

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the body shall be INDEPENDENCE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II - OBJECT

1. The object of the Association shall be to promote harmony and Cooperation among the churches making up its membership, to provide opportunity for fellowship among the churches, and provide means of assisting the churches in their various needs in their educational, missionary and benevolent ministries.
2. This Association cooperates with the F.I.R.M. Baptist Area.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

1. The Association shall be composed of messengers duly elected by cooperating churches. While the Association disclaims any authority over any church or any members of any church, yet it reserves the right to refuse seats to any messenger or messengers known to be disorderly in conduct or contradictory in doctrine.
2. Each church shall be entitled to five (5) messengers to the Annual Meeting of the Association, plus one additional messenger for every fifty (50) members after the first fifty or fractional thereof provided that no church shall be entitled to more than ten (10) messengers.
3. Messengers from the churches desiring to cooperate with this Association may be seated in this body upon presentation of a petitionary letter which shall show practices of the church to be orderly, and the faith orthodox according to the "Baptist Faith and Message" adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963. Such churches may be admitted by Watch care for a period of one year, after one year the Credentials Committee will make a recommendation about full membership. Vote to accept must be by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of duly elected messengers at the Annual Meeting of the Association. Such letters must be submitted to the Executive Board by the September Meeting of the Association for discussion and referral.

ARTICLE IV - AUTHORITY

1. This Association shall exercise no ecclesiastical functions, but shall be considered as advisory council only, nor shall it have or attempt to have any authority over any local church but this Association reserves the right to withdraw, by majority vote, from any church which may become unsound in principle or practice.
2. All questions which demand a parliamentary ruling shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

1. The Association shall meet annually on the Third Sunday in October subject to change by the Executive Board in case of conflicts.
2. The Association shall meet for Association Meeting on the Thursday, following the second Sunday of the month or as often as deemed necessary for the good of the work of the Association. This schedule may be changed as needed by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS

1. The Association shall elect an annual planning committee, composed of elected members and all officers. This committee shall nominate new officers, plan budget and calendar. This committee shall be elected annually. This committee shall serve until its successor is elected. This committee shall nominate all Associational officers. At the time of election, other nominations may be made from the floor.
2. The Officers of the Association shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer and other such officers and committees as shall be needed to carry on the work of the Association. No Moderator shall serve more than two (2) successive terms.
3. The Associational officers shall be approved by the Executive Board upon recommendation by the annual planning committee not later than One month prior to the Annual Meeting. These officers shall take office at the close of the Annual Meeting. These officers will be elected by the Association in Annual Meeting.
4. Three members of the Highland Lakes Board shall be elected to represent the Association. Each will be elected for a three (3) year term. At the close of each year, one member will rotate off and a new member elected for a three-year term.
5. The members of the Area Committee shall be the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer or any other that might be selected to serve so long as the number does not exceed four (4).

ARTICLE VII - EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. The Association shall have an Executive Board which shall have the power to transact any and all business during its interim; except the formulation of policies which shall be done only by the Association in session.
2. The Executive Board shall consist of the general officers of the Association, the pastors of cooperating churches, and two members from each church.
3. The Officers of the Executive Board shall be the Associational Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
4. The Executive Board shall meet in connection with the regular Association Meetings and special meetings to be called by the Moderator.
5. The Executive Board members present at each Executive Board Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII - FINANCE

1. This Association shall operate on voluntary gifts from cooperating churches.
2. The Treasurer of the Association shall be in charge of such gifts and they shall be disbursed according to a budget approved by the Association. The Treasurer shall make a monthly report to the Association.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at any regular session, provided such amendments are offered in writing at the first session with the vote taken at a later session.