

# CONSTITUTION

## NECHES RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### PREAMBLE

We, the messengers of Neches River Baptist Association, adopt this constitution to declare how we are organized that we may function together in an orderly way as a mighty force for God. We wish to have a common understanding of how we plan to work together to accomplish God's Will in all we do.

### ARTICLE I. NAME

This Association shall be called Neches River Baptist Association.

### ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this body shall be the advancement of God's Kingdom. We shall seek to accomplish our purpose by assisting all churches in our Association in their efforts of evangelism, missions, Christian education, and benevolent work, when called upon. We shall, also, cultivate cooperation, harmony, peace, and prosperity among the churches sending messengers to this body. We shall seek to follow the principles and teachings of the Holy Bible.

### ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.** This body in all its meetings shall be composed of messengers elected by Southern Baptist Churches and missions that voluntarily cooperate with other churches and missions of like faith, in the work and purposes set forth in Article II of this constitution.

(1) All messengers must be active members of the church or mission by which they are elected.

(2) Each church and mission shall be entitled to three messengers and one additional messenger of each twenty-five members over fifty or the major fractions thereof, provided that no church or mission has over eight messengers.

(3) All churches and missions who send messengers to the Association must contribute on a regular basis to the work of the Association during the year in order for her elected messengers to be members of the Association and have the rights that go with membership.

(4) Membership shall be terminated: (a) by request from a cooperating church wishing to terminate membership; (b) by a three-fourths vote of the messengers of the Association at an annual meeting upon recommendation of the Administrative Leadership Team when the team determines the church is teaching or practicing doctrines contrary to the Holy Bible and the "Southern Baptist Faith and Message," or (c) failing to support financially the work of the Association for two years, after an effort has been made to restore them to our fellowship.

**Section 2.** New churches may be admitted to membership of this Association at any annual session **(a)** upon presentation of a petitionary letter by the Administrative Leadership Team, **(b)** a favorable recommendation from the Administrative Leadership Team, and **(c)** by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the messengers present.

#### **ARTICLE IV. AFFILIATION**

**Section 1.** This Association shall affiliate with the Southern Baptist Convention.

**Section 2.** This Association may also affiliate with sister associations and state conventions in reaching the lost of Texas, as it may deem proper.

#### **ARTICLE V. TIME OF MEETING**

**Section 1.** This Association shall meet annually at such time and such place as agreed upon by majority vote of the messengers present at any regular meeting.

**Section 2.** This Association may be called to order by the Moderator. If he is absent, the Vice-Moderator may call the meeting to order. If these are absent, the meeting may be called to order by the Clerk or one designated by common consent of these messengers present.

#### **ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The officers of the Association shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer.

**Section 2.** These officers shall be nominated by the Administrative Leadership Team at the annual meeting. Other persons may be nominated from the floor. These officers shall be elected during the annual meeting and shall continue in office until they resign or until their successors are elected.

**Section 3.** The Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall not succeed themselves more than one year, respectively.

**Section 4.** The duties of the officers, except Clerk, shall be set forth in Robert's Rules of Order (latest edition), for their respective offices.

**Section 5.** The clerk is to record minutes at the executive Board Meetings and Annual Meetings and will provide the necessary information to publish the annual minutes of Neches River Baptist Association. All minutes are to be typed and put into a folder for permanent file.

#### **ARTICLE VII. AUTHORITY AND STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**Section 1.** This body acknowledges Jesus Christ, God's Son as its only Head, Ruler, and Lord. The majority of the messengers present at an annual meeting acting under His leadership shall determine the policies and activities of the Association. Roberts' Rules of Order (latest edition) shall be the guide in determining the procedures in a regular business meeting. Rules may be suspended only by vote of the body to do so.

**Section 2.** This body recognizes the independence and sovereignty of every Baptist Church and will in no way usurp authority over, nor interfere with, the rights of the churches. However, it claims jurisdiction over its own membership and holds the right to deny seats to, or withdraw from, messengers of churches which are disloyal to the faith of Southern Baptists, disorderly in conduct, or non-cooperative in the spirit and purpose of this Association.

**Section 3.** Any church that fails to contribute to the work of the Association or send messengers to the Executive board and/or the annual meeting for two (2) years shall be contacted by the Moderator or someone designated by him with the idea of assisting and restoring active participation in the Association.

**Section 4.** “The Baptist Faith and Message” adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention shall be the Articles of Faith for this Association.

## **ARTICLE VIII. LETTERS (ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE)**

It shall be the duty of every church to send the Annual Associational letter filled out as completely as possible to the Associational Clerk prior to the annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX. EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Section 1.** There shall be an Executive Board consisting of the Pastors of every church and mission in the Association, Team Leaders from each Associational Team, the Associational Treasurer, the Associational Directors, and any two other members each church or mission wishes to elect as messengers to serve on the Board. The Executive Board shall have power to act for the Association between annual meetings. The Moderator of the Association shall be Moderator of the Executive Board.

**Section 2.** The Executive Board may act for the Association in all matters not contrary to this Constitution between annual meetings.

**Section 3.** The Executive Board shall meet every three months or more often if necessary during the associational year. Twelve (12) elected Board members shall constitute a quorum for the transacting of all business, except the employing or discharging of a Director of Missions or other personnel, and it shall then require a majority vote of the entire Board.

**Section 4.** No member of the Executive board shall be employed as a missionary for the Association.

**Section 5.** In case of a vacancy on the Executive Board, the same shall be filled by a majority vote of the members present in keeping with the method of Section 1.

**Section 6.** It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to approve the nomination of all Associational Officers, Team Leaders, and Directors prior to the annual meeting. This does not supersede Article VI, Section 2.

**Section 7.** It shall be the province of the Board in connection with its annual report to appeal to the churches for definite amounts for missions, benevolences, and associational work. After the appeal is made and approved by the Association, each church is left to exercise its sovereign right as to its response.

## **ARTICLE X. ASSOCIATIONAL TRUSTEES**

The Association at its annual meeting shall elect upon nomination by the Administrative Leadership Team a minimum of three (3) trustees and a maximum of nine (9). 1/3 of the trustee's shall be elected each year to serve for a period of three years. The members shall not succeed themselves for a period of one year. The trustee's responsibility shall be to sign all legal papers and look after other matters appertaining to their office in accordance with the articles of incorporation. The trustees, as other officers, are under the direction of the Association. Other duties and assignments, if necessary, will be detailed in the Association's Policy Manual.

#### **ARTICLE XI. CREDENTIALS TEAM**

The Association will have a Credential's Team of 3 members who will be selected from the Administrative Leadership Team. They will serve for a period of one year. They shall be responsible for receiving letters of petition for membership in the Association, getting acquainted with the petitioning church and its leadership to determine whether its practices and beliefs are in harmony with those set forth in the constitution of the association and practiced by our churches. Such letters of petition must be received by the Credentials Committee no later than September 15, prior to the Annual Meeting. The Credential's Team, after receipt of the petitionary letter shall recommend at the Annual Meeting the acceptance or rejection of the request for membership. They shall meet as necessary. Other duties and assignments, if necessary, will be detailed in the Association's Policy Manual.

#### **ARTICLE XII. MINISTRY TEAMS**

**Section 1**—The Association may have as many ministry teams as necessary to expedite the work. The Moderator and the Director of Missions shall act in an advisory capacity to each of the teams. If for any reason teams do not carry out their assigned objectives, the messengers to the Annual Meeting or the Executive Board by a majority vote shall perform the functions of such teams.

**Section 2**—Team profiles and duties shall be maintained in the NRBA Associational Policy Manual.

#### **ARTICLE XIII. DIRECTORS**

The Association at its annual meeting shall elect upon nomination by the Administrative Leadership Team any Directors for Neches River Baptist Association. Their ministry tasks and Ministry Team assignments will be detailed in the Association's Policy manual.

All Directors shall provide any calendar dates to the Administrative Leadership Team so they can be included in the associational calendar.

#### **ARTICLE XIV. DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS**

The Director of Missions shall be recommended to the Executive Board between annual meetings, or to the Association's Annual Meeting by a special search committee elected by the same. He shall hold office as long as mutually agreeable. He shall maintain an associational office and employ such personnel as may be needed to carry on the work of the Association or Executive Board. His duties shall be defined in a job description in the Association's Policy Manual.

He is an Ex-officio member of all boards and teams with power to make recommendations and enter into discussions of all matters but without power to vote except as otherwise stipulated.

#### **ARTICLE XV. AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended at any session of the Association during the annual meeting. A two-thirds vote of the messengers present shall be required to carry such an amendment. Notice of such must be given at the first sitting of the Association and remain over until the closing session before being voted upon.