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Jesus is the Chief-Shepherd and Pastors are under-shepherds who tend to His flock.

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As Baptists we believe:

1. The Bible is inspired, inerrant, and authoritative in all matters of life.
2. The church is a priesthood of believers with the responsibility to live according to the Word as ambassadors for Christ in a manner that is worthy of the name of Jesus.
3. The role of pastor is clearly outlined in the Bible and to use the title and role of pastor differently than we see in Scripture is a matter of Biblical Authority, not just opinions and perspectives.

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5 Saddleback is appealing the decision:

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1. "We're challenging the ruling on behalf of millions of SBC women whose God-given spiritual gifts and leadership skills are being wasted instead of empowered for the Great Commission," Warren said. "We cannot finish the task Jesus gave us, with 50 percent of the church forced to sit on the bench," he added. Warren further challenged the decision by noting that "Great Commission Baptists believe that Jesus authorized every woman to go, to make disciples, to baptize, and to teach – just as he authorized every man."

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2. "We're challenging the ruling on behalf of over 300 concerned pastors who have female pastors serving on their staff and have written to me," Warren said. He noted that many church leaders were "fearful and worried that their congregations will also be disfellowshipped when the new inquisition discovers them."

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3. "We're challenging the ruling on behalf of our IMB missionaries." Warren highlighted the decline in Baptist missionaries by almost 1,500 people over the last 23 years. This decline, he says, began when the revised Baptist Faith & Message (BF&M) was approved in 2000. "With a renewed emphasis on the restriction of women, we'll lose more godly female church planters and couples serving as pastoral teams in the mission field," Warren argued.

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4. "We believe a decision this critical to the SBC's identity and future should be decided by the Messengers, not a committee," Warren asserted. "The Messengers must decide if they want the Executive Committee to act like a Catholic Magisterium."

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5. "Our goal is to spark the thinking of messengers regarding the direction of the SBC, regardless of the outcome of the vote," the pastor said. "If you really love something, you fight for it. But sometimes it takes years for people to consider an event before change happens," he continued. Pointing to the work of evangelical and abolitionist William Wilberforce, Warren highlighted the importance of change. "Wilberforce lost every vote for 17 years before the slave trade was eventually abolished. It took 10 years after the lynching of Emmett Till in 1955 for the Civil Rights movement of the '60s to coalesce. Note my prediction: The next generation of Southern Baptists will remove the restriction on women one day, because truth eventually triumphs over tradition."

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Pastors are qualified men of faith and character who live humble before the Lord in public and in private and tend to God's flock by carrying out the responsibilities outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:1-3, and Ephesians 4:11-13.

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The three terms are:

Presbyteros (πρεσβύτερος), translated as "Elder"

Episkopos (ἐπίσκοπος), translated as "Overseer" (or even "Bishop")

Poimen (Ποιμήν), translated as "Pastor" or "Shepherd"

These three terms are used interchangeably throughout the NT to refer to the same office or role in the church.

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1. Pastors are qualified men of faith and character
1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9

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2. Pastors are men who live humble before the Lord in public and private.

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3. Pastors carry out the responsibilities outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:1-2, and Ephesians 4:11.

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Pastors lead, shepherd, oversee, serve, and pray for the members of the congregation.

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1. Pastors lead primarily through preaching and teaching

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2. Pastors shepherd the church from pasture to pasture and when necessary from outside the fold to back inside the fold.

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3. Pastors oversee the church by keeping a close watch on themselves and the lives of the members

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4. Pastors serve the church as examples of Christian maturity in faithfulness, forgiveness, repentance, and the giving and receiving of grace.

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5. Pastors pray for the members of the church on their knees and in person

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Pastors and church members are accountable to the Lord in their relationships with one another.

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As Christians we are brothers and sisters, and we want both men and women to serve the Lord at Harrisburg with joy.

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Throughout the Bible God uses women to lead and to serve Him and the church.

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At Harrisburg we strive to empower men and women to use their gifts for the glory of God and the good of one another. We believe the church thrives when we exercise our gifts in a complementarian partnership.

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At Harrisburg women currently serve on staff as ministers and directors.

At Harrisburg women currently serve as members of committees, Sunday school teachers, and ministry team leaders.

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Appendix I

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Article VI of the Baptist Faith and Message states, "While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."

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The office and title of all positions on staff using the title of pastor are reserved for qualified men as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:1-5. We believe and affirm that the pastor's function as overseer and shepherd of the flock is connected to the role and includes preaching.

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Because preaching is associated with the pastor's office, preaching to the gathered congregation is reserved for men currently on staff as a pastor at HBC and those who meet the qualifications of a pastor (elder) as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:3-7 and Titus 1:1-5.

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The reservation of the role and title of pastor for qualified men is not a denigration or devaluing of women. Instead, it's a matter of faithfulness to Scripture and for the good of the whole body. Harrisburg is in full support of women's role in our church's life, and we are thankful for the many ways our sisters lead and serve the body of Christ.

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According to Scripture, men and women serve alongside one another in the church (1 Corinthians 12). Harrisburg strives to empower and equip men and women to use their gifts for God's glory and one another's good. We believe the church thrives when we exercise our gifts in a complementarian partnership for the praise of His name and the joy of our members.

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1. Be here on 5/24 or 5/31.
2. Be prayerful and patient.
3. Be serious about your relationship with one another.
4. Make joy a goal.
5. Jesus is the Chief-Shepherd.