

CONSTITUTION (Revised Annual Meeting 2018)

ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of this body shall be the Phelps County Baptist Association.

ARTICLE II—OBJECTIVE

Section 1: The objective of this Association shall be to glorify God: through inter-church fellowship, through being assisted by and assisting churches in realizing their purpose, and through fostering a unity in faith and practice; by extending the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ in carrying out the Great Commission; by providing a channel for the cooperation of the churches in the work of the Association and in the work of the Missouri Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: The membership of this Association shall be composed of cooperating Baptist churches whose doctrinal beliefs and practices shall agree with the Baptist Faith and Message adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963 and/or 2000.

Section 2: At the Annual Meeting each church shall be entitled to three (3) elected messengers for the first fifty (50) or fewer resident members and one (1) additional elected messenger for each additional fifty (50) resident members or fractional part thereof, provided that no church shall be entitled to more than fifteen (15) messengers. Each church is authorized to elect an alternate messenger for each regular messenger unable to attend any session of the annual meeting, provided the Clerk is informed of the substitution. Messengers and alternates must be members of the churches that elect them.

Section 3: All pastors of cooperating churches of the Association, all members of the Executive Board, the Director of Missions, and such messengers as shall be duly elected by the member churches shall be entitled to vote in the business sessions when the Association comes together as a body at the Annual Meeting.

Section 4: This Association is a self-determining body under the lordship of Christ. It determines its own membership and programs but has no authority over the churches affiliated with it. However, the Association may, upon invitation from a church, provide resources and guidance to that church.

Section 5: A church desiring to affiliate with this Association shall present a petition to the Moderator who shall then appoint a five-member (5) Credentials Committee. A recommendation shall be made by this committee to the Executive Board at least three (3) months before the next annual meeting. A church shall be received into fellowship by two-thirds majority vote in annual session.

Section 6: Should any church disqualify from membership by practices or doctrines contrary to those of the Association, or fail to send an Annual Church Profile and/or messengers for two (2) consecutive years, the Executive Board shall elect a five-member (5) committee to attempt reconciliation with said church. A recommendation shall be made by this committee to the Executive Board at least three (3) months before the next annual meeting. A two-thirds majority vote in annual session shall be required to withdraw fellowship from a church.

ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of the Association shall be Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Director of Missions, Music Director, WMU Director, Evangelism Director, Stewardship Director, Youth Ministry Coordinator, Moral Concerns Director, Historian, Camp Directors, Chairman of Corporate Officers, Chairman of Camp Board, Baptist Student Union Campus Missionary, Mission Team (3) and other officers elected by the Association.

Section 2: The officers shall be elected annually, and the Moderator may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. Officers will serve for the following year and will receive training at an annual orientation meeting for their elected position prior to taking office.

Section 3: The Association shall elect a Board of Corporate Officers, three (3) in number according to the Articles of Incorporation on file with the Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, to serve for a term of three (3), two (2) and one (1) years. Thereafter one (1) Corporate Officer shall be elected each year to serve a term of three (3) years. No member is eligible for reelection until he has been off the Board for at least a year.

Said officers are authorized to hold, purchase, and receive title to real estate and other property by devise, gift, grant, or other conveyance, with power to mortgage and to borrow money, sell or convey the same or any part, parcel or portion thereof, when so directed by the Association. They shall see that all Association property is adequately covered by insurance, including public liability coverage.

ARTICLE V—COMMITTEES

Section 1: The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the moderator annually. This committee is to submit nominees, from the constituency of the Association, for the following officers and committees: A. Moderator B. Assistant Moderator C. Clerk D. Treasurer E. Music F. WMU Director; G. Evangelism Director; H. Stewardship Director I. Moral Concerns Director J. Historian K. Camp Director L. Corporate Officer M. Two members of the Camp Board N. Nominating Committee, O. Resolution Committee P. Obituary Committee Q. Audit Committee R. Budget Committee S. Personnel Committee, and other officers and/or committees as directed by the Association.

This committee shall submit its nominees for the officers listed in this section for approval at the April Executive Board meeting. These officers to be elected at the Annual Meeting.

This committee shall also nominate officers to fill vacancies occurring between Annual Association Meetings. Nominees are to be elected by the Executive Board.

Section 2: The Budget Committee shall be a standing committee. At the Annual Meeting this committee shall propose a budget to finance the Association's program of activities. This budget shall be included in the Book of Reports and presented at the Annual Meeting.

Section 3: The Resolutions Committee shall be a standing committee. This committee: a) receives, evaluates and presents appropriate resolutions for consideration at the annual session; b) develops resolutions of appreciation regarding the work of the association and the annual session.

Section 4: The Personnel Committee shall be a standing committee. This committee: a) establishes and reviews position descriptions for the Association Director of Missions, Association secretary and camp caretaker, and any other position called for by the Association; b) evaluates the performance and service of the paid employees of the Association in keeping with the position description; c) upon vacancy, interviews and hires applicants for such positions within the limits of the approved Associational budget; d) annually makes recommendations concerning salary changes to the Budget Committee, to be approved by the association in annual session.

Section 5: The Moderator and Director of Missions are to be ex-officio members of all committees.

Section 6: Special Committees consisting of three (3) or more members shall be appointed by Moderator or Director of Missions as the need arises.

ARTICLE VI—EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: This Board is responsible for carrying on the business of the Association between its annual meetings.

Section 2: This Board shall be composed of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Director of Missions, Chairman of Corporate Officers, Chairman of Budget Committee, Chairman of Camp Board, Department Directors, Historian, Baptist Student Union Campus Missionary, all pastors serving a church in the Association, other officers as directed by the Association, and one (1) member duly elected from each church.

Section 3: When this Board meets, ten (10) or more members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4: At each annual meeting of the Association, this board shall submit a summary of all the business conducted during the year to be included in the Book of Reports.

Section 5: This board shall meet each January, April, and July and may be called into special sessions by the Moderator or upon written petitions of ten (10) or more Executive Board members presented to the Moderator.

ARTICLE VII—ASSOCIATIONAL AND FISCAL YEAR

Section 1: The associational and fiscal year shall be Oct. 1-Sep. 30.

ARTICLE VIII—TIME OF MEETING

Section 1: This Association shall meet annually on the third Sunday in September.

Section 2: The place of meeting each year shall be decided by the Association upon recommendation of the Association office to the Executive Board.

Section 3: In case of an emergency requiring a change of date and/or place of Annual Meeting, the Association office shall make necessary changes. All churches shall be notified of any changes.

ARTICLE IX—MINUTES

Section 1: The Minutes of the Annual Meeting, together with such information as the Clerk and Director of Missions may deem useful, shall be published and distributed annually among the churches of the Association. The cost is to be included in the budget.

ARTICLE X—CAMP BOARD

Section 1: The Camp Board shall consist of six members, each serving a three-year term on a rotation basis with two members to be elected each year. The Camp Directors and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members. The Camp Board shall meet quarterly with at least one meeting being on camp grounds.

Section 2: The Camp Board shall be charged with the following responsibilities: camp development, camp policy, camp use, camp publicity and promotion. Camp Board members shall be an active member of camp programs and activities. All proposed changes are to be approved by the Association.

ARTICLE XI—AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the messengers present and voting at the Annual Meeting. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing one (1) year before such action is taken or be recommended by the Executive Board.

Section 2: The Clerk may make necessary editorial changes in grammar, spelling, and in organizational names at each new printing.

BY-LAWS

1. Each session of the Association shall be opened with Scripture and prayer and be closed with prayer.
2. All business sessions shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, latest revised edition.