

Dear Candidate,

As you are no doubt aware the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT has been involved in a conversation around what it means to associate, and some of the issues that may need to be further clarified for pastors and churches wishing to remain in association with the wider body.

At the Assembly in November 2022 a number of motions were passed. The Assembly Council, at their meeting earlier this month, determined that in order for accreditation or recognition to take place candidates must sign to indicate their support of the new position statements contained within those motions.

You will find below the relevant motions that were passed at the Assembly. Could I ask you to please read through these carefully, and, if you support the statements, to indicate that by signing and then email the signed copy back to Fiona Gardner at [cfm@nswactbaptists.org.au](mailto:cfm@nswactbaptists.org.au).

If you are unable to support these statements, and thus can’t sign to that effect, can you please let either Fiona ([cfm@nswactbaptists.org.au](mailto:cfm@nswactbaptists.org.au)) or me ([jcasey@nswactbaptists.org.au](mailto:jcasey@nswactbaptists.org.au)) know & we will arrange an opportunity for you to chat with one or two members of the Affirmation Oversight Team about this.

Thank you for your time & attention to this matter.

Blessings,

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Rev. Jenny Casey

Chair – Affirmation Oversights Team

**Motions regarding the Association’s Position**

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| Motion |
| "Marriage is a covenant relationship ordained by God as a lifelong faithful union of one man and one woman. Sexual intimacy outside such a marriage relationship is incompatible with God’s intention for us as his people". |
| “Each local Baptist church is made up of all those who by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ have been born again and publicly acknowledged their allegiance to Jesus as Lord. Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the local church has received Christ’s authority to govern its worship, fellowship, and service in accordance with scriptural principles, the whole church being finally responsible for its governance. Nevertheless, within each local church Christ has provided servant leaders, gifted through the Holy Spirit to build up the local church to maturity in Christ and engage in the ongoing mission of Christ. The local church identifies and appoints these servant leaders to positions of honour and responsibility, with delegated authority to act for the local church within parameters defined by the congregation.” |
| “Each local Baptist church is autonomous and subject to no external authority to determine its doctrine, worship, objects, and values as it has understood the scriptures to determine these matters. Nevertheless, Baptist churches usually choose to associate together to mutually discern the mind of Christ so that in a partnership of support and care based on shared convictions, objects and values, together we might more effectively engage in mission and represent Christ to the world in which we live and serve.” |

I acknowledge that I have read and support the above position statements.

Name: Date:

Signed: