

The Annual Assembly of 28 - 31 July 2000 passed a resolution that the "Statement of Principle" be affirmed by all those entering into the Pastoral Ministry in NSW and ACT. The Statement has been re-produced here and you will be required to affirm it at your final interview prior to accreditation.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

I acknowledge that our risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters relating to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures and that each Church has liberty and responsibility, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to interpret and administer his teachings.

I acknowledge that the Baptist Church in any given place consists particularly of those believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who have been admitted to membership according to the provisions of the Constitution of that Church.

I also acknowledge that there may be other believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who, while not being members of that Baptist Church, are included within its fellowship and are committed to the beliefs, worship and ministry of that local Church. I affirm that I shall encourage all such believers to become members of that Church according to the provisions of its Constitution.

I accept the principle of the autonomy of the local Church. The government of that Church, being vested in the body of believers who comprise its membership, shall be exercised by the Church meeting. The local Church shall have full authority to manage its own affairs (save in matters relating to property, in which the Church must operate within the provisions of the Baptist Churches of NSW Property Trust Act).

I accept the responsibility of mutual counsel, co-operation and support of other Churches which are members of the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT (Baptist Union of New South Wales). I acknowledge that this counsel, co-operation and support may be sought and mediated where and whenever necessary through the elected officers of the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT.

I recognise my role as Pastor in any Church of the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT as that of a servant leader. I recognise that the responsibility of my role requires me to pursue ongoing growth in my character, my walk with Christ, my understanding of the Scriptures and my level of pastoral skills.

The ministry of any Church in which I serve is the ministry of that Church and not just my own. Therefore I must recognise the giftedness of others. I also recognise my responsibility to lead the Church in co-operation with members of that Church and especially with others on any pastoral team, with the Elders, Deacons and other Office Bearers whom the Church may appoint under the headship of Christ. Therefore I must exercise that leadership through serving the congregation in a manner consistent with any agreed code of conduct produced by the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT.

Affirmed By: Dated: