

## CONSTITUTION OF MOARK PRESBYTERY

**Last change in bold print**

**March 21, 2014**

1. The Moark Presbytery shall be composed of the ordained ministers and deacons who shall be in good standing with their respective churches. A quorum shall consist of the ministers and deacons representing six (6) or more churches of Moark Association.

2. The Presbytery, when properly organized, shall consist of a moderator, vice moderator, and clerk/treasurer, who shall be chosen by the affirmative vote of the members present. The moderator, vice moderator, clerk/treasurer, and committees appointed by the moderator shall serve for one year after being elected in the spring session of the Presbytery.

A. Moderator

1. Shall keep the Presbytery in order, state all questions fairly, and take the vote thereon.
2. Shall have liberty of speech as other members provided his seat be filled,
3. Shall have no vote unless it be in case of a tie, in which case he may cast the deciding vote.
4. Shall appoint all committees unless directed otherwise by the body. (Board members are to be elected,)
5. Shall be responsible for the program of the Presbytery, such as speaker, music and anything else he deems necessary.
6. Shall serve as a member of the Association's Executive Board.

B Vice Moderator

The duty of the vice moderator shall be to serve as moderator automatically, if for any reason the moderator is unable to serve

C. Clerk/Treasurer

1. Shall keep an accurate record of all proceedings.
2. Shall keep financial records of all receipts and disbursements.
3. Shall submit the financial records for an informal audit annually by whomever the Presbytery selects for this task.
4. Shall serve as a member of the Association's Executive Board.

3. There shall be a board composed of five (5) men for (5) year terms, one being replaced each year at the spring presbytery, for the Purpose of examining ministers and deacons and shall serve as the Doctrine and Credentials committee. They shall be available to give guidance and help to members of this body in any matter involving personal or church affairs. Ministers and deacons are to be examined before the sitting of each Presbytery.

4. No officer or board member shall serve on more than one board at a time or more than five (5) consecutive years on any one board or in any office of this presbytery. Exception being the clerk-treasurer is not limited to the (5) consecutive years.

5. All ministers and deacons desiring membership into our fellowship from other Presbyteries shall be required to furnish a letter of request from his church, a letter of recommendation from his Presbytery and be recommended by the Doctrine and Credentials Committee after they have examined him as to his moral financial and educational qualifications. If he is found to be deficient in the educational requirements of Moark Presbytery he shall be required to meet the standards before he be received as a member of this Presbytery. We shall receive no minister or deacon into our fellowship who has been excluded from any Presbytery or conference for immoral conduct unless he has made an honest effort to make reconciliation with the offended Presbytery or conference.

6. When a church has a minister or deacon whom they wish dropped from the Presbytery roll, they shall send a written request to the Presbytery requesting that his name be dropped.

7. Any member of this body shall have the right to request a committee be appointed to investigate any improper conduct of a member of this Presbytery as to morals, doctrinal teaching, belief, or social image.

8. Moark Presbytery will not ordain or receive into membership anyone who does not believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus.

9. In the event that a candidate for licensing, membership, or ordination has been married and divorced, special consideration will be given to his examination. All sin being equal, divorce and remarriage prior to conversion are forgiven as is all other sins. If the divorce occurs after one's conversion each case must be investigated and decided upon its own issues and merits, and only then will any recommendation be made to the clerk for further action by the entire body of the presbytery. (Other qualifications of the Presbytery must be met.)

10. Churches having prospective candidates for office of deacon should send them to the Doctrine and Credentials Committee within 30 days of their being set aside by their church for the purpose of orientation. They should place them in their church to serve in this capacity for at least six (6) months prior to making the request for ordination,

except that they are not to serve communion and they are to complete the Moark Home Study Course. Any church desiring the ordination of a deacon shall make formal request to the presbytery for its approval. If the Presbytery approves, he MAY be ordained at that setting. If the local church so request, he may be ordained at the local church.

11. Churches having prospective candidates for Licensing of a Minister should send their candidate to the Doctrine and Credentials Committee within thirty 30 days of being set aside by their church for the purpose of orientation. He will then be sent to the Doctrine and Credentials Committee for licensing at the next regular session of the Moark Presbytery and his license may be renewed each year as necessary until he has met the necessary requirements for ordination. He should appear before the Doctrine and Credentials Committee on an annual basis for encouragement and examination of his progress. We will ordain a licentiate that has been called into the ministry of the gospel providing he has met the requirements of the presbytery.

12. Each candidate for ordination shall be voted on separately by the Presbytery.

13. Each member of the Presbytery shall pay a membership fee annually.

14. If any member is found teaching or practicing the alien doctrine of "a second definite work of grace" or that of "speaking in tongues," he shall be investigated by the moderator and clerk, and if grounds be true, the person shall be asked by the Presbytery at the next meeting to resign his offices in a General Baptist church and to return his credentials to the body. If he refuses to do so, he shall that day be charged and cited to trial at the next session of the Presbytery.

15. Any member or group of members of this body must seek the approval, guidance, and cooperation of the Moark Home Mission Board before starting a new mission work in the Moark area.

16. We agree to do all business by a majority vote except reception of new members or changing this constitution. A three-fourths majority vote of the members voting shall be required to receive members and change the constitution. If any member becomes dissatisfied with any part of this constitution or with the Statements of Faith, he shall be entitled to a letter of dismissal if he is in fellowship with his own church. If he remains a member and his dissatisfaction becomes irreconcilable, he shall be subject to dismissal.

17. This body shall be guided by the General Baptist Doctrine and Usage and Worker's Handbook where no rules are found within the framework of this constitution.

**18. The spring sitting of the Presbytery will be on Friday Night at 7.00 P.M., before the fourth Sunday in March. The exception being when Easter falls on the fourth Sunday we will meet on Friday night before the third Sunday.**