

Prairie Partners Baptist Association
By-Laws
Revised and Adopted, September 16, 2006

PREAMBLE

We wish to create Partnerships, Prayer, and Giving among member congregations and other entities, to build the Kingdom of God across the Prairie of North Dakota and around the world.

ARTICLE 1 - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership in the Association will consist of Southern Baptist congregations, cooperating together to support, strengthen, and encourage one another. These congregations subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message.

SECTION 2. Those organizing a new Southern Baptist Church or Mission are to act in harmony and counsel with the Associational Missionary/Strategist or Moderator and the Associational Credentials Committee.

Any group wishing to apply for membership in the Association will:

1) Provide a copy of their Constitution, and/or Statement of Faith, location, membership, and current or upcoming operating budget showing the intent of giving through the Cooperative Program and Associational Missions, and other documentation that may be needed.

2) After a thorough study and recommendation by the Credentials Committee, the Association shall vote on its reception at the next meeting.

SECTION 3. Any member congregation may be expelled from membership in this Association. The Credentials Committee shall bring a recommendation of dismissal to the Association at either the annual meeting or special called business meeting provided written copies of the proposed recommendation shall have been furnished to each member church at least thirty days prior to the meeting. Three fourths (3/4) vote of the messengers voting at the meeting is required for dismissal.

SECTION 4. The Association will not obstruct the rights and independence of local congregations. It recognizes the local congregation as independent. It does not claim the power to deny seats to messengers of congregations who act contrary to the Association's beliefs, are unchristian in character or leadership, or non-cooperating in practice. The Baptist Faith and Message shall be the basis of determining doctrinal integrity with the Association.

ARTICLE 2 - MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Time of meetings: The Association shall meet in the fall for an Annual Meeting. This meeting will include written reports by Team Leaders and Officers. The Association Council shall meet for a Spring Prayer and Planning Meeting, to pray and give direction to the activities of the association for the next eighteen (18) months. The program of the Annual Meeting and Spring Prayer and Planning Meeting shall be planned by the Administrative Team.

SECTION 2. Other meetings may be called by the Administrative Team.

SECTION 3. In all matters of parliamentary procedure, the body shall be governed by the Holy Bible and "Robert's Rules of Order."

SECTION 4. Quorum: The members present shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE 3 - MESSENGERS

SECTION 1. The voting membership in the Association Annual Meeting shall be composed of messengers duly appointed by the member congregation on the following basis:

1) One (1) messenger for each ten (10) resident members or less, except that no congregation is allowed more than ten (10).

SECTION 2. Each congregation desiring to have messengers seated at the Association Annual Meeting will submit to the Association, by September 1, a report of the congregation's work on the Annual Church Profile. The Annual Church Profile, for the current year, is the basis for determining the number of messengers.

ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Officers of the Association shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Trustees.

SECTION 2. Duties of the officers are as follows:

1) Moderator - The Moderator presides over all meetings of the Association. The Moderator shall have authority to appoint members to all teams as needed, other than those specified by other provisions of the Constitution or By-laws. The Moderator is ex-officio member of all teams, along with the Associational Missionary/Strategist.

2) Vice-Moderator - The Vice-Moderator serves in the absence of the Moderator, or at the request of the Moderator. The Vice Moderator serves as Chair of the Nominating Team.

3) Clerk - The Clerk prepares minutes of the Annual, Association Council, and Administrative Team meetings.

4) Treasurer - The Treasurer keeps accurate records of all funds of the Association. The Treasurer serves as ex-officio member of the Finance Team. The Treasurer submits monthly reports to the Association Council.

5) Trustees - The Trustees are custodians of property and shall on behalf of the Association sign all papers, documents, contracts, or other legal instruments wherein the credit, faith, or agreement of the Association are involved. The Administrative Team will serve as Trustees.

SECTION 3. These officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. They will assume their offices at the close of the Annual Meeting: They must be a member of a congregation in the Association.

SECTION 4. Election of officers shall be upon the recommendation of the Nominating Team. Opportunity will be given to present nominations from the floor.

SECTION 5. Officers may succeed themselves in office, except the Moderator who may not serve more than two (2) successive full terms.

SECTION 6. In the event of the death of an officer, an officer moving from the Association, or inability to serve, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Moderator, upon recommendation from the Nominating Team.

SECTION 7. Should a congregation withdraw from or be removed from the Association, its members serving as Officers, shall be removed immediately and replaced by appointment of the Moderator, upon recommendation from the Nominating Team.

ARTICLE 5 – ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

SECTION 1. The Purpose of the Association Council is to involve all pastors and several lay people in the Association in order to plan, communicate and promote association activities as well as enhance prayer, accountability, and financial support. Members will be expected to serve on Work Teams. The Association Council will participate in the Annual Meeting and Spring Prayer and Planning Meeting, as well as special called meetings.

SECTION 2. The Association Council shall include all pastors of the Association, all elected officers of the Association, and two (2) additional members chosen by each of the congregations represented.

SECTION 3. Organization: The officers of the Association Council are the Association Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer.

ARTICLE 6 - TEAMS

SECTION 1. Teams of the Association shall be Standing Teams, Work Teams, and temporary teams.

SECTION 2. Standing Teams shall be:

1) Administrative Team: The Administrative Team, chaired by the Moderator, shall consist of the Association officers, the Chair of the Work Teams, and the Associational Missionary/Strategist. This Team shall have charge of all business and calendar matters of the Association ad interim, and shall make a report to the Association. This Team shall meet when deemed necessary. It shall also have the responsibility of planning the Annual Meeting and Spring Prayer and Planning Meeting. It shall send a provisional program to each congregation as soon as it is prepared.

Each year the Administrative Team will organize the association so the Work Teams accomplish activities planned at the Spring Prayer and Planning meeting.

2) Facilitating Team: This team shall consist of: three (3) members. The duties are to assist the Associational Missionary/Strategist in fulfilling the strategy of the Association. It will work with the State Director of Missions in supervising and evaluating the Association Missionary and staff. It will update and adhere to the Cooperative Agreement with the Dakota Baptist Convention.

3) Finance Team: This team shall consist of three (3) members and the Treasurer serving as ex-officio member. The duties are to:

- a) Prepare the Annual budget for submission to the Annual Meeting. The financial year begins October 1. The proposed budget is to be mailed to each congregation, officer and Association Council members at least one (1) week prior to the Annual Meeting.
- b) Supervise the expenditures of money not covered in the budget.
- c) The Treasurer's books are reviewed after the end of the fiscal year as designated by the Finance Team. The review will be presented to the Spring Prayer and Planning Meeting.

4) Nominating Team: The Vice-Moderator serves as chair of this team. Other members are the Administrative Team. It nominates all Associational Officers, Team Leaders and Standing Teams. This report shall be made at the Annual Meeting. It shall make recommendations to the Moderator to fill all vacancies that occur during the year.

SECTION 3. Work Teams shall be the Prayer Team and Partnership Team. The team leaders will submit a written report to member churches semi-annually, to include a written report at the fall Annual meeting. They will have authority to spend the budget allocated them

1) Prayer Work Team: This team will plan and promote prayer opportunities. The Chair will serve on the Administrative Team. Other members of the Prayer Team will be selected as activities are chosen.

2) Partnership Work Team: This team will plan and promote opportunities for individuals, congregations, conventions and other entities to become partners in extending the Kingdom. Some examples of partnership sub-teams would be fellowship; camp; training events such as Sunday School and Vacation Bible School; mission activities; church planting activities' and connecting outside groups to assist Association congregations. The Chair will serve on the Administrative Team. Other members of the Partnership Team will be selected as activities are chosen.

SECTION 4. Temporary teams are appointed by the Moderator for the purpose and time needed. Examples of Temporary Teams might be Credentials, Constitution, Resolutions, etc

SECTION 5. The Moderator and Associational Missionary/Strategist shall be ex-officio member of all teams. Each team chair must notify all members, including the Moderator and the Associational Missionary/Strategist of all meetings.