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2 Constitution of Heartland Baptist Association

3 I. NAME

4 The name of this organization shall be HEARTLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

5 II. PURPOSE

6 The purpose of this association shall be to awaken and stimulate among the churches the greatest possible  
7 activity in evangelism, Christian education, concert of action in carrying the whole Gospel to the whole  
8 world,  
9 promote fellowship, cooperation in work, and unity in faith among Baptists of this association.

10 III. AUTHORITY

11 The association recognizes and upholds the absolute autonomy of the member churches.

12 While this association does not assume any authority over the churches in its membership, it does reserve  
13 the

14 right to withdraw the hand of fellowship from any church that it deems to have become corrupt in faith and  
15 practice. The present and accepted Baptist Faith and Message shall be the basis of determining doctrinal  
16 integrity with the association. .

17 The New Testament shall govern the conduct of the association. Robert's Rules of Order (Revised)  
18 shall serve as a guide for conducting association meetings.

19 IV. COOPERATION

20 The channels of cooperation of this association shall be: 1. with the churches of the association; 2.  
21 with the Dakota Baptist Convention; 3. with the Southern Baptist Convention.

22 V. MEMBERSHIP

23 The membership of the association shall be composed of cooperating Southern Baptist Churches who  
24 have  
25 qualified for membership.

26 A church wishing to cooperate with, and to have messengers seated in the association, shall observe the  
27 following:

- 28 1. Submit a formal request attached to a full report of the church's constitution, location,  
29 membership, organization, and missionary and benevolent efforts, to the Association Leadership Team, not  
30 later than sixty days prior to the annual meeting of the association.
- 31 2. If after a full and thorough investigation on the part of the Association Leadership Team, a church is  
32 recommended for admission into the association, the messenger body shall vote on its reception. A simple  
33 majority affirmative vote is necessary for admission.

3. Any church that is in good standing with the Dakota Baptist Convention and wishing to move their membership from another association and submitting such a request in writing may be voted on and accepted at an annual meeting by a simple majority vote of the messenger body.

4. Cooperating churches shall be those that give financial support to the Heartland Baptist Association. The annual qualification shall be from September 1 through August 31.

Churches could be disqualified from membership, upon recommendation of the Association Leadership Team at

the annual meeting, for the following reasons:

1. Should a church fail to make an annual report (The Annual Church Profile) to the association for two consecutive years.
2. If it has been deemed that a church has become corrupt in faith and practice.
3. Any such disqualification would require a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of those voting at a regularly scheduled meeting to be enacted.
4. Any disqualified church desiring to reestablish cooperation may do so by correcting the reason(s) for disqualification and then following the aforementioned process for churches wishing to cooperate with and to have messengers seated in the association.

Churches shall be represented at the annual associational meeting by messengers, duly elected by the member churches on the following basis:

1. Five messengers for the first fifty (50) resident members or less.
2. One messenger for each additional fifty resident members or major fraction thereof; except that no church shall be allowed to seat more than ten (10) messengers.
3. Resident membership will be determined by the records on the Annual Church Profile (ACP).
4. The names of the elected messengers should be sent to the Associational Clerk two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting.
5. To be able to seat messengers at the annual meeting churches need to be considered to be a cooperating church.

## VI. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The governing authority of the association shall rest with the individual churches as represented by messengers

to the annual meeting. An Association Leadership Team (hereafter referred to as HBALT) shall give leadership to

the ongoing operations of the association. This HBALT shall have the authority to make decisions throughout the year concerning the ongoing work of the association as directed by the messengers in the annual meetings, including the expenditures of money based on the annual budget. Each member of the HBALT shall be from a cooperating church in good standing with the HBA. If a church fails to maintain good standing as a cooperating church any HBALT member from such a church shall be dismissed from the HBALT.

71 The HBALT shall consist of the duly elected officers of the association; Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk,  
72 Treasurer, and one member at large and any team leaders appointed by the elected officers.

73 The HBALT shall nominate such Team Leaders as they deem necessary. Any such leaders shall be directly  
74 responsible to the Association and serve in cooperation with the HBALT.

75 The HBALT shall consist of the elected officers and team leaders. The team leaders shall be in these areas; Prayer,  
76 Evangelism, Church Strengthening, and Missions. Attendance at HBALT meetings is extremely important and in the  
77 event that an elected officer or team leader has two (2) unexcused absences in one (1) year he/she will be dismissed  
78 from the HBALT.

79 Officers of the HBALT shall be nominated by a nominating committee and presented at the annual meeting for  
80 approval of the messengers. At the annual meeting nominations may also be brought from the floor and then any  
81 offices that have more than one candidate will be voted upon by secret ballot by the messengers present at the annual  
82 meeting. Any vacancies that occur between annual meetings may be filled by the HBALT on an interim basis at the  
83 next quarterly meeting.

#### 84 VII. OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

85 Officers of the association shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, and Clerk . The Moderator shall lead the  
86 annual meeting and serve as chairman of the HBALT. Newly elected officers and team leaders shall take office upon  
87 adjournment of the annual meeting. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall serve as president and vice president of  
88 the corporation.

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#### 90 VIII. MEETINGS

91 The only associational business meeting shall be the annual meeting in the fall. A Spring meeting may be  
92 scheduled for the purpose of worship and fellowship.

93 The HBALT shall hold regular meetings once per quarter at which each cooperating church will be allowed 2 voting  
94 messengers. Business brought before the HBALT at these meetings will be voted on or deferred to the annual meeting  
95 for an official vote as appropriate. Emergency meetings may be called as needed. All meetings of the HBALT are open  
96 to all members of the association. The HBALT shall send an agenda and the meeting time and place to the churches  
97 in the association one week prior to every regularly scheduled HBALT meeting. Minutes of the HBALT meetings shall  
98 be sent to the churches within two weeks of the meeting date.

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#### 100 IX. AMENDMENTS

101 Any proposed changes to the constitution shall be presented to the HBALT not later than four (4) months prior to  
102 the annual meeting.

103 To amend this constitution, a written notice including the proposed changes shall be served to the churches of the

104 association at least six (6) weeks prior to the annual meeting. Each church is then responsible for notifying its  
105 membership/messengers of the notice of change.

106 Misspellings or grammatical changes to a proposed amendment do not require an additional six (6) weeks  
107 notice, but may be made from the floor of the annual meeting.

108 Amendments shall be passed by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of those voting. Approved amendment changes  
109 become effective immediately unless otherwise specified within any said amendment.