

## Consultation with Ministers on Ministerial Rules

### Introduction

Thank you so much for taking the time to participate in this Consultation. As a Minister within Baptists Together we really want to hear from you.

The Baptist Union Council is inviting ministers (both accredited and unaccredited) to share their responses to a request to change Appendix 3 of the Ministerial Recognition Rules, through this consultation process. This will enable Council to respond to the question that has been asked.

This survey is designed to give Council feedback from Ministers about our Ministerial Recognition Rules and the covenant between Accredited Ministers.

There are a few permissions questions that you need to respond to (marked with an asterisk), but otherwise questions are optional. You can move back and forward through the survey using the 'Prev' and 'Next' buttons at the end of each page.

At the beginning of the survey, you will be asked to give some information about yourself. We are asking for this so that we can ensure that the overall survey feedback is representative of Baptists Together. This data will not be linked to your opinions in the report/analysis so you can be assured of confidentiality.

The following is a list of the questions being asked on the online survey so that you can take time to reflect on your responses before completing the online survey.

1. I hereby give my consent to sharing my responses to the consultation and my personal data contained within my responses with the Consultation Project Team for the purposes described above.

Yes, proceed to consultation  
No, consultation terminates

2. This survey is primarily to allow consultation with ministers and regional ministers. In addition, Council members and personal members who are not ministers are invited to complete this survey. Regional ministers will have some additional questions about their Association.

Please click on the button next to your answer.

I'm responding in my role as an accredited minister  
I'm responding in my role as a minister who is not accredited  
I'm not a minister and am responding as a Council member  
I'm not a minister and am responding as a personal member  
I am not responding in any of the above roles, the survey will end.

## About you

These first three questions are asked to enable the Consultation Research Team to contact you if they need clarification of your replies. They are detached from the data before analysis. All of your responses are confidential.

3. What is your name?

4. Please enter your reference number.

(You'll find this in the email inviting you to take part in this Consultation.)

5. If we need to contact you for clarification of any answers what email address should we use?

**The following questions are being asked to monitor representation from all ministers.**

6. Please indicate your gender:

Female

Male

Prefer not to say

Other (please specify)

7. Please indicate your age group:

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65+

8. What is your ethnic group?

White

Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups

Asian/Asian British

Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

Other (please describe)

9. What is your primary role in ministry?

Chaplain

College staff

Evangelist

Minister of a church

Minister in Training

Pioneer

Regional minister

Retired minister

Children Youth and Families minister

Specialist Teams staff

Secondment  
Leave of absence  
Out of pastorate  
Other (please specify)

## How have you engaged with matters relating to human sexuality?

10. Which of these have you done to engage with matters relating to human sexuality?

Please tick all that apply.

Private Bible study  
Bible study with others  
Reading other books about the subject  
Conversation with others  
Listened to podcasts or webinars  
Attended lectures/events  
Invited speakers to address your church  
Delivered a sermon series  
Attended Regional Association days  
Reflected on personal experience  
Other (please specify)

11. Alongside the Bible, are there any resources you found particularly helpful?

Please use no more than around 100 words.

12. What type or style of additional resources would you find helpful?

Please use no more than around 100 words.

## Ministers: Same-sex marriage and the accreditation of ministers

In this section we invite you to give your own view on the specific question - should the bracketed section be retained or removed from MR Appendix 3, Section 4.3:

*'Sexual Misconduct which brings the church and ministry into disrepute. NB This specifically includes sexual intercourse and other genital sexual activity outside of marriage (as defined exclusively as between a man and a woman).'*

You will be invited to move a 'slider' to the position that best represents your position. To see how these questions are presented in the online survey, please review the 'walkthrough' video for ministers at [www.baptist.org.uk/faq](http://www.baptist.org.uk/faq)

13. How strongly do you think/feel that a minister can be accredited by the Baptist Union of Great Britain if they are in a same-sex marriage?

Absolutely not, they cannot be

Neutral

Definitely, yes, they can be

14. Are you prepared to be in covenant with other accredited ministers who think differently about this matter?

Absolutely not

Neutral

Definitely, yes

### Your pastoral and missional ministry

In this section we invite you to give your own view on the effect on your pastoral (within the church) and missional (outside the church) ministry of retaining or removing the bracketed section from MR Appendix 3, Section 4.3:

*'Sexual Misconduct which brings the church and ministry into disrepute. NB This specifically includes sexual intercourse and other genital sexual activity outside of marriage (as defined exclusively as between a man and a woman).'*

You will be invited to move a 'slider' to the position that best represents your position and give further explanation if you would like to.

15. In your own view, if BUGB were to decide to **retain** the section in brackets, what effect would this have on your **pastoral ministry**?

Very negative

Very positive

16. In your own view, if BUGB were to decide to **remove** the section in brackets, what effect would this have on your **pastoral ministry**?

Very negative

Very positive

17. What effect do you feel it would have on your pastoral ministry?  
Please use no more than around 100 words.

18. In your own view, if BUGB were to decide to **retain** the section in brackets, what effect would this have on your **missional ministry**?

Very negative

Very positive

19. In your own view, if BUGB were to decide to **remove** the section in brackets, what effect would this have on your **missional ministry**?

Very negative

Very positive

20. What effect do you feel it would have on your missional ministry?  
Please use no more than around 100 words.

### Any other comments?

21. Is there anything else you would like us to hear about your own views on these matters?  
Please use no more than around 100 words.

22. Are you a Regional Minister?

Yes

No

*If the answer to Q 22 is 'yes'*

## Regional Ministers

We recognise that your particular role may give a different perspective on how you respond to matters of human sexuality within your Association. Please indicate your primary role or specialism below. The following questions ask about the potential level of impact you think that this issue will have on the Association and your work in it, and a sense of your engagement with matters of human sexuality.

23. Which Regional Association do you represent? *(dropdown menu of choices)*

24. What is your primary role as a Regional Minister? *(dropdown menu of choices)*

### Your association's missional and pastoral life

In this section we invite you to give your view as a Regional Minister on the effect of the specific question - should the bracketed section be retained or removed from MR Appendix 3, Section 4.3:

*'Sexual Misconduct which brings the church and ministry into disrepute. NB This specifically includes sexual intercourse and other genital sexual activity outside of marriage (as defined exclusively as between a man and a woman).'*

You will be invited to move a 'slider' to the position that best represents your position and give further explanation if you would like to.

25. In your context, if BUGB were to decide to **retain** the section in brackets, what effect would this have on the life of your association?

Very negative

Very positive

26. In your context, if BUGB were to decide to **remove** the section in brackets, what effect would this have on the life of your association?

Very negative

Very positive

27. What effect do you feel it would have on the life of your association?

Please use no more than around 100 words.

28. How have you engaged with matters relating to human sexuality within your Association?

29. What particularly helpful resources are known to you that you can offer/recommend to other Associations?

30. What type or style of resources would you find helpful to engage with matters relating to human sexuality with your Association?

**Any other comments?**

31. Is there anything else you would like us to hear about your Association's views on these matters?