

Text of Message from Assembly Council, 14 February 2024

From Assembly Council:

Processes recommended to Annual Assembly regarding Affiliation, Baptist Values and Marriage

Dear Friends,

We pray that 2024 has begun well for you and your church, and that you are sensing God's leading and blessing. It's a privilege to be ministering alongside one another in the work of God's Kingdom!

This update comes following our 2023 Annual Assembly, where as an Association we continued to progress our discussion on affiliation, Baptist values and marriage.

A *Way Forward motion* (as amended) was agreed to by an 80% majority at that Assembly. The following was resolved:

That Assembly Council:

- 1. communicate to the churches at least 4 months prior to the 2024 Annual Assembly a relational process for engaging with and where necessary facilitating the withdrawal of already affiliated Churches and removal of already Accredited (and/or Recognised) Pastors who do not support the Association's position on Marriage; and*
- 2. bring to a vote of that assembly any amendments to the constitution and the affirmation of ministry guidelines required for implementing this process. Any changes to other policy documents integral to this process should also be reported at this Assembly.*

This process will clarify any potential ongoing relationship between such a church or pastor and the Association where they are unable to continue to be affiliated or accredited with the Association.

The above resolution directed Assembly Council to progress a number of tasks and bring recommendations back to our 2024 Annual Assembly. Key among these was drafting the processes described in section (1) of the above resolution.

The document outlining these processes is now available [HERE](#).