

## **THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE AALC**

**March, 2006**

At the Constituting Convention of The AALC in November, 1987, the following was adopted into the Constitution:

“Be it resolved that The AALC ordain men into the ministry of Word and Sacrament and encourage women to seek and consider God’s call into all other areas of ministry.”

“Be it further resolved that The AALC continue to study the role of men and women in the Church in the light of the Scriptures and the enlightening of the Holy Spirit.”

And in June, 1998 in Convention at Concordia College, Irvine, CA, The AALC also adopted the Danvers Statement, which has as some of its purposes: “To study and set forth the Biblical view of the relationship between men and women, especially in the home and in the church.” And “To encourage the confidence of lay people to study and understand for themselves the teaching of Scripture, especially on the issue of relationships between men and women.”

We in The AALC affirm that both men and women are created in the image of God, and therefore have a spiritual equality before God. Neither is superior to the other. But such equality is not the same as sameness. There is a divine order proclaimed by scripture, so men and women have different functions. While women have great value and dignity in scripture, woman is also seen as subordinate to man. That is, man is given the position of headship, so woman is not to have authority over man. Thus, in the church, the pastoral office is to be held by men.

Practically speaking, as we “encourage women to seek and consider God’s call into all other areas of ministry,” we in The AALC encourage women to do such things as vote in congregational matters, serve as officers of the church, and go to the nations as missionaries, as they serve the Lord and proclaim His word in all sorts of ways outside of the pastoral office.

Since this issue has not been in any controversy within this church, we have not yet undertaken any official “further study” to this time.