

**SALT LAKE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
CONSTITUTION & By -Laws**

**Preamble**

We declare and establish this constitution for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and so that this Association of churches may be governed in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual member of this Association and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches of the same faith.

**Article 1 Name**

This body shall be known as the Salt Lake Baptist Association.

**Article 2 Vision**

The vision of the Salt Lake Baptist Association is to be effective churches working together... reproducing a living faith in Christ.

**Article 3 Mission**

The mission of the Salt Lake Baptist Association is to work together as Southern Baptist churches to fulfill the great commandment and the great commission by...strengthening existing churches, starting effective new churches, and by building networks of cooperation and fellowship.

**Article 4 Statement of Faith**

The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. The Association affirms the doctrinal statement of *The Baptist Faith and Message*.

**Article 5 Polity and Relationships**

The government of this Association is vested in its membership. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body. Insofar as is practical, this Association will cooperate with and support the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. This constitution will preserve the autonomy of the Salt Lake Baptist Association under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the Biblical principles of our faith.

**Article 6 Amendments**

This constitution may be changed or amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the messengers voting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing to the Executive Board and all cooperating churches 60 days prior to the annual meeting and recommended by the Executive Board.

## BYLAWS

### Article 1 Membership

#### Section 1 Membership

The Association shall be composed of cooperating churches, the doctrinal beliefs of which shall conform to *The Baptist Faith and Message* by statement and practice. A cooperating church will contribute financially to the Association, contribute to the Cooperative Program, participate in Executive Board meetings and/or the annual meeting of the Association, and submit statistical information in a timely fashion when requested.

#### Section 2 Petitioning

Any church desiring to establish membership with the Association shall submit a petitionary letter to the Executive Committee of the Association at least 90 days prior to the annual meeting. This petitionary letter is to be submitted to the Salt Lake Baptist Association office to the attention of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall refer the request to the Credentials Committee, which will then examine the credentials of the petitioning church pursuant to guidelines established by the Association and available in the SLBA Policy Manual, which include at a minimum the requirements for membership in the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention. If this committee approves, it shall recommend to the Association at its annual meeting the reception of the church. A majority vote by the messengers of the Association shall be required in order for the church to be received **and their messengers seated**.

### Article 2 Messengers

Each cooperating church of the Association shall be entitled to and responsible for designating official church messengers for the annual meeting. Each cooperating church shall be entitled to three (3) messengers and one (1) additional messenger for every fifty (50) resident members, or major portion thereof, providing that no church may elect more than ten (10) messengers. **Messengers from new churches may be seated at any annual session by three-fourths (3/4) vote of messengers present and seated.**

### Article 3 Officers

#### Section 1 Title of Officers/Trustees

The officers of the Association shall be the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer. The officers of the Association shall serve as the Trustees and Executive Committee of the Association. The Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Clerk shall sign as Trustees to bind the Association; provided, however, that in the absence of any one of these three officers, the Treasurer may also sign.

## **Section 2 Qualifications**

Each officer shall be an active member of a cooperating church in the Association during their term of office, and shall have been so for at least one year prior to their election. No two officers shall be from the same church or mission.

## **Section 3 Elections**

The Nominating Committee shall nominate the officers during the annual meeting of the Association, with the opportunity provided for additional nominations to be made from the floor. Each officer shall be elected by a majority vote of those present and voting.

## **Section 4 Terms of Service**

The officers shall serve from January 1 of the year following their election, through December 31 of the same year. Each officer shall be elected for a one-year term. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator may serve two consecutive one-year terms in each office; other officers may serve unlimited successive terms.

## **Section 5 Duties**

**A. Duties of Moderator and Vice-Moderator:** The duties of the Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall be those duties usually pertaining to these offices.

**B. Duties of the Clerk:** The Clerk shall take minutes of meetings of the Executive Board and annual meeting, preserve those minutes, and shall report the actions of the Executive Board at the annual meeting of the Association. An annual book of reports shall be published which shall include the minutes of all Executive Board meetings and the annual meeting.

**C. Duties of the Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall be responsible for budget oversight and shall make reports of all finances at the meetings of the Executive Board and to the annual meeting of the Association.

## **Article 4-Meetings of the Association**

There will be an annual meeting of the Salt Lake Baptist Association in November of each year. Each cooperating church **member** of the Association shall be entitled to and responsible for designating official church messengers for the annual meeting. Each cooperating church shall be entitled to three (3) messengers and one (1) additional messenger for every fifty (50) resident members, or major portion thereof, providing that no church may elect more than ten (10) messengers. ~~Messengers from new churches may be seated at any annual session by three-fourths (3/4) vote of messengers present and seated.~~ The Executive Board shall have the right to call any extraordinary meeting it may deem advisable. Written notice of the special called meeting must be provided to each cooperating church no less than **two weeks (14 days)** prior to the called meeting.

## **Article 5 Executive Board**

### **Section 1 Responsibility**

The Executive Board shall be responsible for the work of the Association during the interim periods of the annual meetings; shall have power to fill vacancies; shall meet at least twice a year at such time and place as agreed upon or as called by the Moderator. Ten shall be a quorum provided that at least five churches are represented. The Executive Board may initiate new work and policies when occasion demands, but shall not contravene action of the Association at large. The Executive Board shall review and recommend the annual budget of the Association.

### **Section 2 Membership**

The Executive Board shall be composed of the pastor of each cooperating church and one other member of each church, who shall be elected by the church represented by that member. If the church also has sponsored a church-type mission, then the pastor of the church-type mission shall be a designated Executive Board member. **The Additional Executive Board member who is the pastor of a sponsored church-type mission will not preclude the sponsoring church from retaining its two Executive Board members.** The Executive Committee shall also be a member of the Executive Board.

### **Section 3 Meetings**

The Executive Board shall meet twice a year following the regular Executive Board meetings of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention. Additional meetings of the Executive Board may be called by a majority of the officers provided a written notice is given to the members of the Executive Board 10 days in advance.

## **Article 6 Authority**

### **Section 1 Authority**

This body shall exercise no legislative or judicial authority over any church, nor shall it have ecclesiastical power over the internal affairs of any church.

### **Section 2 Dismissals**

The Association may withdraw membership from any church that fails to cooperate with the Association, or departs from *The Baptist Faith and Message* in statement or practice. Dismissal may take place only at an annual meeting of the Association. The Associational Executive Director or the Executive Committee may recommend to the Executive Board that membership be withdrawn from a church. The Executive Board shall review the recommendation and may appoint a committee to investigate the recommendation. The Executive Board may make no recommendation to the Association, or may recommend that the church be placed in probationary status for a period of one year, or may recommend withdrawal of membership. Dismissal shall require two-thirds (2/3) vote of the annual messengers. At least 30 days prior to any such meeting, the church under consideration and all of the churches of the Association shall be notified in writing of

the reason(s) for the recommended dismissal. If the subject church disputes the dismissal, it may be represented by messengers from two churches, introduce evidence, present and cross-examine witnesses.

## Article 7 Committees

### Section 1 Committees

**A. Standing Committees:** The standing committees of the Association shall be as follows and shall be charged with the responsibilities as stated.

1. **Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee shall nominate officers and standing committee members. All nominations will be presented for consideration at the annual meeting of the Association.
2. **Personnel Committee:** The Personnel Committee shall assist the Executive Board in selection, supervision, and termination of Associational staff including the **Executive Director**. They shall be responsible for working with the Executive Director in personnel matters as needed. The Personnel Committee shall regularly review (at least annually) the performance of the Associational Executive Director and report to the Executive Board the results and recommendations from the review. The Associational Executive Director shall regularly review (at least annually) the performance of all employed Associational staff and report to the Personnel Committee the results and recommendations from the reviews. The Associational Executive Director may make salary and benefit recommendations for the Association staff to the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee will make any recommendations for salary and benefits regarding the Executive Director.
3. **Constitution Review Committee:** The Constitution Committee shall annually review the constitution and by-laws and recommend changes or amendments to Executive Board for consideration.
4. **Properties and Trust Committee:** The Properties and Trust Committee shall be responsible for working in cooperation with the Executive Director of the Association to manage, care for, and direct the use of all Associational real property. The members of the committee shall serve as Trustees for the Salt Lake Baptist Association Trust Fund.
5. **Stewardship/Budget Committee:** The Stewardship/Budget Committee shall be responsible for working in cooperation with the Executive Director of the Association to recommend budgets, evaluate financial condition of the association and make recommendations in partnership with the Properties and Trust committee to maintain financial stability of the association.
6. **Credentials Committee:** The credentials committee shall examine the credentials of the petitioning church pursuant to guidelines established by the Association and available in the SLBA Policy

Manual, which include at a minimum the requirements for membership in the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention. The committee shall make a recommendation to the Association at the Annual Meeting concerning the reception of the petitioning church.

- B. Ad Hoc Committees:** The Association shall be able to appoint ad hoc committees as needed. Unless otherwise designated the Moderator shall appoint all ad hoc committees.

### **Article 8 Amendments**

These Bylaws may be changed or amended at any annual meeting by a majority vote of the messengers voting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been recommended by the Executive Board and submitted to all cooperating churches in writing ~~60~~ 30 days prior to the annual meeting.