

Proposed Constitution
Consolidated Missionary Baptist State
Convention of Arkansas, Inc.



Rev. Dr. D. L. Richardson, President

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas, Inc.

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 promote further and strengthen the unity of our faith and practice.

In order to fulfill the objectives outlined above, we formally enact and establish this Constitution to govern the assembly as specified herein.

ARTICLE 1. Name

This organization shall be known as the Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas, Inc. (CMBSC), hereafter known as the Convention.

ARTICLE 2. **Objectives**

The Convention is an association of Missionary Baptist Churches, which encourages and assists one another in promoting the principles set out in the Gospel and safeguards the doctrine and polity of the Baptist Church. Our goals are to:

- Help people, churches, and associations to grow spiritually.
- Be a strong resource for Christian Education
- Provide information for Economical Empowerment
- Be benevolent toward all people.
- Assist member churches in developing strong doctrine and polity.
- Promote harmony within the body of Christ.
- Promote the missionary and educational interests of the Kingdom of God at home and in foreign fields.
- To support Arkansas Baptist College, home and foreign missions, state and national congresses, and other ministries of the CMBSC.
- To encourage the CMBSC churches to pay the representation fee designated on the registration form.

ARTICLE 3. **Membership**

Section 1. CMBSC members shall be composed of eligible Missionary Baptist Associations and Churches of Arkansas.

Section 2. This Convention shall be composed of pastors or their representatives, and messengers sent by churches and associations to work harmoniously with its principles and purposes.

Section 3. Messengers designated by those associations and churches shall be represented in the State Convention as stated in Article 7, Section 1 and Section 2.

ARTICLE 4. Convention Officers/Cabinet Members

Section 1 The officers of the Parent Body of the Convention shall be: President, Vice-President-at-Large, Executive Vice-President, Southeast Region Vice-President, Southwest Region Vice-President, Central Region Vice-President, Northeast Region Vice-President, East Region Vice-President, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Auditor, Statistician, Historian, Parliamentarian, Director of Finance, Director of Health and Wellness, Director of Music, Assistant Director of Music, Director of Home Missions, Director of Foreign Missions, Director of Christian Education, Director of Ministers, Director of Moderators, Director of Security, Director of Evangelism. President of Ushers, Congress President, Dean, Women's Ministry President, Laymen's Ministry President, and President of Youth and Young Adults. See Article 9.

Ministry Officers

Section 2 The officers of the Moderators Division shall be the Director, Assistant Director, Instructor, and Secretary.

Section 3 The officers of the Women's Ministry (formerly Missionary Department) shall be President, Southeast Region Vice-President, Southwest Region Vice-President, Central Region Vice-President, Northeast Region Vice-President, East Region Vice-President Young Matrons President, Young Matrons Advisor, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, Worship Leader, and Historian.

Section 4 The officers of the State Congress of Christian Education shall be President, Vice-President, Dean, Assistant Dean, Dean of Record, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Director General, Assistant Director General, Director of Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF), Chair of Ministers Division, and Registrar.

Section 5 The officers of the Laymen's Ministry shall be President, Southeast Region Vice-President, Southwest Region Vice-President, Central Region Vice-President, Northeast Region Vice-President, East Region Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Special Assistant.

Section 6 The officers of the Ushers' Department shall be President, Southeast Region Vice-President, Southwest Region Vice-President, Central Region Vice-President, Northeast Region Vice-President, East Region Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Instructor.

Section 7 The officers of the Ministers' Council shall be President, Vice-President, and Secretary.

Section 8 The Youth and Young Adults officers shall be the President, Youth Director, and Young Adult Director.

Section 9 The officers of the Music Ministry shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Musician(s).

Section 10 The officers of the Evangelism Commission shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Evangelism Team.

Section 11 The Home Mission Board's officers are the Director, Assistant Director, and Secretary.

Section 12 The Foreign Mission Board's officers shall be the Director, Assistant Director, and Secretary.

ARTICLE 5. Convention's Ministry Bodies

Section 1. The following entities are hereby recognized and designated as Ministry bodies of this Convention, and shall work in harmony with this Convention to contribute to the accomplishment of

its mission, the work of its ministries, and the attainment of its corporate purposes:

1. Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas Moderators Division
2. Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas Women's Ministry
3. Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas Congress of Christian Education
4. Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas Laymen's Ministry
5. Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas Ushers and Nurses Ministry
6. Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas Ministers Council
7. Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas Youth and Young Adults Ministry
8. Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas Music Ministry
9. Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas Evangelism Commission
10. Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas Home Mission Board
11. Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas Foreign Mission Board

Section 2. Ministry and subsidiary entities, their officers, and directors shall not exercise power or control over their affairs and property (i.e., robes, music equipment, etc.) independent of the Convention. All such entities shall amend their by-laws to reflect that they are subordinate and subject to the Convention's governance, jurisdiction, and control.

Section 3. Ministries, subsidiary entities, and bodies shall submit annual reports of their activities, revenues, assets, expenditures, and operations to the Convention. These reports shall be subject to approval by the Convention.

Section 4. All officers of Ministries or subsidiary entities of this Convention shall be members in good standing of churches affiliated with this Convention.

Section 5. All other officers shall serve as ancillaries of the Convention's President.

ARTICLE 6. Meetings

Section 1A. The Convention's "Annual Bridge Conference" shall convene on the second Sunday in November. The official opening will be on Monday morning and continue through Tuesday. When time is needed to accommodate the completion of unfinished business, the conference will adjourn no later than Wednesday at noon.

Section 1B. The Convention's March Bridge Conference shall convene on Monday following the second Sunday in March. The official opening will be on Monday morning and continue through Tuesday. When time is needed to accommodate the completion of unfinished business, the conference will adjourn no later than Wednesday at noon.

Section 2. The Congress of Christian Education shall convene its Annual Conference on the Monday following the first Sunday in June and continue through Wednesday. When time is needed to accommodate the completion of unfinished business, the conference will adjourn no later than Thursday at noon.

Section 3. The Women's Ministry shall convene during the Convention's Annual and the March Bridge Conferences.

Section 4. The Laymen shall convene during the Convention's Annual and the March Bridge Conferences.

Section 5. The Ministers' Council shall convene during the Annual and the March Bridge Conferences of the Convention.

Section 6. The Ushers shall convene during the Convention's Annual and the March Bridge Conferences.

Section 7. The Youth and Young Adult Ministry shall determine which Friday, Saturday, and month of the year to convene. The conference will close on the same Saturday after the planned program is completed. Their meeting dates will be announced during the Annual Bridge Conference.

ARTICLE 7. Elections and Terms of Office

Section 1. Each Church with fewer 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 extra 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 numbers.

Before the election, the President shall appoint a Credentials Committee to certify all candidates for the office of Convention President and eligible voters. The commission shall include a representative for each candidate.

Section 2. The delegates must be listed on the church's letter and registered at the Annual Bridge Conference. Each Church shall be allowed voting delegates as listed in Section 1 of this Article.

Section 3. All candidates for the office of Convention President shall declare their candidacy in the Annual Bridge Conference of the third year of the sitting President's term of office and shall have been registered as a delegate in the previous Annual Bridge Conference.

The President of the Convention shall be elected during the Annual Bridge Conference of the Convention every four years. The President-Elect shall be eligible to serve two (2) consecutive four-year terms.

Upon election, the President-Elect shall assume office 30 days thereafter. After the election results are announced, the President-Elect is expected to present their cabinet. Members the President selects to serve in the President-Elect's cabinet must be in good standing with their church and district association. Each officer will serve at the discretion of the President, and the Credentials Committee must verify the eligibility of the persons selected.

The President, with the approval of the Executive Board (see [Article 8](#)), shall appoint a person to serve the unexpired term of any vacated office. If a person is appointed to serve in an unexpired term, it shall not prohibit their eligibility from being elected to serve two consecutive terms in that office.

Section 4. The sitting President of the Convention shall chair and appoint a Transition Team to complete its work in forty-five (45) days after the election of a new president. All records, minutes,

registration, finances, and Convention correspondence shall be submitted to the Convention office within thirty (30) days of the election, and the Auditor's report shall be submitted to the transition team within fifteen (15) days of the same election.

Section 5. After the election, the selected officers shall be installed at the following March Bridge Conference.

ARTICLE 8. Boards

Section 1. This Convention shall comprise the following Boards: Executive Board, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Evangelistic Board, and Trustee Board, which the Convention may open as need warrants. These boards shall have by-laws, under which each will function according to the laws approved by the Convention's Parent Body.

- (1.) The Executive Board, which the Convention shall select, will comprise Convention Officers, Ministry Leaders, and Liaisons to the Trustee Board. Their responsibilities shall be to:
 - a. Complete any unfinished business referred to by the Convention.
 - b. Enforce the regulations of the convention, its ministries, and boards.
 - c. Examine and determine the validity of all matters against the Convention.
 - d. Exercise corporate oversight of all business and operations of the Convention.
- (2.) Composition of Trustees for the Convention. The Trustee Board of the CMBSC shall consist of nine members, and they are as follows:
 - a. President of the Convention
 - b. Vice President at Large of the Convention
 - c. Executive Vice President of the Convention
 - d. One representative from each of the five regions
 - e. One representative at-large.
- (3.) The Executive Board shall have a chairperson appointed by the President who presides over the Executive Board. The Chairperson shall facilitate the implementation of the Convention's policies and programs.
- (4.) 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 scheduled, called, and committee meetings.
 - e. A commitment to the long-term sustainability of the Convention.

Section 2. Selection Process

- (1.) The Regional Vice Presidents, who lead each of the five regions, shall develop a process for recommending trustees to the Convention. The process will consider the need for age, gender, and geographical diversity.
- (2.) The representative at large will be nominated from the floor of the Convention, either the Annual or the March Bridge Conference.

Section 3. The Convention Trustee Board's Power: The Trustee Board will have the power to buy, sell, or mortgage real estate for the Convention when authorized by an official resolution adopted in a regular session of the Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas.

Section 4. Additional Boards: The Convention shall have the power to create additional Boards if necessary. When such boards are formed, the Convention will adopt By-Laws or Rules to govern them and designate the number of members to serve them. The Executive Board can disqualify a member for detrimental neglect of duty or insubordination to the Convention's directives.

Section 5. Method to recommend Trustees for the College

- 1) A Trustee Selection Committee, consisting of five members, shall be appointed by the President.
- 2) The committee members should know college governance and understand Arkansas Baptist College's mission.
- 3) This committee will receive nominations from the convention's body, screen, and interview applicants, and recommend the prospective candidate(s) to the convention president during the Annual Bridge Conference. Interested applicants should request an application from the Trustee Selection Committee and submit their completed application with a bio.

Section 6. Method for Selection of College Trustee

- 1) The College Trustee Board has eleven members.
- 2) The Trustees selected to the college board will be composed of three (3) members of the Convention whom the President appoints, and two returning Convention trustees serving as ex officio members.
- 3) College Trustee Qualifications – All candidates for trustee appointment must meet the following qualifications:
 - a. A member in good standing of a Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention church.
 - b. A regular and active supporter of the Convention's work and ministries.
 - c. Exhibit an apparent devotion to the mission and values of Arkansas Baptist College.
 - d. One who practices sound stewardship and integrity.
 - e. Available to attend scheduled, called, and committee meetings of the Board.
 - f. Committed to the cause of higher education, particularly within the context of Christian and Baptist values.

ARTICLE 9. Duties of Officers

Section 1. PRESIDENT

1. Shall be responsible for leading the convention in implementing the goals and objectives of this Convention, as stated in Article 2.
2. Shall preside over the sessions and activities of the Convention.
3. Shall appoint all committees and commissions.
4. Shall be the official representative of the Convention.
5. Shall administer the benevolent fund referred to in Article 10.
6. Shall appoint a Chairperson of the Executive Board.
7. Shall assign each Vice-President to a geographical region of the state with responsibilities and duties.

Section 2. VICE-PRESIDENT AT LARGE

1. Duties shall be to assist the President and assume presidential duties when delegated or during the President's absence.
2. Shall serve in the absence or inability of the President to exercise the duties of the office.

3. Shall serve out the unexpired term of the President in the event of death or resignation.
4. Shall serve in other areas the President assigns and be accountable to the President.

Section 3. EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

1. Shall assist the President with executive responsibilities; provides oversight of key administrative functions and may act on behalf of the President when necessary.
2. Shall be responsible for the logistics and planning of the annual and March Bridge Conferences.
3. Shall serve as Director of Public Relations for the Convention, assist in program format, notifications, and publications for the March and Annual Bridge Conferences, and help with special programs in conjunction with the State Convention.
4. Shall serve in other areas as assigned by the President.
5. Shall be accountable to the President.

Section 4. REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

The Convention has five regions: the Southeast Region, the Southwest Region, the Central Region, the Northeast Region, and the East Region.

1. **Position Title:** Regional Vice President of Arkansas
2. **Reports To:** President of the Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas, Inc.
3. **Position Description and Overview:**

Regional Vice Presidents of the Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas, Inc. support the President and assist with administrative and programmatic leadership.

The Regional Vice Presidents (RVPs) position has key leadership responsibilities for representing the interests of the convention within the designated region. The RVP will provide visionary leadership, strategic oversight, and effective management to ensure the convention's mission, goals, and initiatives are implemented. The position requires a strong commitment to the spiritual, organizational, and operational growth of the CMBSC's Baptist community within the region and an unwavering dedication to advancing the gospel.

Key Responsibilities:

4. **Leadership and Vision:**
 - A. Serve as the primary representative of the Convention within the assigned region.
 - B. Collaborate with the President and other executive leaders to develop and execute a regional strategy aligned with the convention's overall mission.
 - C. Provide leadership and guidance to regional associations, churches, and ministries, promoting unity, growth, and practical ministry.
5. **Strategic Planning and Implementation:**
 - A. Develop and implement regional initiatives that support the convention's strategic goals, including mission, evangelism, discipleship, and community outreach.
 - B. Collaborate closely with regional leaders, pastors, moderators, and ministry leaders to identify and address the unique needs and opportunities within the region.
 - C. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of regional programs and initiatives, adjusting as necessary to achieve desired outcomes.
6. **Church and Association Relations:**
 - A. Strengthen relationships with the region's pastors, churches, moderators, and associations, providing support, encouragement, and resources as needed.

- B. Foster collaboration among churches and associations to address regional challenges and opportunities.
 - C. Serve as a mediator and advisor in resolving conflicts within churches or associations, ensuring that biblical principles and convention policies are followed.
7. **Convention Representation:**
- A. Represent the region at state meetings, conferences, and events, advocating regional interests and concerns.
 - B. Communicate regularly with the President, Board of Directors, and other RVPs to ensure regional alignment and coordination.
 - C. Provide regular reports on regional activities, progress, and challenges to the state leadership.
8. **Communication and Advocacy:**
- A. Serve as a voice for the region, advocating for regional needs and priorities within the state convention.
 - B. Communicate key state initiatives, policies, and decisions to regional stakeholders, ensuring clarity and understanding.
 - C. Maintain open lines of communication with pastors, churches, moderators, and associations, providing timely updates and responding to inquiries.

Section 5. GENERAL SECRETARY

1. Shall serve as a member of the Executive Board of the Convention.
2. Shall serve as the Convention's recording officer and the records' custodian, except for those specifically assigned to others, such as the treasurer's books.
3. Shall keep a register or roll of the members and call the roll when required.
4. Shall notify officers, committees, and delegates of their appointment.
5. Shall sign, along with the president, all requisitions and purchase orders that are authorized by the Convention, unless otherwise specified in the by-laws.
6. The Secretary shall send out official notices of scheduled and called meetings as necessary and conduct the correspondence of the Convention, except as otherwise provided.
7. Shall perform and coordinate the work of assistant secretaries, the recording secretary, and the secretary of the Executive Board.
8. Shall perform other duties as assigned by the President and be accountable to the President.
 - (a) Assistant General Secretary - Shall assist the General Secretary in performing his/her duties as assigned by the General Secretary and is accountable to the General Secretary.
 - (b) Recording Secretary - Shall permanently maintain the records and proceedings of the Convention Parent Body; Read the Convention Roll Call when requested; and perform other duties as assigned. This person is required to attend each meeting held at the opening of the March Bridge Conference, the Annual Bridge Conference, and the State Congress Annual Session.
 - (c) Secretary to Executive Board - Shall permanently maintain the attendance of Board Members at meetings and read the proceedings of all Executive Board meetings; Disseminate the agenda and minutes at the opening of each session; Prepare final minutes for the Annual Report; Check each church's participation and other duties as assigned by the General Secretary. This person is required to attend each meeting held at the opening of the March Bridge Conference, the Annual Bridge Conference, and the State Congress Annual Session.

OTHER SECRETARIES

1. Secretary of Registration - Shall serve as Registration/Enrollment Secretary, enrolling each church and delegates, and giving them packets and registration kits. Must record all registration information, assist in updating the Convention Calendar directory, develop a roll call of churches and officers enrolled, develop committee lists for dissemination and roll call, prepare a final report by districts and church enrollments, finalize delegate count and present to the Convention during the business period; to be included in the final report for Convention Annual Report, and other duties as assigned by the General Secretary. Time requirements include attendance at each March Bridge Conference and Annual Bridge Conference.
2. Secretary of Courtesy - Shall oversee and coordinate Convention courtesies, welcome packets to Presidents and special guests, floral corsages, plaques, gifts for special guests, officers, and honorees. Prepare a "Thank you" presentation to the host church and pastor at the session's closing and keep track of budgeted expenses. Bring a final report for the Convention Annual Report. Other duties as assigned. This person is required to attend each meeting held at the opening of the March and Annual Bridge Conference, and the State Congress Annual Session.
3. Secretary of Publicity - Shall send out media releases and other information regarding the Convention and the upcoming sessions. Schedule press conferences as required and submit Convention position statements. Keep records of press information submitted and released for dissemination to the Convention historian and the Annual Report. Inform the Chairperson of the State of Country, Ethics Committees, and any other committees of the societal issues in the area where the session is being held. Coordinate with local pastors regarding the Convention's witnessing efforts in their area and other duties as assigned. This person is required to attend each meeting held at the opening of the March and Annual Bridge Conferences, as well as the Annual Session of the State Congress.

Section 6. AUXILIARY TREASURERS

- The Treasurers of the auxiliary bodies receive the money from the Corresponding Secretaries and turn it over to the Director of Finance.

Section 7. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

1. Shall function as the Convention's Treasurer and report on the financial activity of the Convention.
2. Shall be responsible for notifying the various member churches and convention ministries of their commitments to the convention, i.e., apportionments, special offerings, etc.
3. Shall receive all monies.
4. Shall formulate financial reports for the President and the Auditor as needed.
5. Shall keep records of all checks written and monies received.
6. Shall balance and reconcile checkbooks.
7. Shall write all checks using the voucher system.
8. Shall be responsible for acquiring 2 or 3 helpers to handle money during the convention sessions.
9. Shall be responsible for all other duties assigned by the President.
 - (a) Financial Secretary:
 - i. Shall collaborate with the Director of Finance to maintain accurate records of all financial transactions.

Section 8. AUDITOR

- Shall audit the Books of the Secretaries and Treasurers within the Convention and its Ministries each year.

Section 9. Statistician

- Shall make annual statistical reports to the Convention.

Section 10. DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

1. Shall be responsible for the administration of the state Christian education program.
2. Shall recruit volunteers for Christian education.
3. Should keep accurate records, i.e., names and addresses of officers of the state convention and its auxiliaries:
 - (a) List of associations, moderators, Ministry presidents, and district directors of Christian education; dates and places of meetings;
 - (b) List of churches and pastors in the state; Sunday schools and Sunday school superintendents; Nurture for Baptist Churches and directors; local church directors or presiding officers of Christian education, etc.;
 - (c) List of certified deans in the state and the schools they administered;
 - (d) List of certified instructors in the state and the courses they have been certified to teach;
4. Shall maintain records of Christian Education schools and classes held in the state;
5. Shall maintain a list of volunteer workers and services they can render.
6. Shall keep a record of the state's weekday and Vacation Bible Schools.

Section 11. DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

1. Shall plan a musical for the Annual Bridge Conference.
2. Shall provide music during the sessions in the absence of guest choirs.

Section 12. HISTORIAN

1. Shall prepare and present a narrative account of the Convention's annual activities.
2. Shall develop a history of the Convention for publication.
3. Shall serve as custodian of the historical records of the Convention.
4. Shall perform other duties as assigned by the President.

Section 13. PARLIAMENTARIAN

- Shall advise and assist the President regarding Convention polity, procedure, and other matters as the President may direct.

ARTICLE 10. Funds and Expenses

Section 1. The benevolent fund shall be used at the discretion of the Convention President to assist member churches in times of need.

Section 2. Convention officers may receive reasonable expenses to perform their duties related to the Convention. The Executive Board will decide on the amounts of these expenses and be approved by the Convention's Parent Body.

Section 3. The ministries are allowed to collect funds to support the activities of the Convention. All financial resources must be submitted to the Convention's Director of Finance, who will allocate approved expenses upon receiving a requisition. The Director of Finance will supply each Ministry leader with the necessary requisition forms.

Section 4. All organizations, groups, or individuals approved by the Convention or its Executive Board are permitted to collect funds for any ministry managed by this Convention.

ARTICLE 11. Amendments

This constitution may be amended in the Annual Bridge Conference of the Convention by a two-thirds vote of the registered messengers present. Proposed amendments must be offered on the first day of the Annual Bridge Conference and voted on not earlier than the final day of the Session in which they are offered. All amendments must be presented at the session before the session in which the vote is to occur.

ARTICLE 12. Authority

Section 1. The Convention will follow the guidelines in the Busy Pastor's Guide for parliamentary procedures, and when necessary refer to Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2. While the Convention is independent and sovereign in its own sphere, it shall never attempt to exercise authority over CMBSC churches or associations. However, it will recognize and uphold the absolute independence of each local Missionary Baptist Church.

ARTICLE 13. Commissions and Committees

Section 1. Commissions

Civil Rights and Political Action: The Civil Rights and Political Action Commission guides the Convention in addressing social justice issues through resolutions and appropriate actions.

- The commission will develop petitions, organize rallies, and meet with those who have the power to change civil rights through political action.
- They shall collaborate with other groups sympathetic to the Convention's aims and objectives.

Prison: The Prison Commission is responsible for leading the Convention and collaborating with other state religious organizations to develop strategies, tactics, and activities to combat crime in America.

- The commission shall focus on crimes that disproportionately threaten the survival of families, churches, and communities.
- They shall develop strategies and tactics to assist in rehabilitating those seeking to return to their communities and churches.

Evangelism: The Evangelism Commission is responsible for leading the Convention to a ministry of winning the lost to Christ:

- Shall utilize the resources of people showing evangelism successes in their local communities.
- Shall lead the Convention in its annual Evangelistic Rallies.

Section 2. Committees

Finance and Budget: This Committee is responsible for recommending policies of stewardship to govern

the convention's fiscal affairs, including the receipt and disbursement of its finances:

- Shall be responsible for developing the budgeting process and preparing the annual budget proposal for presentation to the Executive Board and Convention.
- Shall also be responsible for developing plans to ensure financial/economic empowerment and to assist the convention with strategies to ensure healthy financial support for the Convention's ministries.
- Shall mobilize skilled people to write grants supporting the convention's ministries.

Constitutional Revision: The Constitutional Revision Committee reviews the Constitution annually and makes necessary recommendations as the convention grows.

Recommendations and Resolutions: The Committee shall meet during the convention and be the point of contact to receive all recommendations for action from the Convention and Ministry Bodies.

- This committee shall recommend further action to the President and Executive Board.
- They shall bring before the Convention issues that must be addressed as a body to ensure the Convention's and its constituents' well-being.

State of the Country: The State of the Country Committee shall assist the Convention in addressing the issues of our times that reflect our country's moral and spiritual condition and make appropriate recommendations to edify the body of Christ.

Place of Meeting: The Place of Meeting Committee shall locate and recommend the place to meet during the March and Annual Bridge Conferences.

Credentials: The Credentials Committee shall certify voters and candidates eligibility for the Convention Presidency and the slate of officers.

ARTICLE 14. By-Laws

Section 1. This Convention shall have a set of By-Laws which may be changed as the body deems necessary. This constitution, when adopted, shall immediately become effective and operative as the governing law of this body. The previous constitutions, rules, regulations, and parts thereof shall be repealed and made null and void.

Section 2. Each of the Ministries of the Convention may write by-laws to meet its needs, and those by-laws shall not conflict with this Constitution. The Executive Board must approve such bylaws.

ARTICLE 15. Convention Ministries

Convention Ministers and Pastors

- The duties and responsibilities of the CMBSC Ministers and Pastors Division include offering support, oversight, and professional development for clergy across the state convention churches. This division should advocate for ministers and pastors with the convention's administration to ensure that convention ministers and pastors have the resources for effective ministry.
- Offer ongoing support and guidance to ministers and pastors, helping them navigate the challenges of ministry.
- Create a safe and confidential environment for ministers and pastors to discuss their experiences, concerns, and challenges.
- Develop and maintain a list of resources for ministers and pastors experiencing difficulties, such as financial, career, or family counseling.

- Promote and provide opportunities for continuing education and spiritual growth for ministers and pastors.
- Plan and organize meetings, retreats, and workshops to foster learning, fellowship, and renewal.
- Collaborate with CMBSC's President, staff, and other divisions leaders to advance the overall mission and vision of the convention.

Home Mission

- Assist pastors and churches during times of benevolent need.
- Keep the convention informed about the National Home Mission Ministry.

Foreign Mission

- Coordinate with the CMBSC to support the work of the National Baptist Foreign Mission Ministry.
- Support a mission station or missionary to promote the ministry.
- Assist CMBSC churches with resources for mission efforts.

Christian Education

- Link the CMBSC Christian Education with the National Baptist Christian Education programs.
- Provide CMBSC churches with educational resources and support for their ministries.
- Establish Christian Education standards that promote and advance the convention's mission.
- Help the CMBSC District Association improve their Christian Education Ministries.

Evangelism

- Link the CMBSC with the National Baptist Convention Evangelistic Ministry.
- Promote Christian evangelism across the state.
- Collaborate with CMBSC District Associations to encourage Christian evangelism.
- Assist and provide resources to CMBSC members.
- Organize seminars to enhance our Christian witnessing.

Stewardship

- Encourage sound stewardship principles that reflect our convention's ministry focus.
- Provide leadership to foster economic empowerment.
- Offer strategies to CMBSC members for developing effective stewardship ministries.
- Mobilize skilled individuals to write grants supporting convention ministries.

Scholarship

- Support students in achieving academic success by providing tools and scholarships.
- Inform the convention about available educational resources for ministry.
- Create opportunities and forums for students to showcase their oratorical skills.
- Serve as a link with the National Baptist Convention Scholarship Ministry.

ARTICLE 16. 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 benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, after all debts have been paid, its assets 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.

Appendix Page

2025 Constitution Revision Committee

Pastor Alvin Hunter, Chairperson
Minister Patricia Blake, Secretary
Pastor Frederick Anthony, VP at Large
Dr. Cheryl Stuart, Christian Ed Director
Deacon Robert White, Former State Representative

****Mission Statement:****

The Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas is committed to equipping, empowering, and engaging every believer through ministries that cultivate spiritual maturity, compassionate service, and community transformation—all for the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.

CMBSC Regional Outline



Proposed Statement: Transition of All Auxiliaries to Ministries

In recognition of the evolving mission and vision of the Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas, it is hereby proposed that all existing Auxiliaries within this Convention be officially restructured and renamed as Ministries.

This adjustment reflects our renewed commitment to align every department, board, and body with the spiritual and missional purposes of the Church. The word 'ministry' more accurately expresses our biblical identity and the purpose of service, discipleship, and outreach. This change emphasizes function over form, service over structure, and mission over maintenance.

While we honor the faithful legacy and contributions of our Auxiliaries—whose work has sustained our Convention through generations—this transition marks a new season of growth, relevance, and unity. It represents a movement from organizational management to Kingdom-centered ministry, where every arm of the Convention serves under the spiritual direction of the Holy Spirit and the leadership of this body.

Each newly designated Ministry shall continue its current mission, yet with renewed focus on discipleship, leadership development, and service to the local church and community. This shift will foster greater collaboration among departments and ensure that all activities advance the central mission of the Convention: to make Christ known through teaching, service, and spiritual empowerment.

****Scriptural Foundation:****

“And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” – Ephesians 4:11-12 (KJV)

This passage reminds us that ministry is God’s design for equipping the saints and strengthening the Church. Each department of our Convention is therefore called not merely to organize, but to minister in the name of Jesus Christ.

****Mission Statement:****

The Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention of Arkansas is committed to equipping, empowering, and engaging every believer through ministries that cultivate spiritual maturity, compassionate service, and community transformation—all for the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.