

Baptist Association

**Affiliation for
Churches**



Baptist Assembly Council are to communicate to churches a *relational process* for engaging with and where necessary facilitating the withdrawal of already affiliated Churches and removal of already Accredited Pastors who do not support the Association's Position Statement on Marriage.

This is to be communicated by **January 2024**

This process be taken to the **May 2024** Baptist Assembly.



The proposed changes were initiated by **5 churches** who did not wish to be affiliated with churches or pastors who were affirming same-sex couples attending their churches following the legalization of Marriage Equality in Australia. **(2017/18)**

HOW
DID WE
GET
HERE?

Through several years of discussion, workshops, correspondence and Assemblies **(2019-2023)** we were repeatedly assured that *marriage* was not the focus. It was first identified as so at the **Baptist Annual Assembly May 2023**

In recent years, the **Baptist Association** has become an increasingly centralized body, requiring commitment to **Basic Doctrines, Position Statements, Objects Values** of the Association and so requiring each local church align with all the above..

The likelihood that TBC will be disaffiliated is HIGH because..



1. We are **not prepared** to divide our church or disenfranchise those who call Tuggeranong Baptist Church their spiritual home on the basis of their belief about this societal issue or their marital status or style.
2. We are **not prepared** to surrender our autonomy in order to ensure that our values are not inconsistent with those of the Association.
3. We are **not prepared** to alter our governance style to develop *mandated position statements* in addition to our statement of beliefs and Constitution (Rules of Incorporation).



TBC CONSTITUTION



Principle Of Autonomy

“We hold that the church is under Christ’s headship and power is exercised by the church assembled as a Fellowship, decisions thus made shall not be subject to change or reversal by any other body. This Church is autonomous, but advice and counsel may be sought from qualified ministers or other bodies of like principles and faith”.

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PRINCIPLE OF AUTONOMY



We value freedom of conscience and expect that each person will study the Bible and its application in the context of our time and space.

At TBC, we embrace the tension of differing opinions and interpretations of the Bible.

We strive for unity in the central tenants of the Christian faith.

We reject the authority of **any** central organization or person that seek to speak for every church or church member in

For example, in our Constitution, full immersion (baptism of believers) is one of our beliefs but is not a condition of church membership.



Risks that would not apply to TBC.

We believe alternative Insurance Services will be readily available if we were part of a different Association.

Baptist Financial Services – our banking facility and loan are not under threat.

We would be eligible to remain part of the Redress Scheme.

TBC are an Incorporated Association, our property is in our own name.

Until we see
the *proposed*
process in
January 2024
we are unable
to project
dates



In essentials, **unity**.
In non-essentials, **liberty**.
In all things, **charity**.

There are many resources available to read, research and reflect on **TBC Website/App** in the **Reflections** section



RESOURCES



Q & A

