

Constitution of the Petersburg Baptist Association

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Petersburg Baptist Association, herein referred to as PBA.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

- Section 1** The purpose of the PBA, through its cooperating and autonomous churches, shall be to promote and proclaim the life and work of Jesus Christ.
- Section 2** The PBA shall maintain working relationships with all Baptist entities that advance the Gospel of Christ and promote the means and ministry of this Association.
- Section 3** Member churches of the PBA and their representatives affirm these doctrinal truths: That there is one God Who is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent; that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God; that Jesus Christ is the one and only Savior of the world; that the Bible is given by the divine inspiration of God; and that a saving faith in Christ binds us together. Furthermore, we believe these doctrinal truths bind us to promote the following values: Love for the lost and love for fellow believers in Christ; a ministry that meets the spiritual, social, and physical needs of people within and beyond our Association; and a spirit of cooperation as the best means of reaching the lost and ministering to the needs of others to the glory of God. The approved statement of the Values, Mission and Vision of the Association is to be published annually.
- Section 4** The PBA shall assist and strengthen churches in their efforts to carry the Gospel to the lost in their respective communities and to do the work of ministry, education, evangelism, missions, and church development when requested.

ARTICLE III CHURCH AUTONOMY

There shall be full recognition of the autonomy of each member church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ to act on and carry out its own affairs and conduct its own business without interference from the PBA or its member churches.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1** The membership of the PBA shall be composed of cooperating Baptist churches which adhere to the values, mission and vision statements as adopted by the PBA
- Section 2** Churches seeking membership in the PBA shall submit a written request to the Moderator. The Moderator shall then appoint a Credentialing Committee consisting of the Moderator-Elect and four (4) messengers from among the member churches to review the request. The request, along with the Credentialing Committee's report, shall then be forwarded to the Executive Council for further action. New churches may be admitted to membership in the Association upon recommendation by the Executive Council and by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the registered messengers present and voting at the Annual Meeting of the PBA.
- Section 3** The voting body of the PBA shall be composed of:
- A. The five elected officers required in ARTICLE V; Section 1 of this Constitution; and
 - B. Messengers elected by member churches.
- Section 4** Messengers to the PBA shall be selected by each member church on the following basis:
- A. Each member church shall be entitled to send three (3) messengers to the meetings of the Association.
 - B. Member churches shall be entitled to additional messengers based on one (1) of the following scenarios:
 - One (1) messenger for every one-half of one percent (1/2%) of a member church's undesignated receipts given to the PBA budget; or
 - One (1) messenger for every \$1000 and major fraction thereof given to the Association.The above scenarios shall be based on the most recently completed Associational year.
 - C. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article, the maximum number of messengers from any member church shall not exceed twelve (12).

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ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP (continued)

Section 5 A church's membership in the PBA shall be suspended if it fails to represent itself in at least two (2) of the following ways:

- A. By submitting an Annual Church Profile; or
- B. By contributing a minimum of \$100 per annum; or
- C. By being represented by messenger or messengers at the Annual Meeting of the PBA; or
- D. By being represented at a minimum of one (1) regular meeting of the Executive Council during a calendar year.

Furthermore, the PBA may disassociate itself with any church which ceases to adhere to the accepted values statements included in ARTICLE II; Section 3 of this Constitution. The manner in which this takes place shall be defined in the Association's *Policies and Procedures Manual*.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 1 The officers of the PBA will be Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Clerk, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer; of which the Moderator, the Moderator-Elect, the Clerk, the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer will be elected by the messengers to the PBA. Following the adoption of this Constitution, the Moderator-Elect will succeed to the office of Moderator without the need to be elected.

Section 2 A Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Moderator from among the messengers and will assist the Moderator in matters pertaining to procedure during the Annual Meeting of the PBA and all meetings of the Executive Council.

Section 3 Terms of Office:

- A. The Moderator and the Moderator-Elect will serve a term of two (2) years. Due to the nature of the rules of succession for these offices, no person shall serve more than one term in each office. In the event that the Moderator's position becomes vacant, the Moderator-Elect shall succeed to that office. He/she may be re-elected provided there is less than one (1) year remaining on the unexpired term. In the event the office of Moderator-Elect becomes vacant, the messengers will elect a replacement at the next Annual Meeting or at a special called meeting of the PBA.
- B. The Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall serve a term of one (1) year and may be reelected or replaced at the conclusion of the terms to which they have been elected.

Section 5 The duties and responsibilities of each officer shall be enumerated in the accompanying By-Laws of the PBA.

ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be changed, amended or abolished in its entirety at any Annual Meeting of the PBA by a four-fifths (4/5) majority of the messengers present and voting. Said changes, amendments or proposal for abolition must be submitted in writing to the Clerk of the Executive Council no later than the 31st day of August prior to the Annual Meeting of the PBA. The Executive Council shall meet to consider said proposal and, upon approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, will forward a final copy of the proposal to member churches by US Postal Service, postmarked no later than the 1st day of October prior to the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VII RATIFICATION OF THIS CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

This Constitution and the By-Laws which accompany it, upon recommendation by the Executive Committee of the PBA, must be ratified and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those messengers present and voting at the regular Association Annual Meeting. This Constitution and the accompanying By-Laws will be considered "in force" on the 1st day of January following its ratification. Nevertheless, upon becoming effective, this Constitution and the accompanying By-Laws shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any officer or committee members before it became "in force." This Article shall be deleted from the Constitution one (1) year following its adoption.