

# **BYE-LAWS OF THE NORTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**Agreed at the NBA AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

## **1. NAME**

'THE NORTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION' The Association shall be a member Association of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

The Baptist Churches who are now in membership and others who apply for membership being admitted in accordance with the Articles and the Bye-Laws of the Association.

## **3. ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP**

Application shall be made in writing to the Regional Minister Team Leader, who shall submit it to the Council. Following consideration by the Council, the application shall be submitted to a General Meeting in accordance with the Articles of Association. Admission shall not be granted without general assent to the Memorandum of Association of the Northern Baptist Association, the Articles of Association of the Northern Baptist Association and the Bye Laws of the Northern Baptist Association which includes the Baptist Union of Great Britain's Declaration of Principle.

## **4. WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP**

A church considering withdrawal shall notify the Regional Minister Team Leader. The Council shall appoint representatives to meet the church. If withdrawal is decided upon, a copy of the church resolution, signed by its officers, shall be sent to the Regional Minister Team Leader. This shall be presented to a General Meeting.

## **5. GENERAL MEETINGS**

5.1 General Meetings shall be convened and regulated as set out in the Articles of Association.

5.2 The Council of the Association shall decide what items (other than those matters regulated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association) shall be placed on the agenda of a General Meeting.

5.3 Member churches wishing to place matters upon the agenda of a General Meeting shall notify the Moderator, in writing, at least two months prior to the date of a meeting.

5.4 No business shall be transacted at a General Meeting other than the business which;

a) is indicated on the agenda, or

b) in the opinion of the Moderator is of great importance and urgency.

## **6. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

6.1 a) In accordance with the number of vacancies, up to twelve Council Members shall be elected by ballot of representatives at the Annual General Meeting of the Association from the nominees submitted by member churches or the Council in accordance with Bye Law 6.7.

- b) The Council shall provide guidance notes to maintain as far as reasonably possible a balance between male, female, lay, ordained, ethnic and other groups represented in member Churches. In submitting its own nominees Council shall take serious cognisance of the need for appropriate balance of representation.
  - c) In accordance with the number of vacancies, the candidate(s) receiving the highest number of votes shall be deemed to have been elected. In the event of a tied vote for the last or only appointment a further ballot will take place at that meeting between those who have tied. Should there be a further tied result then the Moderator shall have a casting vote which shall be final.
- 6.2 Council members so appointed shall serve initially for a period of three years, and be eligible for re-election, subject to a maximum of six consecutive years. Following a break of one year they will be eligible for re-election.
- 6.3 The appointment shall take effect for a term commencing at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- 6.4 Any vacancy occurring in the appointed members of Council shall be filled by the Council and the person filling that vacancy shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting. The vacancy shall then be filled at that Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- 6.5 In addition Council may have the following;
- a) Up to four Co-opted members to provide balance of lay, ordained, experience, age, gender, and ethnic origin, and the church size and geographic location of the member churches.
  - b) Up to three co-opted members from the Association's representatives on the Baptist Union Council.
- 6.6 Council members so co-opted shall serve for one year and be eligible for further co-option.
- 6.7 Written nominations for Council members from member churches will be invited annually and must be submitted not later than two months before the Annual General Meeting of the Assembly.
- 6.8 Council may invite observers to attend its meetings

## **7 APPOINTMENT OF MODERATOR**

- 7.1 Council shall elect by ballot from its membership a Moderator to serve for the rest of the person's term on the Council. The Moderator elected may serve for a maximum of six consecutive years. Following a break of one year the person will be eligible for re-election.
- 7.2 Nominations from Council members shall be given in writing to the Regional Minister Team Leader not later than one month before the ballot is due.

## **8. TREASURER, BMS REPRESENTATIVE AND HOME MISSION REPRESENTATIVE**

- 8.1 The Treasurer, nominated by Council, shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting.

- 8.2 The Baptist Missionary Society representative, nominated by Council, shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting. This person will be appointed with two additional representatives to the BMS World Mission Council of Reference and nominated by Council as appropriate.
- 8.3 The Home Mission representative, nominated by Council, shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting.
- 8.4 In the event of a vacancy arising, the Treasurer, the BMS representative and additional representatives or the Home Mission co-ordinator may be appointed by the Council until the next Annual General Meeting.

**9. REGIONAL MINISTERS**

- 9.1 The Council in consultation with the Baptist Union of Great Britain shall appoint a nominating body to prepare job specifications, terms and conditions of service for the appointment of Regional Ministers and to nominate persons for such appointments.
- 9.2 The appointment of Regional Ministers shall be made by resolution of a General Meeting supported by three-fourths of those present and voting.

**10. FINANCE AND STATISTICS**

- 10.1 The financial and statistical year shall end on 31st December.
- 10.2 Each church shall contribute towards General Meeting expenses a fee for each representative, the amount to be decided annually by the Council.
- 10.3 Each church shall return to the Baptist Union of Great Britain and/or Association), not later than the end of January, a statement of its membership at the previous year's end, and other such details as may be stipulated by the Council.

**11. ALTERATIONS TO THE BYE-LAWS**

- 11.1 Notice of proposed alterations shall be presented to a meeting of Council. Proposed alterations shall be circulated to member churches, inviting their comments, not later than six months before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Three months shall be allowed for comments, after which the Council shall prepare final proposals for circulation to the churches.
- d) Alterations must be approved by a resolution of a General Meeting of the Association supported by 75% of those representatives present and voting.

## Appendix 1

### **THE BAPTIST UNION'S DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE**

The basis of the Union is:

- a. That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His Laws.
- b. That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who "died for our sins according to the Scriptures; was buried and rose again the third day".
- c. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.

## Appendix 2

The following is the historic Statement of Doctrine of the NBA

### **THE NORTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION'S STATEMENT OF DOCTRINE**

- a. The divine and full inspiration and authority of the Holy Scripture in all its parts, as the supreme and sufficient rule of faith and practice; and the right and duty of individual judgement in the interpretation of it.
- b. The unity of the Godhead, and the personality of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- c. The fall and sinful state of humanity.
- d. The vicarious sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- e. The justification of the sinner by faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ; a faith that works by love and produces holiness.
- f. The work of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration, sanctification, and spiritual enlightenment of all who believe.
- g. The resurrection both of the just and the unjust; and that all people shall be made manifest at the judgement seat of Christ, and shall receive according to their deeds in this present life, whether good or bad. Those who have believed and obeyed the Gospel shall be openly welcomed into glory; but the unbelieving and wicked, being condemned, shall suffer the punishment due to their sins, according to the Scriptures.