

STATEMENT ON WOMEN ORDINATION

Galatians 3:28

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Genesis 1: 27

“So, God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

Women Ordination and inclusion of women in the priestly ministry of the Church is not a mere achievement of women’s rights, but a step in the process of the liberation of women of the Church from the captivity of patriarchy and male monopoly over priestly ministry so that the vision of Church as a complete Body of Christ – the inclusive community, the discipleship of equals – is fulfilled.

It is indeed a matter of pride for UELCI Desk of Women in Church and Society that the Lutheran Communion in India has 25 years history of partnership in this liberative mission of the Church. By ordaining Ms. Parimol Kisku of NELC and Ms. Prasanna Kumari of ALC back in 1991 (September 8), the Indian Lutheran Church, for the first time, took a bold step to break the barriers of patriarchy in the priestly ministry of the Church.

As WICAS-UELCI celebrates to mark the 25 years of Women Ordination, the Indian Lutheran Communion strongly affirms that the humanity is created in the image of God and the Church is the ecclesia of radical democratic Assembly. It envisions and commits in striving for radical transformation in all member Churches where not only the ordained women, but all women be given equal dignity, status, leadership and participation in diverse ministries of the Church.

It is wished and hoped that the Lutheran Churches in India will strongly prioritise to encourage the young women for theological education and ordain women for the priestly ministry of the church and give full participation in the life and ministry of the churches. This coming together of churches for celebration of hope is a milestone to reflect as well as to strive for emancipation and liberation of women as a whole.

**United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UELCI)
Communion of Lutheran Churches in India**