qualified people to preach in addition to our regularly called Pastor.
 - d. by a publicly visible statement of the adopted proposals.