

FANNIN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this association shall be Fannin Baptist Association;
hereafter referred to as “the association.”

ARTICLE II PURPOSE, VALUES, AND VISION STATEMENTS

Purpose/Mission

Fannin Baptist Association is a network of churches that seeks to start, empower, and equip churches for Kingdom growth.

Values

S.E.R.V.E. Scripture, Evangelism, Relevance, Vigilance, Exaltation of Christ

Vision

Fannin Baptist Association seeks to be healthy, proactive, and visionary as we reach our communities, the religious lost, all population segments, and all people groups for Christ.

According to Acts 1:8, which says:

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- Healthy – We seek to provide spiritual nourishment for churches and ministers of the Gospel in order to create wholesome and healthy congregations that are passionate about fulfilling the Great Commission.
- Proactive – We seek to be proactive in empowering churches so that we can assess their needs, equipping them to move forward in their purpose of reaching people for Christ, helping them build vital relationships in the church and external relationships in the community, and improving their overall health as a congregation.
- Visionary – We seek to be visionary moving forward with the call of God while celebrating our past, seeking God's will for the journey, and anticipating our future with faith.
- Communities – We seek to develop and maintain essential relationships with those in our communities, neighborhoods, city, county, and beyond so that our churches experience Kingdom Growth.
- Religious Lost – We seek to enable, equip, and empower ministers and churches in the FBA to be witnesses and reach those in our community who are spiritual or involved in other religions, but do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Population Segments – We seek to enable, equip, and empower churches in the FBA to specifically target and effectively communicate with the population segments

within our county, including urbanites, cowboys, and lower, middle, and upper classes.

- *People Groups – We seek to enable, equip, and empower churches in the FBA to effectively witness and minister to those in our community where there is a communication or cultural barrier.*

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

This association shall be composed of pastors and messengers of cooperating Southern Baptist Churches in Fannin County duly elected by the churches. Each church shall be entitled to three (3) messengers *per* fifty (50) members; however, no church shall send more than eight (8) messengers. All messengers must be able to produce evidence of their election.

ARTICLE IV PRIORITY TEAMS

The association shall re-prioritize its ministry work whenever necessary, priority issues being agreed upon by vote of the association at its annual meetings. The people of the association shall then cooperate in ministry through Priority Teams. These teams shall be composed of interested volunteers in each priority area. The teams shall select their chairmen, conduct their ministries, and manage their finances under the supervision of the Administrative Team.

ARTICLE V ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

An Administrative Team shall meet as needed to oversee the ministries and conduct the business of the association between annual meetings. This team shall consist of the chairmen of the Priority Teams, the Director of Missions, and the association's elected officers. These officers are: Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and three at-large members. The Moderator shall serve as Chairman. No one shall be eligible for the office of Moderator for more than two (2) terms in succession.

In the business session of each annual meeting, the outgoing Administrative Team shall nominate officers for the new year (recognizing the right of messengers to make additional nominations from the floor).

ARTICLE VI ANNUAL MEETING

The association may hold annual meetings at such time and place as it may elect. Ministers shall be elected one year in advance to preach at the Annual Meeting. In the event that an elected minister or alternate is unable to preach, the Administrative Team shall select a substitute. The Administrative Team shall also recommend the time, place, and speakers for the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VII DENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION

This association shall cooperate with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and/or The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, and Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

ARTICLE VIII NEW CHURCH AFFILIATION

SECTION 1 New churches seeking to send messengers to the association shall submit petitionary letters with a Statement of Faith to the Administrative Team. A review of the petition shall follow the guidelines for affiliation as listed within this constitution. The new church shall be:

1. A Baptist Church of like faith and order.
2. In sympathy with the objectives of the association as stated in Article VII of this Constitution.

SECTION 2 Procedures for Affiliation with the Association

1. That the newly-organized church seeking affiliation be in complete harmony and fellowship in supporting the work of the Fannin Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas and/or The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.
2. That there be a one-year watch care, between the presenting of the petitionary letter and the action of the association in the following Annual Meeting. Each petitioning church shall participant fully in the life of the association by lending support in the programs and in financial support.
3. That the church adopt the Articles of Faith as set forth in *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963 or as revised in 1998 and 2000 and a church covenant, such as that made available by Lifeway Christian Resources.
4. That the Administrative Team be instructed to ascertain:
 - a. What is the actual purpose of the organization of the church, and the manner in which the church was conceived and born?
 - b. What is the purpose in desiring fellowship in the association?
 - c. What are the church's attitude toward (1) the Cooperative Program and its purpose and work; (2) Lifeway Christian Resources and literature produced by Lifeway Christian Resources? (3) the working fellowship of the Fannin Baptist Association Churches?
 - d. What is the image and relationship with neighboring churches?
 - e. (*If a new church plant*) Is there a need for a church in the area where the church is to locate?
 - f. Will the church secure a permanent location in keeping with the guidelines established by the Fannin Baptist Association?

SECTION 3 When the doctrines and practices of a church cease to be acceptable to the Fannin Baptist Association, and/or when they cease to adhere to Article VII of our constitution, the *Administrative Team* shall investigate the cause and bring recommendations to the Annual Meeting relative to future relationships of the association to said church.

ARTICLE IX AUTHORITY

The association shall not exercise any ecclesiastical authority over the local church, but shall act in an advisory capacity in all its activities.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

Any amendment to this constitution or these by-laws to come before the association must be presented at least one month before the Annual Meeting at a meeting of the Administrative Team. The proposed amendment must then be presented by reading before the association at the Annual Meeting, and must pass by a two-thirds majority at that meeting.

ARTICLE XI FINANCIAL LIABILITY

SECTION 1 Should the Administrative Team deem it prudent to incur debt directly related to a church-type mission within the geographic bounds of the association, such debt recommendation shall be presented for initial review at an Administrative Team meeting. Any vote on such debt recommendation shall be voted on at the following Administrative Team Meeting. Such debt shall be incurred by a majority vote of the Administrative Team in that second meeting.

SECTION 2 Should the association deem it prudent to incur any debt at an Annual Meeting, such debt recommendation shall be presented at a time no less than thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting for review by the Administrative Team.

SECTION 3 Administrative Team shall neither bind the association nor the local churches in any financial, moral or doctrinal obligation.

ARTICLE OF DECORUM

1. The association meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. All officers and committees shall be *approved* by the election of the messengers present at the Annual Meeting.
3. The Moderator shall be deemed a judge of order and shall have the right to make decisions regarding protocol at any time.
4. Any messenger not satisfied with decisions of any matter regarding point of order with the Moderator may appeal to the association on the same day, but at no other time.

5. The majority of the messengers present at the Annual Meeting shall determine all matters, with the exception of amending the constitution and by-laws, which requires two thirds of messengers present at the Annual Meeting.
6. Only one person shall be permitted to speak at a time to a motion. The Moderator shall recognize the one who shall first rise and address the chair.
7. The person speaking shall not be interrupted by anyone except the Moderator until he/she is done speaking. Only those with consent or point of order may have questions of personal privilege. A three-minute time limit is recommended for each spokesperson.
8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without the consent of the Moderator of the Body. Both the Body and the Chair shall adhere to parliamentary usage as is laid down in Robert's Rules of Order.
9. The Moderator shall not interrupt anyone speaking unless that person violates the decorum.
10. The Moderator shall have the privilege of speaking the same as other messengers provided the Chair is filled, but may not vote unless the Body is equally divided. Any messenger who shall willingly or knowingly violate any of these rules shall be reprov'd as the association may think proper, and this is to be done on the same day of offense but not hereafter.