

Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Preamble

We, the messengers from Missionary Baptist Churches and Associations in the Convention assembled, do wish to carry on more effectively the work of Christian Missions, Christian Education, Christian Benevolence and Charity, and the other religious enterprises that may seem right and best to further promote and strengthen the unity of our faith and practice.

And in order that we may carry out the aforementioned purposes, we do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the government of the assembly here-in-after set up and named.

ARTICLE I – NAME

This Organization shall be known as the Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas.

ARTICLE II – CHURCH AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Any Missionary Baptist Church of the State of Arkansas shall be eligible for membership in this Convention as may be here-in-after set out in this Constitution. Furthermore, the same eligibility applies to the Associations.

- (a) Financial Qualifications – The financial objective of this Convention is to inspire and lead the CMBSC churches of the state into the practice of paying the basis of representation designated on the current registration form.
- (b) Each Church with less than four hundred (400) members shall be entitled to three (3) messengers, namely, the pastor or designee, and two other persons; any church having more than four hundred members shall be entitled to one additional messenger for every additional one hundred and fifty (150) members. It is further provided, however, that no church shall have more than eight (8) messengers regardless of its membership.
- (c) This Convention shall be composed of pastors or designees, and messengers sent by churches and associations that wish to cooperate with the Convention and work in harmony with its principles and purposes.
- (d) Any district association may be reinstated into the Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas if it follows the prescribed rules as set forth in the Constitution of the CMBSC.
- (e) The financial objective of this Convention is to support Arkansas Baptist College, home and foreign missions, state and national congresses, and other ministries of the CMBSC.

ARTICLE III – AUXILIARY BODIES

The Convention shall have the following auxiliary bodies:

State Congress of Christian Education, Women’s Auxiliary, Laymen, and any other auxiliary the Convention may deem profitable to form.

(a) The auxiliary shall be permitted to raise funds for the work of the Convention. All funds shall be reported to the Convention Treasurer who, in turn and upon approval, will allocate requested expenditures. The Treasurer will supply each auxiliary leader with the necessary requisition forms.

(b) All other officers shall be appointed and shall serve as ancillaries of the Convention President.

ARTICLE IV – CONVENTION OFFICERS

The officers of this Convention shall be:

- President
- Vice President-at-Large
- Executive Vice President
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- 3rd Vice President
- 4th Vice President
- 5th Vice President
- General Secretary
- Assistant General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Auditor
- Statistician
- Director of Health and Wellness
- Assistant to the Executive Vice President
- Director of Music
- Assistant Director of Music
- Congress President
- Women’s Auxiliary President
- Laymen’s Auxiliary President
- Director of Home Missions
- Director of Foreign Missions
- Director of Deacon’s Ministry
- Director of Christian Education
- Director of Young Ministers
- Director of Ushers
- Director of Moderators
- Historian
- Director of Security

Convention Officers’ Term of Office

The President shall be elected to serve one four year term. He may be reelected to serve an additional four year term. He shall not exceed more than eight years in office as President. All other officers will serve at the pleasure of the President.

ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Each Vice President shall be responsible for assigned geographical regions of the state with duties pertaining thereunto as assigned by the President.

-Vice President-At-Large duties shall be to perform same as the President if he is absent, and will be expected to serve whenever the call comes from the President of the Convention.

-Executive Vice President shall be responsible for logistics and planning for the Convention.

-General Secretary is responsible for keeping a true and accurate record of all the proceedings of the Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas. He will be expected to print minutes and have the same circulated among the members.

-Assistant Secretary will assist the General Secretary and to perform other duties which may be specified.

-Treasurer shall receive all monies collected by the Convention from whatever source that may not be otherwise directed. He shall be expected to keep a true and correct record of all receipts and disbursements as directed by the Convention, and he is expected to make an annual report to the Convention.

-Auditor shall audit the books of financial officers of the Convention and its auxiliaries, boards, and trusteeship. The report of his findings shall be made to the Convention in its annual session unless otherwise directed by the Convention.

-All other officers' duties will follow what is set forth for the same type of office of the Consolidated State Convention as assigned by the President.

ARTICLE VI – CONVENTION AUTHORITY

While the Convention is independent and sovereign in its own sphere, it shall never attempt to exercise any authority over any church or association, but will recognize and uphold the absolute independence of each local Missionary Baptist Church.

ARTICLE VII – BOARDS

This Convention shall have the following Boards: an Executive Board, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, an Evangelistic Board, and a Trustee Board that may be opened by the Convention as need warrants.

These boards shall have a set of by-laws under which each will operate with the said laws approved by the Parent Body of the Convention.

- (1.) The Executive Board, which shall be set forth by the Convention, shall be comprised of the following: Convention Officers, Auxiliary Leaders, and Liaisons to the Trustee Board.
- (2.) The College Trustee Board is comprised of eleven members, three of which are recommended by the Convention.

Method to Select Trustees for the College

1. Committee Structure – the committee will be composed of three (3) members of the Convention appointed by the President’s Cabinet and two returning Convention trustees serving as ex-officio members. Members of the committee should be persons who are knowledgeable of the work of the college trustee and particularly Arkansas Baptist College.
2. Trustee Qualifications – the following qualifications are recommended for all trustee candidates:
 - a. A member in good standing of a Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention church
 - b. A regular and active supporter of the Convention
 - c. A devotion to the mission of Arkansas Baptist College
 - d. A practitioner of sound stewardship
 - e. Availability to attend regular, called, and committee meetings
 - f. A commitment to the cause of higher education.
3. The committee will receive nominations, screen and interview applicants, and recommend to the Convention a candidate during the Annual Session in November.

Method to Select Trustees for the Convention

The Trustee Board of the Consolidated Missionary Baptist shall consist of nine members and they are as follows:

- President of the Convention
- Vice President at Large of the Convention
- Executive Vice President of the Convention
- One representative from each of the five regions
- One representative at-large.

Trustee Qualifications – the following qualifications are recommended for all trustee candidates:

- a. A member in good standing of a Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention church
- b. A regular and active supporter of the Convention
- c. Financial stability

- d. Availability to attend regular, called, and committee meetings
- e. A commitment to the long-term sustainability of the Convention.

Selection Process

Each of the five regions, which are led by the Regional Vice Presidents, shall develop a process to recommend trustees to the Convention. The process will take into consideration the need for age, gender, and geographical diversity.

The representative at-large will be nominated from the floor of the Convention in either the Annual Session or the Extended Session.

The Convention's Trustee Board's Power: The Trustee Board will have the power to buy, sell or mortgage real estate for the Convention, only when authorized to do so by proper resolution adopted in a regular called session of the Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas.

ARTICLE VIII – OTHER BOARDS

The Convention shall have the power to create other Boards if its work so demands. When such boards are formed, the Convention will adopt a set of By-Laws or Rules to govern said boards and to designate the number composing the same. Any member can be disqualified for detrimental neglect of duty or insubordination to orders of the Convention, through action of the Executive Board as directed by the Convention.

ARTICLE IX – EXPENSES OF CONVENTION OFFICERS

A sufficient amount will be allowed for reasonable expense of each elected officer of the Convention in the execution of his/her work. This expense matter shall be decided upon by the Executive Board and approved by the Convention when so requested by the Parent Body of the Convention.

ARTICLE X – TIME OF MEETINGS

The time of meeting for the Convention annually will be from Sunday during the Thanksgiving week in November and will close on Wednesday of the same week.

The Extended Session of the Convention shall meet on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday following the 2nd Lord's Day in March each year.

ARTICLE XI – ORGANIZATION AND INDIVIDUAL SOLICITATIONS

Any and all organizations, groups, and individuals that may desire to solicit funds for any institution owned and operated by this Convention must be authorized and directed by the Convention or its Executive Board.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended as need warrants upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the enrolled messengers present and voting. Said amendments must be offered on the first day of the Annual Session and voted on not earlier than the final day of the Session in which it or they are offered. All amendments must be presented at the session prior to the session in which the vote is to occur.

ARTICLE XIII – BY-LAWS

This Convention shall have a set of By-Laws which may be changed at such times as the body may deem necessary. This Constitution, when adopted, shall become immediately effective and operative as the governing law and rules of this body, and former Constitutions, rules, regulations, and parts thereof shall be repealed and made void and of non-effect.

ARTICLE XIV – DISSOLUTION

The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to charitable and educational purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof or to the benefits of any private person. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the Corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to a non-profit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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