



Baptist Union of Great Britain:  
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.**

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

### PRIVACY STATEMENT - CONSENT TO USE OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

By responding to this Baptists Together consultation conducted through Survey Monkey, you are providing personal data including your name, age, gender, ethnicity and theological views that will be processed by Sandra Cobbin & Associates ('the Consultation Project Team') for analysis. The Consultation Project Team will be relying on the lawful basis of your consent to process the personal data you provide in your responses.

The data you provide will be used to check that you are authorised to take part in the consultation. The Consultation Project Team will fully anonymise all your personal data for the purpose of collecting responses to the consultation and your personal data will not be shared with the Baptist Union, the Baptist Union Council, any Regional Association or any other third party other than in anonymised form as part of the consultation results.

You may withdraw your consent to this processing of your personal data at any stage by contacting [mparker@baptist.org.uk](mailto:mparker@baptist.org.uk). For more information about the way your personal information is processed by the Baptist Union, please see [www.baptist.org.uk/privacy](http://www.baptist.org.uk/privacy) and the [ministries privacy statement](#).

\* 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



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\* 2. This survey is to allow consultation with ministers and regional ministers. If you are replying on behalf of a church, please use [this survey](#) instead.

We're asking to ensure you are answering the correct 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'm not responding in any of the above roles, the survey will end.



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About you

**These first three questions are asked to enable us to contact you if we 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 the reference number 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

Prefer not to say

Male

Other (please specify)

7. Please indicate your age group:

18-24

45-54

25-34

55-64

35-44

65+

8. What is your ethnic group?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> White                        | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian British                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups | <input type="radio"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black British |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please describe)      |   |

9. What is your primary role in ministry?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Chaplain               | <input type="radio"/> Retired minister                     |
| <input type="radio"/> College staff          | <input type="radio"/> Children Youth and Families minister |
| <input type="radio"/> Evangelist             | <input type="radio"/> Specialist Teams staff               |
| <input type="radio"/> Minister of a church   | <input type="radio"/> Secondment                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Minister in Training   | <input type="radio"/> Leave of absence                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Pioneer                | <input type="radio"/> Out of pastorate                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Regional minister      |  |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) |  |

10. Which Regional Association are you part of?



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How have you engaged with matters relating to human sexuality?

11. Which of these have you done to engage with matters relating to human sexuality?  
Please tick all that apply.

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

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

13. What type or style of additional resources would you find helpful?  
Please use no more than around 100 words.



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

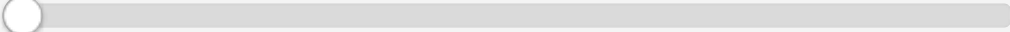
In this section we invite you to give your own view on the specific question - should the bracketed section be retained or removed from MR Appendix 3, Section 4.3:

*'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).'*

In these questions, please move the slider to the position that best represents your position. 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.

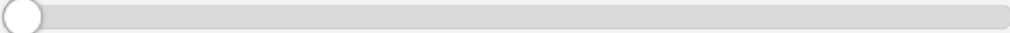
14. How strongly do you think/feel that a minister can be accredited by the Baptist Union of Great Britain if they are in a same-sex marriage?

Absolutely not, they cannot be Neutral Definitely, yes, they can be



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

Absolutely not Neutral Definitely, yes





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Your pastoral and missional ministry

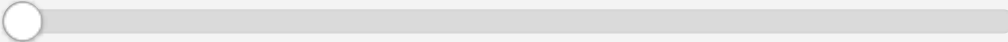
In this section we invite you to give your own view on the effect on your pastoral (within the church) and missional (outside the church) ministry of retaining or removing the bracketed section from MR Appendix 3, Section 4.3:

*'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).'*

In these questions, please move the slider to the position that best represents your view 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.

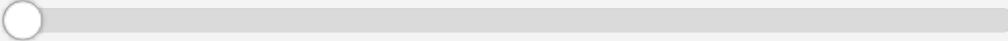
16. In your own view, if BUGB were to decide to **retain** the section in brackets, what effect would this have on your **pastoral** ministry?

Very negative Very positive



17. 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



18. What effect do you feel it would have on your pastoral ministry?

Please use no more than around 100 words.

19. 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



20. 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



21. What effect do you feel it would have on your missional ministry?

Please use no more than around 100 words.





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Any other comments?

22. 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.

\* 23. Are you a Regional Minister?

Yes

No



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Thank you

**Thank you for your response to this consultation. Your response will be collated by Sandra Cobbin and Associates and a report prepared for the Baptist Union Council.**

**Clicking "Next" below will end the survey - if you would like to review any of your responses, please do so by clicking "Prev" to move back.**

**Every blessing for your ministry.**



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### Regional Ministers

**Our various regional teams contain a number of different roles and specialisms, which cover different aspects of Association life from team leaders, to missional leads, to pastoral oversight, to a particular focus on evangelism, pioneers, children, youth, or young adults. 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 will then 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.**

24. Which Regional Association do you represent?

25. What is your primary role as a Regional Minister?



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Your Association's missional and pastoral life

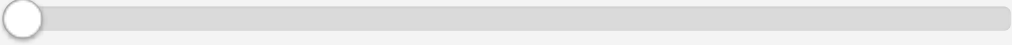
In this section we invite you to give your view as a Regional Minister on the effect of the specific question - should the bracketed section be retained or removed from MR Appendix 3, Section 4.3:

*'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).'*

In these questions, please move the slider to the position that best represents your position and add any comments that you wish to make.

26. 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?

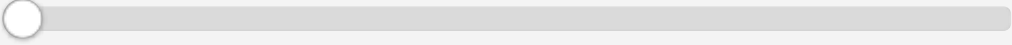
Very negative Very positive



A horizontal slider bar with a white circle at the far left end, indicating a 'Very negative' response.

27. 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



A horizontal slider bar with a white circle at the far left end, indicating a 'Very negative' response.

28. What effect do you feel it would have on the life of your Association?  
Please use no more than around 100 words.



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

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

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



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Any other comments?

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