

**Proposed Amendments to By-Law #1
for the Halifax Region United Baptist Association (HRUBA)
January 13, 2021**

At our Meeting of the Association Body of Delegates, on March 23, 2019, we passed a resolution to amend our HRUBA By-Law #1. This amendment has subsequently been accepted by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, who is appointed as Registrar for the Nova Scotia *Societies Act*. This was the first stage in simplifying our organizational structure and the number of persons needing to be elected to leadership positions. Notably, we eliminated the three Vice-Moderators in favour of having only one. Nevertheless, the Nominating Committee still had a difficult time getting a full slate, and a motion was made at the end of the meeting to have a small Advisory Committee work with the Moderator, the Association Council and the Nominating Committee to try to overcome some of the difficulties in getting positions filled each year.

That Advisory Committee was initially composed of the Rev. Dr. Frank Guinta, the Rev. John Purdy and Dave Gibson. It met a number of times with the Moderator, Ann Taylor, and the discussions soon led to questions about whether the positions themselves were part of the problem. We looked at the roles and responsibilities of the positions we were trying to fill in detail and came to the conclusion that more streamlining was needed and the excessive responsibilities of some positions needed to be reduced.

We asked Lee Nicholas-Pattillo to consult with the Advisory Committee as she was the last incumbent in the role of District Representative and had visited all the churches in her District so would have information about what the churches might need. After meeting with us, Lee agreed to join the Advisory Committee.

As its discussions continued, the Advisory Committee decided to recommend a number of structural changes, including eliminating the three District Representative positions, simplifying the role of Clerk, adding Program Coordinator to the role of the Vice Moderator, and adding a Communications Coordinator to oversee information dissemination to Member Churches and to coordinate with the Webmaster. Where something could be done by one person instead of a committee, we moved in that direction (so “Coordinator” instead of “Committee”). Where it could be done by the Council Executive, rather than needing the whole Council, we decided that fewer meetings for fewer people would be appropriate.

Following discussion at our successful Executive-Plus Retreat at Bayside camp on September 26, 2020, it was also decided to establish up to two new Members at Large for the Council. These positions would not have a prescribed responsibility for any one Committee, Working Group or Ministry, but may be assigned to special projects or emerging needs or may represent a special interest or issue that Council wishes to pursue.

These changes require amendments to be made to the HRUBA By-Law #1. Copies of the suggested amendments were circulated to the HRUBA Council for comment. As Council was satisfied with the proposed changes, at the Council Meeting of November 12, 2020 a motion was passed to circulate the draft to Member Churches for their review and comment.

Following any Question and Answer sessions that may be requested by members, and any further consultation deemed necessary, the amendments will be voted on at the next Meeting of the Association Body of Delegates, which is tentatively scheduled for March 13, 2021.

The proposed amendments (as of October 25 2020) are noted in MS Markup format on the attached copy of the Office Consolidation of the present By-Law #1 (includes amendments previously passed, up to March 23, 2019).

A table summarizing the proposed amendments format is also attached, with rationale or comment provided for each change. We hope that this will be useful in reviewing what is proposed.

If there are questions or comments you would like to make regarding any of the proposed amendments, please forward them to Dave Gibson at davegibson@ns.sympatico.ca, who will respond or take them to the committee as required. Please also notify Dave if you would like a Question and Answer Session or other briefing on the proposed changes. ZOOM MEETINGS will be set up as requested.

Respectfully submitted,

HRUBA Constitution Committee:

David Gibson, Chair; Ann Taylor, Moderator; and Advisory Committee Members, the Rev. Dr. Frank Guinta, the Rev. John Purdy, and Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

Notice of Motion:

Notice of Motion is hereby given that amendments to By-Law #1 of the Halifax Region United Baptist Association will be presented as a Special Resolution at the Annual General Meeting of the Association on March 13, 2021. Being a Special Resolution, it will require a quorum to be present for the vote to occur. Quorum is composed of delegates from at least fifteen member churches and a minimum of five members of the Association Council. For the Special Resolution to pass, at least three quarters (3/4) of the delegates from member churches who are present in person or via teleconference (allowed because of COVID-19 provisions) must vote in favour of it.