

# Constitution of the Coryell Baptist Association

Adopted by the association in general session, October 19, 2014. This action causes the Revised Constitution of 1996 to be superseded.

## Article I

### Title of the Association

This organization shall be known as the Coryell Baptist Association and shall conduct all business and activities under that name.

## Article II

### Purpose of the Association

The purpose of the association shall be the advancement and growth of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ among the churches of the association in voluntary cooperation and fellowship with each other, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Southern Baptist Convention and other Baptist organizations. The association shall plan and labor together *in missionary activities to carry out in its fullness the Great Commission of our Lord; to work together in fellowship activities* to build up the churches; *and to work together in Christian Education programs* to strengthen the Christian faith of our brothers and sisters.

## Article III

### Confession of our Faith

Baptist churches must have a common bond on which to base their purpose and actions. Southern Baptist people believe certain truths that bind us together in mutual and cooperative efforts for the Lord. These truths are found in the Bible and we believe the Bible is the standard by which we are to conduct our lives. Therefore, it is appropriate that this constitution for an association of Baptist churches contain a statement of fundamental and important truths that we, as a Christian people, hold in respect and love.

Section 1: The Lord, our God, is one God - the one and only true and living God. He exists in the form of three persons: God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit. God is the eternal "I AM." He is the self-existent one who reveals Himself to man, in His own way and according to His own will. We believe that God is love and never does wrong and never fails to keep his promises.

Section 2: The Holy Scripture of the Bible is the written word of God and is the unerring rule of faith and practice. Holy men of God wrote this Word of God, our Bible, as God inspired them to write.

Section 3: Adam was created with the freedom and ability to choose between right and wrong. His sin brought death, condemnation and moral depravity to all mankind. The only remedy for sin is in the Lord Jesus Christ. God promises forgiveness of sin to those who believe in Jesus and confess their sins.

Section 4: We believe that Jesus Christ has existed eternal with the Father. When the fullness of time was come, God sent His Son, born of the virgin Mary. Jesus was made in the likeness of man and took upon himself the form of a servant that he might die on the cross and bring forgiveness of sin and eternal life to all who believe in Him and accept Him.

Section 5: Regeneration, sanctification and justification are possible only by the birth, life, death, resurrection and mediation of Jesus Christ.

Section 6: Salvation is by grace through faith and cannot be earned or deserved by any person. It is a free gift of God through Jesus Christ.

Section 7: Baptism is for believers only and is a true baptism only if it is by immersion. Believers must show evidence of their faith before baptism. Only those who believe and who have been baptized have a right to claim membership in a local Baptist church and to participate in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

Section 8: We believe that the New Testament Church, the Body of Christ, consists of believers and exists to fulfill Christ's mission. The head of the Church is Jesus Christ. The Church is the Kingdom of God as well as the local, autonomous body of believers, each being of many parts but only one head.

Section 9: In the future there will be a resurrection of the bodies of the just and the unjust. Every person shall stand before the Judgment of God to receive their rewards or their judgment. The happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

Section 10: The Holy Spirit dwells among us, abiding in every true believer and in His churches. The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin and causes them to turn to Christ for salvation.

Section 11: Jesus Christ is the one and only High Priest and is now sitting at the right hand of God making intercession for every believer. Through Him we have the blessed privilege to come boldly to God's throne of grace at any time. Through his mediation we are reconciled to God. The faithful seeker can know the truth and the truth shall make us free.

Section 12: As believers in Christ and followers of Him, we are obligated and privileged to carry out the Great Commission that Jesus gave to us. We are to seek to win the lost to know Jesus Christ and then to teach them to be obedient disciples of Him.

#### **Article IV**

##### **Membership**

This association shall be composed of Southern Baptist churches who follow the statement of beliefs cited in this constitution and who seek fellowship and cooperation with other churches of the Coryell Baptist Association.

#### **Article V**

##### **Relationships**

With respect to the relationships of the association to other entities, the following principles apply.

Section 1: The churches of the association are encouraged to establish and maintain relationships with each other in the spirit of kindness, love and mutual cooperation for the work of the Lord. An underlying premise is that all we have has been given to us as stewards that we might share with others as needs arise. What may be impossible for one part of the body becomes possible with the assistance of other parts of the body.

Section 2: The association shall establish and maintain lines of communications with the various elements of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and directors of associational ministries are encouraged to maintain ties with counterpart offices.

Section 3: The association shall communicate as needed with the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies.

Section 4: The association shall communicate as necessary with other associations.

Section 5: The association may cooperate with other entities, provided the overall purpose of the association is observed.

Section 6: A special relationship shall exist with the Director of Missions of the Tri-Rivers Baptist Area, who works to coordinate and facilitate the activities of the Coryell, Hamilton and Lampasas Associations. Directors of associational ministries may avail themselves of the services offered by the area missions center staff for contacts, resources and ministry information.

Section 7: The association and all associational ministries will refrain from establishing any relationships with any other group, or individual, that would not be in keeping with the highest standards of propriety or would in any way cast doubt upon the purpose and reputation of the association.

## **Article VI**

### **Tasks of the Association**

The following tasks are derived from the approved purpose statement of the association. This article practically states the nature of the work to be carried out through the cooperative efforts of member churches and shall constitute the standard against which all associational promotions and programs shall be measured. The question of relevancy is: how does this program (event) help to accomplish the tasks of the association?

Section 1: Assist and encourage the advancement of the churches of the association in all areas of church life.

Section 2: Assist and encourage the growth of God's Kingdom with special emphasis on mission development.

Section 3: Assist and encourage cooperation among **the** churches to bring about together what may be otherwise too difficult for a single church to accomplish.

Section 4: Promote fellowship among the church congregations.

Section 5: Encourage collaboration in planning and participation in associational educational, evangelistic and missionary efforts.

Section 6: Serve the Lord willingly and gladly by laboring together in associational projects.

Section 7: Carry out, faithfully, the Great Commission in every detail.

## **Article VII**

### **Governing the Association**

Section 1: Authority. The authority of this association comes from the member churches and is expressed by the written and spoken will of the membership by the elected messengers. Authority is vested in the Leadership Team of the association and delegated to the officers of the association, to include program directors and committee chairpersons in order to fulfill the duties of the offices to which they are appointed. Formal authority is expressed by the decisions made by the association-in-session. Practical authority is exercised by the Leadership Team of the association. In all cases, the exercise of authority will be consistent with the stated purpose of the association.

## **Article VIII**

### **Parliamentary Authority**

To provide for good order and discipline in carrying out the business of the association, all meetings will be conducted according to the procedures contained in the Robert's Rules of Order.

### **Article IX**

#### **Amendments**

This constitution may be amended at the annual meeting of the association by a two-thirds majority vote of the elected messengers present provided, (1) the proposed change has been submitted to the Leadership Team at least 90-days in advance of the annual meeting date; and (2) the Leadership Team has notified the member churches of the proposed changes at least 30-days in advance of the annual meeting date.