

# CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTHCOAST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION [Proposed]

## ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this body shall be the NorthCoast Baptist Association.

## ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

NorthCoast Baptist Association is a fellowship of Southern Baptist churches and missions **church plants, replants or campuses** in voluntary cooperation for the purpose of strengthening and extending the ministry of the member churches in carrying out the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ. This shall be accomplished by assisting and encouraging one another in the greatest possible effort in missions, evangelism, stewardship, and Christian education. The **This** Association will also serve to interpret and promote the programs of the Southern Baptist Convention and the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

## ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Scriptures are our sole authority for faith and practice. The Baptist Faith and Message **[2000 edition]** is a guideline.

## ARTICLE IV – AUTHORITY

**Section 1.** This body is a medium through which the **Southern** Baptist churches may work harmoniously in cooperation with each other, promoting the work and objects set forth in this constitution. This body disclaims all rights of exercising authority over any church and acknowledges that every church is independent and autonomous and is accountable to no body of men upon the earth.

**Section 2.** This body reserves the right to refuse to seat members from any church that departs from the teachings of the New Testament as set forth in the Statement of Faith of the **this** Association. It also reserves the right to withdraw fellowship at its **Annual Meeting** **Associational Meetings** from any church that departs from the teachings of the New Testament **as set forth in the Statement of Faith of this Association**, or refuses to cooperate with the **this** association and its purposes. Any **affiliated partnering** church may voluntarily withdraw its affiliation by making a written request to the **this** Association.

## ARTICLE V – MESSENGERS

The **This** Association shall consist of messengers who are elected by participating churches.

**Section 1.** Messengers shall be elected ~~on the following basis~~ **based on your current year's Annual Church Profile report for the lesser of your "weekly worship attendance" or "total members" as follows:**

- ~~Five [5] messengers for the first fifty [50] members or less,~~ **1. The Senior / Lead Pastor of the participating church,**
- ~~One [1] messenger for every additional fifty [50] members or major fraction thereof. [Each church may have a maximum of ten [10] messengers plus two [2] messengers from each~~

mission it sponsors. 2. Five [5] messengers for up to the first fifty [50] in average attendance or membership according to your ACP.

3. For every additional fifty [50], or fraction thereof, in average attendance or membership, one [1] messenger can be added. [Each church may have a maximum of ten [10] messengers plus two [2] messengers from each church plant, replant or campus it sponsors.]

**Section 2.** Each church ~~/mission~~, church plant, replant or campus desiring to have messengers seated at the Association's Annual Meeting Executive Board, Associational Annual and Semi-Annual Meetings must contribute financially to this Association within the calendar year and shall submit a full report of the year's work using the SBC approved Annual Church Profile [ACP] prior to the deadline determined by the Associational Clerk. The reporting year shall be September 1 through August 31. List of Messengers must be received a minimum of two [2] days before the Associational Annual and Semi-Annual Meetings

## ARTICLE VI – ASSOCIATIONAL ORGANIZATION

The structure, organization, and policies of operation of this Association shall be followed as set forth in the Association's Organizational Manual.

**Section 1.** The officers of this body shall be a Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Parliamentarian. The principal function and duties of the officers shall be as follows:

1. The Moderator shall preside over all deliberations of the *this* Association. He may vote only in case of a tie. He shall serve as an ex-officio member of all *this Association's* associational committees and councils.
2. The Vice-Moderator shall preside in the absence of the Moderator or at his request.
3. The Clerk shall keep accurate minutes of all sessions of the Executive Board and Annual Meeting *Associational Annual / Semi-Annual Meetings*; receive and tabulate all associational letters; carry on such correspondence as is necessary; maintain historical records; and prepare, and at the instruction of the Executive Board, have printed and delivered to new Clerk for distribution, the new minutes of the Executive Board and Annual Meeting.
4. The Assistant Clerk shall serve in the absence of the Clerk.
5. The Treasurer shall be the authorized signer on all accounts, issue checks upon receiving proper requisition forms, balance checkbook each month, and prepare financial reports for the Executive Board and the Annual Meeting *Associational Annual / Semi-Annual Meetings*.
6. The Assistant Treasurer shall serve in the absence of the Treasurer.
7. The Parliamentarian shall assist the presiding officer in parliamentary procedures.

**Section 2.** At the *this* Association's Annual Meeting the Nominating Committee shall submit their nominees for all officers and committees except the Moderator and Vice-Moderator. These two offices shall be nominated and elected from the floor of the Annual Meeting. The Moderator shall serve no more than two successive terms.

**Section 3.** The Trustees shall serve as the legal representatives of the *this* Association.

**Section 4.** The Associational Missionary / *Director of Missions / Mission Strategist* shall be called as defined in the *this* Association's Organizational Manual. He shall serve as a non-voting

member of the ~~Executive Board~~ **Associational Meetings** and an ex-officio member of all committees and councils.

## ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

**Section 1.** The **This** Association shall meet for its Annual Meeting ~~on the fourth [4<sup>th</sup>] Monday and Tuesday of October~~ **during the third [3rd] or fourth [4th] week of October**, except as the Executive Board shall deem it wise or desirable to change such time of meeting. **This Association shall meet for its Semi-Annual Meeting during the third [3rd] or fourth [4th] week of April, except as the Executive Board shall deem it wise or desirable to change such time of meeting.** ~~The~~ **This** Association shall determine in regular session, the place of meetings **its Annual and Semi-Annual Meetings** for at least the next two [2] years.

**Section 2.** ~~The Program Committee~~ **The Officers of this Association** shall plan the program of the Annual Meeting **and Semi-Annual Meeting**. The function of the Annual **and Semi-Annual** Meeting is for the **purpose of unified prayer, worship**, transaction of business, inspiration, dissemination of information, education, and fellowship.

## ARTICLE VIII – NEW CHURCHES AND MISSIONS, **CHURCH PLANTS, REPLANTS OR CAMPUSES**

**Section 1.** Those contemplating organization of new Baptist churches ~~/missions~~, **church plants, replants or campuses** are urged to act in harmony and counsel with the **this** Association.

**Section 2.** Churches ~~/Missions~~, **church plants, replants or campuses** [of non-affiliating churches] wishing to cooperate with and to have messengers seated in the **this** Association shall observe the following:

1. They shall request an application from the ~~Area Baptist Office~~ **NorthCoast Baptist Association** to be submitted to the ~~Credentials Committee~~ **Officers of this Association**. After the credentials have been examined, the ~~Credentials Committee~~ **Officers of this Association** will make its recommendation to the Executive Board. If approved by the Executive Board the new church ~~/mission~~, **church plant, replant or campus** would come under the watch-care of the **this** Association for a minimum of six [6] months, until the **this** Association approves the application at the next Annual Meeting **or Semi-Annual Meeting**.
2. They shall have a Statement or Articles of Faith compatible with that of the **this** Association.
3. They shall give satisfactory evidence of their commitment to and support of the Southern Baptist Convention and its missions programs. The right of the churches to designate their gifts to our cooperative work shall be recognized, but all churches are urged, as a common fellowship, to cooperate, as far as possible, with the adopted plan and policies of the **this** Association, the State Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

**Section 3.** If, after full and thorough investigation, such church ~~/mission~~, **church plant, replant or campus** is recommended for admission to **this** Association, **this** Association shall vote in its Annual **or Semi-Annual Meeting** on its acceptance, a three-fourths [3/4] affirmative vote being necessary for admission. is recommended for admission to the association, the association shall vote in its Annual Meeting on its reception, a three-fourths [3/4] affirmative vote being necessary for admission.

## ARTICLE IX – EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Section 1.** Membership: The Executive Board of the **this** Association shall be composed of the following:

1. **Lead** Pastors of the churches /missions, **church plant, replant or campus** which compose the **this** Association,
2. Two [2] members **designated messengers** elected by each church **provided on the current year's ACP.**
3. The Officers of the **this** Association,
4. ~~The Program Directors of the association, and~~ **4. The Associational Missionary / Director of Missions / Mission Strategist**
5. ~~The Associational Missionary~~

**Section 2.** Duties: The Executive Board shall transact all business of the **this** Association and have full charge and control of the work between sessions and shall carry out the directions of the Annual Meeting **and Semi-Annual Meetings.** ~~Twenty [20]~~ **Attending** members shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business, provided at least twenty-five percent [25%] of the churches **[that meet the qualifications of Article V, Section 2]** are present.

**Section 3.** Organization: The **Executive Board** Officers shall be the same as the Officers for the **this** Association.

**Section 4.** Meetings: The Executive Board shall meet at least once a quarter **between the Annual and Semi-Annual Meetings.** Meetings of the board **Executive Board** may also be held at any time on call of the Moderator or by request of one-third [1/3] of its members provided each member is given a three [3] day notice signed by the Moderator: such notice stating the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called and no other business shall be transacted at the meeting. **Selected Messengers must be submitted at least twenty-four [24] hours prior to the scheduled meeting.**

## ARTICLE X – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

All meetings shall be governed by “Robert’s Rules of Order: Revised”.

## ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

**Section 1.** This constitution with any amendments that may be passed from time to time, must be printed in the Annual Minutes of the **this** Association.

**Section 2.** This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds [2/3] vote of this body at any Annual **or Semi-Annual** Meeting, provided that notice is made in writing to the Executive Board so that it can be read and discussed before the Executive Board at least once [1 time] and that notice can be given to all churches at least one [1] month before the Annual **or Semi-Annual** Meeting.