

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY  
of the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada**

The following is a historical compilation of CBWC Assembly Approved Resolutions from 1959 to 2017.

**1959 | The ordination of women in ministry**

*From the Report of the Ministerial Credentials Committee:*

"During the 'short year' the above Committee has met three times. However, since the question of ordaining women to the Gospel Ministry is to be discussed at this Convention, we might mention that our Committee has met four times since the beginning of this year. It was during the winter months the above question was discussed.

The question was new to your Committee but after careful consideration they came to the unanimous decision that if women meet the same educational standards as men and are doing the same work as men, they have a right to appear before the Ordinating Examining Council [spelling from original] when requested by the local church, and backed by the local Association.

However, your Committee felt that before a final decision was made, the Advisory Committee of the Union should be made aware of the question, for as far as we know, this is the first time an ordination of a woman pastor in Western Canada has been requested. It was the opinion of the Advisory Committee that the Union Convention should be given an opportunity to discuss the question.

If this Convention agrees to the principle of ordaining women to the Gospel Ministry, then the Ministerial Credentials Committee is prepared to request that the Ordination Examining Council be reconvened during this Convention.

A question that seems to arise every year is the question of recognizing the ordination of untrained men. These are good men but are woefully lacking the educational requirements as set forth in the 'Ministerial Ordination Standards.' At times some pressure is brought to bear upon the Committee to forego the ruling as passed by the Union for the sake of the work the man is engaged in.

Your Committee feels it has to be fair to the men who are working in colleges or at home to meet the required standards set up by our Convention. We also feel that we are doing our churches a favour by our insistence on keeping to the standards."

*Motion recommended by the Ministerial Credentials Committee and approved by ballot vote:*

"THAT if a woman in the pastorate meets the same education standards as required of men for the ministry, she be accorded the right to appear before the Ordination Examining Council when her ordination is requested by her church and approved by the Association concerned."

\*\* the BUWC Yearbook 1958 states that Edna Mae Benedict Field was ordained on June 21, 1959.

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## **1987 | Resolution on Nuclear War**

Preamble: At the 1984 Assembly in Brandon, Manitoba, a Resolution on Nuclear War was put forward. A motion was made to refer the resolution back to the churches. At the Assembly in Kelowna in 1985, the motion was not lifted from the table. At the 1986 Assembly in Calgary, a motion was made to refer the resolution to the 1987 Assembly.

That motion reads: (Rev. Fred Demaray / Dr. Roy Bell) that the resolution on Nuclear Disarmament, which was not lifted from the table last year, be brought forward to the 1987 Assembly at Saskatoon. Accordingly, the resolution is submitted for consideration by the Assembly in keeping with the motion to bring forward at the 1987 Assembly.

*Resolution:*

Whereas the possibility of nuclear war continues to pose an unprecedented threat to all mankind,

Whereas such warfare is inconsistent with the Christian gospel of love, mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation,

And Whereas every Baptist World Congress from 1970 to the present has passed resolutions expressing the conviction that levels of fighting forces and armaments of the nations must be reduced,

Be it resolved that the Baptist Union of Western Canada, without reference to partisan politics, call upon the Prime Minister and the House of Commons of Canada to pursue efforts to encourage the super powers, 1.To achieve an equitable and verifiable agreement to limit strategic nuclear arms and to reduce significantly the number of such weapons and their delivery systems. 2.To conduct negotiations to prevent the use and restrict the deployment of battlefield and intermediate range nuclear weapons, 3.To promote negotiations to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, 4.To take all actions that would reduce the risk of nuclear war by accident, 5.To continue to observe all existing arms control agreements, (including SALT II)\* and 6.To initiate serious negotiations to ban all testing of nuclear weapons.

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## **1988 | The Life, Liberty and Security of the Unborn as a Person**

*Resolution:*

In view of the Supreme Court's decision that has declared Canada's abortion law as unconstitutional because it is alleged to violate a woman's right to "life, liberty and the security of the person" the Baptist Union of Western Canada does hereby urge the Parliament of Canada to enact new legislation that protects the "life, liberty and security" of the unborn as a person. There are strong precedents in law, in common practice, and in the common mind, to view the unborn as a person whose rights must also be protected. To fail to do so would be to continue to apply the Charter of Rights in such a way as to deny to the unborn the very rights of personhood which the Charter is meant to protect. Accordingly we implore you to enshrine the rights of the unborn in the Charter and to enact legislation protecting the rights of the unborn as persons.

Motion: (Rev. Doug Moffat / Rev. Tim Colborne) that we adopt the resolution as stated above as acceptable and representing the views of the Baptist Union of Western Canada. CARRIED 2 OPPOSED

## **2003 | Marriage: A Statement Affirming a Christian View**

Approved by the Assembly, May 2003.

This definition was taken from a Discussion Paper entitled "Marriage and Family Status in Canada", written by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, 1996 and included in a paper written by Lois Mitchell for submission to the Justice Committee in April 2003. This paper was approved by the Board of the BUWC at its April 2003 meeting and distributed to all BUWC churches in May 2003"

We would define marriage as a (1) publicly recognized covenanting together for life, (2) between a woman and a man who live together in a relationship, (3) characterized by truth and (4) fidelity, and for the purpose of (5) lifelong companionship, mutual interdependence and responsibility for each other, and potential procreation. (6) It is symbolic of God's relationship to his people and Jesus Christ's relationship to his church.

### **Publicly recognized**

The public recognition of marriage gives it an important social status. Marriage takes on a public purpose as the cornerstone of the family unity, which in turn is foundational to society. Public recognition implies not only social status, but also social responsibility.

### **Between a man and a woman**

In marriage a man and a woman are united together and become one flesh. Male and female, together being made in the image of God, while different are yet complementary. It is the only union which has the possibility of procreation, the continuance of the species.

### **Characterized by Truth**

Truth is a commitment to love and nurture an intimate and mutually supportive relationship characterized by mutual submissiveness and other-centered love.

### **Exclusive**

The partners in a marriage relationship commit themselves to maintain the marriage for life. The marriage relationship is between a man and a woman which is exclusive in the emotional and physical intimacy it fosters. It should be characterized by fidelity.

### **Lifelong**

Marriage is a type of covenant, that is, a publicly recognized pledge between a woman and a man to fulfill a lifelong commitment for the purposes of companionship and potentially, partnership in procreation.

### **Symbolic of Christ's Relationship to the Church**

Marriage is a uniting of dissimilar entities, is symbolic of spiritual unity, and forms an example of co-humanity. The Apostle Paul refers to it as a great mystery (Eph. 5.32) which symbolizes the relationship between Christ and the body of Christ, the Church.

It is also the prime relationship within which children are begotten and nurtured. It is the cornerstone of the family.

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## **2007 | re the Carey Hall Statement of Faith**

2007 CBWC Assembly minutes states "*we reviewed the Carey Hall Statement of Theological Position and the Apostles Creed*". no action or approval listed.

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## **2009 | Statement on Sexual Behaviour**

*Approved by the Board of the Baptist Union, April 2003;*

*Approved by Assembly 2009*

*Revised by the Assembly 2011 and 2015.*

The statement of the CBWC with regard to any sexual behaviour outside of monogamous heterosexual marriage is that it is not affirmed.

Clergy conduct is articulated in the document entitled CBWC Ministerial Protocol Manual. It might also be noted for the record that participation in any activity that is described as sin by the Scriptures would not be affirmed.

The Ministerial Credentials Committee's understanding would be accurately reflected in the text, published in 1998 by our then premier Baptist theologian, Dr. Stanley J. Grenz, Pioneer McDonald Professor of Theology and Ethics at Carey Theological College, titled: *Welcoming but Not Affirming: An Evangelical Response to Homosexuality*, published by Westminster John Knox Press.

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## **2015 | Resolution on Same Sex Marriage**

*Approved by the Board of the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada, January 2015*

*Approved by the Assembly April 2015*

To be consistent with the denominational policy on marriage, be it clarified that we call upon all CBWC ministers and their churches to make every effort to demonstrate Christian love to individuals who are same gender attracted; and that in a marriage ceremony no credentialed clergy (CBWC pastors/ chaplains/ counselors), or licensed officiates shall solemnize, officiate, co-officiate, or publicly affirm any marriage other than between one man and one woman.

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## **2017 | UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

*Approved by the Assembly May 2017*

**Motion:** Mike Diehl (Willowlake Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB) / Bill Christieson (Awaken Baptist Church, Calgary, AB). That we agree to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms, and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation.

**CARRIED** with 10 opposed.