

By-Laws & CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with accepted missionary Baptist tenants, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each member church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other Baptist bodies, we do declare and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I - NAME

This body shall be known as the Elkin Baptist Association.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Association shall be:

1. the cultivation of closer bonds of fellowship, sympathy, mutual understanding, and familial love;
2. the counseling together in plans and programs for the strengthening and enlargement of God's kingdom; and
3. the promotion of and participation in missions, Christian education, evangelism, and benevolent ministries, in cooperation with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE III - ARTICLES OF FAITH

The Association shall accept as articles of faith the "Baptist Faith and Message" statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963 and/or 2000. These articles are accepted as guiding principles, not a coercive creed, recognizing that Christian faith does not consist of creeds or systematic theologies but that it is foremost a relationship - the relationships of believers to God through Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE IV - COVENANT

Being led, as we believe, by the Holy Spirit, to enter into covenant as an association of churches, we join ourselves together through this larger fellowship

1. to watch over one another in love and to nurture the spiritual welfare and fellowship of all the churches in the Association;
2. to provide a forum for the consideration of our Christian faith and the evaluation of those points of doctrine and policy which affect our life together;
3. to assist the member churches in planning, conducting, evaluating, and improving their programs of work designed to reach their objectives;
4. to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord both within and beyond the bounds of our Association;
5. to facilitate the exchange of information and assistance between the covenanting churches and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Southern Baptist Convention and their agencies; and
6. to maintain interaction with community agencies and other Christian bodies.

ARTICLE V - CHARACTER

The government of this Association is vested in the body of churches who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, nor does it presume to exercise any authority over the member churches. Rather, it exists in a voluntary cooperation both with the state and national conventions and with the member churches, who abide by the scriptural adherence of public professions of faith and trust in Jesus Christ and scriptural believers' baptism by immersion.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Composition - The Association shall consist of Baptist churches who freely enter into the covenant relationship with one another under the lordship of Christ, who subscribe to the constitution and bylaws governing the Association's life and function, and who share in the work of the Kingdom of God through the Association. Furthermore, member churches shall practice receiving church members by personal faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and believer's baptism by immersion only. Other ways of receiving member are by letter from another Baptist church or a statement of faith of a previous profession of faith and believers' baptism by immersion.

SECTION 2. Entrance Procedures - Any church desiring to become a member of the Association shall present a formal application on a form provided by the Association. Upon receipt of the application, the church will be received under watch care for a period of one year, during which time it will be expected to demonstrate through practice and attitude its place as

a cooperating Baptist church. At the end of the one-year period, after review and recommendation by the Administrative Leadership Team, the church may be received into full membership in the Association by majority vote of the messengers present at the next semiannual meeting of the Association.

SECTION 3. Termination Procedures - Membership in the Association may be terminated at the initiation of the church or of the Association. In the event termination is initiated by the Association, the Administrative Leadership Team will work with the church to make every effort to reconcile the differences, and only after all efforts at reconciliation have failed will a recommendation to terminate membership be offered. A church may be dropped from membership in the Association only by recommendation of the Administrative Leadership Team and a two-thirds majority vote of the messengers present at a regular semiannual session of the Association.

ARTICLE II - MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Time - The Association shall meet twice annually, once in the spring and once in the fall. The spring meeting shall be held the last Thursday in April and the **fall meeting the first Thursday in November**. No church may appoint more than ten (10) messengers.

SECTION 2. Purpose - It shall be the purpose of all Associational meetings to foster fellowship among the churches; to furnish a time of inspiration; to promote the mission's endeavors of the Association, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the Southern Baptist Convention; and to provide a forum for the consideration of Associational business. The spring session shall be given more specifically to promotion of Associational and Convention causes, whereas the fall session shall give attention to annual reports of the various Associational officers.

SECTION 3. Representation - Voting representation shall be by the pastor and four other messengers from each member church having up to 300 resident members, and one additional messenger for each additional 100 resident members or major fraction thereof.

SECTION 4. Registration - A registrar shall be appointed by the clerk to register all persons attending the sessions. The registrar shall remain on duty throughout the sessions and shall make a written record of all attendants as they enter, designating them as either messengers or visitors.

SECTION 5. Quorum - A Quorum shall consist of at least four of the officers of the Association **and seated messengers from member churches in attendance during semiannual meetings or other called meetings**.

SECTION 6. Order of Business - The order of business for the semiannual sessions shall be recommended by the **Administrative Leadership Team (ALT)** and adopted, with any desired changes, by majority vote of the messengers present and voting at the beginning of each meeting.

SECTION 7. Resolutions - Resolutions may be presented by any messenger from any member church at any semiannual session, provided such resolutions have been presented in writing to the **Administrative Leadership Team (ALT)** at least one week prior to the session. The **Administrative Leadership Team (ALT)** will have the right to amend all resolutions and to refuse to recommend to the body any resolutions which it deems might be disruptive to the harmony of the Association.

SECTION 8. Governance - Meetings shall be conducted according to the parliamentary procedures outlined in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order. The Moderator shall exercise patience with messengers who may not be well-versed in parliamentary procedure, and the rule of order shall be so used that the will of the body may be fully and freely expressed.

SECTION 9. Other - In the case of mitigating circumstances, the time of the semiannual meetings may be changed at the discretion of the Moderator, provided that proper advanced notification is made to all the member churches. Special sessions at other times may also be called by the Moderator provided that at least two weeks' notification is given.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS

The Officers of this Association shall be as follows:

SECTION 1. Duties – The **Associational Mission Strategist** shall be the person charged with directing and supervising the total ministry of the Association. He/She shall

1. Lead in the primary mission work of the Association, **as defined in our purpose statement**, and **work in partnership** with the **Administrative Leadership Team**;
 - A. **AMS is to work with each team of the Association to promote and fulfill the Vision of EBA and to accomplish the Strategy of the Association to make a Kingdom impact among our churches.**
 - 1) **He/She should regularly share that vision and how we are working together to accomplish that vision.**
 - B. **AMS is to provide direction to each team to help them focus on the mission and vision of EBA.**

2. Promote the ministries of the Association, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and Southern Baptist Convention;
3. Maintain contact with the member churches with a view of strengthening fellowship and encouraging missions' involvement;
4. Serve as a resource person for pastors, other church staff, and Associational officers; and
5. Serve as an advisor and give vision to all Associational teams.

SECTION 2. Procedures for Call and Termination - Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the office, a new Associational Mission Strategist shall be called by the Association to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the Associational Mission Strategist or the Association. In either case, at least thirty days' notice shall be given of termination of the relationship, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, with both the Associational Mission Strategist and Association seeking to follow the will of God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Administrative Leadership Team (ALT) to select a sub-team consisting of member churches from the Elkin Baptist Association to seek out and recommend a suitable person for this position to present to the Administrative Leadership Team (ALT) and the Executive Committee. The candidate will be presented to the Association in regular session or at any meeting charged with the purpose of electing a new Associational Mission Strategist. At least four of the Associational officers must be present, a majority of the member churches must be represented, and a two-thirds majority of the messengers or representatives present and voting must approve the recommendation in order for a call to be extended.

B. Moderator

SECTION 1. Duties - It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside at the meetings of the Association, Executive Team, and Administrative Leadership Team (ALT) meeting. He/She shall assist the Associational Mission Strategist and other officers of the Association in their respective duties, appoint all teams not otherwise provided for, and serve as an ex officio member of all standing teams.

SECTION 2. Election - The Moderator shall be elected annually but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

C. Vice-Moderator

SECTION 1. Duties - It shall be the duty of the Vice-Moderator to preside at the meetings of the Association in the absence of the Moderator or at the Moderator's request.

1. In the absence of the clerk Vice Moderator will be responsible to record the minutes. If both clerk and vice-moderator are absence then motions will be received from the floor to nominate someone to keep records of current meeting.

SECTION 2. Election - The Vice-Moderator shall be elected annually but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

D. Clerk

SECTION 1. Duties - It shall be the duty of the Clerk to attend and keep full records of the meetings of the Association and Executive Committee and to compile, edit, and distribute to the churches the minutes and data from the church letters in an annual report. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to appoint a registrar to register messengers and visitors at the meetings of the Association. Additionally the clerk shall compile the annual report including memorials during the Fall semi-annual session and make it available to the churches of the association.

SECTION 2. Election - The Administrative Assistant is responsible to carry out the duties of the clerk per job description.

E. Treasurer

SECTION 1. Duties - The Treasurer shall keep a correct record of all the funds collected and distributed; disburse funds in accordance with the Associational budget, under the supervision of the Associational Missional Strategist and the Administrative Leadership Team (ALT); and report to the Executive Team at its meetings and to the Association annually.

SECTION 2. Election – The Administrative Assistant is responsible to carry out the duties of the treasurer per job description.

F. Parliamentarian

SECTION 1. Duties - The Parliamentarian shall advise and assist the Moderator or other presiding officer with respect to all matters involving proper parliamentary procedure.

SECTION 2. Election - The Parliamentarian shall be nominated by the ALT and elected at an associational meeting. Parliamentarian serve with no term limits.

G. Ministry Action Team Leaders

SECTION 1. Duties – **MAT** shall be responsible for leading in and promoting the work of their respective departments in the Association, and shall serve as resource persons to the churches. **They shall make a report to the Association at the semiannual meetings of the Association.**

SECTION 2. Election – **Team leaders shall be elected as described on Ministry Action Teams description.**

H. General Provisions

SECTION 1. Election Procedures - All officers of the Association shall be elected at the spring session of the Association, upon presentation of nominations by the **Administrative Leadership Team (ALT)**, subject to additional nominations from the floor and the express will of the Association, and shall assume their duties at the close of the session at which they are elected. Each person elected to be an officer or serve on a **team** of the Elkin Baptist Association must be a member of one of the local churches of the Association. That church must be in agreement with the *Baptist Faith and Message* of 1963 or 2000. The church must practice receiving church members by personal faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and believers' baptism by immersion only. Other ways of receiving members are by letter from another Baptist church or a statement of faith of a previous profession of faith and believers' baptism by immersion.

SECTION 2. Other Officers - Officers other than those named in Article III may be appointed or elected from time to time as deemed necessary for the proper functioning of the body.

ARTICLE IV - TEAMS

SECTION 1. Teams – Under our current team structure we have four (4) teams in place to serve the churches of the Elkin Baptist Association.

- a. **Administrative Leadership Team (ALT).**
- b. **Church Equipping Team (CET).**
- c. **Mission Engagement Team (MET).**
- d. **Prayer Emphasis Team (PET).**

- **Team roles and responsibilities are defined on the Ministry Action Team Description.**

2. **The Association may establish such Teams and or Sub-Teams as necessary.**

SECTION 2. Sub-Teams – Teams will have permission, under the guidance of the Administrative Leadership Team (ALT), to form temporary Sub-Teams that promote the vision of the Association. Each Sub-Team will serve at the requesting of and under the guidance of the Team requestion assistance.

SECTION 3 – Accountability – Each Team and or Sub-Team is accountable to the messengers in session for general objectives and overall, Team mission. Accurate and complete records must be kept by each Team and activity reports submitted to the Leadership Team. Funds are released to Teams only when they follow appropriate procedures.

A. Executive Team

SECTION 1. Composition - The **Executive Team** shall be composed of the officers of the Association as outlined in Article III, the pastors of the member churches, and one lay member from each church.

SECTION 2. Duties - The **Executive Team** shall be authorized and directed to serve as the deliberative, decision-making body of the Association between semiannual sessions.

SECTION 3. Meetings - The **Executive Team** shall meet on the last **Thursday in March** and the **first Thursday in October** of each year, and at other times as necessary to conduct the business of the Association. A quorum shall consist of at least four of the officers of the Association plus representatives from churches not represented by the officers present.

B. Trustees

SECTION 1. Composition - The Trustee shall be composed of three members.

SECTION 2. Duties - The Trustees shall serve as legal officers of the Association and shall have authority to execute all legal documents pertaining thereto. They shall hold in trust all properties of the Association and may not dispose of nor acquire properties without the approval of the Association in regular session or in a special session called for the purpose of deciding issues pertaining to properties of the Association.

SECTION 3 – There will be an Advisor that will serve on the Administrative Leadership Team (ALT) to keep the Trustee’s inform of any needs that arise from the ALT or Executive Team.

a. One of the appointed trustees can serve in this position.

SECTION 3. Meetings - The Trustee Committee shall meet as needed.

Terms of Service – Trustees will serve with no term limits.

ARTICLE V - ASSOCIATIONAL YEAR

SECTION 1. Church Year - The church year according to which statistics will be received and compiled from the churches will run from September 1 through August 31.

SECTION 2. Fiscal Year - The fiscal year for budgetary purposes will run from January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE VI - ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. Adoption - Upon its final adoption by the Association, this constitution with its bylaws shall become effective immediately; it shall supersede and rescind all previous actions or policies of the Association, which may conflict with its provisions.

SECTION 2. Amendments - The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a favorable vote of two thirds of the messengers present and voting at any regular session of the Association, provided that a written copy of the proposed amendment, after having been reviewed by the Constitution Committee, shall have been made available to all the member churches at least one month in advance of the session.

Originally Adopted October 20, 1999

Amended January 28, 2013

Amended July 17, 2017

Amended October 2, 2023