

BAPTIST NORTHERN
ASSOCIATION

Constitution and By-Laws

July 2020

STATEMENT OF FAITH

As adopted at the Baptist Northern Association Assembly held in Pretoria, May 2019

1. We believe (1) that the Holy Scriptures consist of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments in their original writing; (2) that the Spirit of God so influenced the authors that these writings are the Word of God; (3) that because of the divine origin and inspiration of its words, the Scriptures are true in all that they affirm and are trustworthy and without error; (4) that these Scriptures are the complete and only written revelation of God to people; (5) that every translation that is faithful to the originals and responsibly interpreted clearly reveals those truths necessary for our salvation, godly living, and maturity in Christ; and (6) that Scripture alone is our sufficient and final authority in all matters of belief and practice.
 - 1) Rom 3:2; Mt 5:18; Lk 24:27; Rev 22:18-19; Deut 4:1-2; Prov 30:5-6
 - 2) 2Pet 1:19-21; Lk 1:70; Acts 1:16; Acts 3:18; Eph 6:17; Heb 3:7
 - 3) Jn 10:35; Jn 17:17; 2Tim 3:16-17; Jn 14:26
 - 4) Mt 24:35; Rom 3:2; Acts 7:38; 1Cor 9:8-10; 1Cor 4:6; Deut 4:1-2; Prov 30:5-6; Rev 22:18-19
 - 5) 2Tim 2:15; 2Pet 3:16; Acts 17:11; 2Pet 1:3-4; Ps 19:7-14
 - 6) Jude 1:3; Lk 16:29-31; Mt 4:1-4; Mk 7:9-13; Rom 15:4

2. We believe (1) in one God who eternally exists in three co-equal persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; (2) that though each divine person is fully and equally God, they differ in relationship towards each other and their work in the world; (3) that this triune God is perfect and infinite in His being and attributes - an all-holy, all-loving, and all-wise Sovereign; (4) that from before creation, God determined to save sinners through the sacrifice of His Son, to govern all history according to His sovereign plan and to finally bring all things under one head, even Christ; and (5) that all things exist from Him, through Him, and for Him, and are created to display the glory of His wonderful Name.
 - 1) Deut 6:4; Isa 46:9; 1Cor 8:6; 1Tim 2:5; Mt 3:16-17; Mt 28:19; Mt 14:16-17; 1Pet 1:1-2; Rev 1:4-6
 - 2) Jn 1:1-3, Jn 3:16; 1Cor 8:6, 1Cor 12:4-5; Gal 4:4-6; Eph 1:3-14; 1Pet 1:1-2
 - 3) 1Tim 6:15-16; Isa 6:3; 1Pet 1:15; Deut 7:9; Ps 86:15; Ps 89:14; Ps 117; Rom 8:37-39; 1Jn 4:16; Rom 11:33-36; 1Tim 1:17; Isa 55:9; Rom 16:27
 - 4) Jn 3:16; Eph 1:4-5, 11, 13; 1Tim 1:15; 2Tim 1:9; Rev 13:8; Gen 50:20; Isa 9:7; Isa 46:8-11; Dan 4:35; Acts 17:26; Eph 1:10
 - 5) Isa 48:11; Rom 11:36; Eph 1:5, 6, 14; Eph 2:7; Rev 5:13

3. We believe (1) that in the beginning God sovereignly created all things visible and invisible and took delight in it all; (2) that He created humankind male and female as his image bearers, endowing each with a dignity of equal worth and calling to govern and care for His creation; (3) that human life is sacred to God and begins at conception, and should not be unnecessarily terminated at any stage; (4) that God created marriage to be an exclusive and lifelong union between a natural man and a natural woman, giving the man the responsibility of loving leadership and the woman the role of compatible support; (5) that the first man Adam sinned and thereby incurred the penalty of death, physical and spiritual, for all people, and as a consequence of

his sin, all humans inherit a sinful nature, which results in actual transgression and personal guilt.

- 1) Col 1:16; Rev 4:11; Gen 1:1, 31
- 2) Gen 1:26-31; Mk 10:6; James 3:9
- 3) Gen 9:6; Ps 119:73; Ps 139:13-16; Jer 1:5; Isa 42:5; Zech 12:1 Lk 1:41
- 4) Gen 2:24; Mal 2:15; Mt 19:5-6; Eph 5:22-24; Eph 5:25-31; Heb 13:4; Lev 18:22; Lev 20:13; Rom 1:26-27; 1Cor 6:9-11
- 5) Gen 3:6-8, 16-19; Gen 6:5; Rom 3:10-19, 23; Rom 5:12,17; Rom 7:9; 1Cor 15:22; Eph 2:3

4. We believe (1) that when the time was right, the eternal Son of God took on human nature, and was made like us in every way, yet without sin; (2) that, after being conceived by the Holy Spirit, He was born of the virgin Mary, was named Jesus (meaning 'God saves'), and from conception was and always will be fully God and fully man in one person; and (3) that He is, therefore, the perfect and only mediator between God and people.

- 1) Jn 1:14; Gal 4:4; Phil 2:5-8; Heb 2:14; Heb 4:15
- 2) Lk 1:31, 35; Mt 1:21; Rom 1:3-4; 1Cor 15:47-48; Col 1:19; Col 2:9
- 3) Eph 2:18; 1Tim 2:5; Heb 9:15; Heb 12:24; 1Jn 2:1

5. We believe (1) that the Lord Jesus Christ lived a sinless life, was perfectly obedient to His Father in every way, and ushered in the promised Kingdom of God in all His words and deeds; (2) that, for the joy set before Him, He offered up Himself as the perfect substitutionary and atoning sacrifice for sinners, (3) triumphing over sin, death, and all the forces of evil, and purchasing for Himself a people out of every tribe, language, and nation; (4) that on the cross the Son of God received in His person the due penalty of God's wrath against our sin, and (5) that His shed blood is the sole basis for our salvation and the greatest revelation of the glory of the grace of our God.

- 1) Isa 53:7-9; 2Cor 5:21; 1Pet 2:22; Heb 4:15; 1Jn 3:5
- 2) Isa 53:5-12; Rom 3:23-25; 2Cor 5:21; Heb 9:14; Heb 12:2; 1Pet 3:18; 1Jn 2:2
- 3) Jn 12:31; 1Cor 15:54-57; Heb 2:14; Heb 9:26; Eph 1:11-14; Col 2:14; 2Tim 1:10; 1 Jn 3:8; Rev 5:9; Rev 7:9
- 4) Isa 53:5-6; Mt 27:45-46; 2Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13; Rom 5:9; Heb 9:14, 22; 1Jn 4:10
- 5) Rom 8:32; Eph 1:5-7; Col 1:14, 20; Heb 9:22; Rev 5:9

6. We believe (1) that the Lord Jesus was crucified, buried, and on the third day was resurrected bodily from the dead and glorified as the first-fruits of God's new creation; (2) that he ascended into heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of the Father as ruler over all things; (3) that He presently intercedes as High Priest and Advocate for all who draw near to God through Him; and (4) that He will return personally, visibly, and gloriously to judge the living and the dead.

- 1) Acts 2:32; Lk 24:39; Jn 20:27; 1Cor 15:17, 23
- 2) 1Cor 15:20; Acts 1:9-11; Eph 1:20-22; 1Tim 3:16; 1Pet 3:22
- 3) Jn 14:16; 1Jn 2:1; Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25
- 4) Mt 24:29-30; Lk 17:24; Acts 1:10-11; 1Thes 4:16; 1Jn 2:28; 2Tim 4:1; 1Pet 4:5; Rev 1:7

7. We believe (1) that the Holy Spirit is the Lord, the giver of life, who formed the world, empowered certain individuals for God's purposes, and who speaks in the Holy Scriptures; (2) that God anointed Jesus Christ with the Spirit for his ministry and that the Spirit was given to the Church at Pentecost to indwell, lead, and unite be-

lievers, gifting each of them for various works of service; (3) that the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, gives understanding of the Word, convicts people of their sin, unites believers to Jesus, and forms the character of Christ within them; and (4) that the Spirit pours the love of God into our hearts, enables prayer and witness, and seals the believer for the day of the redemption of their bodies.

- 1) Rom 8:2; 2Cor 3:6, 17-18; Jn 6:63; Gen 1:2; Job 33:4; Psalm 33:6; Ex 35:30-31; Num 24:2; 1Sam 10:10; 2Sam 23:2; Acts 1:16; Heb 3:7; 2Tim 3:16
- 2) Isa 61:1; Mt 3:16; Lk 4:18; Acts 10:38; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:4; Rom 8:11, 14; Eph 4:3-4, 11, 12; Rom 12:4-7; 1Cor 12:7-11
- 3) Jn 16:8, 13-14; 1Cor 2:9-16; Eph 1:17-18; 2Cor 3:18; Gal 4:19; Gal 5:2-23
- 4) Rom 5:5; Rom 8:26-27; Eph 6:18; Acts 1:8; 2Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13; Eph 4:30

8. We believe (1) that through the call of God in the Gospel message, all who receive Christ Jesus as Saviour and Lord are born again by the Holy Spirit, becoming a new creation in Christ; (2) that through faith in Him, sinners have the forgiveness of sins and are declared righteous on the grounds of His shed blood; (3) that repentance is a condition of this salvation and the first sign of that holiness without which no one will see the Lord; (4) that by virtue of their union with Christ, believers share in all the benefits of grace that are in Him, including the adoption as sons and the gift of the Holy Spirit; and (5) that all who turn from their sin, trusting Christ, may have the assurance that they will be kept and accepted by Him.

- 1) Jn 1:12-13; Jn 3:3, 18; 2Cor 5:17; Jam 1:18; 1Pet 1:23-25
- 2) Lk 18:14; Rom 3:26; Rom 4:5; Rom 5:1-2; Eph 2:13; Phil 3:8
- 3) Lk 19:8-10; Acts 2:38; Mk 1:15; Acts 17:30; 2Cor 7:10-11; 1Jn 1:8-9; Heb 12:14
- 4) Jn 1:16; Eph 1:3, 5; Rom 8:14-17; Gal 4:4-6; Phil 1:19
- 5) Jn 10:27-29; Phil 1:6; 2Thes 3:3

9. We believe (1) that the Church is the whole company of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, reconciled to the Father, and thereby to each other; (2) that this Church is the people of God, the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit, through whom God's purpose in history is made known; (3) that the local church, as a manifestation of the universal Church, is a community of believers in a particular place where God's Word is preached and practiced, the two ordinances are observed, and church discipline is exercised; (4) that in the local church both men and women are called to serve equally, and male headship should be evidenced; and (5) that each local church is ruled by Jesus Christ, governed by its members, led by its shepherds, and served by its deacons.-

- 1) Mt 16:18; Eph 1:22-23; Eph 5:23; Col 1:18; Heb 12:23
- 2) 1Cor 3:16; Eph 1:23; Eph 3:9-10; 1Pet 2:9-10
- 3) Acts 20:28; 1Cor 1:2; Eph 2:18-21; 1Tim 3:15; 2Tim 4:1-5; 1Pet 2:5, 9-10; Mt 28:19-20; 1Cor 11:23-32; Rom 6:1-4; Mt 18:15-20; Gal 6:1-5; Tit 3:10
- 4) Acts 2:17-18; 1Cor 11:5; 1Cor 14:34; 1Tim 2:8-15; 1Pet 3:7; 1Pet 4:10-11
- 5) Acts 6:1-7; Acts 14:23; Acts 15:3-4, 22-28; Acts 20:28; Mt 18:17; Eph 5:23; Phil 1:1; Col 1:18; 1Cor 5:1-13; Tit 1:5-9; 1Tim 3:1-13; 1Pet 5:1-3

10. We believe (1) that the Lord Jesus Christ appointed two ordinances – Baptism and the Lord's Supper – to be observed as acts of obedience and as witnesses to the primary facts of the Christian faith; (2) that Baptism is the immersion of a professing believer in water as a confession of identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection; and (3) that the Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and the cup, signifying our participation in the Saviour's body and shed blood in remembrance of His death until He comes.

- 1) Mt 28:19-20; Mt 3:16; Rom 6:1-4; Gal 3:27; Lk 22:14-20; Acts 2:41-42; 1Cor 10:16; 1Cor 11:23-32
- 2) Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-5; Col 2:12; Gal 3:27
- 3) Mk 14:22-28; 1Cor 10:16; 1Cor 11:23-26

11. We believe (1) that the mission of the Church is to make disciples of all people groups in all places through the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to plant and establish local churches to obey all that Jesus taught the Apostles; (2) that in loving our neighbour as ourselves, compassionately, practically and wisely, we image the love of God to all; and (3) that we should do all this according to the Scriptures, under the shadow of the Cross and in the power of the resurrection.

- 1) Ps 22:27; Ps 67:1-7; Mt 16:8; Mt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 14:22; Eph 4:11-16; Tit 1:5
- 2) Lev 17:18; Lk 10:25-27; Jn 13:35; 2Cor 5:14; Gal 6:9-10
- 3) Mk 8:34-35; Rom 1:4; 1Cor 1:18-23; Eph 1:19-20; Phil 3:10; Jam 2:8

12. We believe (1) in the bodily resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous; (2) that all people will appear before God's judgement seat to receive their due for the things done while in the body; (3) that those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter into eternal life, but the unrighteous into eternal condemnation; and (4) that according to God's promise we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells, when we will forever be with the Lord, and He with us: *Come Lord Jesus, come! Amen.*

- 1) Job 19:25-27; Ps 16:10; Isa 26:19; Dan 12:2; Jn 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; Rom 6:5; 1Thes 4:16-17
- 2) Jn 5:22, 27-29; Mt 16:27; Rom 2:6; 2Cor 5:10; Heb 9:27
- 3) Mt 7:21-23; Mt 13:49-50; Mk 9:45-49; Mk 25:31-46; Rev 13:8; Rev 20:11-15; Rev 21:27
- 4) 1Thes 4:17; 2Pet 3:13; Rev 21:1; Rev 22:20

STATEMENT OF BAPTIST PRINCIPLES

As adopted at the Baptist Northern Association Assembly held in Johannesburg, June 2015

PREAMBLE: We as Baptists share many areas of our faith with other members of the professing Christian Church. These include a belief in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: in the supreme Lordship of Jesus Christ as Head of the Church: and in the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and as the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

There are however areas of principle and practice where we as Baptists make distinctive emphases arising out of our understanding of the Scriptures. It is to clarify these that the following statement is made.

We, as Baptists believe in:

1. The **DIRECT LORDSHIP OF CHRIST** over every believer and over the local church. By this we understand that Christ exercises His authority over the believer and the local Church directly, without delegating it to another.
2. The **CHURCH** as the whole company of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. The local church, being a manifestation of the universal church, is a community of believers in a particular place where the Word of God is preached and observed. It is fully autonomous and remains so notwithstanding responsibilities it may accept by voluntary association.
3. **BELIEVERS BAPTISM** as an act of obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ and a sign of personal repentance, faith and regeneration: it consists of the immersion in water into the name of the Father, son and Holy Spirit.
4. The **CONGREGATIONAL PRINCIPLE**, namely that each member has the privilege and responsibility to use his/her gifts and abilities to participate fully in the life of the Church. We recognise that God gifts His Church with Overseers (who are called Pastors or Elders) whose primary function is to lead in a spirit of servanthood, to equip and provide spiritual oversight, and Deacons whose primary function is to facilitate the smooth functioning of the Church. This principle further recognises that each member should participate in the appointment of the Church's leaders, and that the constituted church meeting, subject to both the direct Lordship of Christ and the authority of Scripture, is the highest court of authority for the local Church.
5. The **PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS**, by which we understand that each Christian has direct access to God through Christ our High Priest, and shares with Him in His work of reconciliation. This involves intercession, worship, faithful service and bearing witness to Jesus Christ, even to the end of the earth.
6. The principle of **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**, namely that no individual should be coerced either by State or by any secular, ecclesiastical or religious group in matters of faith. The right of private conscience is to be respected. For each believer this means the right to interpret the Scriptures responsibly and to act in the light of his conscience.
7. The principle of **SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE** in that, in the providence of God, the two differ in their respective natures and functions. The Church is not to be identified with the State nor is it, in its faith and practice, to be directed or controlled by the State. The State is responsible for administering justice, ensuring an orderly community, and promoting the welfare of its citizens. The Church is responsible for preaching the Gospel and for demonstrating and making known God's will and care for all mankind.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

BAPTIST NORTHERN ASSOCIATION

(Formerly the Transvaal Baptist Association)

1. NAME

The name of the ASSOCIATION shall be: **THE BAPTIST NORTHERN ASSOCIATION** (formerly the Transvaal Baptist Association).

2. DEFINITIONS

In this Constitution and By-Laws of the Association unless inconsistent with the context, all words and expressions indicating the masculine gender shall also include the feminine gender, and the following words and terms shall have the meanings hereafter assigned to them.

AREA CO-ORDINATOR/S shall mean the full time officer/s appointed by the ASSOCIATION to facilitate and co-ordinate the work of the ASSOCIATION.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES shall mean part time/voluntary officers appointed by the REGION to facilitate and coordinate the work of the ASSOCIATION.

ASSEMBLY shall mean the Annual General Meeting of the body constituted under Clause 9.4

ASSOCIATION shall mean The Baptist Northern Association.

CHURCH shall mean a constituted gathered community of Protestant believers which accepts the supreme and final authority of the Lord Jesus Christ in all matters of faith and practice as revealed in the Holy Scripture, observes the two ordinances of Believers Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper, and affirms its adherence to the Declaration of Principle and the Statement of Baptist Principles as set forth in Clauses 4.1 and 4.2 of this Constitution.

DELEGATE shall mean a member of a MEMBER CHURCH appointed as an accredited representative by the said Church in terms of the ASSOCIATION'S Constitution and By-Laws and who has been officially registered as such.

EXECUTIVE shall mean the committee constituted under Clause 10.

FELLOWSHIP shall mean a gathered community of Protestant Believers meeting together for worship, recognised by the ASSOCIATION, but who have not as yet constituted as a CHURCH.

GOOD STANDING shall mean that all obligations to the Association have been fully met.

MEMBER CHURCH shall mean a church in membership with the Baptist Northern Association.

MEMBERS' MEETING shall mean meetings of the ASSOCIATION as defined in Clause 9 of this Constitution.

MINISTRIES COMMITTEES shall mean the Committees appointed by the ASSOCIATION to perform specific ministries.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION shall mean the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Area Co-ordinator/s, all of whom are required to be baptised believers in membership with a MEMBER CHURCH and who have been appointed in terms of the By-Laws.

REGION/S shall mean each of the four provinces, namely, Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North-West Province.

UNION shall mean the Baptist Union of Southern Africa.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

3.1 Composition of Membership

The ASSOCIATION shall comprise:

3.1.1 All existing CHURCHES named in the schedule attached hereto

3.1.2 Such CHURCHES as shall in future be admitted, in terms of the Constitution and By-Laws, to membership by vote of the ASSOCIATION at the Annual General Meeting, after receiving a recommendation from the EXECUTIVE.

3.2 Termination of Membership

3.2.1 Any MEMBER CHURCH whose membership fees are in arrears for more than one year may, after due warning has been given to the said MEMBER CHURCH, be removed from membership by the EXECUTIVE.

3.2.2 The ASSOCIATION shall have the power to remove from Membership any MEMBER CHURCH which by a seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote of the Annual General Meeting is deemed to have ceased to qualify as a member.

3.3 Fellowship Status

The following shall hold Fellowship Status:

3.3.1 All existing FELLOWSHIPS named in the schedule attached hereto.

3.3.2 All such FELLOWSHIPS sponsored directly by the ASSOCIATION or a MEMBER CHURCH which shall, in future, be admitted to Fellowship status in terms of this Constitution and By-laws.

4. DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE

The basis of the ASSOCIATION is:

1. STATEMENT OF FAITH

As adopted at the Baptist Northern Association Assembly held in Pretoria May 2019

2. STATEMENT OF BAPTIST PRINCIPLES

As adopted at the Baptist Northern Association Assembly held in Johannesburg June 2015

5. OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Recognising the autonomy of the local CHURCHES and FELLOWSHIPS and therefore their voluntary participation in the projects and functions which the ASSOCIATION shall agree to pursue, the ASSOCIATION shall seek:

1. to promote and to provide opportunities for Christian fellowship, and to promote unity and brotherly love among the CHURCHES, the pastors and all the Baptists in the area (*Fellowship in Christ*).
2. to provide the opportunity and possibility for the CHURCHES, pastors and people to perform together ministries and services which they would not easily be able to do alone (*Fellowship in ministry*).
3. to seek to provide resources to assist the CHURCHES, the pastors and the members to serve the Lord more effectively (*Fellowship in material possessions*).
4. to provide care, guidance, challenge and vision to the CHURCHES, pastors and members (*Fellowship in care and vision*).
5. to seek to establish, assist and nurture Baptist churches and fellowships in the area (*Fellowship in church planting*).
6. to encourage evangelistic outreach and missionary activity among CHURCHES, FELLOWSHIPS and individual Baptists and thus to advance the Kingdom of God in the ASSOCIATION'S area and further afield (*Fellowship in missions and evangelism*).
7. to assume such functions and responsibilities on behalf of the UNION as may be mutually agreed upon (*Fellowship with other Baptists*).
8. to disseminate Baptist Principles and to advocate religious liberty for all.

6. NATURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The ASSOCIATION shall be a separate juristic body capable of owning property and of being sued in its own name, and capable of perpetual succession.

7. FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. To assume such functions and responsibilities as are agreed upon by the ASSOCIATION.
2. To be available for counsel, assistance or mediation, and if called upon, to help settle disputes in which any MEMBER CHURCH or FELLOWSHIP is involved.
3. For the better implementation of its objects to establish, encourage and administer the work of appropriate MINISTRIES COMMITTEES and to make available or to use the facilities offered by the UNION where applicable.
4. To receive funds from CHURCHES, persons and organisations by way of fees, donations, bequests, dividends, interest or other means, and to disburse or invest such funds as may be directed by the ASSOCIATION.

5. To borrow money with or without security for the purposes of the ASSOCIATION, to pass mortgage or other bonds for registration with the authorities and to guarantee the performance of contracts by MEMBER CHURCHES, in such manner and at such times and on such conditions as the EXECUTIVE may recommend.
6. To lend money and negotiate loans, to give any guarantees for the payment of money or for the performance of any obligation or undertaking of the ASSOCIATION. To receive, purchase, hold, hypothecate, sell, donate, lease, exchange and partition movable and immovable property.
7. To appoint staff to and to dismiss them from such positions as are approved by the ASSOCIATION for the execution of the various functions.
8. To create such Administrative and Ministry Committee Staff posts as are agreed upon by the ASSOCIATION.
9. To raise the finances necessary for the various ministries.
10. To promote the ASSOCIATION'S budgets and the UNION'S needs.
11. To enter into any agreements with the UNION with regard to financial and other matters.
12. To arrange meetings for spiritual encouragement, conference and business.
13. To publish and promote literature as considered necessary.
14. To supervise and co-ordinate the work of the MINISTRY COMMITTEES.
15. To make or amend such By-Laws as it may deem necessary for the proper administration of its business.
16. To do all such other things and to perform all such other acts as may be needful for the fulfilment of its objects.

8. METHOD OF FUNCTIONING

The ASSOCIATION shall function through its MEMBERS MEETINGS in terms of this Constitution and By-Laws.

The EXECUTIVE shall do and act as specifically instructed by the MEMBERS MEETINGS and in accordance with the Constitution of the ASSOCIATION.

9. MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. Persons Eligible to attend and vote at MEMBERS MEETING

Each MEMBER CHURCH shall be entitled to appoint two DELEGATES for the first one hundred members or part thereof and one DELEGATE for each additional one hundred members or part thereof up to a maximum of four DELEGATES per CHURCH.

2. Persons having the right to attend MEMBERS MEETINGS

The following persons shall have the right to attend the MEMBERS MEETINGS, and with the consent of the Chairman, participate in discussion but without the right to vote:

1. Past Chairmen, resident in the ASSOCIATION'S area and in active membership with a MEMBER CHURCH.

2. One representative from each of the recognised FELLOWSHIPS.
3. Those persons on the Ministry Lists of the UNION, living in the ASSOCIATION'S area.
4. EXECUTIVE members who are not appointed as DELEGATES under 11.1
5. The AREA CO-ORDINATOR/S or other employees of the ASSOCIATION.

3. Frequency of MEMBERS MEETINGS

MEMBERS MEETINGS shall be held at least once every four months. The EXECUTIVE may at any time call an extraordinary MEMBERS MEETING.

4. The ASSEMBLY (The Annual General Meeting)

This shall coincide with the MEMBERS MEETING held in the second quarter of each calendar year.

5. Quorum

A quorum for a MEMBERS MEETING shall be twenty percent (20%) of the MEMBER CHURCHES.

10. THE EXECUTIVE

1. Membership

The membership of the EXECUTIVE shall comprise:

2. The OFFICERS of the ASSOCIATION

3. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES from each of the REGIONS, proportional to the number of MEMBER CHURCHES in each province, a minimum of one and a maximum of four members per REGION, to a maximum of eight.
4. Such other members, not exceeding two in number, as may be co-opted by vote of three-fourths of the EXECUTIVE members present at the meeting dealing therewith. Such co-option shall extend to the next Annual General Meeting of the ASSOCIATION. Such co-option powers may be used to ensure that the EXECUTIVE represents the total constituency of the ASSOCIATION.

2. Right to attend EXECUTIVE meetings

The following persons shall have the right to attend the EXECUTIVE meetings, and with the consent of the Chairman, to participate in discussion but without the right to vote:

1. One person appointed by each MINISTRY COMMITTEE.
2. Confidential Consultant.

3. Qualifications for service on the EXECUTIVE

Each member of the EXECUTIVE shall be a baptised believer in membership with a MEMBER CHURCH or FELLOWSHIP.

4. Meetings of the EXECUTIVE

The EXECUTIVE shall meet prior to each MEMBERS MEETING and at such other times as it may deem necessary in order to carry out tasks entrusted to it by the ASSOCIATION.

5. Quorum

The Quorum for an EXECUTIVE meeting shall be seventy-five percent (75%) of the membership.

6. Powers

The EXECUTIVE shall carry out its functions as generally and specifically directed by the ASSOCIATION.

7. Removal of Members

A member of the EXECUTIVE may be removed by a 90% vote of those present at an EXECUTIVE meeting.

11. MINISTRY COMMITTEES

1. The ASSOCIATION shall appoint at its ASSEMBLY such MINISTRY COMMITTEES as it may deem expedient.
2. The MINISTRY COMMITTEES shall carry out their functions in accordance with Terms of Reference approved by the ASSOCIATION and as generally and specifically directed by the EXECUTIVE.
3. Such MINISTRY COMMITTEES shall act within the scope of their Terms of Reference as approved by the ASSOCIATION.
4. The OFFICERS shall, ex-officio, be members of each MINISTRY COMMITTEE.

12. IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

1. All immovable property of the ASSOCIATION shall be registered in the name of the Trustees of the ASSOCIATION.
2. The Trustees of the ASSOCIATION shall be the Trustees for the time being of the Baptist Union of Southern Africa.
3. A register of all immovable property shall be maintained by the EXECUTIVE,

13. AUTHENTICATION OF DOCUMENTS

The Secretary of the ASSOCIATION, or his Deputy, is authorised to issue under his signature any certified copies of, or extracts from the Constitution and By-Laws of the ASSOCIATION, or of minutes of MEMBERS MEETINGS or of the EXECUTIVE, to which full faith and credence shall be given.

14. AFFILIATION TO THE BAPTIST UNION

1. The ASSOCIATION shall remain in membership with the UNION and may act on its behalf when requested to do so.
2. The EXECUTIVE shall appoint its Representative/s to serve on the Executive of the UNION for such period as the ASSOCIATION may decide.

3. The EXECUTIVE is empowered to fill any vacancy in its representation on the Executive of the UNION for any unexpired period of office or to appoint an alternate Representative if a regular Representative is unable to attend.

15. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

1. Alterations to the Constitution shall only be made at the ASSEMBLY. Six months notice in writing shall be given to the Secretary of any proposed alteration. Alterations shall be effected by a two-thirds majority of those present.
2. Notice of proposed amendments shall be given to MEMBER CHURCHES and members of the EXECUTIVE at least 60 days prior to the ASSEMBLY.

16. DISSOLUTION

1. The dissolution of the ASSOCIATION may be effected by the two-thirds majority vote of members present at a MEMBERS MEETING.
2. In the event of such dissolution, the EXECUTIVE is hereby empowered to take the necessary steps to wind up the affairs of the ASSOCIATION, and in particular to transfer the immovable property and other assets in due and proper form to the Baptist Union of Southern Africa.
3. In the event of the EXECUTIVE not being in operation, the ASSOCIATION shall appoint and authorise any other person or persons to comply with the requirements of 16.2.
4. In the event of the ASSOCIATION at any time ceasing to exist, all acquired funds, assets, property or rights to property at such time shall ipso facto vest in and become the property at the Baptist Union of Southern Africa, which shall hold, administer or deal with it in such manner as the said Union through its executive Committee may deem best fitted to secure the objects in Clause 5.

BAPTIST NORTHERN ASSOCIATION

BY-LAWS

1. DEFINITIONS

The definitions which apply to the Constitution shall apply mutatis mutandis to these By-Laws.

2. RELATIONSHIP OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Where applicable, the By-laws shall be read with the Constitution and shall not be inconsistent therewith. In the event of any inconsistency, the text of the Constitution shall take precedence over that of the By-Laws.

3. ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

The following criteria and procedures shall be followed by the EXECUTIVE when receiving and considering applications from any CHURCH for membership of the ASSOCIATION, with a view to recommending acceptance by a MEMBERS MEETING.

1. CRITERIA

The EXECUTIVE shall satisfy itself:

1. that the CHURCH is autonomous and as such is free to manage its own affairs in terms of its own adopted constitution.
2. that the Statement of belief, Declaration of Principle and the Statement of Baptist Principles of the CHURCH are in accord with the statements of the ASSOCIATION.
3. that the government of the CHURCH conforms to Baptist Principles and is acceptable to the ASSOCIATION.
4. that the CHURCH is meeting in an area where there is no other Baptist witness, or if there is another Baptist witness in the area, that the area warrants the establishment of a further CHURCH.
5. That the CHURCH is numerically strong enough to maintain a viable Baptist CHURCH.
6. that the CHURCH desires and is likely to play a full part in the local ASSOCIATION and UNION activities.
7. that in the present membership there are leaders who are experienced in Baptist Churchmanship and principles of Baptist church administration.

2. PROCEDURE

1. The applying CHURCH shall submit the following documentation to the Secretary of the ASSOCIATION at least three months prior to the ASSEMBLY:

1. A completed Application for Membership form.
2. Statistics of average church attendance over the last twelve months.
3. Two copies of its Constitution.
4. Income and Expenditure Statements and a Balance sheet for its last completed financial year.
5. A letter of recommendation from a MEMBER CHURCH commenting on the above criteria.
2. A sub-committee appointed by the EXECUTIVE shall process the application, and if possible visit the applicant CHURCH. The sub-committee shall make their recommendation with comments to the EXECUTIVE.
3. When the EXECUTIVE is satisfied that the applicant CHURCH conforms to the criteria laid down, the application shall be recommended to a MEMBERS MEETING for final acceptance.

4. RECOGNITION OF FELLOWSHIPS

A Baptist Fellowship which wishes to have links with the ASSOCIATION may apply for FELLOWSHIP status.

1. CRITERIA FOR THE RECOGNITION OF FELLOWSHIPS

The EXECUTIVE shall satisfy itself that

1. the FELLOWSHIP is meeting in an area where there is no other Baptist witness, or if there is another Baptist witness in the area, that the area warrants the establishment of a further Baptist witness
2. the FELLOWSHIP meets on a regular basis
3. the FELLOWSHIP attends ASSOCIATION functions and contributes to the ASSOCIATION'S budget
4. the FELLOWSHIP has the potential and aim of becoming a member church.

2. PROCEDURE

The procedure to be followed in recognising a FELLOWSHIP is:

1. The FELLOWSHIP shall submit a completed application form, supply the information required and if possible submit a letter of recommendation from a MEMBER CHURCH at least three months prior to the MEMBERS MEETING to the Secretary of the ASSOCIATION.
2. A sub-committee, appointed by the EXECUTIVE shall consider the Application and make recommendations with comments to the EXECUTIVE.
3. When the EXECUTIVE is satisfied that the FELLOWSHIP meets the criteria which has been laid down the application for recognition shall be recommended to a MEMBERS' MEETING for acceptance.

5. MEMBERS' MEETINGS

1. The ASSOCIATION shall meet at least once every four months, possibly in different locations, with a common shared agenda. The EXECUTIVE may, at any time, call a special MEMBERS' MEETING giving adequate (at least

two full weeks) notice of such meeting in writing to all member churches. Meetings shall be notified in writing by means of SMS / Email/Postal or any other means deemed "adequate".

2. The MEMBERS' MEETINGS shall review the ongoing work of the ASSOCIATION, the appointed staff and the MINISTRY COMMITTEES
3. The MEMBERS' MEETINGS shall also provide opportunity for fellowship, mutual encouragement, challenge and motivation.
4. In the case of an emergency arising between ASSEMBLIES the ASSOCIATION at a MEMBERS' MEETING may perform all such acts, handle such matters, sign and execute such deeds and documents, as it may deem necessary, in the interests of the ASSOCIATION. Any resolution passed pursuant to the powers hereby vested in the MEMBERS MEETING shall be deemed to be a resolution of the ASSEMBLY. Any action thus taken shall be reported to the next ASSEMBLY.

6. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

1. Notice of the ASSEMBLY of the ASSOCIATION shall be sent to MEMBER CHURCHES at least 60 days prior to the date of meeting.
2. Notice of other MEMBERS MEETINGS shall be sent to MEMBER CHURCHES at least 30 days prior to the date of meeting.
3. Failure of any MEMBER CHURCH to receive notice will not invalidate the proceedings.

7. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES TO MEMBERS MEETINGS

1. The Secretary shall recommend to MEMBER CHURCHES that the appointment of DELEGATES be made for a period of twelve months commencing with the ASSEMBLY.
2. All DELEGATES to the ASSEMBLY shall register, on the forms provided for that purpose, by the Secretary. DELEGATES shall submit the forms together with registration fees before the date set annually by the EXECUTIVE.

8. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AT MEMBERS' MEETINGS

1. The Chairman of the ASSOCIATION shall enter upon his office at the opening session of the ASSEMBLY and shall thereafter preside at all sessions thereof. In the event of his failing to take the chair the Vice Chairman shall do so, failing which, a Chairperson shall be elected by the ASSEMBLY. The Chairperson shall have a deliberative vote only.
2. Unless otherwise herein provided, voting on all matters shall be by show of hands subject to the right of any ten members to demand a ballot.
3. Matters for discussion shall be announced on the Agenda sent with the Notice of the Meeting to all MEMBER CHURCHES.
4. Notices of motion shall be submitted to the Secretary of the ASSOCIATION in writing, signed by the proposer and seconder, at least thirty days prior to the MEMBERS MEETING. Proposals contained in these notices, together with any proposals then available from the EXECUTIVE, shall be sent to MEMBER CHURCHES at least 21 days prior to the MEMBERS' MEETING.

5. Notwithstanding the above, the EXECUTIVE shall have full right at any time to bring a proposal to a MEMBERS' MEETING.
6. A motion for which due notice, as required in 8.3 above, has not been given may be considered upon the unanimous permission of the MEMBERS' MEETING. If however, the matter introduced without the notice of motion is deemed by the MEMBERS' MEETING to be a major matter, no vote shall be taken.
7. Any matter brought forward without prior notice (either by Notice of motion or in the Announcement of the meeting) shall require a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the DELEGATES present and voting in order to carry the motion. If the motion is lost the matter may be carried forward to a subsequent meeting when, provided that the matter is placed on the Agenda for that meeting, the matter may be decided by a simple majority.
8. The ASSEMBLY or any MEMBERS' MEETING may, in order to facilitate specific business, appoint Committees to deal therewith. The Conveners and quorum of committees shall be fixed by the relevant meeting. Each Committee shall elect its own Chairperson and minutes of business shall be recorded and upon a majority vote of the MEMBERS' MEETING be made available for use in that or other Meeting. Reports of each Committee shall be submitted in writing and be signed by the Chairperson of the Committee.
9. The ASSEMBLY shall be held in the second quarter of the ASSOCIATION year.
10. Resolutions of the ASSEMBLY and of MEMBERS' MEETINGS shall be executed by the EXECUTIVE unless the Meeting directs otherwise.

9. **THE APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS TO THE EXECUTIVE**

1. Nominations for Secretary and Treasurer shall be called for from both CHURCHES and REGIONS, to be elected at the ASSEMBLY. Voting shall take place according to point 10 of the By-Laws.
2. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES/S to the EXECUTIVE shall be nominated from within each REGION.
3. Where a REGION does not nominate its REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE/S these may be appointed by the EXECUTIVE. Failure to nominate a representative by a region will be regarded as the REGION giving the right to the EXECUTIVE for such appointment.
4. The names of the REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES will be brought to the ASSEMBLY for ratification. Voting shall take place according to point 10 of the By-Laws.
5. The EXECUTIVE shall nominate, vote on and appoint from its own number a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Vice-Chairman shall assume the responsibilities of the Chairman in the absence of a Chairman.
6. The names of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be presented to the first MEMBERS MEETING after the ASSEMBLY for ratification. Voting shall take place according to point 10 of the By-Laws.

7. OFFICERS of the EXECUTIVE shall serve for a period of two years, but may be eligible for nomination for re-election for further one-year consecutive periods.
8. The ASSEMBLY shall appoint annually an Honorary Auditor to examine the Accounts and to provide an audited statement.
9. Any unfilled position in the EXECUTIVE may be filled by the EXECUTIVE between ASSEMBLIES.

10. THE APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

1. The objects of the REGION are the objects of the ASSOCIATION as stipulated under point 7 of the Constitution.
2. Each REGION shall appoint its own OFFICERS, and present the names of its REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES to the EXECUTIVE 60 days prior to the ASSEMBLY so that these names may be presented to the CHURCHES in the notice of the ASSEMBLY, 30 days prior to the ASSEMBLY.
3. OFFICERS of the REGION shall serve for a period of two years.
4. The number of REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES to the EXECUTIVE are appointed as per point 12.1 of the Constitution.
5. Each REGION shall comprise representatives of fraternalists, which in turn may nominate REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES for each REGION.

11. QUORUM

1. EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

A QUORUM shall consist of at least fifty percent (50%) of the members.

2. MEMBERS MEETINGS

A QUORUM at MEMBERS' MEETINGS shall consist of representatives from at least twenty (20)% of the members of the ASSOCIATION. In the event of a meeting taking place in different locations, the quorum shall be determined by the total number of representatives present at the different venues.

3. NO QUORUM PRESENT

In the event of there not being a QUORUM present at any meeting, the meeting shall be postponed for a period of at least three weeks. All concerned shall be informed, in writing, of the date and place of the postponed meeting.

The meeting then convened shall be held whether there is a QUORUM present or not. The decisions then taken shall be binding..

12. VOTING

1. For the election of officers, elected members on the EXECUTIVE and staff and for decisions on all other matters, unless otherwise required by the Constitution or By-Laws, a majority of the votes cast shall be required.
2. Voting shall normally be by show of hands. Voting for persons to an office shall be by ballot.

3. On the request of at least ten (10) members at a MEMBERS' MEETING or at least four(4) at an EXECUTIVE meeting the voting shall be by ballot.

13. EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

1. The Chairman of the ASSOCIATION shall chair all EXECUTIVE meetings and shall have a deliberative vote only. In the event of the Chairman failing to take the chair the Vice-Chairman shall do so, failing which, a Chairperson shall be elected by the EXECUTIVE.
2. Any member who fails to attend two consecutive meetings, without reasons deemed satisfactory by the EXECUTIVE, shall forfeit membership of the EXECUTIVE.
3. On the requisition of at least 50% of the EXECUTIVE the Secretary shall summon an EXECUTIVE meeting by notice setting forth the business to be transacted.

14. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Without derogation from the Executive powers conferred by the Constitution, the EXECUTIVE shall:

1. Prepare the business and arrange the agenda of the MEMBERS' MEETINGS.
2. Prepare and present to the ASSEMBLY audited financial statements.
3. Investigate and prepare recommendations for the consideration of the MEMBERS' MEETINGS, such plans and projects as shall further the attainment of the objects of the ASSOCIATION.
4. Take such initial steps for the formation of CHURCHES as it may deem necessary.
5. Take such steps, as the ASSOCIATION may deem necessary for the better fulfilment of its objects as defined in the Constitution.
6. Have the right, in order to facilitate specific business, to appoint Committees to deal therewith.
The Conveners and quorum of such Committees shall be fixed by the EXECUTIVE. Each Committee shall elect its own Chairperson (if not appointed by the EXECUTIVE). Minutes of business shall be recorded and upon a majority vote of the EXECUTIVE be available for use in the EXECUTIVE. Reports of such Committee shall be submitted in writing and signed by the Chairperson.
7. Shall meet prior to each MEMBERS' meeting and at such other times as it may deem necessary in order to carry out tasks entrusted to it by the ASSOCIATION.
8. Appoint arbitrators or advisers for the settlement of differences submitted by the MEMBERS.

15. FINANCE

1. The ASSOCIATION shall raise its funds for the execution of its work by CHURCH contributions, collections at public meetings, membership fees, donations, legacies and by any other means decided upon by the ASSOCIATION.

2. It is desired and expected that, in addition to membership fees, every MEMBER CHURCH and FELLOWSHIP will contribute voluntarily regular sums towards the general revenue of the ASSOCIATION. It is further expected that they will notify the Treasurer before the commencement of the New Financial Year the amount which they are willing to contribute during the ensuing year.
3. Membership fees shall from time to time be fixed by the ASSOCIATION at the ASSEMBLY. Accounts for membership fees shall be sent to CHURCHES annually.
4. The ASSOCIATION shall administer its funds through its EXECUTIVE.
5. The Treasurer shall present a financial report to each EXECUTIVE meeting and to each MEMBERS' MEETING. He shall present to the ASSEMBLY an audited statement of accounts and a balance sheet.
6. The financial year of the ASSOCIATION shall coincide with the calendar year.
7. All membership fees shall become payable at the commencement of the financial year.
8. All DELEGATES to the ASSEMBLY shall pay a registration fee as determined by the EXECUTIVE. Such payments shall accompany the registration forms required under By-Law 7.2
9. The Annual Budget shall be accepted by the MEMBERS' meeting immediately preceding the new financial year.
10. To assist the Treasurer and EXECUTIVE in preparing the proposed budget each MINISTRY COMMITTEE shall present a proposed annual budget for its ministry at least six months prior to the commencement of the financial year.

16. MINISTRY COMMITTEES

Specialized ministries of the ASSOCIATION shall be promoted through and operated by such MINISTRY COMMITTEES as the ASSOCIATION shall appoint, from time to time.

1. MEMBERSHIP

1. The OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION shall ex-officio be members of each MINISTRY committee.
2. The ASSOCIATION shall appoint at its ASSEMBLY as many other persons as it feels necessary for the proper functioning of the Committee. Each MINISTRY COMMITTEE may nominate to the ASSEMBLY persons to serve on the committee. Should a vacancy occur in the membership the Committee may fill the vacancy. The new member shall hold office until the next ASSEMBLY.

2. OFFICERS

Each Committee shall appoint a Chairperson and Secretary and if necessary a Treasurer from among its own members.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Each committee shall work according to Terms of Reference accepted by the ASSOCIATION.

4. MEETINGS

1. Each committee shall meet as often as necessary for the efficient implementation of its objectives.
2. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings and copies of minutes shall be sent to all Committee members and to the Secretary of the ASSOCIATION.

5. FINANCES

1. Each MINISTRY COMMITTEE shall present a proposed annual budget to the ASSOCIATION Treasurer.
2. No committee may raise funds or commit the funds of the ASSOCIATION without prior permission from the EXECUTIVE.

6. FUNCTIONING

Each MINISTRY COMMITTEE shall:

1. be responsible to the ASSOCIATION through its MEMBERS' MEETINGS and EXECUTIVE.
2. where possible, work through and together with the corresponding department within the UNION, where such committee exists.
3. avoid, where possible, duplicating the work being done by other committees of the ASSOCIATION.
4. survey and investigate needs, set priorities and plan strategies.
5. after approval of the project, by a MEMBER'S MEETING on the recommendation of the EXECUTIVE, undertake and develop the project within the parameters laid down by the MEMBER'S MEETING.
6. report to each meeting of the EXECUTIVE, to each MEMBER'S MEETING and to the ASSEMBLY.

17. STAFF

1. CREATION OF NEW POSTS

1. Recommendations for the creation of new posts shall be made by the EXECUTIVE to a MEMBER'S MEETING. Such recommendations shall include a full position guide, the financial implications and a clear motivation for the appointment. The recommendation should carry the approval of the appropriate MINISTRY COMMITTEE, if applicable.
2. A post may be created only when a seventy-five percent (75%) vote has been obtained.

2. APPOINTMENT TO POSTS

1. AREA CO-ORDINATORS shall be appointed in accordance with Clause 18 of the By-Laws.
2. Nominations for the filling of other vacant posts shall be brought to a MEMBER'S MEETING by the EXECUTIVE, after consultation with the appropriate committee, where applicable.

3. A MEMBER'S MEETING shall make the appointment by a majority vote of those present and eligible to vote.

3. TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

The following provisions shall apply to all staff members, including AREA CO-ORDINATOR/S.

1. Staff members shall be appointed for a period of three years. The position guide and the appointment shall be re-evaluated at the end of the three year period. The same incumbent may be re-appointed for a further three year period.
2. Any engagement between the ASSOCIATION and staff shall be terminable by three months' notice on either side, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.
3. The terms of service shall be negotiated between the appointee and the EXECUTIVE and shall be set out in the Letter of Appointment.
4. The Appointee shall subscribe fully to the Declaration of Principle, the Statement of Faith, the Statement on Baptist Principles and Objects of the ASSOCIATION as set out in the Constitution.
5. In the event of a member of staff behaving in a manner, considered by the ASSOCIATION, to be prejudicial to its good name or interests the ASSOCIATION shall have the right of dismissal without notice.

18. AREA CO-ORDINATOR

1. APPOINTMENT

In the event of the need to appoint an AREA CO-ORDINATOR the following procedure shall be followed:

1. The EXECUTIVE shall research the needs of the ASSOCIATION. They shall invite comments and suggestions from the MEMBER CHURCHES. They shall bring recommendations to a MEMBERS' MEETING concerning the type of person needed in the ASSOCIATION at the time.
2. The MEMBERS' MEETING shall elect four persons to a search and nominating Committee.
The EXECUTIVE shall appoint a further four persons to that committee. The committee shall appoint its own chairman from among the persons so appointed.
3. The search Committee shall invite comments and nominations from the EXECUTIVE and from MEMBER CHURCHES. They shall have the right to initiate other nominations.
4. The Committee shall bring a suitable name to a MEMBERS' MEETING. The name shall be advised to the Churches at least 21 (twenty-one) days prior to the meeting at which the matter is to be discussed.
5. The invitation shall be issued only if a seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote is obtained. The appointment shall be made by the ASSOCIATION.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

The AREA CO-ORDINATOR/S shall:

1. be responsible to the ASSOCIATION through the EXECUTIVE.
2. seek to maintain strong liaison with the CHURCHES and FELLOWSHIPS and seek to nurture their spiritual health and growth.
3. seek to build and maintain strong and meaningful relationships with the REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.
4. seek to assist the REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES to develop and implement visions and ministries which have been accepted and to encourage training and fellowship in the REGIONS.
5. when requested to do so, act as a confidential consultant or mediator in local church affairs.
6. seek to encourage the CHURCHES and FELLOWSHIPS to be actively involved in their fraternals, in ASSOCIATION and UNION activities.
7. seek to be a pastor to the pastors, caring for and nurturing them, through the REGIONS and structures. He should be available to counsel with manse families.
8. maintain contact with the MINISTRY COMMITTEES. This does not necessarily mean that he must attend all meetings of the committees but that he receive minutes and be informed of all projects and programmes. He shall not serve as Chairman or Secretary of any of the Committees.
9. maintain close contact with all ASSOCIATION staff.
10. be subject to the Executive and work closely with the Executive, seeking to carry out the decisions of the EXECUTIVE, in order to facilitate the objects of the ASSOCIATION as stipulated in the Constitution under point 5."
11. supervise the work of the staff of the ASSOCIATION, in consultation with the relevant MINISTRY COMMITTEE, if applicable.
12. appoint and dismiss office staff in consultation with the EXECUTIVE.
13. supervise the activities of the office staff.
14. accept responsibilities outside the ASSOCIATION only after having received the permission of the EXECUTIVE.

19. CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTANT

1. APPOINTMENT

The Confidential Consultant is appointed by the ASSEMBLY.

2. DUTIES

The Confidential Consultant shall be available to CHURCHES, FELLOWSHIPS, MINISTRY COMMITTEES, pastors and staff members for consultation and arbitration in any disputes or problems.

20. ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATION ON THE UNION EXECUTIVE

1. The number of representatives shall be determined by the UNION from time to time.
2. The representatives shall be elected, from EXECUTIVE members, by the ASSEMBLY for a period of two years and shall be eligible for re-election for a further period of two years.

Thereafter a period of two years must elapse before such person becomes eligible for election again.

3. In the event of a representative resigning or leaving the territorial area the EXECUTIVE shall appoint another EXECUTIVE member to serve until the next ASSEMBLY.
4. In the event of a representative, who has served only one year on the UNION Executive, not being re-appointed to the EXECUTIVE the ASSEMBLY shall appoint another EXECUTIVE member to serve for two years.

21. ASSOCIATION YEAR

The ASSOCIATION year shall end on 31 December. All reports presented to the ASSEMBLY shall cover the twelve months terminating on that date.

22. INDEMNITY

1. All office bearers shall be indemnified by the ASSOCIATION against losses, expenditure or debts suffered by reason of the execution of their duties provided that such losses, expenditure or debt are not due to their own dishonesty, wilful act or default.
2. Office bearers or members of the ASSOCIATION shall not be responsible for the action, negligence, default or loss which the ASSOCIATION may suffer in any way whatsoever, unless such action, negligence, default or loss occurred as a direct result of their dishonesty, wilful act or default.

23. SUBMISSION OF DIFFERENCES AND DISPUTES

1. It is desired and expected that MEMBER CHURCHES of the ASSOCIATION shall submit all such differences, which tend to create divisions, to the EXECUTIVE for arbitration and shall abide by the award therein subject to a right of appeal to the next MEMBERS' MEETING.
2. All MEMBER CHURCHES, FELLOWSHIPS, MINISTRY COMMITTEES, staff and other workers of the ASSOCIATION shall undertake not to resort to the Courts of Law in cases of dispute between themselves or with the ASSOCIATION.
3. The services of the Confidential Consultant or the AREA CO-ORDINATOR/S or other persons should be used to settle disputes.

24. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

1. No OFFICER, AREA CO-ORDINATOR, EXECUTIVE member, MEMBER CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP or pastor may make public statements on behalf of the ASSOCIATION.
2. Only the Chairman or Secretary, after consultation with the OFFICERS, are authorised to make such statements on behalf of the ASSOCIATION.

3. Such statements do not necessarily express the views of the MEMBER CHURCHES.

26. ALTERATION OF BY-LAWS

Amendments to these By-Laws shall be effected by resolution of a MEMBERS' MEETING in pursuance of a notice of motion submitted to all MEMBER CHURCHES, in writing, at least one month prior to the said MEMBERS' MEETING.

To alter a By-Law a majority vote of those present and eligible to vote is needed.

Signed



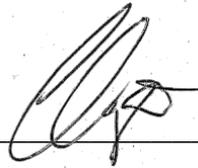
Chairman



Treasurer



Secretary



Area-Co-Ordinator Lance Laughton

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 25 February 2013 A fully constituted Members Meeting held at Baptist House brought changes to Clause 18.2.10. This clause was changed to read as follows: be subject to the Executive and work closely with the Executive, seeking to carry out the decisions of the EXECUTIVE, in order to facilitate the objects of the ASSOCIATION as stipulated in the Constitution under Clause 5.
- 6 June 2015 At an Annual General Meeting held at Baptist House changes were made to the Statement of Faith, Baptist Principles, Constitution and By-Laws.
- 19 June 2017 At this Annual General Meeting held at Eastside Baptist Church Pretoria, the period of service of Executive members was modified from one year to two years.
- 20 May 2019 At an Annual General Meeting held at Central Baptist Church Pretoria, the "2017 Statement of Belief" was accepted as our own.