
Constitution and Bylaws of the Twin Rivers Baptist Association

ARTICLE I – NAME

This body shall be known as the Twin Rivers Baptist Association, incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this body shall be to provide a medium through which its member churches, known as the Twin Rivers Baptist Association and cooperating with the Missouri Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, may:

- ~~1. Advance Christ's Kingdom through the carrying out of the Great Commission;~~
- ~~2. Encourage and engage in Evangelism, Stewardship, Education, Missions and Ministry; and~~
- ~~3. Promote cooperation, fellowship, and doctrinal purity among the churches.~~

1. Develop Leaders
2. Strengthen Churches
3. Engage in Mission(s)

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Affiliation

1. The membership of this Association shall be composed of cooperating Baptist churches which have subscribed to this constitution, the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000, and who maintain the objectives of this association.
2. Any church desiring affiliation with the Association shall complete and register ~~their~~ **its** petitioner's application forms with the Association at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual associational meeting along with ~~their~~ **its** church credentials (organizational structure, constitution, Articles of Faith, minutes, membership, etc.) along with evidence of doctrinal regularity and acceptable cooperation.
3. Any TRBA- or ~~MB~~ **SEND**-sponsored church plant desiring affiliation with the Association as a member church shall seek a recommendation by the **Associational Council** ~~Missions Development Council~~ for a status change to **the** affiliating church. This

recommendation will be submitted in writing to the Association by the **Association Council** ~~Missions Development Council~~. It will be based upon:

- Evidence of the church plant's ability to function as a self-sustaining congregation.
 - A commitment for ongoing SBC/MBC financial support via the Cooperative Program.
 - A commitment to cooperate with the objectives of this Association and financially support for the work of the Association.
4. Upon recommendation by the **Associational Council** ~~Missions Development Council~~ and a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of messengers present at the ~~semi-annual or~~ annual meeting, the church plant will be fully accepted as an affiliating church and its messengers seated.

Section 2 – Messengers

Each member church shall be entitled to four (4) elected messengers for the first 100 members or less, and one (1) additional messenger for each additional 50 members or fraction thereof, but no church shall appoint more than 15 messengers. These messengers shall be in addition to **any serving as Executive Board members** ~~all messengers who are such by virtue of their being an officer, executive board member or pastor in the association.~~

Section 3 – Reports and Associational Missions Support

Each member church is expected to report annually using the Annual Church Profile form, provided by the **Missouri Baptist Convention**, ~~Baptist Sunday School Board~~ containing a brief account of its work and organization leaders. Each church is also encouraged to provide a percentage of its undesignated receipts monthly for the support of its associational missions program and personnel.

Section 4 – Dismissal

Upon a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote **by messengers at the annual associational meeting**, the Association may withdraw fellowship from any church that has become irregular in faith and practice or fails to be cooperative in spirit.

ARTICLE IV – AUTHORITY

This Association shall recognize the independence of the church and shall not in any way exercise jurisdiction over ~~them~~ **it**, yet may refuse recognition of messengers from churches it does not consider in friendly cooperation or sympathetic with the purpose and work of the association.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

Section 1 – General Officers

The general officers of the Association shall be Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer ~~Assistant Treasurer, and Parliamentarian~~. The general officers shall serve as officers of the corporation.

1. Election and Tenure

The general officers shall be elected to one year terms at the ~~semi-annual meeting~~ **spring Executive Board Meeting** and will take office at ~~the conclusion of the annual meeting~~. These officers shall be nominated by ~~secret ballot of the Executive Board~~ **secret ballot of the Executive Board** ~~the Nominating Committee~~. ~~Nominations shall also be received from the floor.~~ **Officers** ~~The Moderator and Assistant Moderator~~ shall be eligible to serve a second one year term, but shall not serve more than two successive terms. ~~Other officers shall not be limited in the number of terms they are eligible for re-election.~~

2. Duties of Officers

1. The Moderator shall preside **over the business portion of** ~~at the annual meeting sessions and the meetings of the Executive Board and serve as chairman of the Administrative Committee~~. The Moderator shall be president of the Corporation of the Association and shall exercise all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of that office. ~~The Moderator shall be an ex-officio member with full rights of all committees of the association.~~

2. The Assistant Moderator shall act for the Moderator in all of his functions during the Moderator's absence or as requested by the Moderator. **He shall advise the moderator on questions of procedure in transacting the business of the association legally, efficiently and impartially providing guidance in accordance to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.** He shall serve as vice president of the Corporation of the Association.

3. The Clerk shall keep a complete record of all transactions of the associational meetings, ~~the meetings of the Executive Board, and the~~ **Associational Council** ~~Administrative Committee~~. The Clerk shall serve as secretary of the Corporation of the Association. The Clerk shall compile, correct, and superintend the printing and distribution of the Associational Annual. In the event a new clerk is elected, the retiring clerk shall be responsible for the publication of the year book of the last session served.

4. The Treasurer ~~shall keep a correct account of all funds received and shall disburse those funds~~ **shall oversee the financial affairs of the association** according to the financial policy of the association and render a complete report at each Executive Board meeting and the annual associational meeting. The Treasurer shall serve as Treasurer of the Corporation of the Association ~~and as an ex-officio member of the Budget and Finance Committee~~.

5. ~~The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer as requested in the receipts, deposits, and disbursement of associational funds and serving as acting Treasurer at the resignation of the Treasurer.~~

~~6. The Parliamentarian shall discharge such duties as are incumbent of such office at the semi-annual, annual, and Executive Board meetings to advise the moderating official on questions of procedure in transacting the business of the association legally, efficiently, impartially. The Parliamentarian provides guidance in accordance to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.~~

SECTION 3 - Administrative Officers

A full-time **Associational Director of Missions Strategist (AMS)** shall be employed by the Executive Board. The **AMS Director of Missions** shall be responsible for providing administrative leadership for the Association, its Executive Board, its programs, staff, **ministry teams committees** and facilities. He shall be ex-officio member of all **ministry teams committees** of the Association, chairman of the Associational Council and shall make periodic reports to the ~~Administrative Committee~~, Executive Board and the Association.

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1 - Membership

The Executive Board shall be composed of the ~~general officers of the Association: Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Parliamentarian; the department directors, committee chairmen, the Director of Missions, and other associational staff; the lead or senior pastor and two(2) laypersons~~ from each member church **(or their designated representative)** and ~~mission~~ church **plant** pastors. Associational staff shall be non-voting members. Mission church pastors have full voting rights except when it involves financial support items for mission churches or pastoral support.

Section 2 - Meetings

The Executive Board shall meet in **the winter and spring** ~~January and July~~ and shall have charge of the business of the Association between sessions. It shall meet at a time and place designated by the Board and/or the **Associational Council** ~~Administrative Committee~~. Fifteen members with one-third of the churches represented shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3 - Responsibilities

The Executive Board shall:

1. **Approve significant decisions—including new programs, personnel changes, and major ministry initiatives—as recommended by the Associational Council.**
2. **Review and approve the annual budget, ensuring appropriate allocation of resources and use of them throughout the year.**
3. **Provide accountability to the leadership and staff responsible for the Association's activities and ensure alignment with its objectives.**

Section 4 - Reports

The Executive Board shall report to the Association at its annual ~~and semi-annual~~ meetings regarding the board's action in the interim.

Section 5 - Associational Council

1. From the Executive Board shall be formed an Associational Council consisting of the **AMS** serving as chairman, **general officers, Association Staff, and a representative from each ministry team** ~~Director of Missions, the Moderator as assistant chairman, Clerk, Treasurer, departmental directors, Associational Missions Development Director, Camp Director and committee chairpersons.~~

2. The Associational Council shall meet ~~quarterly~~ three times each year or as called by the chairman of the council.

3. The Associational Council shall be advisory in nature. It shall recommend to the Executive Board the associational calendar of activities, work ~~with the Budget and Finance Committee~~ in the development of the annual budget; and recommend objectives and goals, programs, and promotional activities to the Executive Board and/or the **annual** associational ~~annual and semi-annual~~ meetings.

~~Section 5 - Administrative Committee~~

~~The Administrative Committee shall be composed each year of the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, treasurer and the chairpersons of the following committees: Budget Committee, Properties and Legal Committee, Missions Development Council. The moderator shall serve as chairperson, and the clerk shall serve as secretary.~~

~~The Administrative Committee of the Executive Board shall serve as the Personnel Committee of the Association, act in emergency situations for and on behalf of the Executive Board between meetings, and recommend to the Executive Board all new programs of work and non-budget expenditures of the Association.~~

~~ARTICLE VII - DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES~~

~~Section 1 - Organization~~

~~1. — The Association shall organize into such departments of work as are usually found in Southern — Baptist Churches. The purpose of the departments shall be to assist and strengthen the local — churches in their work.~~

~~2. — Standing Committees shall be maintained to carry on the necessary work of the Association: — Standing Committees shall include general committees as follows: Administrative, Annual — Meeting Program Planning, Budget and Finance, Christian Life Concerns, Credentials, — Constitution and Bylaws, Memorial, Nominating, Resolutions, Property and Legal. Standing committees shall be added or dissolved as needed.~~

~~3. Church Assistance Programs include the following programs: Associational Missions Development Council, Sunday School, Brotherhood, Camp Program Council, Church Media/Library, Church Music, Discipleship Training, Evangelism, Family Ministries, Pastoral Ministries, Stewardship Education, Woman's Missionary Union, Youth and Bold Mission Prayer Thrust. Church Assistance Programs shall be added or dissolved as needed.~~

~~Section 2 - Election~~

~~1. The Committee on Nominations shall nominate all Church Assistance Program directors at the semi-annual meeting. Nominations for any position may also be made from the floor by messengers. Directors shall enlist other leadership for their particular organization who shall be placed in nomination by the Nominating Committee at the annual meeting.~~

~~2. The newly elected Moderator shall appoint two (2) committee members to serve on the Nominating Committee and any vacancies that may occur during his tenure of office.~~

~~3. The Committee on Nominations shall nominate at the annual meeting all members of standing committees to serve on a three year rotating basis, except for the initial election of committee members to be nominated and elected at the organization of the new association.~~

~~4. Unless otherwise specified, all organizational directors and committees are elected at the semi-annual meeting and will take office immediately following the annual meeting.~~

ARTICLE VIII – MINISTRY TEAMS

Section 1: Purpose

The Executive Board of the Association shall create ministry teams as needed, upon the recommendation of the Associational Council, to help in the execution of the Association's objectives.

Section 2: Formation and Dissolution

1. The Executive Board, upon the recommendation of the Associational Council, may disband Ministry Teams that have fulfilled their purpose or whose objectives no longer align with the current needs of the Association.

2. New Ministry Teams may be formed as necessary to address emerging priorities and ensure the effective fulfillment of the Association's objectives.

Section 3: Membership and Terms

Each Ministry Team shall be composed of three members nominated by the Executive Board.

Team members shall serve a two-year term, with the option to serve two consecutive terms before a one year break if renominated by the Executive Board.

Section 4: Leadership and Reporting

1. Each Ministry Team shall have a Chair who shall be appointed by the Associational Mission Strategist (AMS).
2. The Chair of each Ministry Team shall serve as a member of the Associational Council to ensure coordination and collaboration among all teams.
3. Each Ministry Team shall provide reports at Executive Board Meetings and the Annual Meeting to update the Association on its activities, progress, and needs.

Section 5: Oversight and Accountability

Ministry Teams shall operate under the oversight of the Executive Board and in alignment with the overall strategy and vision of the Association. They shall work in cooperation with the Associational Mission Strategist and member churches to fulfill their objectives effectively.

ARTICLE VIII - DISSOLUTION

In the event that this association shall be dissolved or cease to exist for any reason whatsoever, any and all property remaining after the payment of just debts of the Association shall be distributed or transferred, as directed by the Executive Board, to a church or other religious bodies or agencies of similar purpose, faith and practice so that none of the assets of this Association shall be diverted from the objectives and purpose of the Association.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at the ~~any regular or Semi-~~ annual meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the messengers present and voting, provided that recommended changes have been presented at the meeting prior to the meeting in which it will be voted on. Written notice shall have been sent to every church in the Association.

ARTICLE X - BYLAWS

This Constitution shall be accomplished by such Bylaws as shall cover the policies governing the functioning of the Association. These Bylaws may be amended at the ~~any regular or Semi-~~ annual meeting of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present, provided that recommended changes have been presented at the meeting prior to the meeting in which it will be voted on and written notice shall have been sent to every church in the Association.

BYLAWS OF THE TWIN RIVERS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

1. This body shall be governed by ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER (latest edition). The Association's ~~Vice-Moderator~~ ~~Parliamentarian~~ shall advise the Moderator on questions

of procedure and provide guidance in accordance to with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.

2. The associational year shall be July 1 through June 30, and it is suggested that the annual report from the churches shall cover that period. Each church is expected to submit the Annual Church Profile as used by the Southern Baptist Convention prior to the annual meeting.
3. The annual meeting shall be in September ~~and the semi-annual meeting in April~~ at such time and place as the Association shall decide upon recommendation of the **Associational Council** ~~Annual Meeting Program Planning Committee~~. The ~~Executive Board~~ **AMS** shall be authorized to make such adjustments as circumstances might dictate.
4. Special meetings of the Executive Board and the Association may be called by the Moderator or by the Executive Board, provided such notice shall have been sent to the churches at least twenty (20) days prior to such a meeting specifying cause or causes for the meeting indicated.
5. A quorum for the associational meeting shall consist of messengers from at least one-third (1/3) of the cooperating churches.
6. All organizational leadership of the Association must be members of churches represented in the Association, in good standing, and recognized for their knowledge of and loyalty to Southern Baptist doctrine and programs.
- ~~7. The Moderator shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for.~~
- ~~8. The three year rotation plan shall be utilized relative to membership on standing committees.~~
9. Job descriptions, operational policies, and committee procedures shall be produced and adopted by the ~~associational~~ Executive Board as needed to further define associational work.
- ~~10. The Operations Manual which included the procedures and task descriptions shall serve to guide the Association in the election of officers, naming of committees, planning of annual meetings, and the selection of the Nominating Committee.~~

RULES OF DECORUM OF THE TWIN RIVERS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

1. Every session shall be opened by prayer.
2. The officers shall occupy their places until their successors are duly elected.
3. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator and confine themselves strictly to the question under debate. Personal reflections shall be strictly avoided on all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without being seconded.
5. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject, except by consent of the body, and then not to exceed five minutes.
6. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution, Rules of Decorum, except altering the Articles of Faith, which shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.
7. No offerings shall be taken during the sessions of the Association for any object except by the unanimous consent of the body.
8. The Association may adjourn at any time and place it may think proper. The time for convening shall be ~~that~~ determined by the ~~annual Meeting Program Planning Committee~~ Associational Council.

These include updates made 2009 and again 2013