

**Henry County Baptist Association of Virginia - Constitution and ByLaws**

1	<b>Current Constitution and Bylaws (2017)</b>	<b>(Proposed) New Constitution and Bylaws (2026)</b>
2	<b>ARTICLE I – NAME</b>	<b>ARTICLE I – NAME</b>
3	The name of this body shall be the Henry County Baptist Association of Virginia, hereinafter referred to as the Association.	A. The name of this body shall be the Henry County Baptist Association of Virginia, hereinafter referred to as the Association.
4	<b>ARTICLE II – PURPOSE</b>	<b>ARTICLE II – PURPOSE</b>
5	The purpose of this Association shall be mutual encouragement, fellowship, spiritual edification and promotion of all phases of education, evangelism, ministry, missions and worship to the exalting of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through the churches.	A. The purpose of the Association is to support member churches in their efforts to reach residents of Martinsville-Henry County with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
6	<b>ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP</b>
7	This body shall be composed of the officers of the Association, together with messengers duly elected from the cooperating Baptist churches. A church shall be considered in cooperation by (1) being represented by sending a messenger(s) to the Annual Meeting, (2) submitting an annual report to the Association Clerk, and (3) participating financially in the mission of the Association.	1. A church shall be considered a member in good standing by (1) adopting the Baptist Faith & Message 2000 as members of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), (2) being represented at meetings in accordance to ARTICLE IX - MEETINGS, (3) submitting an annual report to the Association Clerk, and (4) participating in the mission of the Association, both financially and substantially in accordance to ARTICLE X – DUTIES OF THE CHURCH.
8	Each church shall be entitled to two messengers and one additional messenger for every twenty five members over one hundred, providing that no church shall be entitled to more than ten messengers.	2. Churches desiring to join this body shall make it known by submitting a letter setting forth views of divine truth, church order, and willingness to cooperate with the Association and shall be presented to the Executive Committee.
9	Representatives from missions sponsored by member churches, representatives from corresponding bodies, visiting ministers and others, by vote of the Association may be offered all privileges of regular members except that of voting.	3. Upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the church will be welcomed into the Association.

10	<b>Current Constitution and Bylaws (2017)</b>	<b>(Proposed) New Constitution and Bylaws (2026)</b>
11		<b>B. WITHDRAWAL OF CHURCHES</b>
12	Churches desiring to cooperate with this body shall make it known by submitting a letter, following guidelines provided by the Clerk of the Association. This letter shall set forth views of divine truth, church order, and willingness to cooperate with the Association and shall be presented to the Chairman of the Membership Committee.	1. The Association recognizes the autonomy of the local church and acknowledges the right of any member church to withdraw from Membership.
13		2. Churches desiring to withdraw are required to send a notice of intent to withdraw in writing to the Executive Committee.
14	Upon a recommendation of the Membership Committee and a favorable vote of the Association, the Moderator will welcome their messengers into the Association.	3. Representatives of the Executive Committee shall counsel with such churches concerning their reasons for leaving in order to provide an opportunity for better understanding and, if possible, reconciliation among all parties.
15		<b>C. DISMISSAL OF CHURCHES</b>
16		4. The Association reserves the right to withdraw membership from any church found to be out of fellowship with the Association in their faith and/or practice. A member church may be dismissed for any of the following additional reasons:
17		a) Failure to participate in and demonstrate a spirit of cooperation and agreement with the mission, ministry, and fellowship of the Association,
18		b) Falling out of favor with SBC and failure to adhere to the Baptist Faith & Message 2000,
19		a) Failure to provide financial support of the Association in accordance to Article X - the Duties of Churches
20		b) Failure to attend meetings of the Association for the period of one year.

21	<b>Current Constitution and Bylaws (2017)</b>	<b>(Proposed) New Constitution and Bylaws (2026)</b>
22	<b>ARTICLE IV – RELATIONSHIPS</b>	<b>ARTICLE IV – RELATIONSHIPS</b>
23	Henry County Baptist Association is a voluntary association of autonomous churches. The Association has no allegiance except to our Lord, Jesus Christ and member churches. However, the Association recognizes the importance of participation in the Southern Baptist Convention.	A. The Association is a voluntary association of Southern Baptist Churches, aligned with and participating as members of SBC adopting and adhering to the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.
24	Each member church has the right to relate to state and national Baptist bodies and other Christian organizations within the dictates of conscience and the guidance of the gospel. The Association may also relate to those same organizations.	B. Member churches may maintain relationships with and use resources from Christian organizations that strengthen them, as long as their beliefs, teachings, and/or doctrines are not in conflict with the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.
25	Member churches are free to maintain relationships with and use resources from Christian organizations which strengthen those churches. Since the Association exists to strengthen HCBA churches, the Association (its staff, officers, and program leaders) is free to utilize resources from the same Christian organizations.	
26	<b>ARTICLE V – OFFICERS</b>	<b>ARTICLE V – LEADERSHIP</b>
27		<b>A. LEADERSHIP POSITIONS</b>
28	GENERAL OFFICERS of this Association shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Group Facilitators, Clerk, and Treasurer who shall be elected annually by the Association to assume office at the conclusion of the annual meeting.	1. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of one member of the ministerial/pastoral staff of the member church, or church appointed substitute. Each church, as represented by the duly appointed representative, shall have a single vote within the Executive Committee.
29		2. The Executive Committee shall elect a Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as the Executive Committee may from time to time deem necessary. Only representatives of member churches are eligible to be Association Officers. These Officers shall be elected to serve a term of two years.

30	<b>Current Constitution and Bylaws (2017)</b>	<b>(Proposed) New Constitution (2026)</b>
31	TRUSTEES shall be elected by the Association as nominees for court appointment to serve as long as both the Trustee and the Association are in accord.	3. The Director of Missions, or any other paid employees will be elected by the Association, and will serve continually at the pleasure of the Executive Committee. The paid employees are subservient to the Executive Committee.
32	Officers shall perform all duties defined in the Constitution and/or Henry County Baptist Association Handbook (referred to herein as the Handbook).	4. TRUSTEES shall be elected by the Association as nominees for court appointment to serve as long as both the Trustee and the Association are in accord.
33		<b>B. LEADERSHIP DUTIES</b>
34		1. Officers and staff shall perform all duties defined in the Constitution and/or Henry County Baptist Association Handbook (referred to herein as the Handbook) as updated by the Executive Committee.
35	<b>ARTICLE VI – ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>ARTICLE VI – ORGANIZATION</b>
36	The Association officers, teams and committees shall be organized into four Groups according to function:	A. The Association shall be composed of messengers/pastors duly elected from member churches.
37	Mission/Ministry Development Group – Create and coordinate cooperative mission and ministry opportunities for member churches, training volunteers and energizing participation.	
38	C3 (Community, Connections, Celebration) Group – Foster connection and fellowship between member churches and with the larger Baptist family.	
39	Church Health Group – Strengthen the health and growth of member churches through providing training and resources.	
40	Administration Group – Oversee the ongoing operation of the Association itself.	
41	The makeup of each Group is defined in the Handbook.	

42	<b>Current Constitution and Bylaws (2017)</b>	<b>(Proposed) New Constitution and Bylaws (2026)</b>
43	<b>ARTICLE VII – ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK</b>	<b>ARTICLE VII – ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK</b>
44	The Handbook of the Henry County Baptist Association shall contain the policies, procedures and position descriptions for all elected and employed positions.	A. The Handbook of the Association shall contain the policies, procedures and position descriptions for all elected and employed positions.
45	A copy of the Handbook shall be sent to each member church. Additional copies of the Handbook may be obtained, upon request, from the Association office.	B. A copy of the Handbook shall be sent to each member church. Additional copies may be obtained upon request from the Association office.
46	The Handbook may be amended (with exception of the Constitution and Bylaws) by the Executive Committee at any regular meeting, provided that written notice of any proposed change had been given to members of the Executive Committee fifteen days before the meeting.	C. The Handbook may be amended (with exception of the Constitution and Bylaws) by the Executive Committee at any regular meeting, provided that written notice of any proposed change had been given to members of the Executive Committee fifteen days before the meeting.
47	<b>ARTICLE VIII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>ARTICLE VIII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>
48	The Executive Committee shall be composed of all Association officers, Group Facilitators, Team Leaders, Committee Chairpersons, the representatives to the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and the pastor and one lay member from each member church or mission sponsored by a member church.	A. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of pastors of all member churches as defined in ARTICLE V - LEADERSHIP.
49	Representatives of new church starts shall not have voting privileges.	B. Representatives of new church starts shall not have voting privileges for a one-year probational period.
50	The Executive Committee shall meet at least three times annually. Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum. Each church representative to the Executive Committee shall be named to the Association in the church’s annual report.	C. The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly (four times each year). The senior pastor of each church will be the primary representative on the Executive Committee and will designate an alternate representative to the Executive Committee by name to the Association in the church’s annual report. Association church members and guests are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in executive committee meetings without voting privileges.
51	The Executive Committee shall perform all duties defined in the Constitution and/or the Handbook.	D. Each church will strive to have one and only one voting representative at each meeting of the Executive Committee.

52	<b>Current Constitution and Bylaws (2017)</b>	<b>(Proposed) New Constitution and Bylaws (2026)</b>
53	The Executive Committee shall serve as the Association between annual meetings in administering the work of the Association.	E. The Executive Committee shall perform all duties defined in the Constitution
54	<b>ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS</b>	<b>ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS</b>
55		<b>A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:</b>
56		1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly.
57		2. Each Association church will have one (1) voting representative at each meeting of the Executive Committee.
58		a) Any church without a pastor will designate a church member to represent the church as their primary representative, as well as the alternate.
59		b) Other Association church members and guests are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in Executive Committee meetings, but without voting privileges.
60		3. The quorum for Executive Board Meetings shall be 25% (1/4th) of the single representatives of the member churches, rounded up to the nearest whole number.
61		<b>B. ASSOCIATIONAL MEETINGS:</b>
62	The Association shall convene annually at a time and place determined by the Association or the Executive Committee.	1. The Association shall convene annually in October at a time and place determined by the Executive Committee.
63	The Association shall have the authority to regulate its own meetings and may adjourn to meet at any member church.	a) Additional Association meetings may be called by the Executive Committee at any time by sending all documents to be voted on and giving 15 days notice.
64	A majority of legal voters shall constitute a legal action, unless otherwise stated herein.	2. Each Association church shall be represented by at least two (2) messengers at all called meetings.

65	<b>Current Constitution and Bylaws (2017)</b>	<b>(Proposed) New Constitution and Bylaws (2026)</b>
66	The Association year shall run from October 1 through September 30.	3. The administrative year of the Association shall begin at the end of the Annual Meeting of one year and run through Annual Meeting of the next year.
67		b) Each Association church will be entitled to one (1) additional messenger for every twenty-five (25) members over one hundred, except that no church shall be entitled to more than ten (10) messengers.
68	A quorum shall consist of messengers representing a majority of the member churches.	4. A quorum for an association meeting shall be messengers/pastors representing at least 25% of the member churches.
69	The program for the annual meeting shall be arranged by the Annual Meeting Committee in counsel with the Executive Committee. Each session shall include worship.	5. A majority of the voters present, assuming quorum is met, shall constitute any legal action, unless otherwise stated herein.
70		6. The program for the annual or specially called meetings shall be arranged by the Executive Committee. Each session shall include worship.
71	<b>ARTICLE X – DUTIES OF THE CHURCH</b>	<b>ARTICLE X – DUTIES OF THE CHURCH</b>
72	Each member church shall send one or more messengers to the Annual Meeting.	A. Each member church shall send at the least two messengers/pastors to the Annual Meeting.
73	Each member church shall submit an annual report to the Clerk of the Association, on a form supplied by the Clerk, at least ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting.	B. Each member church shall submit an annual report to the Executive Association, on a form supplied by the Clerk, at least ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting.
74	Each member church shall contribute regularly toward the Association budget for defraying expenses connected with the promotional, educational, and missionary work of the Association.	C. Churches will contribute \$25 per month to support the Association, and are encouraged to do as much more as possible.
75	A church that is not represented at the annual meeting, or does not report, or participate financially in the mission of the Association shall be visited by officers of the Association.	D. Each church should strive to send at least one church member to every ministry effort of the Association.

76	<b>Current Constitution and Bylaws (2017)</b>	<b>(Proposed) New Constitution and Bylaws (2026)</b>
77	<b>ARTICLE XI – BUDGET</b>	<b>ARTICLE XI – BUDGET</b>
78	The Finance Committee shall prepare a budget, for the fiscal year January 1 to December 31, for adoption by the Association. It shall also recommend the best method and procedure for raising funds for the annual budget and any other funds needed by the Association.	A. The Executive Committee is responsible to prepare a budget for the fiscal year, January 1 to December 31, for adoption by the Association. It shall also recommend the best procedure for providing associational funds.
79	<b>ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION</b>	<b>ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION</b>
80	The constitution may be amended at any regular annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of messengers present, representing a majority of the member churches, provided written notice of the proposed change has been given to the Executive Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.	A. The constitution may be amended at any regular annual or specially called meeting by a two-thirds vote of messengers/pastors present, representing a majority of the member churches, provided written notice of the proposed change has been given to the Executive Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.

81	<b>Current Constitution and Bylaws (2017)</b>	<b>(Proposed) New Constitution and Bylaws (2026)</b>
82	<b>BYLAWS</b>	<b>BYLAWS</b>
83	1. ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER (Revised) shall be used as the standard of parliamentary procedure for the transaction of business.	1. ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER (Revised) shall be used as the standard of parliamentary procedure for the transaction of business.
84	2. Within this Association there shall be full recognition of the autonomy of each member church.	2. Within this Association there shall be full recognition of the autonomy of each member church within the bounds of the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.
85	3. The Executive Committee shall not have the authority to reverse the action of the Association.	3. The Executive Committee shall not have the authority to reverse actions of the Association.
86	4. No language in the constitution and bylaws shall be construed as limiting any position to men, or to women, except in Woman’s Missionary Union and Baptist Men’s Ministry.	
87	5. The Nominating Committee shall seek to enlist persons from all Association churches for the elected positions within the Association.	4. The Executive Committee shall seek to enlist persons from all Association churches for the elected positions within the Association.
88	6. Any officer, Group Facilitator, Team Leader, or committee chairperson, elected by the Association that incurs necessary expenses in the work of their office shall be reimbursed from the Association treasury in keeping with the adopted budget of the Association.	5. Any affirmed representative of the Association that incurs necessary expenses in the work of their office shall be reimbursed from the Association treasury in keeping with the adopted budget of the Association.
89	7. These bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting by a majority of the messengers present and voting. The amendment must be presented in writing.	6. These bylaws may be amended at any annual or specially called meeting by a majority of the messengers present and voting. The amendment must be presented in writing.