

# **Lamine Baptist Association (LBA) Constitution**

## **ARTICLE I - NAME**

This Association will be called the Lamine Baptist Association (LBA), a Missouri not for Profit Corporation.

## **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

**MISSION STATEMENT** - The churches of Lamine Baptist Association will intentionally partner together to develop healthy churches fulfilling the Great commission. Matthew 28:19, 20.

**VISION STATEMENT** - We envision a partnership of healthy churches on mission together equipping Christians in our communities and throughout the world.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. Engage churches in missions; local, national, and international
2. Equip members for work in the kingdom of God
3. Encourage pastors

## **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

**Section One.** A church may affiliate with Lamine Baptist Association if its faith and practice are in agreement with the basic beliefs held in common by this association of Baptist churches. The historic Baptist Faith and Message statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14, 2000, best describes the basic beliefs held in common by this association of Baptist churches. Each church shall cooperate in spirit, financial support, and involvement with the other affiliated churches in achieving the stated purpose of the association.

**Section Two.** A church may seek to affiliate with the Association by presenting a letter of petition to the Administrative Team. This team will determine from the documents received from the petitioning church if that church conforms to Section One above. The church will officially be presented and voted upon by the messengers at the next Annual Meeting. The church shall have access to all Associational resources upon approval of the Administrative Team.

### **Section Three. Dissolution of Membership**

Any concerns of misconduct or lack of fellowship should be addressed to the Administrative Team in Writing. The Administrative Team will make appropriate inquiries and if no action is taken a letter will be sent to the original complainant. If concerns remain they can then be brought forth at the next Associational Meeting.

## **ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS OF MESSENGERS**

**Section One.** This Association will meet regularly at such time and place as it may determine.

**Section Two.** Annual Meeting:

An Annual Meeting of the messengers shall be held at a specified time and place published in the associational calendar. The meeting shall include prayer, praise, proclamation, election of officers, adoption of the annual budget, and any other pertinent business the Association must address.

**Section Three.** Quorum

A quorum for conducting business at all associational meetings shall be comprised of those individuals present.

**Section Four.** Messengers are to be five (5) messengers elected by each church for its first fifty (50) resident members, and one (1) messenger for each additional fifty (50) resident members, not to exceed ten (10) messengers. Only members elected as messengers will have voting privileges. Pastors and Association Officers will not be able to vote unless they have been elected as messengers by their churches. If a question about a messenger's credentials arises, it shall be referred to the Administrative Team for study and recommendation. All duly-elected messengers shall constitute the Association, in session.

**Section Five.** Voting Rights: Each messenger shall be entitled to one vote on each item of business at the Annual Meeting.

**Section Six.** All questions that come before the body shall be decided by a majority vote, including the addition or deletion of officers of the Association, except for the following by which a two-thirds (2/3) majority shall be required:

- (a) Accepting new churches.
- (b) The changing of the Constitution and By-Laws.
- (c) Dissolution of church membership.

**Section Seven.** Annual Reports: Each church will be encouraged to make an annual report to the Association through the current annual MBC/SBC profile giving the financial condition, statistics of the church, and any other information that might be of value in helping the association of churches fulfill its purpose.

**SECTION Eight.** A special meeting of the Association may be called by a majority vote of the Administrative Team. All church clerks must be notified by written or electronic communication 14 days before the meeting takes place. This letter will include purpose, time and place. All articles of the Constitution pertaining to the Annual Sessions will be in effect. The only business to be considered will be that for which the meeting is called.

**Section Nine: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

All business of the Annual Meeting of the Association will be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order (Revised).

**ARTICLE V - LEADERSHIP**

**Section One. OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:** The elected officers of this Association will be: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association by nomination from the Administrative Team, and by a majority of those messengers present and voting. Each of these officers will take office at the close of the annual meeting.

**Section Two. ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

**MEMBERSHIP:** The Administrative Team of this Association will include the following members: Elected Officers and Team leaders of Priority Focus Teams.

**DUTIES:** The duties of the Administrative Team will be to transact all business of the association between annual meetings, to monitor all monies of the Association, to recommend the Annual Financial Plan to the annual meeting, and to make a full report of all the meetings and business transactions to the Association at its annual meeting.

**MEETINGS AND QUORUM:** The Administrative Team shall meet as requested by the President of the Association or any two other members of the team. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Administrative Team.

**Section Three - PRIORITY FOCUS TEAMS**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITY FOCUS TEAMS:** The duties of the Priority Focus teams are the responsibility of the messengers to the Annual Meeting. These Teams shall be empowered to carry out the assignment given to them by the Association and the Administrative Team. The details regarding the name, membership, and responsibility of each Priority Focus Team shall be found in established policies and procedures.

**TERM OF OFFICE:** Each member of a Priority Focus Team shall continue to serve at his or her passion. Should a Team Member become a detriment to the Team or the Association, that person may be removed by a majority of Team Members voting.

**TEAM LEADERSHIP:** The Administrative Team shall nominate a team leader and assistant team leader to be voted on by the Association at the annual meeting.

**VACANCIES:** Since Team Members serve at their passion, vacancies in membership will be filled by others with like passion.

**QUORUM:** Unless otherwise specified in established policies and procedures, a quorum shall consist of those members present. The action of the quorum shall constitute the action of the Team.

**RULES/GUIDELINES/PROTOCOLS:** Each Priority Focus Team shall establish its own guidelines, protocols, scheduled meetings, and rules. They must be consistent with this document to be considered valid. Any conflict shall be resolved by using this document as the authority.

**VOTING RIGHTS:** Those members of affiliated churches who attend Priority Team meetings have the right to exercise their vote in a Priority Team meeting. Consensus decision-making based upon established procedures and protocols will be encouraged in Priority Team meetings. All Priority team members must be actively involved in an affiliated church of Lamine Baptist Association.

## **ARTICLE VI - AUTHORITY**

**Section One.** The Association has full authority for carrying on its work to fulfill provisions of this Constitution including the right to receive and disburse funds, own property, and carry on any other activities necessary for implementation of its purpose.

**Section Two.** The Association has no authority over any church or the right to interfere with the rights and autonomy of the churches, recognizing that each church is sovereign and independent in all its matters. Therefore, the Association is not responsible for individual decisions of its affiliated churches. The basis for operation in the Association is in the spirit of voluntary cooperation in work and fellowship.

**Section Three.** The Association is at liberty to consult with any of the churches on matters related to the work of ministry.

**Section Four.** The Association has jurisdiction over the seating of any and all messengers and may refuse to seat messengers from any church that it deems to be unsound in faith, practice, or conduct based on a recommendation from the Administrative Team.

## **ARTICLE VII - RECORDS**

The Association shall keep correct and complete books and records of accounts and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of its meetings and shall keep at the associational office a record giving the names of messengers and their respective churches. Any member of an affiliated church may inspect all books and non-confidential records (except identifiable employee, litigation, and other closed records) of the Association for any proper purpose at a convenient time for all parties. The treasurer and paid Associational staff shall be bonded and the financial books shall be audited as directed by the Association.

## **ARTICLE VIII - FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on the first day of January and close on the 31st day of December each year.

## **ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS**

**Section One.** This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Meeting or Special Called meeting for that purpose by a two-thirds vote of the messengers present and voting. The proposed changes must be presented in writing or electronic format to the secretary and the churches of the association one month prior to vote. Amendments shall be included in the Book of Reports given out at the Annual Meeting.

**SECTION Two.** The Secretary may correct grammar, verbiage, and spelling. The Secretary may update organizational names at each new printing without action of the body.

**Updated 10/5/15**