



The Accreditation/Ordination of Women

Baptist Churches of South Australia is an association that accredits and ordains both women and men to Pastoral Leadership.

As a movement of churches in the protestant, evangelical, dissenter stream who practise congregational governance and hold to a theology of the priesthood of all believers, Baptists have always affirmed the significant voice and contribution of women in the life of the church. That said, wherever there are Baptists there will also be a diversity of theological understandings and praxis.

On 22 September 1979, the association (then the South Australian Baptist Union) made amendments to our Constitution and relevant by-laws and regulations to reflect that “the word ‘person’ means man or woman.” This position has been held regarding ordination ever since.

Women and men therefore can and do undertake training to become accredited Pastoral Leaders. For each individual, Accreditation and Ordination is subject to having a call to ministry in a local church or chaplaincy context.