

Discussion Questions for Clergy Divorce

CTCR, Lutheran Church--Canada

The topic of clergy marriage, divorce, and remarriage has received considerable attention around LCC. A few documents have been distributed for discussion; these two additional documents are designed to engage more clergy in the conversation. We submit these discussion questions for further consideration. In the process, a final goal might be a series of concluding thoughts representing Scripture, the Confessions, the historical practices, and pragmatic approaches for this era. We welcome your feedback in the process.

1. What are the circumstances in our culture that make this a relevant topic?
2. What are the circumstances in our church that make this relevant?
3. What do these passages say about the way clergy and others should view marriage in general? What do they say about clergy marriage?
- 4) What do these resources say about the divorce as a product of our sinful condition, but also forgivable?
- 5) What do these resources suggest about the difference between God's forgiveness for the divorced in general, and clergy marriage in particular, in consideration as a qualification for serving in ministry?
- 6) What do you see from this source as the position of the Church Fathers on clergy marriage and divorce? How does this relate to us today?
- 7) What do you believe to be a fair practice for LCC leaders in regard to clergy facing marriage crises, divorce, and potentially, remarriage?
- 8) What are some of the parameters that LCC leaders might use when dealing with clergy divorce and remarriage?
- 9) How might this topic be dealt with in regard to subtopics like: "ranking of sin," qualifications for serving as clergy, "forgivable vs unforgiven sin," divorce as a sacred rite vs. a sacrament, ordination as a sacred rite vs. a sacrament, and the entitlements of clergy by virtue of their ordination?
- 10) What do you believe is God's will in practice for the Church in regard to this topic?