

**CONSTITUTION OF THE
MID-CONTINENT ASSOCIATION OF REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCHES**

ARTICLE I – NAME

Mid-Continent Association of Regular Baptist Churches

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

To evangelize the lost through Regular Baptist Missionary enterprises, to establish local, independent Baptist Churches in our area, and to provide fellowship for Regular Baptist Churches and other independent Baptist Churches.

ARTICLE III – FELLOWSHIP AND VOTING PRIVILEGES

SECTION A: Any Baptist Church in western Missouri, Kansas, or Oklahoma which is no longer in fellowship or in cooperation with the American or Southern Baptist Conventions, or any other similar association or convention, or their auxiliaries, and which agrees to the Articles of Faith of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, and signifies in writing its desire to be considered in fellowship with this Association, may upon such written notice, (written notice must include: 1) a copy of their constitution; 2) the date of the Church's recognition Executive Council; and 3) a letter from the secretary of the Church stating the action of the Church) and upon recommendation of the Executive Council, be received into Fellowship by a majority vote of the messengers present at its meetings. Such notice of the Church's desire shall be presented to the Secretary of the Association by the Clerk of the church.

SECTION B: Any Church that is in fellowship or that seeks fellowship with the Mid-Continent Association of Regular Baptist Churches shall declare its position on the "modern tongues," "charismatic" movement. It will affirm its opposition to it, and separation from these movements before approval and acceptance into the Fellowship. Any Church that is in the Fellowship, who will not oppose this modern charismatic tongues movement, will be expelled from the fellowship.

SECTION C: Each Church shall be entitled to send three (3) messengers to the meetings, one of which may be the Pastor. Every messenger shall agree to the Constitution and the Articles of Faith of this Association, prior to taking his seat in the meetings.

SECTION D: Each Church shall be entitled to nominate six (6) names for the Executive Council as they desire, or the messengers sent to the Association Meeting may nominate six (6) names.

ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SECTION A:

1. The Executive Council shall consist of six (6) or more men, as the Association deems necessary; men who are pastors or laymen of the fellowshipping Churches of the Association.
2. One-half (½) of the Executive Council shall be elected to the Executive Council annually for the two (2) year term in the business session of the Conference.
3. Nominations for the Executive Council may be made either by:
 - a. fellowshipping churches may nominate no more than six (6) names for the Executive Council. If possible, these names should be sent to the Secretary or Chairman in advance of the business meetings wherein these officers are elected.
 - b. the messengers submitting to the Secretary up to six (6) nominations. These shall be turned in to the Secretary before 9:00 A.M. of the second day of the Spring Bible Conference.
4. The messengers shall then vote for three (3) of the six (6) designated nominees. The three highest shall be Executive Council members for a two (2) year term. The next highest shall serve in the case of vacancies. In case of a tie vote, the first name in alphabetical order shall be declared elected.
5. No salaried servant of the Association shall be entitled to vote, or be a member of the Executive Council.

SECTION B: THEIR ORGANIZATION

1. The Executive Council shall meet immediately after the election.
2. They shall elect from the Executive Council a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
3. The newly elected members and the Executive Council shall continue to function according to Article IV, Section C-1.

SECTION C: THEIR DUTIES

1. Retirement from and beginning of duties shall be as follows. New members of the Executive Council shall be installed at the close of the evening session of the last day of the Conference, at which time they shall officially begin their duties. Retiring members of the Executive Council shall continue their duties until the new members are installed. New members shall sit in on all sessions of the Executive Council as observers until installation.
2. The duties of the Executive Council shall be as follows:
 - a. to make recommendations to the Association for the furtherance of its work, and to implement and put into operation all actions and policies of the Association,
 - b. to act as trustees of the Association, having authority to purchase and to hold property as empowered by the Association,

- c. to secure the services and set the salaries of such as administrative and other personnel as authorized by the Association, as shall be required to carry out the plans and policies of the Association,
- d. to appoint a committee to audit the Treasurer's books at the end of each calendar year,
- e. to arrange for the Conferences of the Association,
- f. to meet at least twice annually (Spring and Fall) and/or at such other times as may be deemed necessary or convenient,
- g. to appoint from the Executive Council or from fellowshipping Churches, individuals to care for publications, programs, etc.

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SECTION A: Executive officers shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, elected according to Article V, Section A. The duration of their duties shall be according to Article IV, Section C-1.

SECTION B: THE DUTIES OF THESE OFFICES SHALL BE:

1. Chairman
 - a. to call for and moderate all sessions of the Executive Council,
 - b. to moderate all business sessions of the Association,
 - c. to arrange for the conducting of all services at the Conference,
 - d. to act as the official representative of the Executive Council and the Association in carrying out the stated purpose of the Association,
 - f. to designate two (2) tellers, who with the Secretary, shall tabulate the nominations and ballots cast in the election of the Executive Council,
 - g. he shall be the ex-officio member of all committees or organizations sponsored by the Association.
2. Vice-Chairman
 - a. he shall carry out the duties of the Chairman in his absence, or at such times as the Chairman shall request.
3. Secretary
 - a. to keep complete and accurate records of all Association business sessions and meetings of the Executive Council,
 - b. to keep an accurate and orderly file of all business sessions minutes of the Executive Council and the Association and correspondence according to standard procedures established and approved by the Executive Council,
 - c. to inform the Churches of the Association, four to six weeks before the Conferences, of their responsibilities as to nominations, messengers and their duties, etc.,
 - d. to handle all correspondence of the Executive Council and Association,
 - e. to communicate with all new Churches and other Churches not in fellowship about entering the Association,
 - f. to keep an accurate roll of fellowshipping Churches, including name, address, pastor's name and address, and other pertinent information deemed necessary,

- g. to read the role call of Churches at the Association business session and record their attendance,
 - h. to tabulate with the help of two (2) others the nominations and the ballots cast in business sessions and to declare the outcome.
4. Treasurer
- a. to receive all funds belonging to the Association,
 - b. to deposit the funds in a bank acceptable to the Executive Council,
 - c. to disburse funds as approved by the Executive Council and Association,
 - d. to keep accurate, legible records of all financial transactions in a form acceptable to the Executive Council,
 - e. to give financial reports to the Association as directed by the Executive Council or the Association.

ARTICLE VII – CESSATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

SECTION A: Any fellowshipping Church may withdraw from the Association at any time for reason sufficient to itself. Christian ethics would suggest the reason for withdrawal would be filed with the Association, but such action is not mandatory. In conformity with the historic Baptist position, the property rights of such a Church can in no wise be legally prejudiced or endangered by such withdrawal.

SECTION B: Any fellowshipping Church which is publicly known to be no longer in agreement with the Constitution and Articles of Faith of this Association, and has not voluntarily withdrawn itself from the Association, may, upon satisfactory evidence of disagreement being presented by the Executive Council, and upon its recommendation, be removed from the rolls by a majority vote of the Association.

SECTION C: Any fellowshipping Church which for a period of three (3) years has failed to send messengers to the Association meetings or in any other way has evidenced continued disinterest in the Association may be dropped from the rolls at the discretion of the Association on recommendation of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the messengers present and voting, providing written notice of the proposed amendment has been mailed to the Churches a least three (3) months prior to the meeting where it is to be voted upon.

ARTICLE IX – DISSOLUTION

SECTION A: The term for this Corporation is to exist for ONE HUNDRED YEARS, unless sooner dissolved by three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the members at an annual business meeting or a special business meeting (by-laws of Article III). In the event of dissolution, no part of the net earnings of this Corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director, officer of the Corporation or

any private individual and no entitled donor, member, director, officer of the Corporation or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets. Upon dissolution, any assets of the Corporation must be distributed to one or more organization(s) recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as one organized exclusively for religious, charitable or educational purposes. This is to be in accord with Article 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended.

SECTION B: This corporation shall be dissolved at such time as evidence is presented that the Corporation has departed from the doctrinal statement position held at the time of this writing.

Last Revised: 10/1995