

Plain Language Statement

1. **Study title and Researcher Details**

Study Title: The discernment, training, ordination and deployment of Deacons in the Nordic Lutheran Churches (as part of a Doctorate in Practical Theology)

Researcher: Anna Sorensen

Supervisor: Dr Charlotte Methuen, Theology & Religious Studies

**2. Invitation paragraph**

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Thank you for reading this.

**3. What is the purpose of the study?**

The purpose of the study is to explore the question: ‘How do deacons in the Nordic Lutheran Churches understand their ministry?’ It will explore the question by looking at the history of the theology of ordination in the writings of Martin Luther, the Pietist Movement, and the Deaconess House movements. It will take an overview of the nature of Deacons’ ministry in the Nordic Lutheran Churches, including the forms of ordination or consecration used in the different churches. It will use material gained from interviews with Deacons in Sweden and Denmark. From these sources, the current theologies of ordination in the Nordic Lutheran Churches can be examined, as well as their effect on the ecclesiology of the churches.

**4. Why have I been chosen?**

You have been chosen to take part in this study because your personal experience, and perspective on ministry, as a Deacon or Deaconess is relevant to the topic. You will be one of several people to be interviewed individually.

**5. Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

**6. What will happen to me if I take part?**

You will be asked to take part in a one-to-one, confidential interview with the researcher, in person. If this is not possible, the questions may be answered by email. Interviews should last around an hour in most cases. You will be asked a set of questions which will be sent to you beforehand in order to give you time to consider your answers. In the case of spoken interviews, the interview will be recorded using a digital voice recorder and the transcript will be sent to you for verification before any quotes are included in the written study.

**7. Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

All information which is collected about you or any other people/churches mentioned by you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. You will be identified by an initial/pseudonym and any information about you will have your name and address removed so that you cannot be recognised from it.

**8. What will happen to the results of the research study?**

The results of the study will be written up as part of the researcher’s DPT Year 2 Publishable Article for Glasgow University and handed in by November 2014. It will be read by the supervisor and two or three examiners. You are welcome to ask for a copy to be sent to you. In the event that the article is published you will not be identified; again, a copy of the published article will be sent to you if you have requested this.

**9. Who is organising and funding the research? (If relevant)**

The research is organised by the University of Glasgow. It is mainly privately funded, though a grant is being sought.

**10. Who has reviewed the study?**

The project has been reviewed by the College of Social Sciences Ethics Committee.

**11. Contact for Further Information**

Anna Sorensen

Contact details: sorensenanna8@gmail.com

If you have any concerns regarding the conduct of the research project, you can contact my supervisor, Dr Charlotte Methuen, at charlotte.methuen@glasgow.ac.uk.

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