



The Coordinating Committee  
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations  
3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Plymouth, MN 55441

Dear World Missions Corporation,

You asked the Coordinating Committee for our input regarding Women serving on the Board of the World Missions Corporation.

**First, we applaud the seriousness and caution with which you are approaching this issue.** This decision is difficult to undo once you have made it. Caution is warranted. Likewise, it is good you do not automatically reject it. We ought not place burdens and restrictions on the body of Christ if they are not warranted lest we become like the Pharisees—adding our own traditions and burdens. Reflection is good.

**Second, we appreciate that you have included us.** While we recognize the autonomy of each of the corporations, it is true that our decisions do affect one another and we appreciate that mutual consideration amongst one another.

**Third, we do not have a specific recommendation for your decision.** We believe each corporation has a unique situation and we could understand why you might come to either conclusion depending on the details. We do not think we are in a position to recommend a particular course of action.

**Fourth, This is how and why the Coordinating Committee operates on this question in the hopes that it helps you as you deliberate over your own structure.**

The Coordinating Committee is a male only board and we have codified this in our by-laws. The largest reason for this is the Co-ordinating Committee manages the Pastoral Roster of the AFLC.

The pastoral Office is instituted by God and the Coordinating Committee is not. However, we recognize that the ability to approve and remove a man from the Pastoral Roster comes with an inescapable *aspect* of authority as a *practical* matter. While the C.C. does *not* possess *formal authority* over the pastors of the AFLC and, further, any congregation is free to disagree with the C.C. and call a pastor who is not rostered, yet it remains true that if the C.C. does not roster a pastor (or removes from the roster) this can result in the inability to find a call in the AFLC or even removal from a congregation. Thus, there is a *practical* influence that is not avoidable.

For this reason, in our attempt to faithfully follow the teaching of Scripture regarding the Pastoral Office and God's design for Authority in the Church, we have deemed it prudent to restrict the membership of the Coordinating Committee to men.

This does not come without its costs. There are certainly aspects of the business of the C.C. that would benefit from expertise held by women. But not having women on the board does not mean women are uninvolved. Katie Johnson's work is critical to us on the Coordinating Committee and the women who have held the position of executive assistant have been central to many aspects of our work. We have appreciated the women who have served on the BAC.



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**In conclusion**, we understand the importance of your decision and pray that God would give you wisdom whether to add women to your board or not. Perhaps your discussion will lead to an entirely different solution that allows the best and fullest participation of all God's Saints inside of God's design. May God be glorified and His Will be done.

Grace and Peace,

David J. R. Olson  
Chairman on behalf of the Coordinating Committee of the AFLC

"...Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is *freedom*."

II Corinthians 3:17