

A STATEMENT AND PROCESS TOWARDS EQUALITY IN LEADERSHIP IN BAPTIST CHURCHES

THE PROPOSED STATEMENT

After reviewing the statements contained in the Baptist Administration Manual regarding women in leadership in New Zealand Baptist churches, we felt it was appropriate to update these statements to a more current understanding of what we believe and want to be practicing in our churches. We therefore wish to propose the following statement and process be endorsed by the New Zealand Baptist Assembly Council with a view to bringing a recommendation to the churches at the Baptist Hui in 2017:

We hold scripture teaches the inherent-equality between men and women for both are made in the image and likeness of God.¹ Both men and women are called to work as co-labourers in God's world;² God's purposes and call works itself out in individual lives, the church, and the world.

We affirm that both women and men followed Jesus as disciples, and that the Holy Spirit was given to all for the sake of mission and the Church. We acknowledge Paul's female co-workers,³ and the female leaders, teachers, and apostles within the development, life and ministry of the early church.⁴

We affirm God's calling of both women and men into all areas of preaching, teaching and leadership. God's calling of all persons into God's service extends from volunteers and staff responsibilities, and to all senior leadership positions. God does this for the glory of His name and the sake of the church.

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¹ Gen 1:27; Gal 3:28. ² Gen 1:28. ³ Rom 16:3, 6, 12; Phil 4:2.

⁴ Luke 2:38; Acts 18:26; Rom 16:1-5, 6, 7; 1 Cor 1:11; Phil 4:2-3, Col 4:15.