

1. Redefining & reclaiming ministry

STATEMENTS

- I. 'Every baptised person takes upon themselves the qualities of Christ'
[Gal 3:27]
- II. The Church is the community of God. 'For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.' [Matt 18:20]
- III. It is the community of the saints, living and dead, who celebrate the act of thanksgiving to God, which is the Eucharist, not the presider/presbyter alone.
- IV. 'The people of God are filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and are radically equal in grace.' There is no hierarchy in Christ. [Lumen Gentium 32, Vatican II] † 'If anyone wants to be first, they must be the last of all and the servant of all.' [Mk 9: 35]
- V. If both the gifts of leadership (including sacramental leadership), and of discerning fitness for leadership, come from the Holy Spirit, then it is not possible to define people of any gender identity, whether married or single, as intrinsically ineligible.
- VI. It is now clear that, historically, in the earliest Christian gatherings, women and married people also led their communities in worship. In

exercising their baptism, they exercised the call to be priestly and prophetic and to lead. Does this not imply that all believers should be eligible to answer God's call to exercise their baptism including through sacramental ministry, despite their sex or marital status, and to choose celibacy or not?