

## **Motion #1 (Theology of Membership)**

### **Article IV - Membership**

#### **Currently States:**

**Section 3.** The Association disclaims any authority over the churches that make up its membership; nevertheless, the Association reserves the right to refuse to continue fellowship with a member church or to refuse to allow a church to become a member if, in the judgment of the Association, said church practices the ordination of homosexuals as deacons or ministers, practices same sex marriages or other inordinate doctrine or disorderly practices which conflict with the Baptist Faith and Message(2000) of the Southern Baptist Convention. Cape Girardeau Baptist Association has also previously acted on the issue of the ordination of women as deacons or pastors, having chosen not to fellowship with churches that do so.

#### **Proposed Change:**

**Section 3.** The Association disclaims any authority over the churches that make up its membership; nevertheless, the Association reserves the right to refuse to continue fellowship with a member church or to refuse to allow a church to become a member if, in the judgment of the Association, said church teaches or practices in conflict with the current approved Baptist Faith and Message of the Southern Baptist Convention.

#### **Section 4, point 4: (first sentence is all that this motion proposes to change)**

#### **Currently States:**

The Association may also withdraw fellowship from a church that becomes heretical in doctrine or practice or fails to meet member church status as outlined in this Constitution and By-Laws. Such accusation will be brought during the final session of a regular Annual Meeting and voted upon; should the motion carry with a simple majority vote of the messengers, the Credentials Committee will be given the responsibility of investigating the questioned member church. If violation is found, an attempt will be made to bring about reconciliation. Failing in this, the Credentials Committee will make appropriate recommendations to the Association at the final session of the next Annual Meeting. This gives the Credentials Committee one year to come to a conclusion.

#### **Proposed Change:**

The Association may also withdraw fellowship from a church that fails to meet member church status as outlined in this Constitution and Bylaws. Such accusation will be brought during the final session of a regular Annual Meeting and voted upon; should the motion carry with a simple majority vote of the messengers, the Credentials Committee will be given the responsibility of investigating the questioned member church. If violation is found, an attempt will be made to bring about reconciliation. Failing in this, the Credentials Committee will make appropriate recommendations to the Association at the final session of the next Annual Meeting. This gives the Credentials Committee one year to come to a conclusion.

**Motion #2:(accusation of member churches)**

**Article IV - Membership**

**Section 4, point 4:**

**Currently States:**

Such accusation will be brought during the final session of a regular Annual Meeting and voted upon; should the motion carry with a simple majority vote of the messengers, the Credentials Committee will be given the responsibility of investigating the questioned member church.

**Proposed Change:**

Such accusation will be brought at any regular or special called meeting of the Executive Board or Association Annual meeting and voted upon; should the motion carry with a simple majority vote, the Credentials Committee will be given the responsibility of investigating the questioned member church.”

**Motion #3 (addresses the actual vote for entrance or dismissal from the association)**

**Article IV - Membership**

**Section 4, point 4:**

**Currently States:**

If violation is found, an attempt will be made to bring about reconciliation. Failing in this, the Credentials Committee will make appropriate recommendations to the Association at the final session of the next Annual Meeting. This gives the Credentials Committee one year to come to a conclusion.

**Proposed Change:**

The remainder of section 4 point 4 will be deleted after the change presented in Motion #2 is presented and passes.

**Section 4, point 5:**

**Currently States:**

Withdrawal of fellowship from a church will require a two-thirds majority of the messengers voting with at least 50% of member churches represented at that session.

**Proposed Change:**

Should a member church be found to be in violation by the Credentials Committee an attempt will be made to bring about reconciliation. Failing in this, the Credentials Committee will make appropriate recommendations to the Association at the next meeting of the Executive Board or Association Annual meeting. Withdrawal of fellowship from a church will require a two-thirds majority of those voting with at least 50% of member churches represented.

## **Section 2:**

### **Currently States:**

Any Southern Baptist/Missouri Baptist Convention church desiring membership in Cape Girardeau Baptist Association shall declare their desire by making written application to the Clerk of the Association. The application will thereupon be referred to the Credentials Committee and, upon the committee's recommendation, be voted on at the next Annual Meeting. The Credentials Committee shall ascertain that the church seeking membership of the Association shows evidence of good faith by cooperating in the work of the Association, contributing to its financial support during the year and is in agreement with the statements, purpose and spirit of this Constitution and By-Laws. The Credentials Committee shall meet with the church within a reasonable time after the application is made and will assist the church in any manner reasonably possible. The question of membership in the Association will be put to a vote upon recommendation of the Credentials Committee and requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority of voting messengers to pass. At least fifty percent (50%) of the active churches of the Association must be represented at the session when the vote is taken.

### **Proposed Change:**

Any Southern Baptist/Missouri Baptist Convention church desiring membership in Cape Girardeau Baptist Association shall declare their desire by making written application to the Clerk of the Association. The application will thereupon be referred to the Credentials Committee and, upon the committee's recommendations, be voted on at the next meeting of the Executive Board or Annual meeting. The Credentials Committee shall ascertain that the church seeking membership of the Association shows evidence of good faith by cooperating in the work of the Association, contributing to its financial support during the year and is in agreement with the statements, purpose, and spirit of this Constitution and Bylaws. The Credentials committee shall meet with the church within a reasonable time after the application is made and will assist the church in any manner reasonably possible. The question of membership in the Association will be put to a vote upon recommendation of the Credentials Committee and require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting to pass. At least 50% of the active churches of the Association must be represented at the session when the vote is taken.