

SCC Votes to Support Ordination of Women;  
Special Constituency Session Date and Location Scheduled

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, the Southern California Conference Executive Committee, for the first time since discussion about the ordination of women became active in the church, unanimously:

Voted to support ordination of women to the Gospel Ministry in the Southern California Conference, and, to encourage the Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee to take the necessary steps to implement this action.

The SCC Executive Committee took this action after the Pacific Union executive committee, at their March meeting, set up an Ordination Study Committee to outline the steps necessary to make gender-neutral ordinations a reality as soon as possible.

The Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee, on May 9, 2012, voted to approve or disapprove candidates for ordination without regard to gender, effective when the Union Bylaws are amended, and called a special constituency session to consider the matter.

The date for the special constituency session has been set for August 19, at 1:00 p.m. at the Warner Center Marriott, 21850 Oxnard St, Woodland Hills 91367.

“The action of the SCC executive committee is not about increasing the number of women pastoring in our conference,” said Larry Caviness, conference president. “But when God calls anyone to ministry, regardless of their gender, we don’t want the church to say no, based on gender. Joel 2 tells us that before the final outpouring God’s Spirit and the triumph of God’s kingdom, the church will be characterized by the ministry of both men and women. The Executive Committee action is to move the church toward that goal as soon as possible.”

June 5, 2012