

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE TREASURE VALLEY SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

## **ARTICLE I – NAME**

This Association shall be called the Treasure Valley Southern Baptist Association.

## **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

The Treasure Valley Southern Baptist Association is churches and missions cooperating to assist each other in fulfilling the Great Commission.

## **ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We agree to and adopt The Baptist Faith and Message of 2000 as our statement of faith.

## **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP EXPECTATIONS**

Section 1. The membership of this Association shall be composed of churches and missions cooperating with and contributing to the work of the Association, and received as members by the Association, as defined in section 2. Churches currently cooperating and contributing to the work of the association, per Section 2, will be considered active members.

### **Section 2.. Expectations of Churches and Missions**

- A. The Church/Mission doctrines and practices shall agree with the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.
- B. The Church/Mission shall exhibit a cooperative missionary spirit and practice.
- C. The Church/Mission shall regularly give a percentage of their undesignated offerings to the association and actively participate in the work of the Treasure Valley Southern Baptist Association by having representation at two of the three meetings of the association.
- D. The Church/Mission shall be encouraged to participate actively and financially in the work of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention (Cooperative Program).
- E. The Church/Mission shall not knowingly take any action to affirm, approve, or endorse immorality, adultery, homosexual behavior, or any other such behavior that is a perversion of sexual expression according to Biblical standards.

Section 3. If for any reason this Association be dissolved, the assets of the Association will be distributed equally to the churches and missions currently cooperating and contributing to the work of the association.

## **ARTICLE V – NEW CHURCHES/MISSIONS**

Section 1. Churches and Missions which are in sympathy with the principles, purpose, and methods of this Association, and which desire admission into its fellowship, shall make application for constituent membership by petitionary letter. The Petitionary letter shall be presented to the Director of Missions or Moderator, at which time the Director of Missions or Moderator shall make available copies of the Baptist Faith and Message of 2000 to the petitionary church/mission.

Section 2. When churches/missions make application for membership in this Association, by petitionary letter, the Administrative Team shall inquire into their Articles of Faith and manner and nature of organizational fellowship and make a recommendation at the next meeting of the Association or Executive Board. Upon a vote of acceptance or rejection and, if the majority of the votes cast is in favor of receiving such church/mission or churches/missions, the Moderator shall so announce, and the right hand of fellowship shall be extended the messengers of church(es)/mission(s).

## **ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS**

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator, a Vice-Moderator, a Clerk, a Treasurer, and/or any other officer deemed necessary by the Association or its Executive Board to carry out the spirit of this Constitution, who shall be elected annually by majority vote.

Section 2. The election of the Officers and Team Leaders of the Association shall be held at the Annual Business Session. All officers shall begin serving following the Annual Meeting. The retiring clerk shall be responsible for printing and distributing the minutes of the Annual meeting.

Section 3. The officers, including Priority Team Leaders and others as deemed necessary, shall serve as an Associational Administrative Team, whose duties shall include long-range planning, coordinating the work of the various ministries, and any other duties as assigned by the Association or Executive Board. The Director of Missions shall serve as the leader (non-voting) of the Associational Administrative Team and preside over its meetings.

Section 4. The duties of the Moderator are prescribed by the Manual of Operations. In the absence of the Moderator the Vice Moderator shall assume the duties of the Moderator. In the absence of both the Moderator and the Vice-Moderator, the clerk shall serve to elect a Moderator Pro-tem.

The duties of the Clerk of the Association are prescribed by the Manual of Operations. The duties of the Treasurer of the Association are prescribed by the Manual of Operations.

Section 5. The books of the Treasurer and Clerk shall be open at all times for inspection by any person or organization contributing to the funds of the Association

Section 6. The trustees of the Association shall be the moderator, vice-moderator and one elected person.

The Trustees shall be responsible for dealing with all legal matters of the Association upon the Authority of the Executive Board, and for other duties as outlined in the Manual of Operations.

Section 7. The Administration Team shall regularly review the Manual of Operations (including job descriptions) and make recommendations of changes as needed for associational approval.

## **ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of duly elected officers of the Association, namely: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Team Leaders together

with the active Pastor and two additional elected members from each constituent church and the active Pastor and one additional elected member from each mission.

Section 2. A quorum shall consist of 30% of the active membership for the transaction of business.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall have authority at any regular or called meeting of the Board to fill all vacancies occurring in the Associational Positions, with the exception of calling or employing an Associational Director of Missions or other ministry staff. The matter of such employment will be handled through a special called a meeting of the Association.

The hiring of non-ministerial personnel shall be handled by the Administrative Team.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall transact any and all business of the Association during its recess, provided that nothing shall be done by the Board contrary to this Constitution or the expressed will of the Association.

Section 5. The Executive Board shall make an Annual Report to the Association of work done by the Board; of monies received and how disbursed; of mission fields, giving an itemized statement of all receipts and disbursements; and such other matters as pertain to the business of the Association, with such recommendations and suggestions as the Board deems wise.

Section 6. The Executive Officers composed of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, shall have the authority to act in an emergency between meetings of the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS**

Section 1. The Association shall have an Annual Meeting at such time and place as it may designate.

Section 2. Each church in this Association having fifty members or less may send their Pastor and three (3) messengers and one (1) additional messenger for every twenty-five (25) members there above, provided that no church shall have more than ten (10) messengers. A Mission may send their Pastor and one (1) messenger. Elected and certified messengers at the Annual Meeting represent member churches and missions.

Section 3. The Executive Board may call extra meetings of the Association, if necessary, or change the time and place of the stated meetings of the Association when it feels it is inexpedient to convene at the time and place appointed, provided all members receive fourteen (14) days notice of time, place and purpose.

Section 4. The moderator, or executive board members from five member churches, may call an Executive Board Meeting if they deem necessary, provided all members receive seven (7) days notice of time, place and purpose.

Section 5. A quorum shall consist of 30% of the active membership for the transaction of business.

## **ARTICLE IX– REPORTS, COOPERATION AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Section 1. The Treasure Valley Southern Baptist Association shall operate in cooperation with the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of each cooperating church and mission to make an ACP (Annual Church Profile) annual report to the Association, giving names of messengers, statistics, and financial condition of the church/mission, and any other helpful or inspiring information that may be available.

Section 3. Should any church/mission fail to meet the expectations as outlined in Article IV, Section 2, as required by the Association, for one year, the Director of Missions shall, with a spirit of reconciliation, inquire into its standing and report to the Association at its next Annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE X – AUTHORITY**

Section 1. This Association shall never exercise any authority whatsoever over any church/mission, nor shall it interfere in any way with the local constitution of any church/mission or with the exercise of its sovereign functions, but always cheerfully recognize and uphold absolute independence of the local congregation.

Section 2. While this Association does not assume any authority over the churches/missions in its membership, it does reserve the right to withdraw the hand of fellowship from any church, which shall become corrupt in faith and/or practice, or fail to meet the expectations as outlined in Article IV, Section 2.

## **ARTICLE XI – QUESTIONS**

All questions, except amendments to the Constitution, shall be decided by a majority vote.

## **ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the messengers present at any Annual meeting, provided the proposed amendment is published in the churches/missions at least (60) sixty days prior to the Annual Meeting or provided the amendment is recommended to the Annual meeting by the Executive Board in its annual report.

## **ARTICLE XIII – PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The parliamentary of the Association shall be the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order, as long as it helps the decision making procedures of the Treasure Valley Southern Baptist Association.

Constitution: Amended on October 3, 2020