

## **ABSTRACT**

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### **Introduction to the the Theme of the Conference**

The place of the Conference within the 2-years-project of CEMES: “Humble Theological Contribution to our Orthodox Church on Her Way to the 2016 Pan-Orthodox Council”. The official intervention of the Primate of the Church of Cyprus on the issue, which prompted the inclusion this conference within the overall framework of the project.

The importance of Prof. Emeritus Evangelos Theodorou’s scholarly contribution, 60 years ago, on the ordination of Deaconesses into the Sacramental Priesthood in the Orthodox Church.

A review of the official position of the Orthodox, expressed in the Rhodos Consultation Statement early in the ‘90s, taking into consideration the progress in recent scholarship, biblical and theological.

The inconsistency in the traditional Orthodox view which is based on “tradition” with regard to the overall “ordination of women into the sacramental priesthood”, but ignoring it when dealing with the rejuvenation of the order of Deaconesses in the priestly and diaconal ministry of the Orthodox Church.

The centrality of “Orthodox Theology” in the title of the conference, and the “Deaconesses” as its next but parallel focus, without neglecting the overall “ordination of women” issue. Some papers will focus on the “theological” approach to the ordination of women, whereas others will also cover the historical, pastoral, sociological etc,.dimension of the issue.

The concept of the conference as announced after the completion of last year’s consultation with the same title: See <http://cemes-en.weebly.com/2015-conference-on-deaconesses-ordination-of-women-and-orthodox-theology.html#/>.

Finally, a quick reference to the profound meaning of “tradition” (as it is repeatedly stated in the so-called “argument from tradition”), reminding the distinction between authentic and historical, as well as between latent and historically expressed one.