

Johnston Baptist Association Constitution

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Association shall be the Johnston Baptist Association, Inc.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association shall be to join together for the glory and work of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in Johnston County and other areas. We will work together to promote unity, fellowship and growth among Baptist churches. We will work to further the Christian spirit of cooperation among Baptist Associations, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Southern Baptist Convention. We may share in partnership ministries with other organizations whose goals and purposes are in harmony with those of this Association.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP AND MESSENGERS

Section A: The membership of the Johnston Baptist Association shall be composed of cooperating Baptist churches. A cooperating church is one that supports the purpose of the Association and has been accepted as a member of the Association. Churches who are members of the Association may send messengers to the bi-annual associational meetings based on the following formula: Four messengers for the first one hundred members and one additional messenger for each additional one hundred members. No church shall have more than ten messengers. Messengers shall be certified by the church of which they are members. If a church has not financially supported the Association during the preceding twelve months then messengers from that church will not be allowed voting privileges in which business is conducted at the bi-annual associational meetings. A church that does not support the Association financially during the preceding twelve months will not be allowed voting privileges at an Associational Council meeting, a General Board Meeting or a special called meeting.

Section B: Officers, departments and committees will be comprised of members from churches that are members of the Association.

Section C: Any church or mission applying for membership in the Association may be received under Watchcare upon a two-thirds vote of those messengers present and voting at a bi-annual associational meeting or by messengers present and voting at a special called meeting of the Association or by an action of the General Board. The Watchcare time period must be at least twelve months in duration. The General Board upon recommendation from the Associational Council may recommend to the bi-annual associational meeting or to a special called meeting of the Association that the church or mission under Watchcare be accepted as a member church of the Johnston Baptist Association. A two-thirds vote of those messengers present and voting will be required for membership.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

The Association shall meet bi-annually on the third Monday in May and the fourth Tuesday in October each year. In case of emergency the officers of the Association or the Associational Council shall have the authority to make changes in the date, place or time of the bi-annual associational meeting.

ARTICLE V – AUTHORITY

Section A: The Association shall not control or exercise authority over a member church as it relates to that church's local autonomy. If a church requests assistance from the Association, then

the Association at its discretion may offer assistance.

Section B: A church may withdraw membership from the Association upon written request delivered to the General Board.

Section C: The General Board may recommend withdrawal of fellowship from a church upon a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at a General Board meeting or a special called meeting of the General Board. If the General Board does recommend withdrawal of fellowship then its recommendation will be forwarded to one of the bi-annual associational meetings or to a special called meeting of the Association. A two-thirds vote of the messengers present and voting is necessary for withdrawal of fellowship at a bi-annual associational meeting or at a special called meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section A: The officers of the Association shall be Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer with each one elected to a one year term at a bi-annual associational meeting.

Section B: The Moderator shall preside over the sessions of the bi-annual associational meetings, or a special called meeting, Associational Council and the General Board, shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments, appoint the Committee on Committees, appoint other committees as the need arises and shall have general supervision over the work of the Association. The Vice-Moderator shall preside in the absence of the Moderator and shall serve as the presiding officer of the Committee on Committees. The secretary shall take minutes at the Associational Council Meeting, General Board meeting and any special called meetings. The treasurer shall oversee the financial transactions of the Association and shall also present financial statements to the Associational Council, General Board, one of the bi-annual associational meetings and if necessary to special called meetings.

Section C: The officers of the Association shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee. Their names shall be presented on the last day of the bi-annual associational meeting. Those persons who are elected will assume office at the adjournment of one of the bi-annual associational meetings.

Section D: The directors of the departments of the Association shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee each year. These departments are: Brotherhood, Discipleship Training, Evangelism, Missions Development, Music, Sunday School, and Woman's Missionary Union.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

The following standing committees nominated by the Committee on Committees shall be nominated and elected at the annual associational meeting. They are: Budget and Finance, Church Relations, Constitution and Bylaws, Historian, Library Services, Nominating, Ordination, Personnel, Program, Properties, Senior Adult and Youth. The Committee on Committees shall be responsible for maintaining the membership of the standing committees.

ARTICLE VIII – GENERAL BOARD

Section A: The Association shall have a General Board, which shall be charged with the work of the Association in between bi-annual associational meetings. The work of the General Board shall be compiled and printed in the annual report.

Section B: The General Board shall be composed of either the pastor or the person having been elected to take the place of the pastor and another person from that same church. General Board members must be a member of the church they represent. The officers of the Association and the directors of the departments shall also be included as members of the General Board.

Section C: The officers of the Association shall also be the officers of the Associational Council and the General Board.

Section D: The General Board shall hold quarterly meetings at a date, place and time it designates. The Associational Council or the General Board may call for special called meetings when necessary. Due notice must be given to General Board members as to the date, place, and time of the special called meetings.

Section E: The General Board may name committees to help it carry out its work.

Section F: The General Board shall have an Associational Council. The Associational Council shall be composed of the officers of the Association and the department directors.

Section G: The Associational Council shall meet prior to the General Board meeting. It will coordinate the work of the Association and may make recommendations and reports to the General Board.

ARTICLE – IX – Employees of the association

Section A: The Associational Missionary and other employees of the Association shall be charged with the responsibility of working with the churches in the Association to assist them in fulfilling their mission. The Associational Missionary shall also promote the programs of the Association, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Southern Baptist Convention. Employees of the Association shall work under the direction of and subject to the authority of the Association. They shall be nominated to the General Board by the Personnel Committee. They may be elected by the Association at any bi-annual associational meeting. They may also be nominated and elected at a General Board meeting or at a special called meeting of the General Board if the next bi-annual associational meeting is more than thirty days beyond the date on which the employee is nominated. The Associational Missionary must be elected at one of the bi-annual associational meetings or at a special called meeting of the Association. Employees of the Association will include those persons who receive money or other compensation from the Johnston Baptist Association or the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina or the Southern Baptist Convention and who are under the direct supervision of the Association. The Associational Missionary shall be ex-officio member of the Associational Council, Committees, Departments and General Board.

Section B: The Personnel Committee will serve as the Search Committee for employees of the Association. It will make recommendations when positions are needed and when a position is vacant and needs filling.

Section C: Employees of the Association shall not serve as officers of the Association.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS OR REVISIONS

This constitution or by-laws may be amended or revised at any annual bi-associational meeting. Member churches will be provided the proposed change(s) at least thirty days before a bi-annual

associational meeting. A two-thirds vote of the messengers present and voting is required for the amendment(s) or revision(s) to pass. The amendment(s) or revision(s) must be presented at one of the bi-annual associational meetings and voted on during that meeting. Upon adoption the amendment(s) or revision(s) will take effect.

ARTICLE XI – BY-LAWS

Section A: The fiscal year shall run from October 1 through September 30.

Section B: The General Board of the Association is responsible for having the financial records of the Association audited every three years with a review in between the years the records are not audited.

Section C: The parliamentary law in the government of the association shall be the latest revision of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER.