**Constitution of the Lunenburg-Queens Association of Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada**

**ARTICLE I – Name**

The organization shall be known as the Lunenburg-Queens Association of Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada.

**ARTICLE II – Membership**

1. Any church which is supportive of the doctrinal statement of the Association, which gives satisfactory evidence of its faith and practice, and which is willing to support the ministry of the Lunenburg-Queens Association of Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada and the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (herein referred to as Convention), may be received into fellowship of the Association. Acceptance into the Association shall be by two-thirds majority vote at an Association Assembly.
2. A congregation which, after proper examination and attempts at reconciliation, shall be judged by the Association to have departed from the faith and practice of the Association, or which fails to support the ministry of the Association and the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada may be removed from fellowship by a two-thirds majority vote at any Association Assembly.

**ARTICLE III – Doctrine**

The doctrinal statement of the Association shall be the “1905 Basis of Union” which is the basic statement of faith of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada.

**ARTICLE IV – Meetings of the General Assembly of the Association**

A. The Annual Business Meeting of the Association shall be held in October of each year, with the exact date to be set by the Council of the Association.

B. A Spring Rally will be held in May of each year where the focus will be inspirational.

C. Should the interests of the body warrant, a Special General Assembly may be called by the Council of the Association upon its own initiative or upon the written request of at least six (6) member churches.

**ARTICLE V**­ – **Quorum**

1. Thirty-five (35) accredited delegates; representing at least ten (10) churches shall constitute a quorum at a General Assembly of the Association.
2. 75% of accredited Council members shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Council of Association.

**ARTICLE VI – Amendments**

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of delegates present, provided notice of such intended alteration or amendment has been given at the previous Association meeting.

**ARTICLE VII – Mission Statement**

The mission of this organization shall be to promote the work of Christ’s Kingdom within the churches of the Association. This will include the promotion of fellowship, unity, spiritual prosperity and growth among the member congregations as well as reaching out to meet the needs of the communities served by member churches.

The organization will support the missionary and educational work of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada.

**ARTICLE VIII – Officers**

The Officers of the Association shall be the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer. The Officers of the Association shall be members of one of the churches of the Association. The clerk and treasurer shall be elected for one year and be eligible for re-election. The regular term of office for the Vice-Moderator will be two years. The regular term of office for the Moderator will be two years.

**ARTICLE IX – Delegates**

The following persons will be recognized as accredited delegates to the General Assembly of Association, being in every instance a member of one of the churches of the Association.

1. Each member church in the Association shall be entitled to send two (2) delegates for the first fifty (50) resident members or major fraction thereof; two (2) additional delegates for the second fifty (50) resident members or major fraction thereof; and a further delegate (1) for each additional fifty (50) resident members or major fraction thereof. No church shall be entitled to send more than seven (7) delegates. All delegates shall be officially appointed by their church.
2. Accredited ordained ministers and holders of current Association and Convention Licenses for Ministry, who are actively engaged in pastoral ministry in a member church of the Association, will be accredited as delegates. (Unaccredited pastors must be elected by their congregation if they are to serve as accredited delegates.)
3. The Officers of Association and Members of Council shall be accredited as delegates.
4. Retired ministers and missionaries shall be accredited as delegates.
5. Others from the churches are welcomed as visitors, who may, without vote, participate fully in the program and discussions of the Assembly.

**ARTICLE X – The Council of the Association**

1. **Purpose of the Council**

The purpose of the Council is to assist Association in carrying out its mission as stated in Article VII, by providing a framework for the representatives of the churches to discuss, plan and implement the ministries God is calling the churches of the Association to do together.

1. **Members of Council**

The Council will include the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk and nine elected members chosen from Lunenburg-Queens Association of Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada.

The term of office for all Council members will be 4 years.

1. **Meetings of Council**
2. The Council shall meet at least 3 - 6 times a year and will run the business of Association between Annual Meetings. (Some of the meetings can be held using an electronic meeting system.)
3. Special meetings of the council may be called by the Moderator or upon written request from at least six (6) members of the Council, after due notice has been given to Council members.
4. **Functions of the Council**
5. The Council shall communicate the goals, ministries, benefits and positive effects of the Association.
6. The Council shall prepare a proposed Annual Budget for Association Meetings.
7. The Council shall oversee the program for the Annual Association General Assembly.
8. The Council shall receive and act upon applications for Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada subsidy grants.
9. To facilitate the ministry of the association, the Council may appoint a “Task Force” as deemed necessary. These “Task Forces” shall be charged with a specific ministry program and/or project. Upon completion of the program or project, the “Task Force” ceases to exist. The Council may appoint as many “Task Forces” as needed.
10. Council may appoint persons not elected as members of Council, as members of a “Task Force”, if they are interested in that specific ministry.
11. Each “Task Force” will have a Chairperson and Secretary.
12. “A Task Force” may meet each time the Council meets as well as at other times when deemed necessary to fulfil their ministry.
13. Council will interview churches which apply to join the Association. Upon Council’s recommendation, the acceptance of these churches will be voted on at either the Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting.
14. Council is authorized to conduct all Business of Association, which includes all financial considerations.
15. Council will oversee the shared ministries of the Association. These will include, but not be limited to, the following:
    1. Plan fellowship and training events, e.g. Music Rally, throughout the year
    2. Coordinate the Association’s efforts in mission, evangelism and social action
    3. Plan, promote and conduct activities which minister to youth in the Association
16. **Standing Committees**

Each Standing Committee shall meet often enough to fulfil its mandate. It will elect a chair and a secretary and will inform the Council of its selections. A report of the group’s work will be presented at each Council meeting.

1. **Licensing Committee**

The Licensing Committee shall consist of at least five (5) members, no more than three (3) of which shall be clergy. The chair will be a member of council.

The Licensing Committee shall review all applicants for Association Licenses to Minister on an annual basis.

The Licensing Committee shall establish a time for all interviews prior to the meeting dates of the Association General Assembly.

The Licensing Committee shall recommend to Association the granting and/or renewal of Association Licenses to Minister, utilizing the guidelines established by the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada.

1. **Financial Review Committee**

The Financial Review Committee shall consist of two (2) members who shall hold office for two (2) years, with one (1) member retiring annually. The Committee shall examine and verify the accounts of the Association Treasurer, at least once a year, prior to the Annual Assembly.

1. **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least five (5) members. The chair will be a member of Council.

The Nominating Committee shall provide the clerk of the association, by written report, nominations for all elected positions. Members of Committees shall be elected for a one-year term unless otherwise stated in the Constitution and shall be eligible for re-election. The chair will be a member of Council.

**ARTICLE XI – The Lunenburg/Queens United Baptist Camp Society**

1. The Lunenburg/Queens United Baptist Camp Society, with its own Memorandum of Association and By-laws, shall oversee the operation of Long Lake Camp. The Camp society is responsible to Association and will report to Association on a regular basis about its ministry.
2. Delegates to Association and members of Council comprise the membership of the Lunenburg/Queens United Baptist Camp Society. The annual meeting of the Camp Society is normally held during the Annual Meeting of the Association. At this time, the directors of the Camp Society are elected and an audited financial statement presented.

**ARTICLE XII – Representatives**

1. One representative and one alternate to the Convention Examining Council for Ordination shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Association and elected by the Association for a three (3) year term. Convention guidelines shall be followed in electing these representatives.
2. Two (2) delegates to the Annual Assembly of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Association (one from Lunenburg County and one from Queens County, if possible) and elected by the Association for a one (1) year term. Convention guidelines shall be followed in electing these representatives.

**Operational Guidelines**

There will be no business discussed at the Spring Association meeting. A special speaker and/or special music can be engaged to challenge the Association members.

The focus of the Fall Meeting will be on the business side of our ministry. Reports will be presented on our various ministries, Nominating Committee Report and the budget will be presented. The host pastor or designate will give a devotional message and special music (if any) will also be provided by the host church or designate.

The Long Lake Camp Society will meet during the Fall Meeting. The Association Meeting will be recessed to allow sufficient time for all Camp reports to be given.

Every attempt will be made to have an equal number of representatives on the Council from Lunenburg and Queens County Association Churches.

Pastors may be elected to the Council. Those not elected may serve in an ex-officio capacity if they so choose.

The minutes of each Council Meeting will be forward to Association Pastors and churches.