

To:  
ELCL Collegium of Bishops  
ELCL Capitula  
ELCL Executive Board

From:  
Association of Lutheran Women  
Theologians in Latvia (ALWTL)  
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Copies to:  
Archbishop E.E. Rozitis,  
LELC Outside Latvia  
LWF, Women's Desk

24 January 2011

May we all be blessed in this 2011<sup>th</sup> year  
of our Lord's mercy!

We ALWTL theologians were pleased to receive the news that at the 25<sup>th</sup> Synod of the ELCL (Ev. Lutheran Church of Latvia) voting on changes to the ELCL Constitution, including those affecting the issue of women's ordination in our Church, was put off [until 2013]. This gives us all time and opportunity to renew discussions about this, for we ALWTL members, very important issue. I would like to remind you that one year ago ALWTL came forth with proposals about how, in our view, these discussions should be organized. The proposals I mention here were written in a letter dated 18 January 2010 to the ELCL Collegium of Bishops, the ELCL Capitula and ELCL Executive Board. Among the proposal was our determination to open and maintain a webpage [www.sieviesuordinacija.lv](http://www.sieviesuordinacija.lv), that would gather together arguments for and against women's ordination.

**We would like to inform you that the webpage was opened and made available to the public from 18 January of this year.**

We express the hope that the work we have begun in collecting materials, putting them together and publishing in the webpage will motivate you to answer our invitation regarding the necessity of discussions and their renewal. Therefore, we ask you to let us know your view about the possibilities of organizing discussions within the ELCL. Are the proposals we offer acceptable to you, or do you have other models – what do you suggest in what manner can we, in the period until the next ELCL Synod, consider the issue of women's ordination in our Church?

May the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all!

On behalf of the ALWTL

Board President

Rudīte Losāne

(Signature & ALWTL stamp)

The ALWTL was founded in 1995. It currently joins together 40 members. 7 are active ELCL evangelists and chaplains; 1 is an active pastor, 1 – assistant pastor, 1 – pastor emeritus; 8 women who were once ELCL evangelists, deaconesses, serving students but left active work due to the ELCL’s attitude toward women’s ordination; 9 are women theologians from Latvia who have in the past 14 years emigrated and become pastors in the Latvian Church Outside Latvia; 2 are women who were ordained in the Latvian Church Outside Latvia, but who have returned to their homeland but have not been allowed to serve in the ELCL; 9 are serving the Latvian Church Outside Latvia as pastors, deaconesses and deans. Within our midst are 4 women with doctor of theology degrees. The number of ALWTL members, since its founding, has not diminished, but grows and continues to grow.