

# Central Baptist Association

## CONSTITUTION

Adopted October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

**Preamble:** For the more certain preservation of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist Convention, and for purposes of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution.

### **Article I – Name, Mission, Affiliations, and Doctrine**

**Section A.** This Association, known as the Central Baptist Association (hereafter referred to as CBA) of Decatur, Illinois, is an autonomous, voluntary association of Southern Baptist Churches incorporated as a 501c3 “Not-for-Profit” Corporation of the State of Illinois.

**Section B.** “The Mission of CBA is to foster and facilitate cooperative relationships among our Member Churches and to assist them in fulfilling the Great Commission.”

**Section C.** This Association is affiliated with the Illinois Baptist State Association and the Southern Baptist Convention.

**Section D:** This Association accepts as its Official Doctrinal Statement the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

**Section E.** Between its semi-annual meetings, the Association shall consist of the Churches holding membership at the end of the previous semi-annual meeting and shall be represented in all matters by the Officers of the Association who are defined in Article III, Section B, Paragraphs 1-2.

### **Article II – Membership, Meetings, and Quorum**

#### **Section A. Definition**

CBA is a voluntary fellowship of affiliated Baptist Churches who meet the requirements for membership as defined in this Constitution.

#### **Section B. Requirements for Membership**

Paragraph 1. Churches desiring membership in this Association shall request membership in writing to the Associational Vision Team and provide them with documentation demonstrating that the majority of the members of the Church present and voting on the request have voted in favor of their request for affiliation.

Paragraph 2. Churches desiring membership in this Association must provide documentation of their agreement with, and commitment to not teach contrary to, the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, which is the Doctrinal Statement of this Association and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Paragraph 3. Churches desiring membership in this Association must be presented by the Associational Vision Team who will bring either an affirmative or negative recommendation, or no recommendation in reference to their affiliation to the Messengers of the Association for approval at an annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting of the Association.

Paragraph 4: Churches desiring membership in this Association must receive at least a two-thirds affirmative vote of the messengers present and voting at the annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting at which they are recommended for membership.

### **Section C. Messengers of the Affiliated Churches**

Paragraph 1. Each affiliated CBA Member Church will be authorized to designate six (6) members of their Church as “Messengers to the Association” and one (1) member as an “Alternate Messenger” who will have the authority to represent the members of their Church at all meetings and functions of the Association and who will have the right to speak to and vote on the business matters presented at the annual, semi-annual, or special called meetings of the Association.

Paragraph 2. Affiliated Churches must provide the Associational Vision Team with a list of their designated Messengers and Alternates no later than thirty (30) days prior to the next annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting of the Association in order for those Messengers to be seated at the meeting.

### **Section D. Authority**

Paragraph 1. The Association cannot, and therefore shall not, exercise any ecclesiastical authority over our Member Churches.

Paragraph 2. When recommended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Associational Vision Team, and following reasonable efforts to reconcile differences, a CBA Member Church may be terminated from membership in the Association by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Messengers present and voting at an annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting called for that specific purpose.

### **Section E: Meetings of the Association**

Paragraph 1. The messengers of the Association will meet together annually and semi-annually for the purpose of worship, fellowship, and conducting the business of the Association on a date and at a location designated by the Associational Leadership Team.

Paragraph 2. The Moderator, or a majority of the members of the Associational Leadership Team, may call a special meeting of the Association giving at least a two week notice at a time, place and date designated by them. Notice of special called meetings must include the purpose of the meeting. No other business, other than that specified in the notice, shall be conducted at the meeting.

Paragraph 3. The Moderator, or the Assistant Moderator (in the absence of the Moderator) or an individual approved by the Associational Leadership Team (in the absence of both the Moderator and Assistant Moderator) will preside at all annual, semi-annual, and special called meetings of the Association.

Paragraph 4. All meetings and business of the Association will be conducted in accordance with the latest revision of Robert’s Rules of Order.

### **Section F. Quorum:**

A quorum for an annual, semi-annual, or special called business meeting shall consist of at least one representative from at least one-half of CBA Member Churches.

## **Article III: Directors/Officers of the Association**

### **Section A. Trustees**

Paragraph 1. As a 501c3 Corporation of the State of Illinois, CBA will elect three active members of our member Churches who will act as Trustees of the Association. They will be nominated by the Associational Leadership Team and will be elected by the Messengers present and voting at an annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting of the Association.

They will serve a two-year term; and, if re-nominated by the Associational Leadership Team, they may be reelected at the discretion of the Messengers.

Paragraph 2. The Trustees of the Association will hold in trust all real property of the Association.

Paragraph 3. The Trustees of the Association will only act on behalf of the Association as approved by a majority of both the Associational Leadership Team and the Messengers present and voting at an annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting of the Association.

### **Section B. Officers of the Association – The Associational Leadership Team**

Paragraph 1. The Associational Leadership Team will serve as the Officers of the Association and they will oversee the administrative functions of the Association that are not designated to the Associational Vision Team.

Paragraph 2. Members of the Associational Leadership Team will consist of the Moderator, (who will serve as the Chairperson of the Team) the Assistant Moderator, (who will serve as the Vice-Chairperson of the Team) the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk, and the Team Leaders of the Vision, Missions, Training, and Fellowship Teams.

Paragraph 3. The members of the Associational Leadership Team will be recommended by a two-thirds majority of the Associational Leadership Team and (with the exception of the Associational Mission Strategist and the Ministry Assistant of the Association) will be elected to serve two-year terms by a majority vote of the Messengers present and voting at an annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting of the Association. They may be elected to serve a second consecutive two-year term if nominated and approved by the Messengers present and voting at the meeting at which they are nominated.

Paragraph 4. Duties of the Moderator and Assistant Moderator; the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer; and, the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk.

4a. The Moderator shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Associational Vision Team and shall decide all points of order.

4b. The Assistant Moderator shall carry out the duties of the Moderator in the absence of, or by the request of the Moderator.

4c. The Clerk shall keep a true and accurate record of all proceedings of the Association and have access to all official correspondence of the Association and perform all duties typical of an Associational Clerk as assigned by the Associational Vision Team.

4d. The Assistant Clerk shall carry out the duties of the Clerk in the absence of, or, by the request of the Clerk.

4e. The Treasurer shall oversee all monies and accounts of the Association; the object for which they are designated; and pay out such monies as the Associational Vision Team shall direct.

The Treasurer shall present a written report of the preceding two quarters finances, receipts, and disbursements at the semi-annual meetings of the Association and give an oral report of the same at the Associational Vision Team meetings unless requested to present the report in writing.

A motion to accept the reports shall be made by the Treasurer at the meetings of the Associational Vision Team and the semi-annual meetings of the Association which shall be voted on by the body to whom the report is presented. The Treasurer's files and books shall be made available to the Associational Vision Team at the end of the Associational year for an audit.

4f. The Associational Leadership Team will ensure that an audit of these reports is completed prior to and presented at the next annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting.

4g. The Assistant Treasurer shall carry out the duties of the Treasurer in the absence of, or, by the request of the Treasurer.

Paragraph 5. All paid employees of the Association will be recommended, supervised, and evaluated annually by the Associational Leadership and Vision Teams.

### **Section C. The Associational Vision Team**

Paragraph 1. The Associational Vision Team will consist of the Moderator, (who will serve as Chairman) and six members of CBA Member Churches who will oversee the spiritual functions of the Association and such administrative functions of the Association designated to them in this Constitution.

Paragraph 2. Initially, the members of the Associational Vision Team will be nominated by the Moderator and elected by a majority of the Messengers present and voting at an annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting of the Association. After the initial members of this team are elected, they will take over the responsibility for recommending members of the Team to the Messengers of the Association.

Paragraph 3. Members of the Associational Vision Team will serve two-year terms and may be elected to serve additional terms if nominated and approved by the Messengers present and voting at the meeting at which they are nominated.

Paragraph 4. Individuals serving as paid staff of the Association will be recommended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Associational Vision Team and must also receive an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Messengers present and voting at an annual, semi-annual, or special meeting called for the purpose of employing them.

Paragraph 5. All paid employees of the Association will be recommended, supervised, and evaluated annually by the Associational Leadership and Vision Teams.

Paragraph 6. Dismissal of a paid employee of the Association will require the recommendation of a majority of the Associational Vision Team and an affirmative vote of the majority of the Messengers present and voting at an annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting called for the purpose of their dismissal.

### **Article IV: ADDITIONAL MINISTRY TEAMS**

**Section A.** The Missions, Training, Fellowship, and all ad-hoc Ministry Teams of the Association will be appointed, assisted, supervised, and evaluated by the Associational Vision Team.

**Section B.** The Standing Ministry Teams of the Association will be the Associational Leadership Team, the Associational Vision Team, the Trustee Ministry Team, the Associational Missions Team, the Associational Training Team, and the Associational Fellowship Team.

**Section C.** With the exception of the Associational Leadership, Vision, and Trustee Teams, the Standing Ministry Teams of the Association will consist of a Team Leader and at least two additional members all of whom will be appointed by the Associational Vision Team and serve a two-year term and may be reappointed for a second consecutive term by the Association Vision Team.

**Section D. Area of Responsibility of the Missions, Training, and Fellowship Ministry Teams:**

Paragraph 1. The Associational Missions Team

1a. The Team will be comprised of a Team Leader and two additional members all of whom will be appointed for a two-year term by the Associational Vision Team.

1b. Members of the Team may be reappointed at the end of their first term.

1c. It will be the responsibility of the Team to develop, implement, and oversee an on-going ministry plan to carry out their specific area of responsibility.

1d. The Team will provide a report of their plans, events, and results to the Associational Vision Team at their next meeting following their event.

Paragraph 2. The Associational Training Team

2a. The Team will be comprised of a Team Leader and two additional members all of whom will be appointed for a two-year term by the Associational Vision Team.

2b. Members of the Team may be reappointed at the end of their first term.

2c. It will be the responsibility of the Team to develop, implement, and oversee an on-going ministry plan to carry out their specific area of responsibility.

2d. The Team will provide a report of their plans, events, and results to the Associational Vision Team at their next meeting following their event.

Paragraph 3. The Associational Fellowship Team

3a. The Team will consist of a Team Leader and two members all of whom will be appointed for a two-year term by the Associational Vision Team.

3b. Members of the Team may be reappointed at the end of their first term.

3c. It will be the responsibility of the Team to develop, implement, and oversee an on-going ministry plan to carry out their specific area of responsibility.

3d. The Team will provide a report of their plans, events, and results to the Associational Vision Team at their next meeting following their event.

**Section E.** “Ad Hoc” Ministry Teams may be created and the members of the Team will be appointed by the Associational Vision Team to accomplish a specific goal or goals. These Ad Hoc Ministry Teams will be appointed by the Associational Vision Team and will be disbanded when their work is completed.

Paragraph 1. It will be the responsibility of the Ad Hoc Ministry Teams to develop, implement, and oversee an on-going ministry plan to carry out their specific area of responsibility.

Paragraph 2. Ad Hoc Ministry Teams will provide a report of their plans, events, and results to the Associational Vision Team at their next meeting following their event.

## **ARTICLE V. Amendments**

Section A. All proposed amendments to this Constitution must be presented in writing to the Associational Vision Team no later than thirty (30) days prior to an annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting of the Association.

Section B. The Associational Vision Team will then present the proposed amendment to this Constitution with either a positive or negative recommendation, or with no recommendation, at the next annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting of the Association for a first reading.

Section C. Following the first reading of the proposed amendment to this Constitution at an annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting of the Association, the Members present and voting at the next annual, semi-annual, or special called meeting of the Association will vote on whether or not to adopt the amendment.

Section D. This Constitution will be amended upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Messengers present and voting in favor of the proposed amendment after the requirements of Sections A, B, and C have been met.

Section E. Upon the adoption of the amendment, it will take effect immediately.

## **Article VI. Dissolution**

Section A. If this Association should disband, or otherwise cease to exist, prior to final dissolution, any member church may make a written request to the Associational Vision Team requesting bequest of funds or physical assets (such as office equipment, or physical property) that would help the church to carry on its mission. Any such requests will be reviewed and approved by the Team in conjunction with the Trustees.

Upon final dissolution, any remaining real properties, assets and cash monies owned by the Association will be transferred to the Illinois Baptist State Association for the designated purpose of carrying on associational mission work in Central Illinois.

Section B. If the Illinois Baptist State Association either cannot or will not accept the real property and monies of this Association, the final distribution of the real properties and monies of this Association will be determined by majority vote of a Committee consisting of the Senior Pastors of the five CBA Member Churches who have given the most funds to this Association over the last five years of the existence of this Association.

**Article VII. A copy of this Constitution will be presented in the Minutes of each annual and semi-annual meeting of the Association.**