

The Ordination of Women

WHEREAS a growing number of religious bodies are ordaining women to the ministry, such actions receiving considerable notice in the public media, and wide acclaim by many in our society who view this as a step of progress, an evidence of enlightenment, and a sign of increasing liberation for women; and

WHEREAS proponents of the ordination of women either deliberately reject the plain prohibitions of Scripture regarding this practice, or else dismiss them as cultural bias of the New Testament writers, thus reflecting upon the doctrine of biblical inspiration;

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in Annual Conference at Winona Lake, Indiana, June 23–27, 1975, declare our conviction that the New Testament clearly teaches that women cannot be ordained to the gospel ministry, nor can they properly serve as deacons of a local church, and for them to serve in such capacities is in violation of divine revelation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that, while accepting these restrictions upon the service of women, we also rejoice in the many and varied ministries in which Christian women can and do engage, exercising their God-given spiritual gifts, and that we give gratitude to God in particular for the dedicated women in our Regular Baptist Churches who make such a vital contribution to the work of the Lord.

*Winona Lake, Indiana,
June 23–27, 1975*