

CONSTITUTION

1 NAME

The Association is to be called “The Scottish Baptist Lay Preachers’ Association”.

2 AFFILIATION

The Association is to be affiliated to the Baptist Union of Scotland.

3 OBJECTIVES

The Association exists for the following purposes:-

- a) to encourage, equip and enable lay preachers to effectively communicate the never-changing Word of God to an ever-changing culture.
- b) to supply lay preachers for Scottish Baptist churches and churches of other denominations as requested .
- c) to facilitate mutual support, development and growth of Scottish Baptist lay preachers as a resource for the wider church .

4 MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Association are to be Lay Preachers of either sex who:-

- a) are baptised believers in membership of a Scottish Baptist Church and
- b) have two commendations, including one from their home church.

Applicants will normally be admitted to Probationary status. Advancement from Probationary to Active status will require evidence of preaching competence and an awareness of Baptist Principles. Where a candidate has demonstrated an existing Preaching ministry in a Baptist context they may be admitted directly to the Active list at the discretion of the Committee..

Applicants who have been Active Members of any other Baptist Lay Preachers Association may be admitted as Active Members provided they fulfil the above conditions.

Nominations for appointment as Honorary Members will be approved by the Committee and recognised at the AGM.

Those who have indicated their clear desire to give positive support to the aims and objects of the Association but are otherwise disqualified from full membership, at least for the time being, may be accorded recognition as “Friends of the Association” irrespective of their place of residence or church membership.

5 SUBSCRIPTION

Subscription rates will be determined by the Committee on the recommendation of the Treasurer.

Such subscription is payable to the Treasurer of the Association by each Active and Probationary Member prior to 31 December.

“Friends” and Honorary Members are invited to make a voluntary contribution.

6 Leadership

The business of the Association is to be conducted by a Committee appointed by Active, Honorary and Probationary Members at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall consist of the President, Treasurer & General Secretary (who shall constitute the Office Bearers) and such other members as have been appointed by the AGM or co-opted by the Committee. Appointments to the Committee, other than the Office Bearers, will be for a period of 3 years and members shall be eligible for re-election without limit.

There will be a maximum of 10 members on the Committee, with 4 required for a quorum..

7 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The President’s role is to provide spiritual oversight, give strategic direction and chair meetings of the Committee and the AGM.. In his absence on any occasion meetings may be chaired by any other Committee Member by mutual consent.

The General Secretary is to be responsible for managing the administration of the Association, strategy development and representational responsibilities to such bodies as he may be appointed to (e.g. the Council of the Baptist Union of Scotland and the Scottish Baptist College Committee)..

The Treasurer is to be responsible for the management of our financial affairs and for ensuring our accounts are up to date.

The financial records are to be scrutinised annually by an examiner, who has been approved by the Committee for this purpose. This person shall not be a member of the committee.

Office Bearers shall be elected for a period of 5 years and shall be eligible for re-election without limit.

8 FORFEITURE OF MEMBERSHIP

Members and friends from whom there has been no contact for a period of more than two years will receive a letter from the president enquiring as to whether or not they wish to remain in membership. If this fails to produce a satisfactory response, then they will be removed from membership following a vote by the Committee.

(Contact includes attendance at Conference, contributing to Blogs, paying subscriptions etc).

9 ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be amended only after consideration of any proposed amendment by the Committee and subsequent ratification by the membership, such ratification may take place at the Annual Meeting or by a ballot of all members at the discretion of the Committee. Any change will not take effect until it has received such ratification from the Membership.

Any member who wishes to propose an alteration to the Constitution should write to the Secretary stating the proposed amendment and the reasons for it. The Secretary shall ensure the proposal is included on the Agenda of the next Committee Meeting..

10 SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special Meetings may be called by the unanimous agreement of the Office Bearers or by a written request of 40% of the Active and Honorary Members. All Members will be given at least 14 days written notice stating the matter to be discussed.