

## **Introduction:**

Messengers to the 2016 Annual Meeting of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio approved a motion to revise the Constitution and By-Laws of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. July 27, 2017 the Mission Council of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio voted to recommend the following revisions to the messengers for the 2017 Annual Meeting of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

Article XII requires that proposed amendments or revisions must be presented one year in writing and then voted upon by the messengers the following year. Attached are the proposed revisions to be presented to the messengers of the 2017 annual meeting.

The Program Committee has scheduled the presentation of these revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws during the morning session of the 2017 Annual Meeting on November 8, 2017. Following the presentation messengers will have the opportunity for questions and discussion.

## **Formatting Styles Used in This Document:**

- Current wording to remain unchanged is indicated by black text.
- Current wording to be replaced or deleted is noted by red text with strike-through. Example: ~~red text with strike-through~~
- New wording is depicted as red text without strike through. Example: red text without strike through

*Full Text of the Constitution and Bylaws begins on the following page.*

# Constitution

## Article I

**Section 1** This body shall be known as the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention).

## Article II Articles of Faith

**Section 1** We adopt as our Statement of Faith, *The Baptist Faith and Message*, as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14, 2000.

## Article III Constituency

The **State** Convention **of Baptists in Ohio** shall consist of Messengers elected by the Southern Baptist Churches cooperating **by working in harmony** with and making financial contributions to the work of the Convention during the current year.

**Section 1** Each **cooperating** church shall be entitled to three (3) Messengers for the first 50 members or fractional part thereof and one (1) additional Messenger for each 50 members there above, or major part thereof, provided no church shall have more than ten (10) Messengers.

**Section 2** The churches represented by Messengers shall be friendly to ~~this~~ **the State** Convention **of Baptists in Ohio** and in agreement with its purpose, work, and with the Statement of Faith in Article II.

**Section 3** The Messengers shall be elected and certified by the **cooperating** churches to the **State** Convention **of Baptists in Ohio**.

## Article IV Object

**Section 1** The **State** Convention **of Baptists in Ohio** shall have no ecclesiastical authority whatever over its **cooperating** separate churches or assume to write creeds or exercise control over its separate churches.

**Section 2** ~~This~~ **The State** Convention **of Baptists in Ohio** is a not-for-profit, charitable, and cooperative body whose purpose shall be to provide a means for these autonomous churches to work together promoting all endeavors they deem necessary to carry out Christ's Great Commission.

## Article V Officers

**Section 1** The officers of ~~this~~ **the State** Convention **of Baptists in Ohio** shall be a president, **a first vice-president, a second vice-president**, a recording secretary, an assistant recording secretary, an executive director-treasurer, and an historical secretary.

**Section 2** These officers shall be elected annually by this Convention, shall be duly installed at the closing session of this Convention, and shall hold their respective offices until their successors are elected and installed (except the executive director who shall be employed for an indefinite period by the ~~Executive Board~~ Mission Council). When more than one person is nominated for an office, the election may be conducted by secret ballot when thought feasible. The one receiving the majority of all votes shall be declared elected.

**Section 3** The president, ~~first vice-president and second vice-president~~ may be elected for each ~~respective office~~ for only two one-year terms in succession.

## **Article VI**

### **Boards, Trustee, and Committees**

**Section 1** ~~This~~ The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio shall have power to appoint such boards, trustees, and committees, standing or temporary, as shall be necessary for the handling of the affairs of the Convention.

**Section 2** These boards, trustees, and committees shall make detailed reports to ~~this the State~~ Convention of Baptists in Ohio of all transactions fully covering all work committed to them by this Convention.

## **Article VII**

### **~~Executive Board~~ Mission Council**

**Section 1** There shall be ~~an Executive Board~~ a Mission Council elected ~~in the annual meeting of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio by this Convention~~ through which this Convention shall function in its cooperative work and handle its affairs between annual meetings.

**Section 2** This ~~board~~ Mission Council shall consist of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio president, first vice-president, second vice-president, recording secretary, and assistant recording secretary to the Convention ~~along~~ with a maximum of sixty (60) members who shall be ~~chosen~~ elected by the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio at the annual meeting.

**Section 3** A member of this ~~board~~ Mission Council must have been a member for at least one year of any ~~cooperating~~ church qualified to seat Messengers ~~at the annual meeting of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio~~. The term of office for members of the ~~board~~ Mission Council, ~~except for officers~~, shall be three years. Any member who is elected to fill an unexpired term shall be eligible for ~~re-election~~ election to a full-term of their own. After a member shall have ~~served~~ completed ~~for~~ a three (3) year term, one (1) full year must elapse before he is eligible for re-election.

**Section 4** The executive director shall be the administrative officer of ~~this board~~ the Mission Council and shall make a full report of the work committed to it. The executive director-treasurer shall be bonded.

**Section 5** This ~~board~~ Mission Council shall appoint all staff members, fix all salaries of all workers employed, and determine the fields of work for each.

## **Article VIII Proceedings**

**Section 1** The proceedings of ~~this the annual meeting of the State~~ Convention of ~~Baptists in Ohio~~, the ~~annual~~ report of the ~~Executive Board~~ Mission Council, and such other useful information as the secretary may be able to obtain from the proceedings of the Convention shall be published and distributed annually among the ~~cooperating~~ churches.

## **Article IX Annual Meetings**

**Section 1** The ~~State~~ Convention of ~~Baptists in Ohio~~ shall hold its meetings annually at such time and place as it may determine. Special meetings may be called, and time and place of meetings may be changed by the officers of the Convention with the consent of the ~~Executive Board~~ Mission Council in case of an emergency deemed sufficient to justify.

## **Article X Special Funds**

**Section 1** All designated funds paid into the treasury of the ~~State~~ Convention of ~~Baptists in Ohio~~ shall be applied as designated.

**Section 2** All undesignated funds paid into the treasury of the ~~State~~ Convention of ~~Baptists in Ohio~~ shall be distributed among the agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention or otherwise according to percentage agreement adopted by ~~this Convention~~ the ~~State~~ Convention of ~~Baptists in Ohio~~.

## **Article XI Staff Qualifications**

**Section 1** All staff members employed by the ~~Executive Board~~ Mission Council shall furnish evidence of piety and zeal for the Master's work, agree with the Statement of Faith in Article II, and have talent for Christian service.

## **Article XII Constitutional Changes**

**Section 1** Any alterations may be made in these articles, except Article IV, Section 1, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present when the vote is taken, without regard to total enrollment at any annual meeting of the ~~State~~ Convention of ~~Baptists in Ohio~~ provided no amendment may be considered after the second day of the ~~same annual meeting of the State~~ Convention of ~~Baptists in Ohio~~ and that the amendment shall have been presented at the previous annual meeting of ~~the State~~ Convention of ~~Baptists in Ohio~~ in writing.

# By-Laws

## Article I

- Section 1** No existing institution or agency of ~~this~~ the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio shall launch any move or enterprise calling for the expenditure of money apart from usual operating expenses until same has been presented to the ~~Executive Board~~ Mission Council and proper publicity has been given and the churches fully informed as to the purpose of such move.
- Section 2** No new enterprise shall be launched by any group or agency of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio without notice served as provided by Section 1 of this Article.
- Section 3** In case any proposal not conforming ~~with~~ to the above requirement shall come to the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, this proposal must be held in abeyance until the next meeting.

## Article II

- Section 1** The sessions of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio shall be opened and closed with prayer. The president of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio shall appoint committees related to the annual session over which the president presides. The basic committees are (1) Credentials, (2) Tellers, (3) Resolutions, and (4) Time, Place, and Preacher, and (5) Program. These committees shall be ~~appointed~~ announced at the beginning of the annual Convention. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the annual president according to Article III, Section 7 of the by-laws at least one month prior to the annual Convention and announced at the beginning of the annual Convention. ~~The Program Committee for the next year's Convention shall be appointed by the President at any time during the Convention or within a month thereafter.~~
- Section 2** Persons invited to seats in the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio shall have the privilege of speaking in debate but not voting.
- Section 3** Each member, when he speaks in debate or has any communication to make to the Convention, shall address the President and be recognized.
- Section 4** No member shall speak more often than twice in any debate ~~per issue~~ on the same day without unanimous permission from the body.
- Section 5** When a member shall be called to order, he shall sit down until the President has determined whether he is in order. An appeal may be made from the decision of the President in this as in any other case.
- Section 6** When the President shall desire to be heard in debate or to be temporarily absent, the chair can be taken by one of the vice-presidents or by some member whom the President may select.
- Section 7** Any question that is not provided for by the foregoing rules shall be decided according to Robert's Rules of Order.

**Section 8** The foregoing rules of Article II may be altered or amended at any annual meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

### Article III

**Section 1** The Nominating Committee at the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio shall nominate all ~~board mission council~~ members as called for in Article VII, Sections 2 and 3 of ~~our~~ the Constitution of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

**Section 2** A minimum of five (5) ~~Executive-Board Mission Council~~ Members shall be selected at large from over the State Convention territory.

**Section 3** For the other members of the ~~board~~ Mission Council, there shall be one (1) member from each associational area having 2,000 members of cooperating churches or a major fraction thereof, provided that no more than three (3) members shall be chosen from each associational area on this basis. Not more than one (1) member shall be elected from any one cooperating church.

**Section 4** At least one-third of the ~~board~~ Mission Council members shall be required for a quorum.

**Section 5** Members shall attend at least one out of two meetings unless providentially hindered; and in such cases, notice shall be given to the ~~board~~ Mission Council. Two successive absences without notification shall give the ~~board~~ Mission Council the right to appoint a new member to replace the absent one. In the event a vacancy occurs in the ~~Executive-Board Mission Council~~ between annual sessions of the State Convention sessions of Baptists in Ohio, the said ~~board~~ Mission Council shall elect a replacement for the unexpired term. At the beginning of the year, the president shall appoint a representative committee of five persons from members of the ~~Executive-Board Mission Council~~ or shall designate the Executive Committee to make such nominations to the ~~board~~ Mission Council throughout the year.

In the event ~~an a~~ ~~Executive-Board~~ Mission Council member moves from one association to another association in the state, his/her position as a ~~board~~ Mission Council member will automatically be terminated.

The ~~Executive-Board~~ Mission Council will elect another person from that association to fill the unexpired term of the person who has moved.

This does not apply to ~~board~~ Mission Council members-at large.

**Section 6** The ~~board~~ Mission Council members shall take office on January 1, and serve until December 31, of the year they are to rotate off.

**Section 7** The President of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio shall appoint the Nominating Committee which shall include one representative from each associational area. These members of the Nominating Committee shall be appointed and notified at least one month prior to the annual meeting.