

Constitution of Carolina Baptist Association

Preamble:

We, the messengers of cooperating Baptist churches in Henderson, and parts of Buncombe and Polk Counties, North Carolina, propose to establish and maintain the principles of a district association consistent with this constitution. The Carolina Baptist Association adheres to The Baptist Faith & Message, a statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention June 14, 2000.

Article I - NAME

The name of this body shall be "Carolina Baptist Association, Inc."

Article II - PURPOSE

To aid churches in their obedience to the Great Commission, and, seeking direction from the unchanging God in a constantly changing world, it shall be the purpose of Carolina Baptist Association, Inc. to help churches cooperate with koinonia in missions, evangelism and growth projects they cannot do alone. The Association shall be a resource center for training and equipping church workers to be more effective in performing their duties. The Association shall encourage cooperation in the denomination for the advancement of God's Kingdom.

Article III – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 The Carolina Baptist Association, congruent with The Baptist Faith & Message 2000, recognizes a church to be a body that meets the following criteria: (Found in the BFM as VI. The Church)

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

(Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.)

SECTION 2 Carolina Baptist Association, Incorporated shall be composed of messengers from cooperating member churches.

SECTION 3 The Association shall be sole judge of its membership and may receive churches, or reject churches according to its Constitution and Bylaws.

SECTION 4 Churches who want to join the Association may apply to the Membership Team. Upon the team's recommendation to the Association, a church may be received under watch-care for a period of one year during which the church shall have all the rights and privileges of membership except that members may not vote nor hold office. After a satisfactory relationship for one year, the church can be received into full membership.

SECTION 5 A church may withdraw from the Association by transfer of letter to another association or by an official request to have that church removed from the membership role.

Article IV - MEETINGS

SECTION 1 Carolina Baptist Association, Inc. shall meet regularly on the fourth Tuesday evening in April from 7:00 through 9:00 P.M., at which meeting general officers shall be elected, and on the third Tuesday in October, from 4:00 P.M. through 9:00 P.M. each year.

SECTION 2 Special meetings may be called for specified purposes by the Moderator or the Associational Leadership Team provided that two weeks notice is given to member churches.

SECTION 3 Messengers shall be elected annually by each member church. In addition to the pastor, one messenger for each fifty (50) members of the church may be elected provided that no church shall have less than three (3) nor more than ten (10) messengers. The names of messengers who attend

and register during the annual associational meeting shall be listed in the associational annual report book.

Article V - AUTHORITY

Each church is autonomous. A church does not instruct its messengers how to vote, and no church is under the authority of the Association in any way. All relationships are cooperative.

Article VI - OFFICERS

SECTION 1 The general officers of Carolina Baptist Association shall be a Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Historian.

SECTION 2 General officers shall be elected at the spring meeting by a majority vote for candidates presented by the Nominations Team or from the floor. All nominations must be with the prior consent of the nominee. They shall serve for one year beginning at the close of the fall meeting and ending at the close of the next fall meeting. The Nominations Team report shall be published in the newsletter before the election.

SECTION 3 (a) A Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Moderator to serve during his term of office.

(b) If the office of Moderator becomes vacant, the Vice Moderator shall become Moderator for the remainder of that term. Other vacancies in associational offices shall be filled by the Association on recommendation by the Nominations Team or from the floor at the next appointed associational meeting, with the prior consent of the nominee.

(c) A moderator shall not serve more than two terms in succession.

SECTION 4 The major divisions of work; Missions, Church Development, Pastors Leadership Team, and others, as determined by the Association, shall be coordinated by Leadership Teams. Each Leadership Team officer and director shall be nominated by the Nominations Team or from the floor, with the prior consent of the nominees, to serve for one year beginning at the close of the fall meeting and ending at the close of the next fall meeting.

Article VII - TRUSTEES

Three Trustees shall be elected to single rotating terms of three years. It is suggested that one of the three be a lawyer. Nominations may come from the Nominations Team or from the floor with the prior consent of each nominee. The expiration date of each Trustee's term of office shall appear by his name in the Associational Annual report book.

Article VIII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carolina Baptist Association, Inc. shall function as a corporation. The Director of Missions shall serve as president of the board composed of the Trustees and the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall serve as secretary of the board.

Article IX - EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Carolina Baptist Association Executive Team shall be composed of the Associational Officers, Leadership Team, Team Leaders, Trustees, Director of Missions (ex-officio) and the persons holding or representing the following positions in each member church: Pastor, Sunday School Director, Discipleship Training Director, WMU Director, Baptist Men Director, Music Director, Youth Director, Senior Adult Director, Single Adult Director and Chair of Deacons. The Executive Team shall have the authority to act for the Association between sessions as limited by the Constitution and Bylaws. It shall meet as needed. The meeting shall be called by Moderator and/or Director of Missions. A quorum shall consist of those present at regular meetings and called meetings with two weeks notice to all member churches.

Article X – LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Associational Leadership Team shall consist of the Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Leadership Team Directors, Association Team Leaders, and the associational staff members (ex-officio). The Associational Leadership Team shall function in an advisory capacity for planning, promoting, correlating and reviewing the total associational program, to include, but not be limited to the long range planning for the association. Any meeting of the Associational Leadership Team shall be deemed official if a minimum of five (5) voting members are present. The Leadership Team sub-team, consisting of the Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, shall serve as a standing personnel team. The Leadership Team shall meet prior to each meeting of the Association.

Article XI – TEAMS

SECTION 1 The following teams shall be appointed by the Moderator a least ninety days before the spring meeting: Recruitment Team, Resolutions Team, and Place/Preacher Team.

SECTION 2 The Recruitment Team shall recruit Team Leaders for the Association.

SECTION 3 The Nominations Team Leader is recruited by the Recruitment Team. The Nominations Team shall nominate the Association Officers, Leadership Team Directors, and Trustees. The Nominations Team is encouraged to attempt to enlist people from all the churches so that leadership is distributed among the cooperating churches.

SECTION 4 Other teams may be added or deleted as needed determined by the Director of Missions and/or the Association Leadership Team.

Article XII - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the constitution determined by the Association Leadership Team may be made at any regular semi-annual meeting. The amendment must be presented by distribution in printed form during an executive team meeting prior to the semi-annual meeting. It shall then be presented and distributed in printed form at the semi-annual meeting, reviewed by the Association Leadership Team and voted upon. Two thirds of the messengers present and voting, by standing, shall be required.

Bylaws

I - PARLIAMENTARY RULES

Parliamentary procedures shall follow *Robert's Rules of Order*.

II - ASSOCIATIONAL YEAR

The associational year and reports shall cover September 1st through August 31st. The fiscal year shall be January 1st through December 31st.

III - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1 The Moderator shall conduct meetings in keeping with the Constitution and Bylaws. The Moderator shall chair the Executive Team and serve as ex-officio member of all teams. He shall appoint the following team leaders at least ninety days before the spring meeting: Recruitment Team, Resolutions Team, Place/Preacher Team and parliamentarian.

SECTION 2 The Vice Moderator shall preside in the absence or at the pleasure of the Moderator. The Vice Moderator shall be vice chair of the Executive Team and chair of the Associational Leadership Team.

SECTION 3 The Clerk shall work with the associational staff to see that minutes of the meetings of the Association, Executive Team and Associational Leadership Team are kept in proper order. The Clerk shall supervise the distribution of report forms six weeks before they are due in the associational office.

SECTION 4 The Treasurer shall work with the associational staff to see that all funds of the Association are received, banked and disbursed properly according to the policies and instructions of Carolina Baptist Association.

SECTION 5 The Historian shall work with the associational staff to see that historical data on the Association and its cooperating churches is collected and preserved. A written report shall be included in the association annual report book.

IV - DUTIES OF LEADERSHIP TEAM

SECTION 1 The Association Leadership Team will help coordinate the total associational program.

SECTION 2 The Leadership Team shall work with Team Leaders to develop budget requests for use by the Stewardship Team in preparation of the annual associational budget.

V - TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees shall fill the legal requirements of the State of North Carolina for Carolina Baptist Association, Inc. to hold title to all its property. It shall handle all legal matters as directed by the Association.

VI - DUTIES OF TEAM LEADERS

Upon the recommendation of the Recruitment Team, leaders of associational teams may succeed themselves. Team leaders will work with the Director of Missions and train churches in the area of their ministry team, and/or conduct association conferences/workshops as needed. Team

leaders are to select their own team members with no more than one member from their own church to help them with the work at hand.

VII - DUTIES OF TEAMS

SECTION 1 The **Recruitment Team** Leader shall be appointed annually by the Moderator. The team shall recommend a leader for each association team and present a list of nominees to the association at the fall meeting. It shall also recommend persons to fill vacancies that occur between semi-annual meetings to the association at the appropriate meeting.

SECTION 2 The **Stewardship Team** shall include the Treasurer. It shall consider all needs, requests and financial resources to propose an annual budget to the Association. It shall also recommend plans for raising funds to meet the budget. It shall be responsible for the oversight of the financial obligations of the Carolina Baptist Association. It shall be consulted concerning needs and expenditures that go beyond the scope of the approved budget. It shall appoint an auditor to audit the Association's financial records annually or at the request of the Executive Team.

SECTION 3 The **Membership/Ordination Team** shall perform the duties stated in Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution. It shall also seek to establish better relationships with non-active churches. When requested by a member church, it shall assist with examination and ordination of a candidate for the Gospel Ministry.

SECTION 4 The **Nominations Team** shall nominate a person for each general office of the Association, Associational Officers, Leadership Team Directors, and Trustees. All nominees must have given permission before they are nominated at the spring meeting. To fill vacancies between semi-annual meetings, this team shall present a nominee to the association at the next Executive Team meeting. A list of nominees shall be printed in the Carolina Baptist News to inform the churches before the election.

SECTION 5 The **Place and Preacher Team** Leader shall be appointed by the Moderator. The team shall seek and consider amenable churches and persons to recommend places for the semi-annual sessions of the Association and a person and alternate to preach the annual sermon for the next year.

SECTION 6 The **Resolutions Team** Leader shall be appointed by the moderator. The team's report shall be presented at the fall meeting.

VIII - DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

SECTION 1 The Director of Missions shall be elected upon the recommendation of a duly appointed search team by the Association in semi-annual meeting or by the Executive Team between meetings. The term of office shall be until terminated by Carolina Baptist Association Leadership Team and/or Executive Team or at the official request of the Director of Missions.

SECTION 2 The Director of Missions shall have general oversight of the work of Carolina Baptist Association, Inc. cooperating with all the elected associational officials and the leadership of the cooperating churches. The Director of Missions shall be an ex-officio member of all teams, Leadership Team and organizations of the Association.

A. Salary and benefits shall be determined by the annual budget of the Association.

B. Vacation time shall be two weeks the first five years, then three weeks each year without carry over. Additional time off may be granted for just reasons by the Associational Leadership Team and/or the Executive Team.

C. The Director of Missions is allowed up to three weeks of revival meetings and two weeks of denominational work outside the Association each year. Any additional time must be approved by the Associational Leadership Team and/or the Executive Team. The number of revival meetings within the Association is not limited.

D. The Director of Missions shall serve the churches of the Association without charge. However, voluntary honoraria or personal gifts are left to the discretion of the churches.

E. More than twelve days sick leave per year must be approved by the Associational Leadership Team and/or the Executive Team.

F. The Director of Missions shall not serve more than three weeks as interim pastor or pulpit supply in any church in a given year without the approval of the Moderator or Vice Moderator of the Association.

G. The Director of Missions shall respond to requests by churches for help in securing a pastor.

H. The Director of Missions shall provide leadership in planning and conducting Associational events.

I. The Director of Missions shall encourage churches to participate in the Cooperative Program.

SECTION 3 Anything relating to the Director of Missions which is not covered under Bylaw VIII must be determined by the Associational Leadership Team and/or the Executive Team.

J. The Director of Missions shall be in full agreement with the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

IX - ANNUAL REPORTS

Team reports to be printed in the Book of Advanced Reports, except for history and statistics, must not exceed three hundred (300) words.

X – QUALIFICATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP

All officers, Leadership Team, and Team Members shall be chosen from members of active Carolina Baptist Association churches. Persons who leave this association to attend a church of another Association may be “approved” to continue their service in the Carolina Baptist Association if the Association votes to approve the individual in one of the semi-annual meetings.

XI - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws determined by the Association Leadership Team may be made at any Annual Meeting of the Association when presented in writing at an Executive Team meeting prior to the semi-annual meeting and at said meeting and approved by a majority of the messengers present and voting.

(Revised 1/29/13)