

# **Cherokee Strip Baptist Association**

## **Constitution**

### **Article I      Name**

This body shall be known as the Cherokee Strip Baptist Association, a non-profit religious corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of Oklahoma.

### **Article II      Purpose and Polity**

#### **Section 1.      Purpose**

The purpose of the body is to assist the churches to establish, enlarge, and/or extend their ministries.

#### **Section 2.      Partnership**

- Cooperate to promote and establish missions and churches
- Foster unity of faith and practices
- Promote church and denominational emphases, programs and services

#### **Section 3.      Polity**

The churches of this Association shall be in agreement with its doctrine as established by the Baptist Faith and Message and will be considered the ground of common faith and practice for the Association. Churches should be involved in its work and supportive of its missionary task. The Association shall exercise no legislative or judicial authority over any church, respecting its independence or discipline; nor shall it have ecclesiastical power over the internal affairs of any church.

### **ARTICLE III      MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Section 1.      Composition and Representation**

This Association shall be composed of cooperating Southern Baptist Churches in agreement with Art. II, Sect. 3. The basis of representation in this body will be the pastor and 2 messengers from each church of 50 members or less and 1 for each 50 members thereafter providing that no church has more than 7 messengers.

#### **Section 2.      Reception**

Churches desiring representation with this body shall petition by letter and messengers. The Executive Team shall investigate the church and report its findings to the Association. An affirmative vote at the annual meeting would place the church under watch-care for twelve (12) months. The second affirmative vote at the next annual meeting, would result in the seating of the messengers from the petitioning church. Petitions must be received by the CSBA office at least three (3) months prior to the annual meeting.

#### **Section 3.      Responsibility and Accountability**

All member churches are retained without further action, on an indefinite basis. No church may be subsequently denied fellowship and membership without a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote in two consecutive annual meetings. After the first vote to deny fellowship and membership, the church would be placed under watch-care, with the Executive Team charged with the responsibility of investigating any charges and reporting during the next annual meeting. WATCH-CARE is defined as: A church which has all the privileges of a member church of the Association except voting and holding of office.

## **ARTICLE IV MEETINGS AND OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. Annual Meetings**

The Association shall meet annually in the fall. All team and committee appointments and transactions of business will be accomplished at this annual meeting as shall be deemed expedient for the good of the Association. Approval decisions by the Annual Meeting shall require 2/3 affirmative vote. In case the need arises, requiring a change in date or in the place of the annual meeting, the Executive Board may make such changes upon recommendation of the Moderator and/or Director of Missions.

### **Section 2. Officers**

1. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall be nominated from the floor and elected at the annual meeting for the next program year, beginning after the Annual Meeting. The Clerk and Treasurer shall be nominated by the Executive Team and approved on the floor of the Annual Meeting. Any vacancies during the year shall be filled by nomination(s) from the Executive Team, upon approval of the Executive Board.
2. Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer shall serve as the corporate officers of the Association.

### **Section 3. Executive Board**

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the following:
  - a. Director of Missions, Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and representatives from each church.
  - b. The maximum from each church will be the pastor plus 3. Any employee of CSBA shall not be counted against church maximum.
  - c. If an elected board member cannot be present at a board meeting, no substitute may represent him/her without one week notice to the Associational Office.
2. The Executive Board, meeting at least quarterly, is the Association between annual sessions and shall report its transactions and recommendations to the annual meeting of the Association. The Executive Board shall do nothing to conflict with the constitution or the expressed desire of the Association at a previous Annual Meeting.
3. Quorum is defined as five (5) churches present provided that either the Moderator or Vice-Moderator is present.
4. The board may employ a Director of Missions and such other staff people as the Association may deem necessary to the accomplishment of the objectives of this body.
5. Approval/recommendation decisions by the Executive Board shall require 2/3 affirmative vote.

## **ARTICLE V REPORTS AND MINUTES**

### **Section 1. Annual Church Profile**

It shall be the duty of each church of the Association to report the Annual Church Profile to the Association.

### **Section 2. Minutes**

The minutes of the annual meeting of the Association, together with such tabulated information as the Association may deem useful, shall be published and distributed annually, at the annual meeting. The cost of publishing is to be included in the associational budget.

## **ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at an annual meeting, provided that the proposed amendment be submitted in writing one year before the action is to be taken on the same, or provided that such an amendment be recommended by the Executive Board to the annual meeting.

# BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I PARLIAMENTARY LAWS

All business meetings of the Association and Executive Board or any other deliberation group shall be governed by the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

## ARTICLE II STAFF PERSONNEL

All matters pertaining to staff personnel, not specifically governed by the constitution, shall be governed by the Management Team.

## ARTICLE III COMMITTEES

### Section 1. Executive Team

#### 1. Purpose

The Executive Team is the Executive Board between sessions and shall report its transactions and recommendations to the Executive Board. The Executive Team shall do nothing to conflict with the constitution or the expressed desire of the Executive Board at a previous meeting.

#### 2. Membership

The Executive Team will include: Director of Missions, Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and the three Standing Team Leaders. All decisions require simple majority.

#### 3. Responsibilities

- Act on matters of purchasing, disposition, equipment maintenance, budget expenditures, and other matters of urgency; plan annual calendar and annual meeting; and receive a proposed budget from the Management Team to be presented to the Executive Board.
- Nominate members and Chairpersons of standing teams to be presented to the next Executive Board, striving to ensure that no church has no more than two members on any one standing team. Every person serves on only one standing team.
- Serves in the capacity of credential committee when a letter of petition is presented or when a question is raised about the seating of messengers. This committee shall be responsible for working with any church under watch-care of the association.  
WATCH-CARE: A church which has all the privileges of a member of the Association except voting and the holding of office.

### Section 2. Standing Teams

1. There will be at least 3 teams of at least 5 members per team, serving 3-year terms. The Executive Team oversees all teams.
2. Management Team serves in the areas of Finance, Property/Grounds, and Personnel.
3. Mission Team serves in the areas of Missions, Evangelism, and Camp.
4. Ministry Team serves in the areas of Men, Women, Youth, BCM, Family, and VBS.
5. The Director of Missions shall be an ex-officio member of all teams.

### Section 3. Other Teams

1. Special Teams shall be limited to the purpose assigned them at the time of their creation and for the time specified.
2. A Resolutions Team composed of three (3) people shall be appointed by the Moderator by the time of the August board meeting. This team will consider all resolutions presented and make recommendations to the body.
3. The Disaster Relief Team serves to extend the ministry of our local churches in bringing help, healing, and hope to individuals and communities affected by disaster. This team reports directly to the Executive Team.

**ARTICLE IV AMENDMENTS**

These by-laws may be amended in any annual meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote provided that the amendment has been approved by the Executive Board, or has been submitted in writing in the previous annual meeting.