

Constitution of Heart of Missouri Baptist Association

Article I Name

The name of this Association is Heart of Missouri Baptist Association

Article II Purpose

Section 1

The purpose of the Association is “Member churches serving together to advance the Kingdom of Christ.” This means meeting the needs of churches in the Association, cooperating to accomplish ministry to our communities, and partnering in mission endeavors wherever God may lead us. This Association will further seek to cooperate and partner with the Missouri Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention and other bodies in joint ministry where it is deemed practical and beneficial to the mission and objectives of this Association.

Section 2

The doctrinal position of this Association is that contained in the current edition of the Baptist Faith and Message and the Core Values adopted by the Association.

Article III Membership

Section 1

The membership of this Association shall consist of Baptistic churches voluntarily cooperating with the mission and purpose of the Association.

Section 2

Each affiliated church is expected to provide representation to the meetings of the Association, financially support the work of the Association, and be in friendly cooperation with sister churches of the Association.

Section 3

Any church desiring membership in the Association shall send a written notice of their desire to an officer of the Association or the Director of Missions. The Leadership Council shall then appoint a Credentials Committee to inquire into the church’s doctrine and organization. The Credentials Committee will report to the Executive Board, who will in turn make a recommendation to the Association at a meeting of the Full Association, as to their findings. A church will be welcomed into the Association upon receiving two-thirds of the messengers voting in favor of acceptance.

Section 4

A member church may withdraw from the Association by informing the Secretary or Director of Missions in writing. If a church becomes unsound in doctrine or ceases to cooperate with the Association, the Leadership Council shall appoint a Credentials Committee to investigate the issue/s at hand. After careful investigation according to the spirit of Matthew 18, the committee shall report to the Executive Board, who will in turn make a recommendation to the Association at a meeting of the Full Association, as to their findings and/or any restoration that has been

accomplished. The Association shall withdraw fellowship and remove the rights of membership upon a two-thirds vote of the messengers voting to withdraw fellowship.

Article IV Organization

Section 1

The Association shall employ a Director of Missions.

Section 2

The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Section 3

The Association shall have teams as follows: Church Strengthening, Missions, Associational Ministries, Ethics and Religious Liberty, and Camp Ministry.

Section 4

The Leadership Council shall consist of the Director of Missions, the officers of the Association, and the team leaders of the Association. The Leadership Council will be responsible for monitoring the health of the Association, assist the Director of Missions in casting vision for the Association, and conducting such business as is necessary between meetings of the Executive Board or the Full Association. In general, initiatives of the Leadership Council shall be referred to the Executive Board for approval.

Section 5

The Executive Board shall consist of the officers of the Association and two representatives from each church in the Association. Each church shall elect her own representatives and notify the Secretary or Director of Missions at least one week prior to a meeting. The Executive Board of the Association shall exist to conduct business between meetings of the Full Association. The actions of the Executive Board are subject to review at a meeting of the Full Association.

Section 6

The Full Association shall consist of the officers and messengers from each church. The Full Association shall meet, at least, annually with the date and location being set by the Leadership Council and communicated to every church. Each church shall be entitled to three messengers, and one additional messenger for each fifty members of the Weekly Worship Average Attendance as reported in the Annual Church Profile. No church shall have more than eight messengers. Each church shall elect her own messengers and notify the Secretary or Director of Missions one week prior to the meeting. The Full Association is the final authority on all matters of business and policy.

Section 7

Special Meetings of the Executive Board and/or the Full Association may be called by the Leadership Council. Every effort must be made to notify every church in the Association of any special meeting. Except in cases of extreme need, two weeks notice shall be considered the minimum time frame to notify the churches of such a meeting.

Section 8

Meetings of the Association shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Article V Quorum

Messengers or Representatives in attendance at any properly called and/or scheduled meeting of the Full Association or Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI Ratification & Amendments

Section 1

Adoption of this constitution shall be made at the annual meetings of the two merging Associations, namely Grand Crossings Baptist Association and Mid Missouri Baptist Association. The Constitution shall be ratified by a two-thirds affirmative vote of each Association and will go into effect as of the date set in the motions from the Associations.

Section 2

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the messengers voting at a meeting of the Full Association, provided that the amendment was proposed in writing at the previous meeting of the Full Association.

Article VII Disbanding

The Association may be disbanded by a seventy-five percent vote of the messengers voting at a meeting of the Full Association. Any property or assets owned by the association and not transferred elsewhere shall transfer to the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Bylaws of Heart of Missouri Baptist Association

Article I Officers

A. President

1. Shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee, or from the floor, at the Full Association meeting of the members and shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the messengers present at the annual meeting of the members.
2. Shall preside at the Full Association meeting and all meetings of the Executive Board.
3. Shall have the authority to convene special meetings of the Executive Board.
4. Shall serve as leader of the Associational Leadership Council.
5. Shall prepare a written agenda for all meetings.
6. Shall work closely with the Director of Missions.
7. Shall serve no more than two full successive terms. A lapse of one Full Associational year shall occur before a former president is eligible for re-election to this office.

B. Vice President

1. Shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee, or from the floor, at the Full Association meeting of the members and shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the messengers present.
2. Shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of, or when called upon by, the President, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Association or Executive Board. The Vice President shall assume the office of President should that office become vacant.
3. Shall serve no more than two full successive terms. A lapse of one Full Associational year shall occur before a former Vice President is eligible for re-election to this office.

C. Secretary

1. Shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee, or from the floor, at the Full Association meeting of the members and shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the messengers present.
2. Shall keep the records of the Association, serve as historian and superintend the printing of the minutes and the distribution thereof. In the absence of the President and Vice President, the Secretary shall preside over meetings of the Association, the Executive Board, and the Leadership Council.
3. Shall work closely with the Director of Missions and the Leadership Council in collecting data from Annual Church Profiles and preparing reports for the Full Association meetings.

D. Treasurer

1. Shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee, or from the floor, at the Full Association meeting of the members and shall be elected by a two-thirds of messengers present.
2. Shall be the custodian of all money; deposit the receipts of the Association and disburse them according to the annual budget or as authorized by the Association, Executive Board, or Associational officers.
3. Shall keep accurate and timely records according to accepted bookkeeping standards.
4. Shall be bonded by the Association.
5. Shall provide financial reports at the Leadership Council, Executive Board meetings and at the Full Association meeting.
6. Shall cooperate fully with any audit commissioned by the Association.

7. In the absence of the President, Vice President and Secretary, the Treasurer shall preside over meetings of the Association, the Executive Board and the Leadership Council.

E. The Associational officers shall be authorized to hold, purchase, and receive title to real estate and other property by devise, gift, grant or other conveyance, with power to mortgage, sell or convey the same or any part, parcel, or portion thereof, when so directed by the Executive Board or the Association. The Associational officers shall be authorized to borrow money when so directed by the Executive Board or the Association.

F. No person shall hold more than one office or be an officer and a team leader at the same time.

Article II Director of Missions

A. Shall serve the Heart of Missouri Baptist Association

B. Shall lead in developing and casting vision for the Association.

C. Shall work closely with and report to the Leadership Council.

D. Shall oversee and assist with all communication from the Association to our churches.

E. Shall be a non-voting ex officio member of all committees, boards, councils, and teams of the Association.

F. Shall be called by a seventy-five percent affirmative vote of the messengers voting at a meeting of the Full Association.

G. A seventy-five percent vote of the messengers voting at a meeting of the Full Association shall be required to terminate the employment of the Director of Missions. Such a vote would only come after the process indicated in Article 4, Section 8 of these bylaws and any further details provided for in the Association's Policy and Procedure Manual.

Article III Leadership Teams

A. General

1. The Leadership Teams exist to equip and coordinate opportunities for our member churches to accomplish the work in the specific area assigned to each team.
2. Team Leaders are to be selected by the Director of Missions in conjunction with the Leadership Council and approved by the Executive Board.
3. Team Leaders are responsible for enlisting team members as needed from member churches.
4. Teams will work in coordination with the Director of Missions and report regularly to the Leadership Council, the Executive Board, and the Full Association.
5. All team leaders and team members shall be members of member churches of the Association.
6. No person may lead more than one team or be a team leader and an officer at the same time.

B. Church Strengthening Team

1. The Church Strengthening Team exists to help churches train leaders in various ministry areas and help pastors increase the health and strength of each church.
2. The team will provide, support, or refer churches to, training opportunities for various ministry programs inside our member churches.

3. The team will provide, or refer churches to events and training to develop new ministries and/or strategically plan ministry and discipleship efforts.

C. Missions

1. The Missions Team exists to help churches train members in evangelism, to assist and encourage churches in mission efforts and church planting, and to coordinate and/or support mission efforts in which the Association participates.
2. The team will help plan and coordinate mission efforts within the Association and trips outside the Association to reach lost people with the Gospel and support existing missionaries and mission work.
3. The team will provide, support, or refer churches to training opportunities in evangelism.

D. Associational Ministries

1. The Associational Ministries Team exists to help our churches cooperate in ministry efforts in the Associational area and to identify partners who the Association can support and participate with to minister in the Associational area.
2. The team will help churches discover ministry needs in their community.
3. The team will serve as a liaison between the Association and partner ministries as to the needs of our partners and ways our member churches can work with them.

E. Ethics and Religious Liberty

1. The Ethics and Religious Liberty Team exists to help our churches identify critical societal issues on which our churches should speak or take a stand.
2. The team will alert churches to such issues and help our churches take appropriate action.
3. The team will help our churches, and the Association as a whole, formulate statements and/or action plans that communicate and demonstrate the Christian position on such issues as may arise in our communities and various levels of government under which we live.

F. Camp Ministry

1. The Camp Ministry Team exists to administer and operate Associational camps, retreats, and events at Camp Cedar Crest.
2. The Camp Ministry Team will select the directors for camps and retreats with the approval of the Leadership Council.
3. The Team Leader will be a non-voting ex officio member of the Camp Cedar Crest Board of Directors.

Article IV Leadership Council

A. Responsibilities

1. Coordinate the ministry of all teams including calendaring events.
2. Develop a yearly budget for the Association and submit it to the Executive Board which will, in turn, make a recommendation to a meeting of the Full Association.
3. Report regularly to the Executive Board and the Full Association.
4. Meet, at least, every other month.
5. Plan the meetings of the Full Association.

6. Give direction to the staff of the Association between the regular meetings of the Executive Board.
7. Evaluate the performance of the Associational staff on an annual basis.
8. Review and recommend action to the Executive Board for all personnel matters.

Article V Executive Board

A. General

1. The Executive Board shall meet quarterly except that a meeting of the Full Association may substitute for an Executive Board meeting.
2. Proxies are not acceptable to conduct business at an Executive Board meeting.

B. Responsibilities

1. The Executive Board may conduct business as provided for in the Constitution, Article IV, Section 5 with the following additional special cases.
 - a. The Executive Board can provisionally approve Bylaw changes between meetings of the Full Association and put them into effect pending the approval of the Full Association.
 - b. The Executive Board can approve candidates to fill vacancies of officers, team leaders, and/or committee or board members. Such candidates will serve until the next meeting of the Full Association.
 - c. The Executive Board may provisionally approve the admission of new member churches as part of the process provided for in the Constitution, Article III, Section 3 and grant the new church membership privileges pending the approval of the Full Association.
 - d. The Executive Board may approve a Policy & Procedure Manual by a two-thirds vote of the representatives voting at an Executive Board meeting.

Article VI Full Association

A. General

1. Proxies are not acceptable to conduct business at a meeting for the Full Association.

Article VII Committees and Boards

A. General

1. All members of committees and boards will be members of member churches of the Association.
2. Each committee or board will report to the Association, at least, annually including any relevant financial statements.

B. Nominating Committee

1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of eight persons who will serve two-year, staggered terms.
2. Nominating Committee members shall be nominated by the Leadership Council which will be reported to the Executive Board and elected at a meeting of the Full Association.

3. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers and committee/board members for the Association. The slate will be reported to the Executive Board and voted on at a meeting of the Full Association.
4. The Nominating Committee will present to the Executive Board candidates for any vacancies in officers, committees, or boards that arise throughout the year.
5. The Nominating Committee should make every effort to ensure that our officers and committee and board members represent a broad cross section of the Association.

C. Camp Cedar Crest Board of Directors

1. The Camp Cedar Crest Board of Directors exists to oversee the operation and administration of the facilities of Camp Cedar Crest.
2. The Camp Cedar Crest Board of Directors governs the 501c3 non-for profit Cedar Crest Baptist Corporation; however, the Directors are elected by this Association according to the number and terms set forth by the Cedar Crest Baptist Corporation Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
3. Any Director who misses at least one-half of the regularly scheduled meetings in a 12-month period is automatically removed from the Board of Directors unless the Leadership Council votes to retain them.

Article VIII Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by a simple majority vote of the messengers voting at a meeting of the Full Association providing the recommended amendments are presented to the Director of Missions or the Associational Secretary in writing such that the proposed amendment(s) can be communicated to each church two weeks prior to the meeting.

Article IX Constitution of Heart of Missouri Baptist Association

The Constitution of Heart of Missouri Baptist Association (the "Constitution") is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A. In the event of an inconsistency between the Constitution and the Bylaws, the terms of the Constitution shall control. Notwithstanding Article VII of these Bylaws, the Constitution shall only be amended as set forth within the Constitution.