

Male-Only Preachers

WHEREAS this past March the Church of England admitted women to its priesthood for the first time since King Henry VIII created the Church of England in the sixteenth century; and

WHEREAS on that so-called historic day 1,200 women deacons and their supporters packed the Bristol Cathedral for the ordination of thirty-three women by Bishop Barry Rogerson; and

WHEREAS in so doing, the Church of England joined twelve of the twenty-eight self-governing provinces of the worldwide Anglican community, as well as many other Protestant church bodies in what has become an ever-widening popular action;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our 63rd Annual Conference in Bellevue, Washington, on June 25–29, 1994, state by way of general consensus and belief that the clear teaching of Scripture allows only men in the offices of pastor and deacon, and that such Biblical phrases as “Look out among you seven men of honest report,” and “I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence” clearly establish God’s gender limitation for these offices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we do not believe God’s commandments are grievous but rather wise, and that in His wisdom He calls for men to be spiritual leaders, thereby guaranteeing the continuance of this role in the church and home, which leadership need not depreciate or cancel the many necessary and valuable contributions of women in most spheres of life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we generously express our gratitude for those women who, like Mary of Romans 16:6, bestow much labor in Christ’s church at the local level, in Christian organizations, and on the mission fields of the world.

*Bellevue, Washington
June 25–29, 1994*