

What if I am already theologically trained?

You will still have to follow most the above steps through, but there may be different patterns of training open to you.

It is important to remember that this whole process is focussed on discerning whether or not God has called you to ordained Baptist ministry at this point in your life.

We trust that all involved will enter into this process prayerfully, seeking the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit.



We're all Called

Christ calls us to follow him. As disciples, whatever our gifting, experience and situation, that is our calling. However, we recognise that some are called to be set aside to exercise their ministry in such a way that it is recognised and supported by others in the wider church. Traditionally, it is in this way that we have affirmed those called to the pastoral ministry, but we now have the opportunity to affirm other forms of ministry.

Called to the Ministry

It may be that you sense that God is calling you into pastoral or other forms of ministry. The "feeling" is something that needs to be tested in a variety of ways so as to discover God's will for you



and how He would have you express your calling and use your gifts in His service.

The Pathway to Training

In all your considerations remember that you are seeking God's will in partnership with others. You do not want to be where God doesn't want you to be.

- Talk about your sense of call -
with your partner and family,
with your minister and / or church leader
with the Regional Minister.
- Consider, in conjunction with your minister and the Regional Minister, how and when to apply for Ministry.
- Contact the Colleges and consider what might be the best model and place of training for you.
- Ask your church to commend you for ministry—do not treat this as a foregone conclusion. The church's commendation is necessary before you apply to the Association.
- Submit an application form to the Association and the disclosure and equal opportunities forms to the B.U.

- Make an application to the college of your choice. You can only be interviewed by the college after you have been commended by the Association, but you can, and should make enquiries and apply before this.

The Process Within the Association

- Meet with your church leaders for them to complete a church commendation form which is available from the Regional Minister.
- A member of the NBA Ministry Group will observe you leading worship and preaching or engaging in some other ministry/
- References will be taken up.
- You will be interviewed.
- You will normally be informed of the committee's decision later that day.
- Only then, if the decision is positive, will your application be forwarded to the college, or whatever the next appropriate step is.
- You will also be required to undergo a medical examination and obtain a letter from the Criminal Records Bureau indicating that you are not unsuitable to work with children. This will be done by either the Association or the College, not the church.