

PREACHERS IN THE CAPE CHURCH

A weekend seminar for lay preachers on the meaning and administration of the Sacraments was held at St. Crucis Church, Beacon Bay, on 22 - 23 June 2002. An “advancement and further development” course according to Art. 2.3 of the Order Governing the Office of Lay Preachers (c 300), it was presented by Pastor Felix Meylahn and was attended by most lay preachers as well as other interested members.

An important issue dealt with was authorisation to administer the Sacrament of the Altar. Discussions focussed on the Lutheran understanding of the Sacraments and on the commission granted to lay preachers in their certificate of induction, namely, that the lay preacher *“has the right to publicly proclaim the Word of God and to administer the Holy Sacraments when called upon to do so by the ordained minister under whose supervision he [she] is serving.”*



THE OFFICE OF LAY PREACHER

The Office of Lay Preacher was formally introduced in the Cape Church in 1999 when Synod adopted the respective Order (see above). However, training had already commenced in 1998. The 24 participants were nominated by their congregations. Christian Johl, one of them, told CCN about his experience.

The introductory training course in the Eastern Circuit was held on the 16-17th May 1998 at St. Crucis Church. Pastor Felix Meylahn was the tutor/mentor and supplied the course materials. The course comprised an introduction and four other modules and was scheduled over five weekends over two years. During this period participants were encouraged to perform typical church-warden functions and, after the second module, prepare and deliver sermons under the guidance of their minister. They were also required to read relevant books and do other assignments. The syllabus was as follows:

Module 1: “The bible – foundation and point of departure for the preaching of the ministry” (hermeneutics) - how to read the Bible, where the Bible originated and how Biblical texts are interpreted.