

**LCC PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS  
TO THE LCAZ'S  
2024 CONVENTION OF  
GENERAL SYNOD**



***President Timothy Teuscher  
Lutheran Church–Canada***

*October 6, 2024*

Bishop Smith, members of the College of Bishops, delegates from across Australia and New Zealand, treasured brothers and sisters in Christ:

In 1994, the Presidents of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) and Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) signed the ‘Recognition of Relationship’ document; or as the subheading put it: ‘A Confessional Agreement.’ The document states that both of our churches are similar in size, with a far-flung membership clustered in relatively small congregations. Both exist in Commonwealth countries. And both churches are placed in Western multi-cultural, pluralistic societies with all the difficulties and challenges this presents.

The document goes on to discuss the ‘Theological and Practical Implications of Our Relationship.’ For example:

“The calling of ordained pastors from one church to the other, without additional theological study, subject to procedures and provisions developed by the two churches.

The calling of certified seminary graduates of one church into the other.

Participation in pastoral exchanges of limited duration between pastors of the two churches.

Opening of altars to members of the other church, recognizing the need to exercise pastoral responsibility in accordance with the practices of the host church.

Participation in theological education through exchange of faculty and students.

Engagement in theological discussion, as opportunity arises, and the exchange of theological information and literature.

The sharing of information, both on the level of leadership as well as the wider church.”

Many of these implications and expressions of our fellowship have, over the past ten years or so, diminished and declined. This is due to issues that arose in both of our churches.

In LCC, Concordia University College in Edmonton was lost to our church through devious legal devices. As a result, we no longer have a 'feeder' school for our seminaries and Christian day schools. A few years later, the financial collapse of the Alberta-British Columbia District precipitated the complete restructuring of our Church where we now have just one legal entity: Lutheran Church–Canada.

Here in the LCA, the matter of women's ordination has occupied much of your time and effort.

As a result of this issue, the temptation arises to lift the precious truth of God's grace in Christ out of its biblical roots and transform it into a distortion by which the Lord is willing to say 'Yes' to anything we might choose to be and do... ignoring what St. Jude writes: "Contend for the faith that has once for all been entrusted to the saints." And which includes, as such, what the Scriptures clearly teach about the office of the holy ministry.

While your decision yesterday to implement the 'Way Forward' approach for the ordination of women might bring an end to the debate and discussion; such is likely to lead to internal ruptures and a new set of tensions that will not be easily healed.

"Do not two walk together unless they are agreed?" So we read in the book of Amos. Since LCC and the LCA are no longer in agreement on this matter pertaining to the office of the holy ministry; we, in LCC, will have no other option than to recognize that your action yesterday has severed the bond of fellowship between us.

At the same time, we will do all we can to support the faithful remnant in the LCA.

In the Preface to the Book of Concord, we read these words: "In these matters this has always been our purpose: in our lands, schools, and churches no other doctrine should be proclaimed and accurately set forth except that which is founded upon God's Word and contained in the Augsburg Confession and the Apology. Opinions conflicting with these are not allowed. Indeed, this formula of agreement was begun and completed for this purpose."

“We most earnestly encourage that the young men be instructed in this faithfully and diligently, especially those who are being educated for the holy ministry of the church and schools. Then the pure doctrine and the profession of our faith may, by the Holy Spirit’s help, be preserved and spread also to our future generations; until the glorious advent of Jesus Christ, our only Redeemer and Saviour.”  
Amen.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

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