

Being Presbyterian: Statement Affirming Women in Ministry

15 February 2023

Being Presbyterian is a movement which seeks the welfare of the church. We name our priorities in our Road Map, the third of which reads:

“We affirm that God calls women and men to all the ministries of the church. We therefore pray and work for the unequivocal embrace of our mutual vocation in which all serve Christ with equal authority.”

In response to recent statements in the public domain from PCI ministers which diminish, damage, and undermine PCI’s agreed policy on both men and women being eligible for ministry, we make the following points:

1. We fully support women who are called and ordained as ministers and elders to serve the church of our Lord Jesus Christ with the gifts and fruits that the Holy Spirit endows.
2. We express our dismay when the status of women, as recognized by the church, is called into question by colleagues in ministry.
3. We are sensitive to, and grieved by, the hurt and distress that result from a lack of collegial affirmation.
4. Recognising that the so-called "conscience clause" is limited in its scope and intent, we ask the courts of the Church to ensure that it is not being misunderstood or abused in practice.