

BY-LAWS MARSHALL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

(Changes voted on June 20, 2016 in Executive Committee)

The Association is a family of churches who voluntarily join together to encourage, strengthen and help each other in their common commitment to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Procedure For Obtaining Membership

Churches desiring membership in the Association are asked to demonstrate their willingness to cooperate by actively participating in and financially supporting the programs of the Association and the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention for a period of at least three months under the watch care of the Executive Committee.

Prior to petitioning, churches must have had at least one year of existence as a church or a mission in order for the Credentials Committee to do an evaluation.

Upon presentation of a "Petitionary Letter," the Credentials Committee shall make a thorough investigation, and after consultation with the petitioning church, make recommendations to the Executive Committee for action concerning watch care status until voted into membership by the Association at the Annual Meeting. No church shall be accepted into membership that is not represented at the session when the vote is taken.

SECTION 2:

Each member church shall agree to support the faith and practices as set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws.

SECTION 3:

Each member church shall present the "Annual Church Profile" no later than the Annual Meeting each year. Failure to do so for a period of two consecutive years shall cause the Association or its Executive Committee to ask the Credentials Committee to discuss with the local church its intentions and desires, seek to restore fellowship and make an appropriate report to the Association.

SECTION 4:

The Association shall determine the propriety of retaining in its union any church which has become unscriptural in its doctrine or practices or which ceases its cooperative relationship with the Association, The Alabama Baptist Convention or The Southern Baptist Convention. Questions of this nature shall be channeled to the Credentials Committee which after careful study shall bring recommendations to the Association or the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE II - MESSENGERS

SECTION 1:

Each church shall be entitled to three messengers for the first fifty members with one additional messenger for each additional fifty members or fraction thereof. No church may have more than ten messengers. The Pastor of each member church may be one of the authorized number of messengers.

SECTION 2:

Alternate messengers may be elected by the church to represent the church in case of absences of duly elected messengers.

SECTION 3:

In the event special called meetings are necessary, the messengers to the preceding meeting shall constitute the membership of the special session, except cases in which new messengers are certified by the churches.