

**NOTE: The yellow highlighted portions are to be removed.**

**The red portions are to be added.**

**The Constitution is to be approved by the Executive Committee and the messengers of the Annual Meeting.**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE I - NAME**

This Association shall be known as the Coffee County Baptist Association, **hereafter referred to as CCBA.**

### **ARTICLE II – MISSION STATEMENT**

1. The purpose of this Association of churches is to encourage a spirit of unity, cooperation, and involvement in the mission of Jesus Christ in Coffee County and throughout the world.
2. In order that the churches may promote a more effectual work in World Missions, it is recommended that the churches cooperate with the Alabama Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

### **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

~~1. The membership of the Association shall be composed of the present affiliated churches who subscribe to its Articles of Faith, Constitution, and By Laws.~~

**1. The membership of this Association shall be composed of churches in cooperation and in good standing with the Association. All member churches shall agree with CCBA's Mission, Constitution, By-laws, and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.**

~~2. Churches wishing to affiliate with the Association shall present a written request for admission to the Committee on Petitionary Letters at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual Associational meeting. The Committee on Petitionary Letters shall then present its recommendation to the Association in annual meeting for approval or rejection.~~

**2. Churches/missions wishing to unite in membership with the CCBA shall submit an application at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting of the CCBA. Contact the office for applications and instructions.**

**The Credentials Committee will present its recommendation to the Association in the annual meeting for approval or rejection.**

**If approved by the messengers by a simple majority, the approved church/mission will be placed under Watch Care for a period of one year. During this time the church/mission shall have monthly contact with a member of the Credentials Committee. At the next annual meeting the Watch Care church/mission will become a full member of the CCBA by a 2/3 vote of the messengers if the Credentials Committee so moves. If the 2/3 vote of the messengers fail or the Credentials Committee does not move for membership, the church/mission will be removed from consideration and Watch Care status. They may re-apply later.**

#### **Benefits of the Watch Care Relationship**

**The Watch Care church/mission shall have all privileges, participation, and access to resources and expertise, including guidance and training from experienced church leaders in the CCBA.**

**The new church/mission shall have connection to a network of like-minded churches for mutual support and encouragement.**

### Limitations of Watch Care Relationship

The new church/mission is encouraged to attend Annual, Called, and Executive Committee Meetings of the Association, but shall not be eligible to vote or hold leadership/committee positions within the association.

~~3. The Association shall have the authority to withdraw fellowship from any church that is not in order in faith and practice. A church may be excluded by action of the Association in annual meeting after investigation and recommendation of a duly authorized committee. Churches may withdraw fellowship from the Association at their pleasure.~~

3. The Association shall have the authority to remove from membership any church that is found not to be in cooperation and good standing with CCBA's Mission, Constitution, By-laws, and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. After a thorough investigation by the Credentials Committee, a written report shall be given at the annual meeting. Should the committee move to dismiss the church, they will be dismissed by a 2/3 vote of the messengers at the annual meeting. Churches may withdraw membership from the CCBA at their pleasure.

### ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

1. The Association shall hold its sessions annually at such time and place so designated by the Association, or in case of emergency, by the Executive Committee.
2. The Moderator and/or the Director of Missions (DOM) may call extra meetings of the Association Executive Committee when an urgent need requires such a meeting.
3. The Moderator and/or the DOM may call special meetings of the Association as directed by the Executive Committee.
4. The working body of the Association shall be composed of duly elected messengers from the affiliated churches.
5. Each affiliated church of the Association shall be entitled to at least three messengers without regard to numerical strength, and an additional messenger for every fifty members after the first fifty. No church shall have more than ten messengers.
6. It is further provided that regular ordained ministers of the Gospel residing within or holding pastorates within the Association shall be entitled to all the courtesies of the floor of the Association but without the right to vote except when elected by their church as messengers of the Association.

### ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

1. The general officers of the Association shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Associational Secretary.
2. These officers shall be recommended to the Messengers of the Association Annual Meeting by the Nominating Committee during the first business session and election shall follow in the second business session of the Annual Meeting. They will begin their tenure of office at the close of the annual ~~session~~ meeting and will serve until the close of the next annual ~~session~~ meeting, or until their successor shall be elected or installed.
3. The Moderator shall be limited to not more than two successive years of service.
4. ~~The other officers of the Association shall be a Chairman of Evangelism, Sunday School Director (ACTeam), Discipleship Training Director, Director of Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Director, Chairman of Stewardship and Finance, Associational Director of Church Music, Chairman of Missions Development Committee, Chairman of History Committee, and any other officers so designated by the Association.~~
4. The association reserves the right to designate department heads as necessary and such will serve as additional officers.

## ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

### 1. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Association Messengers at the Annual Meeting shall authorize an Executive Committee to conduct the work of the Association between annual sessions meetings. This Executive Committee shall be composed of one (1) active pastor of the affiliated churches and one (1) lay member selected by each affiliated church. This Executive Committee shall not transact any business of the Association without a quorum of not less than ten (10) churches being represented. The regular scheduled meetings of this Executive Committee shall be every other month beginning in January, excluding November, since it falls so closely behind the annual meeting.

### 2. THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The Association shall have the following Standing Committees which shall function throughout the year and report to the annual meeting, namely: Nominating Committee; Committee on Committees; Stewardship and Finance Committee; Time/ Place/ Preacher/Program Committee; Personnel Committee (when deemed necessary); Committee on Petitionary Letters (when deemed necessary); Credentials Committee; Resolutions Committee; and such additional committees as needed. All standing committees will consist of members elected for a three-year term. When an individual rotates off (completes his/her term) a committee, that individual will not be eligible to serve on that committee until one year has passed. Some committees are better served without a rotation schedule and term limits.

### 3. THE ASSOCIATIONAL COUNCIL

The Association shall have an Associational Council, consisting of the Director of Associational Missions, who will serve as chairman, Ministry Assistant, Associational Secretary, Treasurer, Sunday School Committee Chairperson, ACTeam Director, Discipleship Committee Chairperson, Training Director, WMU Director, Men's Ministry Brotherhood Director, Chairperson of Stewardship/Finance Committee, Evangelism Committee Chairman, Missions Development Chairperson.

## ARTICLE VII - ORGANIZATIONS

The Association shall encourage and promote such Associational organizations as Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Missions Development Committee, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Men's Ministry, Evangelism, Music, Stewardship, and other organizations with their full staff of officers and program personnel necessary for the promotion of the work which is in keeping with the purpose of the Association.

## ARTICLE VIII - TRUSTEES

There shall be three trustees of the Association, one preferably a lawyer, serving terms of three years, with the term of one expiring each year. On nomination by the Nominating Committee, one new trustee shall be elected for three (3) years at the annual meeting. No trustee shall be eligible to succeed himself until after the lapse of one (1) year. No two shall be from the same church.

## ARTICLE IX - AUTHORITY

The Association shall have no power to infringe upon the rights or usefulness of any church or churches. All churches in the Association shall remain independent and sovereign. The Association may advise or offer recommendations for their adoption and guidance, but these cannot be binding on the church in any way.

## ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended, except for ARTICLE IX, at the Annual Meeting of the Association by the majority vote of the Messengers. The Constitution may be amended by the following procedure: Present proposed amendment(s) in writing to the Executive Committee at the September meeting. If approved by the Executive Committee in September, the proposed amendment(s) will be presented at the first business session of the Annual Meeting and voted on at the second business session. of the Annual Meeting.

Revised October 18, 2008