

CONSTITUTION OF THE EASTERN ASSOCIATION CHURCHES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE INC.

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The Association shall be called the Eastern Association of Churches of the North American Baptist Conference, Inc., NABC

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Eastern Association is to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

1. By assisting member churches to carry out their ministries as New Testament churches.
2. By facilitating communications, fellowship and cooperation among member churches.
3. By cooperating in ministries that are best done collectively.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP AND DISCIPLINE

1. The constituency of the Eastern Association shall consist of NABC Churches located in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec and the western areas of the States of New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.
2. A church which wishes to unite with this Association shall make application, in writing, to the Recording Secretary of the Association, with written reports of its origin, development, organization and statement of faith. The Executive Committee shall act as a Credentials Committee in reviewing the application and make its recommendations to the Association. Membership in the Association shall constitute membership in the North American Baptist Conference.
3. The Association shall have the right to withdraw the hand of fellowship from a church charged with departing from Scriptural teachings and commonly accepted Baptist polity. Such action shall be taken only after thorough investigation by the Executive Committee, and after all attempts at reconciliation have been made. A two-thirds majority vote of the Association delegates at a duly called meeting shall be decisive.

ARTICLE 4: DELEGATE REPRESENTATION

1. Every church shall be entitled to send as delegates its ordained pastor or pastors, or alternates, and three (3) delegates for the first fifty (50) members, two (2) delegates for the next fifty (50) members, or fraction thereof, and one (1) delegate for each additional fifty (50) members or fraction thereof.
2. Denominational personnel participating in the Association sessions, the Regional Minister and retired NAB pastors in the Association area shall also be recognized as voting delegates.

ARTICLE 5: SESSIONS

1. The Association shall meet annually, during the fall of each year. The fiscal year shall conclude with August 31st, in order to expedite the preparation of reports, especially the Treasurer's report.

ARTICLE 6: OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Association shall be the following:
Moderator
Past Moderator
Vice Moderator
Past Vice Moderator
Recording Secretary
Statistical Secretary
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer
Regional Minister (Ex-officio)

ARTICLE 7: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. The Board of Trustees shall consist of 4 Trustees who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association.
2. The Trustees at their first meeting shall elect a Chairman thereof who shall preside at all sessions of the Board and conduct all of its business according to recognized Parliamentary Rules.

ARTICLE 8: COMMITTEES AND FUNCTIONS

1. Executive Committee
 - A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Association officers and the chairman of the Home Missions Committees (Canada and U.S) as well as the Women's Ministries President, Men's Fellowship President, Youth

Representative and the Regional Representatives (New York/Vermont, Pennsylvania, Ottawa Valley/Quebec, Golden Horseshoe).

- B. The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of, and report its actions to, the Association delegates on all Association matters acted upon between annual meetings of the Association.
 - C. The Executive Committee shall initiate and coordinate with other committees the long-range direction of the Association, review its organizational structure and make recommendations to the Association delegates at their annual meeting.
 - D. The Executive Committee at the Annual Business Meeting shall:
 - I. Recommend a list of nominations to fill Association offices;
 - II. Recommend a proposed budget, which meets the purpose and ministry commitments of the Association.
 - E. The Executive Committee shall have the right to fill the vacancies, which occur during the course of the Association year in any of the offices or committees until the next Association Business Meeting has elected a successor.
 - F. The Executive Committee or its delegates shall serve as the Credentials Committee to give guidance to local churches in the ordination of pastors. The committee shall also act regarding the recognition of the ordination of pastors ordained by non-Baptist ordination councils. (Refer to A Baptist Handbook by Dr. George A. Lang for ordination council procedures.)
 - G. The Executive Committee shall act as a credentials committee in reviewing the application of churches requesting membership with the Eastern Association.
2. Program Committee
- A. The Program Committee for the Annual Meeting shall consist of the Executive Committee and representatives from organizations participating in the Association, plus the host pastor(s).
 - B. The Vice-Moderator shall serve as chair and liaison with the host church.
3. Home Missions Committees (USA & Canada)
- Two committees of four members each with a staggered two-year term shall be elected by the Association delegates at the annual session to carry on church growth in the following manner:

- A. The four USA members are to function as a Home Missions Committee for the USA Association Churches.
 - B. The four Canadian members are to function as a Home Missions Committee for the Canadian Association Churches;
 - C. Each committee will function independently within the cooperative framework of the Association's purpose, electing its own chairperson and reporting its recommendations and decisions to the Executive Committee of the Eastern Association.
 - D. Promoting and Facilitating opportunities and resources which will contribute to the overall spiritual health of member churches, their pastors, and pastoral staffs;
 - E. Promoting cooperation among the churches in the Association in planting and supporting new churches and ministry projects;
 - F. Giving counsel and recommending appropriate financial assistance through the Association to small and/or financially limited congregations to support and enhance their ministry opportunities;
 - G. Evaluating on an on-going basis those churches or church plants receiving budgeted financial support from the Association and making appropriate recommendations to the Executive Committee;
 - H. Appointing and working with those trustees assigned to represent the Association on the boards of church plants receiving Association financial support;
 - I. Meeting as often as necessary to fulfil their responsibilities;
 - J. Reporting to the Association delegates at the Annual Association Business Meeting;
 - K. Conference Home Missions committee members living within the Association area shall be ex-officio members of these committees.
4. Stewardship Committee
- The Past Moderator (Committee Chair), Past Vice Moderator(s), the Association Moderator, and the Treasurer(s) shall constitute the Stewardship Committee, which shall;
- A. Prepare an annual budget proposal for presentation to the Executive Committee

B. Seek financial and prayer support from member churches in meeting the financial commitment of Association ministries.

5. Ex-Officio

The Regional Minister shall be ex-officio on all Association committees.

6. Other Committees

The Moderator shall appoint other necessary committees, such as Balloting, and Auditing, subject to the approval of the Association.

ARTICLE 9: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The Moderator

The Moderator shall preside at all sessions and conduct all business affairs of the Association according to recognized parliamentary rules. He shall appoint committees necessary for the conducting of such business. He shall also serve as chairman of the Association Executive Committee, as a member of the Stewardship Committee, and in such other capacities as stated in the Constitution.

The Moderator shall have the power to call special meetings when he may judge it conducive to the good of the Association; and shall do so when applied to for that purpose by the Executive Committee; and in case of a vacancy in the office of the Moderator, the Vice Moderator shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Association.

The Moderator represents the Association on the General Council of the North American Baptist Conference; conveys to the Council the concerns of the Association; communicates the actions of the General Council to the Association.

2. The Vice Moderator

In the absence of the Moderator, the Vice Moderator shall assume all the duties of the Moderator. The Vice Moderator shall serve as the chairman of the Program Committee and in any other capacities outlined in the Constitution.

3. Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall record accurately the Minutes of all Association business proceedings and forward copies of such Minutes for annual publication. The Minutes shall include a complete list of association officers and committee members, including term of service.

The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for Association correspondence during the Association year, and shall serve as secretary of the Executive

Committee and in any other capacity outlined in the Constitution.

4. Statistical Secretary

The Statistical Secretary shall receive from the Association Churches, and compile for the annual Association sessions, the statistical records of the churches. He shall also serve in any other capacity outlined in the Constitution.

5. Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer

A. Of the two officers, one must be Canadian and one must be an American

B. The Treasurer shall receive all monies allocated by Association churches and others for Association budget support; shall keep an accurate account thereof, and shall be authorized to deposit them to the credit of the Eastern Association in an established financial institution and shall pay out funds on the direction of the Association or the Executive Committee; shall submit regular written reports to the Executive Committee and one to the annual Association meeting. The records of the Treasurer shall be subject to audit at least once each year by the Auditing Committee.

C. Both the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer shall have the power to issue receipts.

D. The Treasurer shall also serve in any other capacity outlined in the Constitution.

ARTICLE 10: REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

1. To ensure regional representation on the Executive committee, a representative from each of the four Association areas is to be elected for staggered terms of 2 years.

2. The four areas represented shall be Western New York and Vermont, Western Pennsylvania, Ottawa Valley and Quebec, and Golden Horseshoe (Southern Ontario).

3. Regional Representatives will serve as members of the Executive Committee with particular responsibility to the churches in the area, which they represent.

ARTICLE 11: ELECTIONS

1. The Association officers and elected committee members shall be elected by ballots cast by the delegates at the annual Association session, after nomination. Persons nominated for positions of leadership on the Executive Committee of the Eastern Association shall be members in good standing of an Eastern Association

NAB Church. 'Member in good standing' is understood to include support of their church in attendance, financial giving and ministry service.

2. Term of office for the Moderator shall be three years, to coincide with the NABC Triennial. Terms of office for the Vice Moderator shall be one year and all other officers and committee members shall be two years unless stated otherwise.
3. Committee Chairpersons, unless otherwise noted, shall be elected by majority vote annually at their respective committees at the initial meeting following the annual Association sessions.

ARTICLE 12: VOTING

1. Voting privileges shall be extended to all registered Association delegates and to the Regional Minister, NAB Conference representatives and retired NAB pastors holding membership in the Association area.
2. A majority vote shall determine all Association decisions, except where otherwise stated.
3. Decisions that require a vote by Association delegates between annual association sessions may be determined by written ballots sent to the churches. Each church shall be accorded the number of delegate votes as prescribed by the constitution.

ARTICLE 13: QUORUM

Registered delegates from one-half of the Association churches shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of Association business at a duly called a business session.

For a mail-in vote, two-thirds of the Association churches shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE 14: FINANCIAL POLICIES

1. No honorariums shall be paid to any Association officers.
2. The Treasury balances of the Association shall be kept at a minimum and all designated monies forwarded as soon as possible so that the over-all Association purpose will not suffer financially.

ARTICLE 15: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended or suspended by a two-third affirmative vote of the delegates registered at the Annual Association sessions.

ARTICLE 16: RULES OF ORDER

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Association in all cases when applicable and consistent with this Constitution.

ARTICLE 17: INTERPRETATION

In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires, the following interpretations shall apply:

1. words importing the singular number include the plural, and vice versa; and
2. words importing the masculine gender include the feminine gender unless the Constitution otherwise specifically provides.

Accepted at the Annual Eastern Association Business Meeting on October 24, 1998

Amended at the annual Eastern Association Business Meeting on October 23, 1999

Amended at the annual Eastern Association Business Meeting on October 18, 2003

Amended at the annual Eastern Association Business Meeting on October 25, 2008