



Baptist Union of Great Britain:
Consultation with Churches, Associations and Colleges on Ministerial Rules

Introduction

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

You do not need to have come to a conclusion or consensus as a church in order to participate. We would appreciate your contribution even if all you want to say is that this is not an issue for your church.

The Baptist Union Council is inviting churches and ministers to share their responses to a request to change Appendix 3 of the Ministerial Recognition Rules, through this consultation process in order to enable Council to respond to the question that has been asked.

This survey is designed to give Council a clearer picture of how our churches are engaging with issues of marriage and sexuality, together with any feedback about the specific question that you would like to be heard. It should take around 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

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 your church, so you might want your most recent annual return details to hand to help with this. We are asking for this so that we can ensure that the overall survey feedback is representative of Baptists Together.

If you have any further questions, please go to the [frequently-asked questions document](#).

PRIVACY STATEMENT

The Baptist Union of Great Britain ('BUGB') is a data controller under data protection legislation. BUGB processes information about your church and individuals holding designated roles within your church for the purpose of supporting, advising, consulting with and resourcing member churches and ministers. Data protection legislation allows us to process this information as we regard it as being in BUGB's legitimate interest. This Baptists Together consultation is being conducted through Survey Monkey and the personal data provided e.g. your name and church role will be shared with Sandra Cobbin & Associates ('the Consultation Project Team'). Further information about how BUGB uses your personal data can be found on our general privacy notice at www.baptist.org.uk/privacy.

* 1. This survey is to allow consultation with churches, associations and colleges. If you are replying in your role as a minister or a regional minister, please use the survey that has been sent directly to you instead.

We're asking this to ensure you are answering the correct survey.

- I'm responding on behalf of a church
- I'm responding on behalf of an association
- I'm responding on behalf of a college
- I'm not responding on behalf of a church, association or college (consultation will close)



Baptist Union of Great Britain:
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Who is completing this response?

We are asking these questions so that we can contact you if we have queries about the responses. We will not use your contact details for any other purpose. This information given in questions 2 and 3 will be detached from the data before analysis.

2. What is your name?

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

4. What is your role in the church, association or college?

5. With whom have you consulted ahead of responding to this consultation?

Please tick all that apply.

- No one, this is my perspective of the church
- Conversation with the minister
- Conversation with the Leadership Team/Diaconate/Eldership/Trustees
- Church and/or Church Meeting, informally
- Church Meeting, formally
- Other (please specify)



Baptist Union of Great Britain:
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About your church

**This is to ensure representation from the diversity of Baptist Union churches.
This data will not be linked to the rest of the consultation.**

6. Please give the name of your church, association or college.

* 7. Please enter your reference number.

You'll find the reference number in the email inviting you to take part in this Consultation.

8. Please give the postcode of the church building, if you have one.

9. Which Regional Association do you belong to?

10. Is your church a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP)?

Yes

No

11. Please tick all your Ecumenical Partner Denominations

Not applicable - we are not an LEP

Methodist

Church of England

United Reformed Church

Other (please specify)

12. Does your church have an accredited Baptist minister? Please tick one box

We have, or are seeking, an accredited minister(s)

Our minister is from one of our LEP partner denominations

Our minister(s) are not accredited with the Baptist Union

We do not have a minister

The following questions are being asked to ensure representation from diverse churches. We understand that this may be difficult to gauge. Please give your best estimate, to the nearest 10 or 20%.

13. What % of your weekly attendance are in each age group?

Children (0-11)	<input type="text"/>
Young people (11-18)	<input type="text"/>
Young adults (18-30)	<input type="text"/>
Other adults (30-65)	<input type="text"/>
Seniors (65+)	<input type="text"/>

14. What % of your weekly attendance are of each gender?

Female	<input type="text"/>
Male	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="text"/>

15. What % of your weekly attendance are of each ethnic group?

White	<input type="text"/>
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	<input type="text"/>
Asian/Asian British	<input type="text"/>
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>



Baptist Union of Great Britain:
Consultation with Churches, Associations and Colleges on Ministerial Rules

Same-sex marriage and the accreditation of ministers

Our current Ministerial Recognition Rules are clear that any sexual activity outside of heterosexual marriage is deemed gross misconduct. The specific clause (Appendix 3, Section 4.3) says:

‘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).’

Some members have requested that the last section in brackets is removed, which would mean that a minister who is in a same-sex marriage would no longer be committing gross misconduct and lose their accreditation. The removal of the words in the brackets would change the current definition of marriage in the Ministerial Recognition Rules.

In this section, we invite you to tell us the effect on your church's pastoral (within the church) and missional (outside the church) life.

In these questions, please move the slider to the position that best represents the view of your church and give further explanation if you would like to. The slider will change colour to note your response. If you would like to register the mid-point, please move the slider away, and then back.

18. In your context, if BUGB were to decide to **retain** the section in brackets, what effect would this have on the **pastoral** life of your church? Please move the slider to indicate your congregation's position.

Very negative Very positive

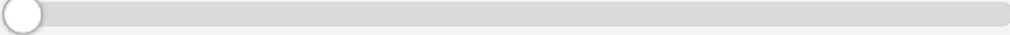
19. In your context, if BUGB were to decide to **remove** the section in brackets, what effect would this have on the **pastoral** life of your church? Please move the slider to indicate your congregation's position.

Very negative Very positive

20. What effect do you feel it would have on the pastoral life of your congregation?

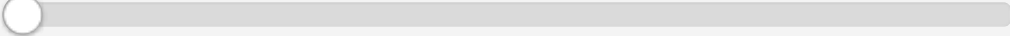
21. In your context, if BUGB were to decide to **retain** the section in brackets, what effect would this have on the **missional** life of your church? Please move the slider to indicate your congregation's position.

Very negative Very positive



22. In your context, if BUGB were to decide to **remove** the section in brackets, what effect would this have on the **missional** life of your church? Please move the slider to indicate your congregation's position.

Very negative Very positive



23. What effect do you feel it would have on the missional life of your congregation?



Baptist Union of Great Britain:
Consultation with Churches, Associations and Colleges on Ministerial Rules

Church engagement with matters relating to human sexuality

* 24. Has your church, association or college engaged with matters relating to human sexuality within the last five years?

Yes

No



Baptist Union of Great Britain:
Consultation with Churches, Associations and Colleges on Ministerial Rules

Church engagement with matters relating to human sexuality

25. How has your church engaged with matters relating to human sexuality in the last five years?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sermon series | <input type="checkbox"/> Church meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitated conversation | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Association days |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invited speakers | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

26. Alongside the Bible, are there any resources you found particularly helpful?
Please use no more than around 100 words.



Baptist Union of Great Britain:
Consultation with Churches, Associations and Colleges on Ministerial Rules

No church engagement as yet

27. Please indicate why have you not engaged with matters of human sexuality in the last five years? Tick all that apply.

- We have a clear position on these matters
- It would be pastorally unhelpful at this time
- There are more important things to be concerned about
- We didn't have the time to do this
- We haven't found helpful resources to do this
- The congregation isn't interested
- Other (please specify)

28. How likely are you likely to engage with this in the next two years? Please move the slider to indicate your church's position.

Not at all Definitely

A horizontal slider control with a circular knob on the left and a grey bar extending to the right, set against a light grey background.

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



Baptist Union of Great Britain:
Consultation with Churches, Associations and Colleges on Ministerial Rules

Thank you

Thank you for your engagement with this consultation. Your response will be collated by Sandra Cobbin and Associates and a report presented to the Baptist Union of Great Britain Council.

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

Every blessing for your Church, Association or College life.