

Covenant Agreement Between _____ Association (“the Association”) and Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec (“the Convention”)

Introduction

Through the strength of God, in the name of Jesus Christ, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the <<Name of Association>>, on behalf of its member churches, voluntarily enters into covenant relationship with our family of Baptist churches as represented by the Convention for the sake of our mutual edification and partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Through this covenant we re-affirm the historic principle that both the Association and the Convention were created by local Baptist churches in order to do more effective mission and ministry together. In a sincere spirit of unity and co-operation, we join together in our interdependent work of local and global mission, development of leadership and churches and supportive fellowship. THIS WE BELIEVE: Resources for Faith is the document that best describes the faith of the churches who are Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec.

Part I The commitment of the Convention to the Association

The Convention through its Board covenants to support and encourage the ministry of the Association by:

- praying for the work and ministry of the Association throughout the year;
- assisting the Association by developing and resourcing churches and ministries within the constituency, including pastors, administrators, youth ministry, camping, and community ministries;
- supporting the Association ministries which include the fostering of church health, church planting, and ministry innovation;
- developing financial resources through the BCOQ Foundation, and other investments;
- working together in the accreditation process for the mutual benefit of churches and pastors including a discipline process for cases of moral and ethical failure;
- providing strategic leadership resources for Association leaders in specific leadership areas;
- stimulating intentional lifelong development (professional, personal, spiritual) for ministry leaders;
- developing a mentoring culture that supports leadership;
- supporting strategic partnerships with Canadian Baptist Ministries, McMaster Divinity College, Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec, and l’Union d’Églises Baptistes Françaises Au Canada;
- enabling and developing relationships through the Association;
- co-operating and forming strategic partnerships interdenominationally to extend Christ’s Kingdom and to provide additional resources and benefits to our member churches and associations; and,
- encouraging our sense of shared relationship and identity as Canadian Baptists in Ontario and Quebec.

Part II The commitment of the Association to the Convention

The Association covenants that it will assume the following rights and responsibilities:

- actively working to further the Objects and Core Values of the Convention;
- respecting and upholding the provisions and procedures of the Convention as expressed in its Constitution, as amended from time to time;
- receiving notice of, attending, and participating at all Meetings of Members through its Delegates;

- respecting the use of the name, Licensed Marks, copyrighted materials and other intellectual property of the Convention to further the Objects and Core Values of the Convention, as outlined in a separate agreement; and,
- supporting its students and prospective ordinands through the Ordination process.

Part III The Relationship Between the Association and the Convention

The Association and the Convention hold in common these historic Baptist distinctives:

- the Lordship of Jesus Christ;
- the Bible as the sole authority in matters of faith and practice;
- the Church as a voluntary fellowship of persons who have received by faith the new life of the Spirit and who give witness to this faith in believer's baptism and the fellowship of the Lord's Supper;
- the priesthood of all believers in Christ, by which all believers have equal access to God through the one mediator, Jesus Christ, and are responsible to offer themselves in grateful service to Christ and their neighbours;
- soul liberty and freedom of religious conscience;
- the autonomy of the local church under the headship of Jesus Christ; and,
- the separation of church and state.

As partners we will:

- pray for one another;
- encourage and support one another;
- respect and honour each other's freedom to determine its respective God given purpose, and mission;
- honour and respect each other's assemblies and the decisions that are made by those assemblies;
- share the responsibility and authority within our jurisdictions as defined by such formal agreements as our respective constitutions and by-laws;
- affirm our mutual responsibility to work together to further our Objects and Core Values;
- contribute our time, talent and treasures in support of our common goals and objectives.

Notwithstanding the above, in faithfulness to God, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and led by the Holy Spirit, the Association may define its own affirmation of faith and covenant; enjoy the freedom of doctrinal statements; organize and govern its structure under autonomous constitutions and by-laws; develop its ministries, mission and service; call or dismiss its own staff; choose its officers; and own and control property without the permission or approval of another body, including the Convention.

Part IV Termination of the Covenant Agreement

Should the Association determine that it is in its best interest to merge or dissolve; as partners, we commit to discerning together the terms and conditions that may be required by severing this Agreement.

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body is joined and knit together by every ligament, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:15)