

Constitution

ARTICLE I

NAME

This Association shall be called the Edgefield Baptist Association.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Association shall be to promote fellowship among the churches of the Association, to enlist them in Christian service and ministry, and to promote their involvement in the total scope of Christian missions (Associational Missions, State Missions, North American Missions, and International Missions).

ARTICLE III

ARTICLES OF FAITH

This Association recognizes that Baptists are a non-creedal people. To enhance the unity and purpose of the churches within its membership, it affirms the tenets of "The Baptist Faith and Message" adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000 in its annual session held in Orlando, Florida.

ARTICLE IV

COMPOSITION

SECTION 1: Any church desiring membership in the Association shall make an application in writing to the Executive Committee at least six months prior to either semi-annual meeting of the Association. No church will be accepted as part of the Association without the recommendation of the Executive Committee and the approval of the Association in either semi-annual meeting of the Association. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the messengers present at the Executive Committee in session and of the Association in either semi-annual meeting shall be required to accept any new church.

SECTION 2: Any church may withdraw from fellowship with the Association by informing the Clerk in writing of the church's decision in conference.

SECTION 3: The Association, its officers, or employees shall exercise no legislative or judicial authority over any church, nor shall it have ecclesiastical power over the affairs of any church.

SECTION 4: Each member church shall make its annual report to the Association per directions furnished by the Clerk of the Association. These reports shall be submitted no later than one week before the Fall meeting.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

SECTION 1: The Association shall have semi-annual meetings for participation in Christian worship, for receiving reports, and for the transaction of such business as required.

- (a) The Spring meeting shall give priority to receiving and acting upon the report of the Nominating Committee and to Worship.
- (b) The Fall meeting shall give priority to receiving reports from the churches, program leaders of the Association, denominational activities and other business as required. At least one period of Worship shall be included.

SECTION 2: The business of the Association shall be conducted by the elected messengers from the member churches.

- (a) Such messengers should include the Pastor and three lay messengers from each church.
- (b) Each church may have an additional messenger for every fifty members or fraction above the first fifty of the total membership.
- (c) Messengers, except the Pastor or duly-called Interim Pastor, must hold membership in the church which they represent.

SECTION 3: In case of an emergency, the Executive Committee may change the time or place of the semi-annual meetings or may call a special meeting of the Association provided a written notice is given to the churches at least fifteen (15) days in advance.

SECTION 4: A quorum for the meetings of the Association shall be twenty-five (25) messengers representing a majority of churches of the Association.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS AND LEADERS

SECTION 1: Officers:

- (a) The Association shall elect annually from the members of the churches the following officers:
 - Moderator
 - Vice Moderator
 - Clerk
 - Treasurer
- (b) All Officers shall be elected during the Spring meeting and shall take office upon the adjournment of the Fall meeting.

SECTION 2: TRUSTEES

- (a) The Association shall have three (3) Trustees to serve a period of three (3) years, one of whom shall be elected annually. Each Trustee shall be an active member of a cooperating Baptist Church. No Trustee may be re-elected until a period of one (1) year shall have elapsed.

- (b) The Trustees shall be the legal representatives of the Association. They shall sign all legal documents as directed by the Association. They shall perform such other functions and duties as the Association shall direct.

SECTION 3: Program Leaders

- (a) The Association shall elect annually, from the members of the churches the following Program Leaders:
- Discipleship Training Director
 - Evangelism Director
 - Men's Ministries Director
 - Music Director
 - Prayer Director
 - Stewardship Director
 - Sunday School Director
 - Vacation Bible School Director
 - Woman's Missionary Union Director
 - Youth Director
- (b) These Associational Program Leaders shall be elected at the Spring Meeting and shall take office upon the adjournment of the Fall meeting.

SECTION 4: Election of Officers, Leaders and Committees

- (a) The Nominating Committee shall present a written report at the Spring meeting with a nominee for each office, program leadership position and committee membership. Each of these shall have been contacted by the Nominating Committee and shall have agreed to serve.
- (b) This Committee shall confer with the Nominating Committee of the Edgefield Baptist Association Woman's Missionary Union before presenting a name for WMU Director.
- (c) Nominations from the floor may be made as amendments to this report.
- (d) The Executive Committee shall fill any vacancies which occur between annual meetings upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee.

SECTION 5: Terms of Office

- (a) The office of the Moderator and Vice Moderator shall be limited to two consecutive years. Persons in these offices may be elected again after a break in service of at least two years.
- (b) All other officers and program leaders may serve indefinitely provided they are reelected each year.

ARTICLE VII

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1: The Executive Committee shall oversee the general interest of the Association's work during the interim between semi-annual meetings.

SECTION 2: The Executive Committee shall consist of the Pastors of the churches within the Association, one lay person from each church elected by that church, the

Program Leaders of the Association, the Chairperson of each Standing Committee, the Officers of the Association and the Director of Missions.

SECTION 3: The Officers of the Association shall be the officers of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 4: The Executive Committee shall meet quarterly. The Moderator shall present a written report from the Executive Committee at each semi-annual meeting.

SECTION 5: The Executive Committee may appoint committees to assist in its work. Such committees shall be composed of members of the Executive Committee or members of the churches of the Association. The formation of any committee that is to function for longer than one (1) year will be presented at the next semi-annual meeting for approval and election of members.

ARTICLE VIII GENERAL

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on January 1 and terminate the following December 31.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

The Constitution of the Association may be amended in the following manner:

- (a) Amendments must be submitted in writing at either semi-annual meeting of the Association. Copies must be provided for each messenger or the amendment must be read at least once.
- (b) Such amendments shall then be printed in the minutes.
- (c) Such amendments shall then be presented at the next semi-annual meeting of the Association at which time they may be either approved or rejected by the messengers.
- (d) Adoption of an amendment shall be by vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the messengers present.
- (e) No amendment may be presented and adopted at the same annual meeting.

By-Laws

ARTICLE I MEETINGS

SECTION 1: The semi-annual meetings of the Association shall convene at 3:00 PM on the first Sunday in April and the third Sunday in October at such place as previously approved.

- (a) The meeting shall be called to order by the Moderator, or in his absence the Vice Moderator, or in the absence of both, the Clerk.
- (b) Messengers shall be enrolled and an order of business adopted.

SECTION 2: The Moderator may only vote in case of a tie vote.

SECTION 3: Visitors from outside the Association or denomination may be invited by the Executive Committee to address the assembly but would not have privileges of speaking to issues on the floor.

SECTION 4: Robert's Rules of Order, latest revised edition, shall be used for the conduct of business of the Association.

ARTICLE II

DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND PROGRAM LEADERS

MODERATOR – Shall preside over the meetings of the body and see that order and decorum are observed. The Moderator shall be the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and give general supervision and support to all Associational activities. The Moderator shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

VICE MODERATOR – Shall assist Moderator in all duties. The Vice Moderator shall preside in the absence of or at the request of the Moderator.

CLERK – Shall keep an accurate record of the meetings of the Association and the meetings of the Executive Committee. At the close of the Fall Meeting, the Clerk shall prepare and have printed all proceedings and reports from the Spring and Fall Meetings along with the Constitution and Bylaws and any other material which would be helpful to the work of the Association or the churches and the preservation of our heritage. The Clerk shall prepare and lead a time of memorial during the Fall Meeting in memory of those members of our churches who have died in the last year. The Clerk shall be paid a stipend each year as determined by the Association as it adopts the budget.

TREASURER – Shall deposit or cause to be deposited all funds contributed for the work of the Association and shall disburse the same in accordance with the Associational budget. The Treasurer shall prepare a written report of all receipts and disbursements for the quarterly Executive Committee meetings as well as a yearly report for the Fall Meeting of the Association. The Treasurer shall serve as a member of the Budget Committee. The Treasurer shall be paid a stipend each year as determined by the Association as it adopts the budget.

THE PROGRAM LEADERS – Are responsible for promoting the work of their program in accordance with the Southern Baptist Convention standards for their respective organizations. Each Program Leader shall present a written report of their work to the Fall Meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE III STANDING COMMITTEES

All Standing Committees shall rotate one-third (1/3) of their membership each year, unless otherwise provided below. Membership of all committees shall be held by members of Association churches.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – Shall consist of three (3) people elected at large. They shall audit the Association's books annually and report findings of the audit to the Executive Committee prior to the Spring Semi-annual Meeting of the Association.

BUDGET COMMITTEE – Shall consist of three (3) people plus the Moderator and the Stewardship Director for the Association. The Treasurer shall also serve on this Committee. This Committee shall prepare a budget for the Association to be presented to the Fall Meeting. They shall work to encourage the churches in financial support of the Association's work. They shall study all requests for money not budgeted and recommend a course of action to the Executive Committee.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE – Shall consist of three (3) pastors. They shall visit any church desiring membership in the Association and explain to its membership the purpose, function, beliefs, and practices of the Association. They shall examine the structure, Constitution, Articles of Faith, doctrine, practices, and location of the church. They will make a full written report of their visit and findings to the Executive Committee. They will serve in an advisory capacity when requested by the local church to assist in matters pertaining to the ordination of ministers and deacons.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE – Shall consist of three (3) members. They will review the Constitution and the Bylaws annually to determine any needed changes to maintain currency with the Association's direction. They will propose any needed amendments to the Constitution or to the Bylaws in accordance with the appropriate article on amendments.

HISTORY COMMITTEE – Shall consist of three (3) members. Shall ensure the safe keeping of all records of the Association which have a historical value. They shall recommend appropriate historical observances to the Association. They shall prepare a brief historical sketch of the host churches of the semi-annual meetings for inclusion in the published minutes.

MISSIONS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Shall consist of three (3) members plus the Moderator, the Woman's Missionary Union Director, the Brotherhood Director and the Sunday School Director. They shall seek to enlist the churches in mission activities.

They shall seek to identify mission needs, opportunities and resources within our Association and interpret them to the churches. They shall coordinate the opportunities for the churches to work together in missions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Shall consist of six (6) members, one to be elected from each of the five groupings of churches and one member at large. They shall attempt to secure a nominee for each office and program leadership position of the Association for presentation to the Spring Meeting. They shall also secure people to serve on all committees unless their election is otherwise provided for. They shall enlist replacements when a position becomes vacant, with the approval of the Executive Committee. They shall designate the Chairperson for each Standing Committee on their report each year.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Shall consist of three (3) people. They shall supervise the work of paid personnel. They shall evaluate job performance; make recommendations concerning salary, and report needed changes to the Executive Committee. This committee shall administer the Associational Scholarship Fund in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Association.

PLACE & PREACHER COMMITTEE – Shall consist of three (3) people. They shall oversee the selection of time, place, and preacher according to the rotation guidelines established by the Executive Committee. When the stated date of the Spring Session falls on Easter or Palm Sunday, they shall recommend an alternate date as part of their report.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE – Shall consist of the Moderator, Vice Moderator, and Music Director. They shall plan the semi-annual meetings of the Association and post a copy of the agenda at least 10 days before the Session. The Vice Moderator shall be Chairperson of this Committee.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE – Shall consist of three (3) people.

- (a) They shall receive and study information regarding needed resolutions during the year and present the same to either semi-annual meeting of the Association.
- (b) Messengers desiring to present a resolution should deliver a copy to this Committee at least ten (10) days before the semi-annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV

GROUPINGS OF CHURCHES

The Association shall be divided into five groups with churches in each group as follows:

- Group I – First Bethany, Plum Branch, Parksville, Modoc
- Group II – Mountain Creek, Gilgal, Berea, Little Stevens Creek
- Group III – Edgefield First, Providence, Ebenezer, Mount Zion
- Group IV – Red Oak Grove, Republican, Big Stevens Creek
- Group V – Rehoboth, Red Hill, Antioch, Peace Haven

ARTICLE V
AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be altered or amended at any semi-annual meeting of the Association by a majority vote of the messengers present.