

# Saddleback Church's woman pastor catches SBC interest

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (BP) – Lead Pastor Andy Wood anticipates that the number of women clergy will grow at multi-campus Saddleback Church based in southern California, something that will certainly heighten the discussion over the congregation and its fellowship with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).



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“Stacie and I are grateful to be called to serve at Saddleback Church,” Andy Wood told Baptist Press. “We are not co-pastors but rather have unique roles on staff. I’m serving as the lead pastor and one of our Saddleback overseers while Stacie is serving as one of our teaching pastors.

“We believe pastoring and teaching are functions and spiritual gifts to be exercised in the church by both men and women. The function of teaching and pastoring is not necessarily synonymous nor exclusive from the office of overseer,” he said.

“While many SBC churches share the same view, we are committed to stay in fellowship and unified with other SBC churches even when we disagree. Saddleback Church has a strong commitment to the authority and inerrancy of the Bible,” Wood said. “We believe this approach is biblical and in alignment with the teachings of the New Testament as well.”



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“Both of us have the responsibility to protect the messengers’ rights, answer the messengers’ questions and implement the messengers’ instructions,” reads the statement issued Nov. 2.



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The Committee on Order of Business referred the motion to the SBC Executive Committee, which is expected to take up the referral at its February 2023 meeting.