

DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS AND THEOLOGICAL OPINIONS (DSTO)

VOLUME 3

D. MINISTRIES IN THE CHURCH

The lay preacher

Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations (CTICR) 2006. Adopted by General Synod, 2006.

SOME GUIDELINES FOR GOOD ORDER IN THE CHURCH

Lay preachers are laymen who prepare and preach their own sermons.

The Lutheran Church of Australia recognises that the office of the public ministry may be arranged in various ways and forms.

The Lutheran Church of Australia also recognises that the essentials of the ministry which Christ has given to his church are the gospel *and* the sacraments. The two may be distinguished but not divorced. Therefore, it is not appropriate to conceive of a public ministry of the word or a public proclamation of the word which is not part of the office of the ministry of word and sacraments.

The work of the lay preacher does not constitute a separate office in the church. The lay preacher functions as an extension of the pastor in publicly proclaiming the spoken word in the local situation, normally in the absence of the pastor.

In keeping with the principle that those who exercise authority in the church should themselves be under authority, the lay preacher exercises the authority of the word under the supervision (*episcopate*) of a pastor. The lay preacher is appointed by the congregation or parish or (in special circumstances) the District for service in a prescribed geographical area of specific situation.

The lay preacher is required to complete a course of training provided by the LCA. The appointing body accepts responsibility for facilitating and supporting both the pre-service and in-service training of the lay preacher. The lay preacher covenants to participate fully in such training.

For the sake of good order in the church, the lay preacher is appointed in consultation with the District President. The District office keeps a record of all such appointments.