

**CAREY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**Constitution**  
Approved at the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
October 22, 2012

**ARTICLE I - Name**

This body shall be known as the Carey Baptist Association.

**ARTICLE II – Statement of Purpose and Objectives**

**Section 1. Purpose:** Carey Baptist Association exists to strengthen and expand the Kingdom of God through the churches of Carey Baptist Association, beginning in South Central Arkansas and reaching to the ends of the Earth.

**Section 2. Objectives:** In order to achieve its purpose, the Association will seek-

1. To promote and facilitate fellowship among the churches and individuals of the Association.
2. To assist churches in strengthening families, training members and ministering to their communities, in order to reach and impact South Central Arkansas for the Gospel.
3. To assist churches in effectively fulfilling all elements of the Great Commission.
4. To accomplish collectively what may not be possible individually in order to impact the world for Christ.
5. To speak as an Association on matters concerning doctrine, morals and ethics.

**ARTICLE III - Membership**

This Association shall be composed of Southern Baptist churches in South Central Arkansas who are in agreement with the Constitution of the Association, have a desire to cooperate with the Association to fulfill its purposes, and have been accepted into the membership of the Association. The process for becoming a part of the Association is detailed in the Organizational and Policies Manual.

**ARTICLE IV - Polity**

**Section 1. Authority:** This Association shall have no authority over the local churches cooperating in this Association of churches, except to determine each church's membership in this Association. The Association shall not act as council in the adjustment of church conflict of any kind.

**Section 2. Doctrine:** *The Baptist Faith and Message*, as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in the 2000 Session, shall be the doctrinal guidelines for this Association.

**Section 3. Affiliations:** It is the intent of the Association to cooperate with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention to accomplish the objectives of the Association as stated in Article II.

**Section 4. Discipline:** The Association may withdraw fellowship from any church at the annual meeting upon a recommendation from the Executive Board. Such action is to be taken only after careful and conciliatory evaluation has determined the church to be corrupt in either doctrine or practice.

**Section 5.** Roberts Rules of Order (revised) shall serve as the guidelines for parliamentary procedure for all Executive Board and Annual Meetings.

**ARTICLE V – Organizational Structure**

**Section 1. Constitutional Officers:** The Constitutional Officers shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer. They shall be elected each year at the annual meeting upon recommendation from the nominating committee. The moderator may not serve more than two (2) consecutive years. The duties of these offices are detailed in the Organizational and Policies Manual.

**Section 2. Trustees:** Trustees shall consist of the Constitutional Officers of the Association, as named in Section 1 of Article V. If vacancies occur during the year, a temporary trustee will be filled by the Executive Board upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee, to serve until

the conclusion of the next annual meeting. The duties of the trustees will be to sign legal documents as authorized by the Executive Board and to hold title for all Associational property.

**Section 3. Associational Missionary:** The Association shall employ an Associational Missionary (A.M.) for the purpose of directing and coordinating the work of the Association. The job description and process for calling an A.M. is detailed in the Organizational and Policies Manual.

**Section 4. Executive Board:** This board shall consist of the Constitutional officers of the association, as named in Section 1 of Article V, pastors of cooperating churches, and two (2) members elected by each church. The Executive Board shall be empowered to conduct the business of the association between annual meetings. Representation from six (6) churches, with a minimum of twelve (12) messengers present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The specific duties of the Executive Board are detailed in the Organizational and Policies Manual.

**Section 5. Standing Committees:** Standing committees shall be **Personnel, Finance, Nominating, and Admissions/Credentials**. The duties, selection and make-up of these committees are detailed in the Organizational and Policies Manual.

**Section 6. Ministry Teams:** The Association shall form ministry teams necessary to fulfill the purpose and objectives of the Association. The duties, selection and make-up of these teams are detailed in the Organizational and Policies Manual.

**Section 7. Appointed Committees:** Additional committees may be appointed by the moderator for the purpose of conducting the Annual Meeting or addressing specific situations that may arise within the Association. The duties, selection and make-up of these committees are detailed in the Organizational and Policies Manual.

**Section 8. Associational Leadership Team:** The Associational Leadership Team shall consist of the Associational Missionary, Constitutional officers of the association, the chair of each standing committee and the team leader of each Ministry Team. The purpose of this team is to plan, coordinate and promote the work of the Association. The duties of this team are detailed in the Organizational and Policies Manual.

**Section 9. Additional Employees:** The Association may employ additional persons necessary to fulfill the purpose and objectives of the Association. These employees will be under the direct supervision of the Associational Missionary and the Personnel Committee, as directed by the Executive Board. Job descriptions will be developed as needed and placed in the Organizational and Policies Manual.

## **ARTICLE VI – The Annual Meeting**

**Section 1.** The annual meeting shall convene on Monday following the third Sunday in October, or any date deemed appropriate by the Executive Board. In the event the Annual Meeting is moved from its stated date, written notification shall be given to each church no less than thirty (30) days before the proposed date.

**Section 2.** Each cooperating church shall furnish a Uniform Church Letter to the association. This should be given to the Associational clerk at least one (1) week prior to the annual meeting.

**Section 3.** Each church is entitled to elect three messengers, with one additional messenger for each fifty resident members or major fraction thereof. The maximum number of messengers each church is entitled to shall not exceed ten (10).

**Section 4.** Representation from one third (1/3) of the member churches, with a minimum of twenty four (24) messengers present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Section 5.** The Moderator shall appoint a Parliamentarian to assist in matters of procedure.

## **ARTICLE VII - AMMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority. The proposed amendment must be introduced with a written copy furnished at the Executive Board meeting preceding the annual meeting and provided in writing to each Executive Board member no less than fourteen (14) days before the annual meeting.