

Statement on Women in Leadership

November 2017

Crossroads International Church of Basel is a congregation of diverse nationalities, cultures and theological backgrounds. Our Statement of Faith outlines the core essentials around which we have built our community. From the beginning, Crossroads has had female Elders as part of the team that leads and guides the direction of the church. It is felt that the general disposition of the congregation leans towards an egalitarian view and appreciates having women in leadership positions. We acknowledge nonetheless that there may also be members who are more moderately complementarian in their position.

We believe that the issue of women serving in leadership positions in the local church, while important, is not one of the essentials of Christian faith. It is clear that many godly and wise believers worldwide, both men and women, hold divergent views on this subject. Since this is not a primary indisputable doctrine, we seek to respect those who hold differing views and at the same time strive for unity in the Body of believers.

We express this conviction in the following way:

- In essential beliefs we have unity (Ephesians 4:4-6)
- In non-essential beliefs we have diversity (Romans 14:1-22)
- In all our beliefs we show charity (1 Corinthians 13:2)

It is important, however, to clearly communicate our commitment at Crossroads to empower both men and women in leadership. After a review of our position, we reaffirm our commitment to women in leadership and wish to outline the key premises under which we currently operate.

1. All people in the Body of Christ are called to ministry
2. Men and women receive spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit and are to exercise and develop these gifts to their full potential
3. We want to fully equip and enable both men and women for fruitful and fulfilling ministry in the Church and in the Kingdom of God
4. Both men and women, whether single or married, may:
 - a. Lead ministries
 - b. Lead small groups
 - c. Teach and preach to other men and women
 - d. Serve as elders
 - e. Serve on the pastoral staff
5. In keeping with our belief that we need to be aware of different convictions and want to proceed with caution on issues where members of the Body disagree over the interpretation of Scripture, we reserve the role of Senior Pastor for men.