

CONSTITUTION of Bi-Fork Baptist Association

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the Bi-Fork Baptist Association.

ARTICLE II - Purpose

Section 1 – The purpose of Bi-Fork Baptist Association is to serve local Baptist churches as they cooperate together to fulfill the Great Commission.

ARTICLE III - Objectives

Objectives of Bi-Fork Baptist Association are as follows:

Section 1 - To equip and provide opportunities for cooperating churches to fulfill the Great Commission.

Section 2 - To actively encourage cooperative fellowship among member churches to fulfill the Great Commission at home and abroad.

ARTICLE IV - Membership

Section 1 - The Association is a group of Southern Baptist churches seeking out places at home and abroad to participate in the Great Commission, fostering a sense of community between our churches, providing training, and providing care for our churches and pastors. Membership shall consist of all duly admitted churches that cooperate with the Association.

Section 1 (a) - A church desiring membership in this Association must present an application for membership stating its desire to be in fellowship and cooperation with the stated purpose of this Association to the Executive Board of the Association. The Executive Board shall have the right to determine by majority vote whether to admit the applying church as a member. Upon favorable recommendation and vote of the Executive Board, the church will be granted a one-year non-voting membership. Full membership will be granted or withheld by majority vote of the Executive Board after the expiration of one year.

Section 1 (b) - *Doctrinal unity* as defined by this body means the following: Churches should have doctrines and practices that agree with the "Baptist Faith and Message" (1963 or 2000).

Section 1 (c) - *Cooperation* as defined by this body means the following: (1) Participation in the various activities of Bi-Fork Baptist Association, (2) regular financial support of Bi-Fork Baptist Association, and (3) sharing with Bi-Fork Baptist Association reports of the work of the church by means of the annual church profile.

Section 2 – Churches who fail to meet the aforementioned criteria as defined by Article IV, Section 1(b and c), will be contacted by the Executive Committee who will seek to resolve the matter. If the church, after this effort, does not seek doctrinal unity or cooperation with the Association, the Executive Committee shall determine by vote at the following Executive Board meeting whether to remove the church. In order to remove a church, the Executive Board must receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the Executive Board members present and voting at a duly called and held Executive Board meeting.

ARTICLE V - Officers

Section 1 - The officers of this Association must be members of cooperating churches as defined by this Constitution and shall consist of the Moderator (president), Vice-Moderator (vice-president), Clerk (secretary), and Treasurer.

Section 2 - Officers shall be elected as follows: Nominations The Nominating Committee shall recommend to the Executive Board the officers of the Association at least one month prior to the Annual Meeting. Upon approval by the Executive Board, the Nominating Committee shall then present the nominees at the Annual Meeting for election. Nominations from the floor shall also be in order. Elections Officers shall be elected from the nominees by a majority vote of the messengers

present and voting at the Annual Meeting. The elected officers shall take office on the following January 1, after the election. Vacancies shall be filled upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee and approval of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI - Executive Board

Section 1 - The Executive Board of the Association shall be composed of the pastor and another member from each member church. Those present at a duly called meeting of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2 - The Executive Board shall have the authority to transact all business of Bi-Fork Baptist Association between Annual Meetings of the Association. An agenda with all items to be voted upon for each Executive Board meeting must be approved by the Association's officers, posted on the Association's website, and emailed to the Executive Board no later than seventy-two (72) hours before the regular or special meeting. A vote on any item brought to the floor, but not on the agenda, must be scheduled for the next Board meeting unless the Board agrees by unanimous consent to take a vote at the present meeting. The minutes of the meeting shall be placed in a permanent file available at the Association office.

Section 3 - The officers of the Association shall be the officers of the Executive Board.

Section 4 - The Executive Board shall have a regular quarterly meeting. Additionally, special meetings of the Executive Board may be called at any other time by the Moderator of the Association provided Executive Board members have seven days written notice. Notices of special meetings shall state the purpose of said meetings.

Section 5 The Executive Board may create such elected positions, including but not limited to Director of Missions, of the Association from time to time as the Executive Board deems necessary or appropriate. The Executive Board shall have the authority to employ such persons as the Executive Board deems necessary or appropriate to fill such elected positions of the Association, and shall have the right to terminate the employment of the persons serving in those positions. The Director of Missions shall have the authority to employ and terminate the employment of all persons filling non-elected staff positions of the Association.

Section 6 - Officers of the Association shall serve as Trustees and shall act on behalf of the Association upon instructions from either the Executive Board or Executive Committee in all matters pertaining to the properties, real and personal, of the Association. All legal documents shall be signed by any two of the Trustees.

Section 7 - The Executive Board shall have the authority to create and elect the members of such standing and temporary committees, from time to time, as the Executive Board deems necessary or appropriate.

ARTICLE VII - Annual Meeting

Section 1 - The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held at such time and place as may be designated by a majority of the messengers present and voting at the preceding Annual Meeting.

The Executive Board shall have authority to set or change the time and/or place when deemed necessary. Those present at the Annual Meeting of the Association shall constitute a quorum. The act of a majority of the messengers present at an Annual Meeting shall be the act of the messengers unless the act of a greater number is required by law, by this constitution, or our policies and procedures.

Section 2 -The Director of Missions shall determine and publish the method of registering messengers for the Annual Meeting, and shall confirm all messengers are properly registered. Their decision shall be controlling in this regard.

Section 3 - The program of the Annual Meeting shall be planned by the officers of the Association and the Director of Missions. Any item submitted from the floor shall be referred to the Executive Board or the appropriate committee for evaluation.

Section 4 - Each member church of Bi-Fork Baptist Association shall be entitled to two (2) messengers, plus one additional messenger for every \$2500 given to the general budget of Bi-Fork Baptist Association in the previous year; provided however, that a church may only send five (5) messengers. Messengers must be elected by their church and register at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended in the following manner:

A. Amendment(s) shall be presented to the Executive Board two regularly scheduled meetings prior to the Annual Meeting.

B. Amendments approved by the Executive Board shall then be published in the Association newsletter thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

C. Amendments shall be approved upon three-fourths vote of those present and voting at the Annual Meeting.

D. Any amendment to the Constitution submitted from the floor shall be automatically designated to the next year's Annual Meeting following the procedures outlined in A, B, and C above.

ARTICLE IX - Administrative Matters

Section 1 - The Fiscal Year of the Association shall begin January 1 and shall end December 31.

Section 2- This body shall recognize *Robert's Rules of Order* (latest revised edition) as its standard procedure.

ARTICLE X - Operation and Dissolution

The Association is organized and operated primarily for the purposes set forth under Articles II and III of this constitution. The Association is to be operated in such a way that it does not result in the accrual of distributable profits, realization of private gain resulting from payment of compensation in excess of a reasonable allowance for salary or other compensation for services rendered, or realization of any other form of private gain.

The Association pledges its assets for use in performing the Association's religious and charitable functions. The Association directs that on discontinuance of the Association by dissolution or otherwise, the assets are to be transferred to another religious, charitable, or similar organization that qualifies under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding provisions of any subsequent United States Internal Revenue law or laws.