

Summary of Motions for the Special Assembly 27 February 2021

Proposed by the pastors and members of Campbelltown Baptist Church, Castle Hill Baptist Church, Chatswood Baptist Church, Newtown Baptist Church and Wollongong Baptist Church:

Motion 1. With regard to churches

- When the Assembly Council is made aware of any church that no longer holds to the association's basic doctrines, objects and values, that the Assembly council investigates this matter in a timely manner.
- If, upon investigation, the Assembly Council finds that that the church no longer holds to our basic doctrines, objects and values, that the Assembly council, where possible, engage with the church and its leadership to encourage and urge the church to reconsider their position and affirm the beliefs and core values of the Association.
- If, after a further period of three months from the conclusion of the investigation, the church continues to reject our basic doctrines, objects and values, the Assembly Council is to begin the process of withdrawal of affiliation in accordance with section 17.5 (a) of the constitution. The name of the church should be brought to the soonest possible assembly.

Motion 2. With regard to Accredited and Recognised Pastors

- When Assembly Council is made aware of any accredited or recognised pastor who no longer holds to the Association's basic doctrines, objects and values, that the Assembly Council investigates this matter in a timely manner.
- If, upon investigation, the Assembly Council finds that the pastor no longer holds to our basic doctrines, objects and values, that the Assembly Council engage with the pastor where possible to encourage and urge the pastor to reconsider their position, in accordance with section 6.5 (j) of the Accreditation Guidelines.
- If, after a period of no more than three months from the pastor being given an opportunity to be heard by the Assembly Council either in writing or in person at one of it's meetings, he or she continues to reject our basic doctrines, objects and values, the Assembly Council is to direct the Committee for Ministry to remove the pastor's name from the list of accredited pastors of the list of recognised pastors in accordance with the Accreditation Guidelines section 6.5 (j).

Motion 3. With regard to the property held under the Property Trust

- That the Assembly affirm in principle that churches ceasing to be affiliated with the Association should continue to have occupation and use of their property, as long as they continue to uphold the basic doctrines set out in the Baptist Union of NSW Incorporation Act and continue to exist as a congregation of at least 10 members meeting together for the public worship of God according to the usages of the Baptist denomination.

(Motion 3 to be tabled but not brought for voting at this Assembly.)

Motions from Assembly Council:

Motion 1:

- A church will be taken to no longer hold to the Association's foundational beliefs, objects or values when this is evidenced by that church's public stance and/or teaching, where such public

stance or teaching is by its own admission its clear and settled position.

Motion 2:

- An Accredited or Recognised Pastor will be taken to no longer hold to the Association's foundational beliefs, objects or values when this is evidenced by that Pastor's public stance and/or teaching, where such public stance or teaching is by their own admission their clear and settled position.

Appendix 1 Section 17.5 (a) of the constitution

17.5 Withdrawal of affiliation

- (a) An Assembly may withdraw the affiliation of a church with the Association by:
- (i) Assembly Council passing a resolution to the effect that it proposes to move at an Assembly a resolution to disqualify the affiliated church from membership of the Association
 - (ii) prior to the meeting, the Secretary to Assembly Council has given the affiliated church not less than 1 month's notice in writing of the time and place of the Assembly meeting at which it is proposed to move a resolution of withdrawal of affiliation, and
 - (iii) at the Assembly meeting, the church is provided with an opportunity to be heard or make written representations at the Assembly when consideration of the motion to disqualify the church from affiliation with the Association is being considered.

Appendix 2 - Accreditation guidelines section 6.5 (j).

6.5 REMOVAL FROM THE ACCREDITED LIST

Persons will be removed from the Accredited List by the Committee for the Ministry under the following circumstances:

- a. death
- b. ceasing to be a member of an affiliated church
- c. the Accreditation to Ministry in another Denomination.
- d. becoming a member of a Church of another Denomination.
- e. upon ceasing to minister in NSW or ACT the person's Accreditation has not been transferred to another body affiliated with the Baptist Association of Australia or a body affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance within 12 months.
- f. the person has not been available to serve in a pastoral or other Approved ministry position, full time or part-time, for a period of two years. Accredited Ministers changing from a pastoral ministry role to another role (eg, chaplaincy, an administration position within a para-church organisation, etc) must inform the Committee for the Ministry, at which point their accreditation status will be reviewed. However the names of those persons who, for a period of not less than two years, have ceased to engage in the ministry for which, in the opinion of the Committee for the Ministry, the Minister is Approved, will be contacted to indicate why they should remain on the Accredited List.

They may be invited to meet with representatives of the Committee for the Ministry to determine if they may remain on the list. If no response to the contact is received, they will be removed from the Accredited List. Exceptions would be those who are in an Approved Ministry.
- g. serious moral or ethical misconduct based on the findings of the Ministry Standards Unit pursuant to its Policy and Procedures.
- h. any circumstances that fall within the guidelines below pertaining to Divorce and Remarriage, under the guidance of the Divorce Sub-Committee.
- i. failure to maintain Continuing Ministerial Development requirements.
- j. The Assembly Council resolves that the person no longer subscribes to the basic doctrines, objects and values, ceases to hold to their response to the statement of beliefs, or makes comments or acts in a way which indicates that the person no longer holds to their responses to the statement of beliefs, provided that the person has been given an opportunity to be heard by the Assembly Council either in writing or in person at one of its meetings. The person must be given not less than 1 month's notice in writing of the time and place of the meeting and the nature of the business to be addressed at the meeting.
- k. at their own request.

NOTE:

Persons who have formally 'retired' from active ministry will be placed on a Retired Ministers' List and their names removed from the Accredited List.