



Baptist Churches
of NSW & ACT

Accreditation Service 2020

Saturday 31 October 2020
The Auditorium

Ministry & Learning Centre
5 Saunders Close
Macquarie Park NSW 2113

Celebration & Commitment Service

Accreditation of Ministers

WELCOME

Rev Dr Steve Bartlett

Director of Ministries,
NSW & ACT Baptist Churches

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER

Rev Jamie Long

Chair, Assembly Council

INTERVIEW OF ACCREDITANDS

Rev Grae McWhirter

Team Leader: Gen1K Leadership Development
NSW & ACT Baptist Churches

Rev Dr Keith Mitchell

Lecturer, Pastoral & Practical Studies
Morling College

ACCREDITATION

2020 ACCREDITATION OF MINISTERS

Introduction by Rev Jenny Casey

Coordinator of Pastoral Accreditation & Recognition
NSW & ACT Baptist Churches

AFFIRMATION OF STATEMENTS

JJ Bomford

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT Dan Waugh, Andrew Hulme & Andrew Allinson

I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and confess anew the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord.

I accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the supreme guide for faith and life.

I will make a priority of my ministry the winning of people to Jesus Christ.

I will sustain the work and worship of the Church giving myself for it as did Christ.

I will preach and teach from the Scriptures the whole counsel of God. I will give due attention to those doctrines and principles commonly held by Baptists - the Lordship of Christ, Biblical Authority, Christ's Atonement for Sin, the Priesthood of all Believers, Believer's Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Autonomy of the Local Church, Congregational Government and Liberty of Conscience.

I will foster and support the ministries of the Baptist Churches of NSW and ACT, encourage my church to do likewise and involve myself in its ministries according to opportunity.

I will always seek to work in harmony with my brothers and sisters in Christ in the church and ministry and be ready to support them in times of personal need.

I will always seek to be of good reputation and to conduct myself wisely, graciously and with integrity toward others. I will by word and deed seek always to commend the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to be among all people to be as one who serves.

I will uphold the ministries of the Baptist family of Churches in Australia and throughout the world in prayer. I will be mindful of those working in places of difficulty, the oppressed and those in material and spiritual need. I will support and encourage them in practical ways and encourage others to do likewise.

I will, by prayer and study, nurture my own spiritual life and growth.

The Committee for the Ministry Secretary shall say to:**The Congregation**

The representatives of our family of Baptist Churches have acknowledged these people as Ministers of Jesus Christ accepted for Accreditation by the Churches of our Baptist faith and order. Do you as members and supporters of our churches promise them and their families all due honour, love and respect as they fulfil their ministry among you? Are you willing to support and encourage them in practical ways and encourage others to do likewise? Will you pray for their well-being and their ministry? Will you partner them in this ministry of the Gospel? As a sign of this please stand and engage in silent prayer for them.

The Ministers

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and on behalf of the churches we recognise you as ministers accepted for Accreditation by the Baptist Churches of NSW and ACT and send you forth with the prayer that God will bless you and enable you to fulfil your ministry.

(Congregation please be seated).

As names are called, the ministers will come forward to the Chair of the Assembly Council, Rev Jamie Long, and the Director of Ministries, Rev Dr Steve Bartlett, and be presented with their Accreditation Certificates. We ask that their families stand where they are, so that we might pray for you and the ministers.

Having been set apart for ministry by a church affiliated with the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT or other body approved by the Assembly the ministers' names will now be entered in the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT List of Accredited Ministers.

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

Rev Jamie Long

Chair of the Assembly Council

BIBLE READING

ACTS 2:36-47

Dennis Park
Sydney Grace Community Church

CHARGE TO MINISTERS

Love & Devotion

Rev Tony Calman

Acts 2:39 - 47

Former Chair of the Committee for the Ministry

PRAYER

Rev Grae McWhirter

Acts 2:36-47

Team Leader:
Gen1K Leadership Development
Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT

BENEDICTION

Rev Enoch Nagabyrava

Lead Pastor
St. Marys Baptist Church

ANDREW ALLINSON

Grace, wondrous, overwhelming and abundant grace: that would sum up my spiritual journey.

Blessed to grow up in the church. Blessed to have my heart and mind opened to God's Word and His presence at an early age. Blessed to have known His leading when I had no clue where I was going, and what I was going to do in this life. Blessed to have married a woman whose godliness and passion for Jesus continue to challenge me. Blessed that she knows our life is ministry whether to each other, our children, our friends, our church or our community. Blessed to have five children who have shown me more about the overwhelming and unchanging love of my heavenly father than any sermon alone could have done. Blessed to have learnt that when it comes to parenting (and life) honest, humble acknowledging of weakness and sharing of my heart is powerful. Blessed to be called to Pastoral ministry in such a clear and overwhelming manner, that the subsequent weight, weakness and wonder of serving God's church has not caused me to run! Blessed to have served as an Associate Pastor at North Pine Baptist Church in Queensland for 7 years, to be grown, challenged, broken and remade as part of Christ's sanctifying work. Blessed to have shared life with these people and see God's hand at work. Blessed to have known the support of this church, who took me 'warts and all' and allowed me to be part of a leadership team who walked alongside them. Blessed to be serving as Lead Pastor of Singleton Baptist for nearly 6 years now; to have found this new spiritual home to serve and savor our God, together. Blessed to have studied at both Malyon and Morling Baptist Colleges and be challenged and affirmed in what I believe. Blessed to have Christian brothers and sisters, in varying contexts and places around Australia, who encourage, challenge and provoke me in my walk and ministry. Blessed to be able, with conviction, to affirm the Association Statement of Beliefs and subscribe to the objects and values of the Associate.

Most of all, I am blessed in this: that my God has claimed and called me out of darkness and into His marvellous light, with the purpose to proclaim His Excellencies. That He - in His wondrous grace - would use my weaknesses to testify to the power of Christ.

May He receive All the Glory!

JOHN JUDAH (JJ) BOMFORD

I am so thankful that God gave me the gift of Christian parents who have pointed me to Christ throughout my life. It was around the age of 17 that I noticed my heart deeply unsettled and burdened by my sin, alongside the Lord's grace was so powerful and a great desire to know Christ and make Him known was growing. One of the most powerful means of His grace to me in this was His gift of a mentor, a returned missionary from Indonesia – Rev Geoff Bennett (Hebron Chinese Alliance Church, Westmead) – who shared with me his great passion for God's word and his deep affection for Christ. Geoff was the first person to help identify the desires and gifts that I had toward pastoral ministry.

I further developed and grew as I was involved for many years in youth ministry leadership at Western Sydney Alliance Church in Toongabbie. In 2010 I married my beautiful wife Soona and around this time my mentor Geoff moved away. However, the Lord provided another incredibly significant mentor to me in Rev Tony Calman. Following our marriage Soona and I both began to attend Westview Baptist Church at Doonside together – where Tony was the long-term pastor – where God's timing became clear for me to undergo theological training to prepare for ministry. I completed my Bachelor in Theology through SMBC in 2014 and over this time the Eldership and wider church community at Westview went through a process of discerning and later recognising me as an Elder (with a ordination ceremony in 2015), with the view that I take Tony's lead role as he and his wife Wendy had felt the Lord's leading to interim ministry (to be 'sent out' from Westview on mission). This took place in November 2016 where I was recognised as the lead pastor (presiding Elder).

There have been so many influences on my faith: the Elders and Deacons at Westview over many years, many in the congregation, Bible teachers and a number of very close and significant brothers in Christ. But I thank God and acknowledge the pivotal mentoring/discipleship relationships that Geoff, alongside his wife Dee, and Tony, alongside his wife Wendy, have had and continue to have upon my life and ministry. These have over so many years continued to pour out their lives into ours. These have invested so much time, energy, patience, and grace, and have taught and modelled to us what godly lives and pastoral leadership look like – both lived out in the church community, and in their homes. I thank and praise God for these and for all the many others who He has used to help fan into flame the gift of God in my life.

Westview is a church community where we have received incredible love and generosity over so many years, where we have seen so many seeking to passionately serve their King Jesus. It has been a place where we have seen many losses, and by God's grace in that, much fervent faith and beauty as people have exemplified Jesus in the face of hardship and suffering. I am thankful to God for this milestone and can see more clearly now, in His grace, how He has used His people to equip me, and us, – and so in my continued service to His church, my I, by His grace, equip His people – all for His glory!

I do affirm the Baptist Statement of Beliefs and subscribe to the objects and values of the Baptist Association.

ANDREW HULME

I had some background with Christianity growing up through attending church in the early years of my life. However, for the last couple of years of primary school my family stopped going to church. I became a follower of Jesus through attending scripture classes at my high school in year 7. After attending those classes I joined the lunch time group and by late November gave my life to following Jesus. After becoming a Christian, I told my mum that I wanted to go to a church, and Ryde Baptist Church (RBC) was the one we went to. I have been attending ever since.

I finished high school and completed a solar engineering course to then be working full time in logistics. During that year we were in between youth pastors and I wrote a letter to the church elders asking if I could run youth until we got our new youth pastor. At the start of 2015 the company I was working for did some restructuring and subsequently I lost my job. I decided to study full time at Morling College for a year to be better equipped in my faith while still working at church running youth. By the end of that year I was offered the position as student youth pastor and in 2019 began serving as the Youth and Young Adults Pastor.

Looking back on those years since leaving high school I can see God's calling on my life to ministry through my involvement within the church serving in kids and youth. I can see him shaping and forming me even during my time studying engineering. God's timing is so evident as I would not have been mature enough to be in, or even consider ministry when fresh out of high school. Working full time in ministry for the last year and a half I am convinced God is calling me to pastoral ministry in a local church context within the Baptist Church. I affirm the Association Statement of Beliefs and subscribe to the objects and values of the association.

There have been many people who have supported and encouraged me in this journey. Firstly, I want to thank God for all that He's done, there's no way I can thank Him enough. I want to thank my mum for bringing me to church as a child and showing me what it means to be gracious and warm hearted. To my dad for teaching me the importance of keeping my word. To my loving wife who I get to do ministry with every day and for her love, support and patience. For my friends who have walked this journey with me in various capacities and stages, thank you. I want to thank RBC for growing me in my faith and giving me ministry experiences. I would also like to thank Morling College by the staff and my peers for all that they've contributed to my pastoral training and spiritual formation. All of these people have played an important role in bringing me here today.

ROBERT LI

My name is Robert Li, my wife is Maggie. I was brought up in a non-Christian family in China. I became a Christian in prison in 2004. In 2006 after my release from prison, God gave Maggie to me as my wife. After our marriage, she gave birth to our daughter with a congenital heart disease. Because of this I felt that God is calling me to full time study a Bachelor of Ministry at Morling in 2011. I was totally amazed that I was accepted into a full-time course something I consider as possible only due to grace from God and this was then the sign that God has wanted me to do so. I thank my wife, my parents in law and the interview lecturers so much that they walked with me and supported me.

During my first year of study, my daughter Grace was born, we called her Grace as my memorial of God's grace. My first exam for the first semester was held on the second day after Grace has left us to heaven. The special prayers were made by the principal, my lecturers and classmates for me. I felt then I had a lot of strength and courage. Thanks all the lecturers at Morling for taught and showed the mercy and grace of God.

I was employed as a pastor in the Chinese group in Carlingford Baptist in 2013. Thanks, the peoples at CBC and my mentor Kephaz Wong for helping me growth in my ministry at that time. I also evangelised in Carlingford village.

In 2018, I joined Ashfield Chinese Baptist as a pastor in Cantonese congregation and Mandarin congregation. I evangelised on the street and to those who for free lunch at Uniting church at Ashfield. Thanks, the peoples at ACBC.

In 2020, I joined Crest Baptist Community as a pastor in English service. Thanks, the peoples at the Crest. Especially, I am appreciated that Pastor Frank Farag to be my mentor and helping me to grow in the ministry.

I also thank my supervisor Vivian Grice, John Cofter and my good friend Ronald Cardwell so much that they walked beside with me and helping me to find my passion kept on going at work in the difficulties of my ministry.

I am also engaged Ark prison ministry to preach the Gospel in the prisons of NSW Chinese inmates and English-speaking inmates as well. Thanks, my co-workers of Ark.

I am also a part-time pastor at Chinese Church of Christ Gospel at Campsie from April 2020. Thanks, the peoples at CCoCG.

About all demonstrates that God called me for His purpose in my ministry. I am pleased to both affirm the Statement of Beliefs of the Association and subscribe to its objects and values. I always remind myself that I got the grace of God that I should not have deserved. Only I should do is responding to God's grace with thankfulness as I am all full of thankfulness to Him. Grace upon grace because of this, out from my heart, thankfulness pours out, this become a source of passionate energy that presses me forwards to serve Him.

ENOCH NAGABYRAVA

O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Psalm 103:1

I worship God my Father, Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit for his everlasting love to me. He has called me to serve him and has lead me to be accredited in the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT. I wholeheartedly affirm its vision, beliefs and values.

Impress these commandments on your children.

Talk about them when you walk along the road. Deut 6:7

I might have asked Jesus to be my Lord many times before. But I remember that day in 1989 when my father impressed the gospel on me as we walked along the road. We knelt down on our way back home. God saved me. My parents, Esther and Sudhakar showed me how to love God and people. They taught me to pray and experience God's goodness at all times, especially in sufferings. Our family prayer times involved deep devotional moments and robust theological discussions. My brother Pauly taught me grace and courage. My sister Phebe taught me identity in Christ and compassion. I am who I am today because of their love and sacrifice. I want to serve God and His people like them.

By faith he (Abraham) went out, not knowing where he was going. Heb 11:8

In 2004, God spoke to me through Abraham's faith and God's faithfulness. Not aware of what lay ahead, I arrived in Sydney in 2005. Becoming a Pastor was definitely not in the plan. At an AFES Conference in 2006, I recommitted myself to serve God. Several church folk and pastors affirmed me. God opened doors for me to serve in the church, among international students and young adults. Above all, he gave me a Christ centred wife. In our first pre-dating conversation, Joanna mentioned that she was praying for a husband in Christian ministry. She has been a loving fellow gospel worker since the moment we married. We stepped out in faith in 2013. God has been faithful.

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones... Psalm 16:3

I thank God for: my grandparents, uncles Moni, Suresh, Varma and Satish, cousin Chinna, friends Epaphras, Emmi, Eldhose, Gail, McClure, Luke, Danny, Alfee, Fiona, Concilia, Matt, Kamal, and Shannon, mentors and pastors A M Prabhakaran, Ralph Terry, Tracey and John Wiggins, Steve Cooper, Mark Falson, Brian Powell and Tony Calman, saints at assemblies in Davangere and Bangalore and at Eastwood Baptist Church, UESI, AFES, BSF and GWFC, Udaya and David Thangasamy and the FUESIA family, all staff at Morling College, especially David Starling, Darrell Jackson and Miyon Chung for displaying Christ, the Association, especially Carolyn and Ian Altman, and Viv Grice for their wisdom and support, Bakht Singh, R Stanley, Zac Poonen, Ravi Zacharias and John Piper for their books and messages and finally, my people at St. Marys Baptist Church.

They influence me and equip me for works of service.

Joanna and I want to serve the Lord faithfully until the end. We pray that our children Zoe and Zachary (and our future children, DV) will serve the Lord in their generation.

Halleluiah!

DENNIS PARK

I arrived in Australia as a 16-year-old teenager from Korea with little knowledge of Christianity. Our family soon joined a local Korean church and I became very involved in church life. I also joined Campus Bible Study at my university and actively served in inter-denominational Christian ministry groups. My spiritual journey began in this way and I was growing in my knowledge of Jesus.

Then, in 1992, my journey reached the point of salvation as I studied the Gospel in more depth with a mature Christian. The truth of eternal redemption from Hebrews 9:12 became so clear and personal to me as I finally understood that my sins were forgiven eternally with Jesus' blood.

My spiritual journey continued on as I kept studying the Bible in Christian communities. As I was growing in faith, others began to see fruits in my life, and some invited me to lead Bible studies. This small group of people and I, after much prayer, started a church plant where I provided the leadership as their pastor. From this time, the Lord started working in my heart to consider the call to ministry prayerfully and seriously.

For the next several years, my ministry was primarily with Koreans in Sydney, in the Korean language. But as I prayed and sought counsel from others, I was convinced my ministry would be much more effective in wider, multi-ethnic/cultural contexts due to my background. Eventually, a group of several families from different ethnicities came together and we planted an English-speaking church. I also started my studies at Morling College in pursuit of Accreditation around this time.

During these years, God has given me valuable experiences: many years of pastoral and church leadership experience in Australia and Korea, numerous mission trips and a longer-term mission assignment in India, teaching in seminars and preaching at conferences in Korea and USA. My family and congregations have affirmed my call to ministry and supported me throughout my journey, for which I am ever so grateful. I would like to especially acknowledge and thank my wife and life-long friend in Christ, Carin, for encouraging me throughout my journey, always giving me godly counsel, and being the very best mother to our three children, Robin, Leah and Jade.

Currently, I am pastoring Sydney Grace Community Church, a Baptist New Start church plant, which recently began meeting in Wentworth Point Community Centre. Alongside this role, I work for Vose and Morling College, in VET Christian Ministry and Leadership & Management courses.

From the early part of my spiritual journey, I was drawn to Baptist Churches for Baptist distinctives, hence, my connection with the Association is important to me and integral in my ministry. I affirm the Association's Statement of Beliefs and subscribe to the objects and values of the Association.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to grow and serve our God and His churches. I know it is a privilege far beyond my deserving. As I continue my journey, I pray that the Lord will bless my work with profound joy, but enough failures to keep me close to Him, and still, enough success to see His power at work.

LYNDON RUMSEY

I grew up in a very loving and supportive family, but my parents were at best nominal believers, only attending church on special occasions. They insisted that my brother and I attend the local Church of England Sunday School; often after being dropped off, I would disappear down the local park to play sport with friends, returning in time to be picked up by one of my parents. Reaching the age of Confirmation, I made sure my parents came to the service, and all of my age group was confirmed, except me. I know that I disappointed and embarrassed my parents, but it was about me, being true to myself, because from an early age, I doubted that God existed.

After leaving school a mate asked me almost every week, to come to the youth group at Ermington-Rydalmer Baptist; and over time I started reading the Bible and going to church. I would observe and question people about their faith, in this unseen God. In October 1971, around the age of nineteen years, I surrendered my life to the Lord. God told me that night, that He would never leave me, and that He was calling me to “Reach the Lost”. God has always kept His promise to me, and I have never forgotten my calling.

I have spent most of my working life in senior management and financial roles, and ministry was something that I did on the side as a volunteer, but the call to pastoral ministry, always lingered in the background. In August 2010, I was appointed Pastor at Belmore Church of Christ, where we served for three years. Then in January 2014, I became the Pastor at Warragamba Baptist, and this still is our spiritual home. The other area of ministry for me, has been TAFE teaching, where I have been able to share and pray with both teachers and students; many of whom have either no faith, or a completely different faith; I am thankful for these opportunities.

God has continued to be patient and loving with me, challenging me and shaping my life to serve Him. Along the way there have been so many people who I would like to thank, far too many to name, so I will name just a few. Starting with my beautiful wife Barbara; I married her when I was twenty-one, now we are both in our late sixties, it has been an interesting journey. Barbara’s heart to serve people, in so many practical ways, constantly inspires me. Another is my mentor and friend Lionel Berthelsen, he has been a constant source of godly wisdom and encouragement, Lionel has helped me to navigate my life in ministry. Also, two guys from Greater Western Sydney for Christ, Tony Calman and Mark Chapple, during this pandemic both of them have forwarded texts each week, to me, that have been a great source of encouragement. So my sincere thanks to each of them and to so many others, who I have not named.

I affirm the Association Statement of Beliefs and I subscribe to the objects and values of the Association. This step of accreditation, is not about another title, it is about enhancing opportunities for further ministry, even into retirement. I believe that as believers we are all called to build His Kingdom, until the day comes, when the Lord calls us home.

ANDREW SUMPTON

How grateful I am to the Lord for the way He allowed me to be brought up in a Christian home. This allowed me to attend church (Thornleigh Community Baptist Church) on a regular basis and hear the gospel proclaimed. It was at this church at the age of 14 I was baptised.

I have recognised over the years that the Lord has equipped me with a pastor's heart to shepherd His flock by serving Him and the body of Christ, wherever they maybe. I believe God has called my wife and I into pastoral ministry.

Upon reflection of the spiritual side of the journey, I have seen how He has grown, equipped and matured me in His strength, stage by stage, for each role I have undertaken. These have been serving as a missionary in Ethiopia with SIM for 4 years, being pastor in the rural community with Cobar Baptist for 3 years, serving as associate pastor at Metford Community Baptist Church for 5 years and ministering in the role as chaplain at Maitland Christian School.

I can see how the Lord has prepared and developed me through these certain positions, roles and responsibilities to be in this present preparation stage for church planting in the Hunter region.

I have spent time over various years studying at Sydney Missionary and Bible College and Morling College, which has equipped me to both serve in a cross cultural and pastoral capacity. It is here I would like to affirm the statement of beliefs of the Baptist Association of NSW and ACT and subscribe to their objects and values.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the Baptist Association for the support they have been through this process. The perfect timing of meeting Keith Mitchell was incredible and his encouragement and support was so helpful in working through the accreditation process. The Rev. Graham Gibbins has been a longtime mentor and father in the faith who saw my heart and helped develop my skills as a preacher and pastor. Pastor Chris McRae from Overflow church in Medowie has deliberately put time into developing me in ministry and embraced my heart for church planting and I thank her and Overflow church for their commitment to boldly demonstrate God's goodness. My thanks goes to Jamie Freeman and the team at Gen1K for their support and guidance in preparing to plant a church. Pastor AJ Cole and his wife Fiona from NewVine Baptist in Maryland, Newcastle, have been a rich blessing in the way they have invested in me in the last year to this end as well.

Finally, a huge thank you to my beautiful wife. We have been through so much together, but through it all we have grown closer together and closer in our love and desire to serve the Lord. Also, to our six kids. Thank you for your patience and for adjusting so well to the new places we have been called to go to. They have moved around the countryside with us for many years. With the support of our church when the timing is right, and in the near future Lord willing, we hope to plant a church. The vision is to be a church that will go on to plant more churches, so that the word of God will spread throughout the Hunter region and beyond.

DAN WAUGH

At the age of 8 I was keenly aware of just how broken our world is and the seeds of depression were formed. The question in the back of my mind became “Why should I live?”. If my life was to revolve around study and work and I liked neither then what was the point? But God stepped in, speaking to me in a dream and gave me the invitation to life for him. I point to that moment as the turning point for my life.

I remember several years later, hearing a message at church where we were told that God would use us in ways that we could never imagine. I went to bed that night challenging God. You see, I had a pretty big imagination. I told God that I wanted him to use me as much as possible, and to do it as fast as possible. Unfortunately, it seems that God listens.

The year I finished school and started to study engineering, while leading youth at church, God started to shift things around in my life. I slowly came to the conclusion that I wasn't willing to spend 9-5 at a desk, waiting to leave and meet up with those that I was discipling. I wanted discipleship to take up the bulk of my time, not the scraps. At the end of that first year at university it seemed that everything fell together, with God's hand evident in the timing of our Youth Pastor moving on and the need for leadership catalysing my decision to go on staff and start study at Morling. After a further year of wrestling with God whereby I finally concluded that he was indeed calling me to long-term ministry, my mother casually mentioned “I always knew you would become a pastor” – something it would have been nice to know a little earlier.

Along with my mother as a formational Christian influence in her unceasing service, I see it as no small accident that God gave me the father that I have, nor the extended family who, between them, could staff several churches. At this point I of course need to praise God for my wife, Annika, as without her I wouldn't make it another week in ministry.

At 25 I am in my 7th year on staff at Carlingford Baptist Church, primarily as the youth and young adults pastor. More recently I have taken on responsibility for our multicultural service and become a core team member of the online ministry SKAR Ministries. Discipleship is my heartbeat. I affirm the Association Statement of Beliefs, subscribe to the objects and values of the Association and feel blessed to be here today.

PRINCIPLES AFFIRMED BY ALL CANDIDATES

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 Association 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.



Baptist Churches
of NSW & ACT

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