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DISCUSSION TOPICS AND SUPPORTING PAPERS

1. The Bible and Authority in Church Order:

Fagal, William - "Ellen White and the Role of Women in the Church"
Hasel, Gerhard F - "Biblical Authority, Hermeneutics, and the Role of Women"
Rice, Richard - "Doctrine, Text and Culture - Biblical Authority and Cultural Conditioning"

2. Creation and the Concept of Divine Order:

Bacchiocchi, Samuele - "Divine Order of Headship and Church Order - A Study of the Implications of the Principle of Male Headship for the Ordination of Women as Elders and/or Pastors"
Blanco, Jack J - "Ordination of Women in the Theology of Karl Barth"

3. The Doctrine of Ordination:

Kis, Miroslav M - "Thoughts on a SDA Theology of Ordination"
Seton, Bernard E - "Should Women Be Ordained As Gospel Ministers?"

4. Paul and Women in Ministry:

Brunt, John - "The New Testament Haustafeln Passages"
Cox, James J C - "Some Notes on 1 Corinthians 14:34, 35 for the Commission on the Ordination of Women in the Pastoral Ministry of the SDA Church"
Ferch, Arthur J - "Three Pauline Passages on the Role of Women in the Life of the Church"
Johnsson, William G - "Galatians 3:28, 29 - Its Significance for the Role of Women in the Church"
Kiesler, Herbert - "Ephesians Four and The Role of Women"
Kiesler, Herbert - "Exegesis of Galatians 3:26-28"
Lehmann, Richard - "Galatians 3:28 - Exegetical Essay on the Ordination of Women to the Pastoral Ministry"
Maxwell, C Mervyn - "Women in the Greco-Roman World"
Rice, George - "1 Timothy 2:9-15: A Case of Domestic Policy"
Richardson, William - "An Interpretation of 1 Corinthians 14:33b-36"
Veloso, Mario - "Exegesis and Theological Implications of 1 Timothy 2:8-15"

5. Priesthood of Believers and the Concept of Calling:

Awoniyi, Joel D - "Priesthood of All Believers: Meaning and Doctrine, Does the Priesthood of All Believers Mean That Women Can Be Ordained?"
Kis, Miroslav M - "Thoughts on a SDA Theology of Ordination"

6. The Experience of Other Churches:

Durand, Eugene F - "The Experience and Rationale Regarding Women in Ministry Among Churches of the Arminian-Wesleyan-Pentecostal Tradition"
Holmes, C Raymond - "The Ordination of Women and the Anglican-Episcopal Experience: The Road to Schism"
Nahkola, Aulikki - "The Ordination of Women: The Experience of Four European Churches"
Patrick, Arthur - "The Ordination of Women in Australia: An 'Enduring Problem' in Historical Perspective"

BRT

Section 1:

1. Do the current proposals for altering women's roles in ministry represent a change in the way Adventists have read the Bible?
2. How should the church respond to change in what society expects of us?
3. How does Ellen White provide or not provide a model for contemporary ministry?

Section 2:

1. What makes the idea of divine order so controversial?
2. Do you see the Biblical discussion of women in the church as oriented to pre-fall or post-fall creation statements?
3. Is creation a part of our current discussion at all?

Section 3:

1. Is the idea of priesthood relevant to the Christian ministry?
2. What really is meant by "ordination?"

Section 4:

1. Are the Pauline texts purely domestic instructions or do they apply to a church setting?
2. How do we respond to the differences among theologians regarding Paul's writings about women?
3. Can we treat Galatians 3:28 as Paul's only theological position on relationships between women and men?
4. How do we identify lasting principles as distinguished from temporary practices?

Section 5:

1. What impact does the priesthood of every believer have on the question of ordination?
2. Is a sense of call the controlling factor over entrance into the gospel ministry?
3. Can our practice regarding ordination be based on subjective grounds?

Section 6:

1. Is the experience of other churches with women's ordination really relevant to our decision?
2. Should we proceed toward ordination for women even at risk of dividing the church?
3. Is the question of women's ordination a truly important issue?