

WHAT MAKES A GOOD DELEGATE?

When we are seeking to nominate delegates to the BUV Gathering, who should we be looking for?

Delegates are very significant to the life of the Baptist Union. They are the people who have responsibility for governing some significant aspects of the life of the churches.

They are responsible for:

- Discerning the broad brush strokes of vision and direction for Union life, seeking answers together to the question 'What is God saying to the churches?'
- They act as a sounding board for new initiatives and ideas – will this be relevant and of benefit to the churches?
- They have a say in the key staff appointments in the BUV and some aligned bodies
- They approve key budgetary matters such as Minister's stipend, the parameters of surplus and deficit,

In practical terms, they will be asked to read the ideas and proposals presented in the Delegates Pack and ideally they will discuss these with others in the church, and prayerfully consider the possibilities.

On some issues it will be appropriate for a delegate to raise the issue at a church meeting or during worship, and gather the reflections of the whole church.

Once the delegate has listened carefully to others in the congregation and to God, they will be invited to share their discernment with others around a table at a Delegates Dinner.

Following the Gathering it is expected that Delegates will report on the event at the church.

Therefore the people you need to be looking for will have some of the following qualities:

- Spiritually alive and prayerful
- Good listeners
- People who are respected within your community
- Able to communicate effectively with others
- Have some awareness of financial and organisational management
- Confident in speaking at church and in larger gatherings.

Where possible the BUV recommends that churches seek to ensure an age, gender and multicultural balance in their representation.