

DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS AND THEOLOGICAL OPINIONS (DSTO)

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F. WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

The service of women on boards and committees of the church

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1. The Holy Spirit gives a variety of gifts to both men and women in the church, and calls not only men but also women into the service of the Lord.
2. Just who are appointed to serve the church on boards and committees is largely determined by what the boards and committees are supposed to do (their 'duties' and 'objects').
3. In the light of these facts, the church should make sure that the 'duties' and 'objects' of boards and committees are of such a nature that women can use their Spirit-given gifts individually and collectively in the service of the church.
4. The appointment and service of women on boards and committees should be determined by the God-given ability of particular women to serve in a particular sphere of responsibility in the church.
5. The recognition of abilities – of both men and women – does not imply that the primary responsibility associated with their status in the family, home, work environment, local parish and community should be overlooked either by the church or by the appointees themselves.
6. Those who are responsible for nominating people to serve on boards and committees should encourage pastors and congregations to provide them with the names and the relevant data of male and female parishioners. Then the appropriate inquiries can be made about their abilities, their availability in terms of time constraints, and their willingness to serve.

THE SERVICE OF WOMEN ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES OF THE CHURCH

7. The constitution, by-laws and rules of the Lutheran Church of Australia should be framed in such a way that both men and women are enabled to serve on the boards and committees of the church.
8. Finally, it must be said that in view of the scriptural teaching on the office of the public ministry, a woman cannot serve on the College of Presidents or in any position involving the pastoral office.