

To:

The churches, the working branches, the boards and councils of the Norwegian Baptist Society

Consultation for suggestions for updated articles of association

The Baptist Union of Norway consists of 105 independent churches, which are closely linked together in our denomination as a large Baptist family. In any family, it is important that everyone has a voice, as is the case with us Baptists as well. We believe that we can achieve the best results if we work together in processes where everyone has the opportunity to contribute.

The national congress in 2019 in Tromsø requested a report on this basis:

The congress sees a need for a larger investigation and discussion concerning the denominational statutes of association in light of baptistic ecclesiology. The Congress therefore requests that the Executive board of the BUN appoint a committee to carry out such an investigation. The committee will present its recommendations at the national congress in 2022. The committee must be broadly composed of persons with good insight into the BUN, as well as with both theological, legal and organizational competence. The committee's mandate and task can be summarized as follows:

- to gather important interpretations of the biblical material about the church with a view to describing Baptist ecclesiology
- to present historical perspectives on how Baptist ecclesiology has been understood and practiced among Norwegian Baptists
- To discuss the relationship between the independence of local congregations and their mutual relationship of commitment within the denominational fellowship based on an understanding of Baptist ecclesiology, including a discussion of the denomination's current exclusion clause.
- To assess the importance and function of the Executive Board and the National Congress within an understanding of Baptistic ecclesiology.
- to process the present material with a view to presenting a comprehensive proposal for articles of association for the Norwegian Baptist Society.

The committee appointed by the Executive Board to work on the issues related to Baptist identity and practice until the 2022 congress was quickly identified as BID2022 (baptistic identity). The committee has since held two case presentations at the national congress of 2020 and 2021. Furthermore, two hearings have been conducted within congregations and various branches of ministry in the spring of 2021 and the winter of 2021/2022.

We request input for the consultation's proposals for updated articles of association.

These proposals for updated articles of association are intended to provide "a comprehensive recommendation for the articles of association for the Baptist Union of Norway", in accordance with the committee's work, including consideration of the input provided by churches in consultation rounds one and two.

An appendix has also been provided with two main purposes:

1. To be a supplementary document for congregations with the purpose of enhancing understanding of the content of the articles of association that have been sent for consultation
2. To provide an overall summary of areas that have been identified this far to be submitted to the Administration/ Executive Board, as well as short feedback on the work performed on the Foundational document.

It should be emphasized that this appendix is not part of the consultation, but that it is intended to assist the churches in an increased understanding of the proposals sent out and the process that the committee follows.



The final case presentation for the 2022 congress from BID2022 will be updated on the basis of the input we receive from churches and branches of ministry.

BID2022 requests input for the following areas:

1. Proposal for updated articles of association
 - Do the churches agree/disagree with the principles promoted?
 - Regardless of whether one agrees/disagrees; - is there anything about the wording that should be changed for the purpose of providing clarification?
 2. «No comment»
 - It is important to know that the document has been reviewed, even if a congregation has no comments to offer. Therefore, we kindly request that all congregations provide us with feedback.
 3. Publication of consultation input:
 - At the 2021 national congress, questions were raised as to whether the various consultation responses could be made available to other churches. This will therefore facilitate this. The congregations and branches of ministry that agree to having their responses published are asked to confirm this in the consultation response.
- An introductory Zoom meeting will be held, 5 April, 2022. For registration, go to: <https://www.checkin.no/event/41043> The meeting will briefly present the consultation, as well as providing an opportunity for asking clarifying questions. Consultation statements will not be received in the Zoom meeting.
 - Go to the resources page for the hearing - <https://intranett.baptist.no/om-oss/hoeringer-bid2022/3horing>. Here you will find existing articles of association, proposals for updated articles of association, attachments, as well as a template for feedback
 - The consultation submissions must be sent by e-mail to roger.dahl@baptist.no no later than 8 May. See the attached template for feedback.
 - The feedback provided must state who the response is submitted on behalf of (for example, "this response comes from Aune Baptist Church")

Remember, we stand united in the work to be done. BID 2022 would also like to take this opportunity to express its thanks to the congregations for the input we have already received, and the commitment that has come to expression in the process. This has been both crucial to the current proposal for the articles of association, and very valuable in the process leading up to it.

Oslo, 31 March 2022

On behalf of BID2022 Elise Angen /s

