

Ridley College

Gender and Ministry Policy

Approved 12 May 2010

The position of the College in relation to gender and ministry training is that:

- a. We rejoice that men and women are equally made in God's image, given authority by God in his world, and called to imitate the Lord Jesus Christ and to be conformed to his likeness.
- b. We warmly welcome women and men as students, faculty, staff, and Board members.
- c. We are committed to the equal provision of identical training for women and men, training both women and men for any and every ministry and leadership role or ministry to which they may be appointed in the church or in the world.
- d. The question of the roles of men and women in ministry and leadership is one on which we accept a variety of views within the college. Similarly we accept a variety of views on such questions as who should be baptised, how churches should be governed, issues of Christian discipleship, the use of charismatic gifts, and details of the future hope. We accept that a range of views can be held on such questions without the integrity of a person as a biblically faithful evangelical Christian being called into question.
- e. This policy reflects the practice of the Anglican Church of Australia, and the Diocese of Melbourne.
- f. This policy also expresses the ancient advice: 'In matters that are essential, unity: in matters that are debatable, liberty: in all matters, love.'

In the light of this position the college:

1. Requires all faculty, teaching staff and students to affirm that men and women are equally created in God's image, and have the same human dignity, while allowing a variety of opinions on how gender impacts the ordering of marriage, family, church life, and society.
2. Encourages discussion and open debate on the structural relationships between men and women in lectures, informal discussion, conferences, the internet and other forums.
3. Requires all faculty, teaching staff and students to address this issue with particular sensitivity, and to respect the decisions that students and graduates have made about the ministry roles they aspire to or have accepted.
4. Expects a high level of academic rigour and encourages a high standard of scholarship on this issue. People are encouraged to read widely, question arguments, challenge exegesis and consider alternatives.
5. Will take appropriate action should it become aware of a breach of this policy.

The college will appoint board members and employ faculty, visiting lecturers and tutors who are able to affirm this policy and serve within these parameters.

Any student who feels aggrieved by the behaviour of any faculty, visiting lecturer, other student, member of staff, preacher, service leader, Board member, visitor to the college, supervisor appointed by the College, or contractor or employee of a contractor, with respect to this policy should follow the non-academic grievance procedure set out in the Student Manual.