

## THE LONDON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION BYELAWS

### **Section I - APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL MINISTERS AND OTHER DIRECTORS**

#### 1. The Introduction

In these byelaws, where it states that the Member Churches appoint a person or the agreement of the Member Churches is required, it means that the Member Churches have so resolved by a simple majority in a General Meeting.

#### 2. Regional Ministers under Article 18

- 2.1. The Board 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 the Regional Minister(s) and to nominate person(s) for such appointments.
- 2.2. The appointment of the Regional Minister(s) shall be agreed by the Member Churches following nomination by the Board.

#### 3. The Treasurer - Article 15(2)

The Treasurer of the Association shall be appointed by the Member Churches following nomination by the Board. The Treasurer shall be appointed for such term(s) as recommended by the Board and agreed by the Member Churches.

#### 4. The BMS representative - Article 15(3)

A representative of the Baptist Missionary Society shall be appointed by the Member Churches following nomination by the Board. The appointment shall be for such term(s) as recommended by the Board and agreed by the General Meeting.

#### 5. Election of the first directors under Article 15(4)

- 5.1. In relation only to the first elections to be made under Article 15(4), each of the ten Districts within the Association shall be entitled to nominate up to four persons, no more than two of which shall be Ministers, for election to the Board under Article 15(4).
- 5.2. Nominations under Article 15(4) shall be circulated to all Member Churches prior to the election date, which shall be a date determined by the Board within 6 months of incorporation of the Association.
- 5.3. An election shall be held on the election date to fill the twelve vacancies under Article 15(4).
- 5.4. Each Member Church shall be entitled to vote in total for up to 12 persons, but they shall not be entitled to vote for more than 6 Ministers. Votes may be cast by post, proxy or in person. The 12 candidates with the greatest number of votes shall be elected, except that there shall be no more than six Ministers elected and any votes for other Ministers shall be disregarded for the purpose of determining the 12 candidates with the greatest number of votes. In the event of a tie, lots shall be cast.
- 5.5. Elections in later years shall be governed by bye-laws replacing bye-laws 5.1 to 5.5.
- 5.6. The Board shall issue such further guidance concerning the submission of nominations and the responsibilities of voting so as to secure as far as practicable reasonable opportunities for all Member Churches to participate therein.

6. Term(s) of appointment of those appointed under Article 15(4)

- 6.1. Every appointee shall serve for a period of three years (save for the first appointees under the provisions of byelaw 6.4).
- 6.2. A person shall be eligible for re-appointment, unless that person has, within an eleven-month period before and up to such re-appointment, already served two consecutive terms of office.
- 6.3. Every appointment shall take effect for a term commencing from the end of each Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- 6.4. One-third of the persons appointed for the first time under these byelaws shall be appointed for two years, one third for three years and one third for four years. Appointments shall be made under bye-law 5 to the longer periods first.

7. Co-option under Article 15 (5)

- 7.1. Member Churches may at any time suggest the name of a person who might be co-opted to the Board under Article 15(5).
- 7.2. Before making any co-option, the Board shall consider the name of any person suggested by a Member Church in the previous year.
- 7.3. Before making any co-option, the Board shall satisfy itself that the person concerned is in good standing with a Member Church.
- 7.4. Co-opted directors shall not vote on a resolution to co-opt a person, but otherwise may take part in the selection process.

**Section II - CONDUCT OF THE BOARD MEETINGS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

8. The Moderator

The Moderator shall be appointed annually from amongst the serving members of the Board by a vote at the first Board meeting each year and shall serve until the end of the first meeting in the subsequent calendar year. The Moderator may be re-elected.

9. Accountability

- 9.1. Subject to bye laws 9.2 and 9.3 below, the Board shall make available in a timely manner to any Member Church requesting the same, any agendas and minutes relating to any business of the Association conducted (or to be conducted) by the Board.
- 9.2. Specific personnel issues or other commercially or personally confidential matters are not to be made available.
- 9.3. The Board may delay in making any document available where it reasonably considers that disclosure might seriously prejudice the interests of the Association.

**Section III - CONDUCT OF GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

10. The Board shall agree the items to be placed on the Agenda for a General Meeting.

11. No business shall be transacted at a General Meeting other than business which :-

- 11.1. is indicated in the Agenda
- 11.2. in the opinion of the Moderator is of great importance or urgency and either could not have been included in the Agenda or was inadvertently omitted therefrom, or

11.3.        was the subject of a requisition notice from 20 or more Member churches under the Articles

12. Members of the Board shall have the right to attend and speak at General Meetings of the Association but shall have no right to vote in that capacity.

#### **Section IV - ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

13. The Board shall establish an associate membership scheme.

14. Associate Members shall be appointed by the Member Churches following nomination by the Board.

15. Associate Members shall be organisations or persons whom the Member Churches wish to identify as having a special place in and a commitment to the work of the Association.

16. The first Associate Member shall be Spurgeon's College.

17. Associate Members shall have the right to attend and speak at General Meetings of the Association and have access to papers under byelaw 9 above, but shall not be Members of the Association and so shall have no right to vote.