

CONSTITUTION

CONVENTION ORGANIZED IN 1867
CONVENTION INCORPORATED IN 1947



GENERAL BAPTIST

— State Convention —
Christian Education – Missions – Benevolence

AMENDED OCTOBER 2015
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL BAPTIST CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

PREAMBLE

The Missionary Baptist Churches of North Carolina, in order to form a closer relationship, to effect mutual helpfulness, to foster and support Missions and Christian education, to maintain Christian fellowship, to uphold doctrines commonly held by Missionary Baptist Churches, to support more effectively the Gospel ministry and to enhance our Christian Ordinances, do devise, ordain and establish this as the Constitution.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the Convention shall be the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Incorporated.

ARTICLE II: OBJECT

Section 1. This Convention shall undertake to promote and support Home and Foreign Missions, Christian and Higher Christian Education, ministerial relief, church building development, social Christian services, publication and distribution of Baptist Christian literature, support children in the state of North Carolina who are in need of care, the study and distribution of the Bible, to cooperate with other Missionary Baptist organizations to carry the Spirit of this Convention and engage in whatever other Christian endeavors as are deemed necessary to advance the Kingdom of God.

Section 2. To enhance Christian fellowship among the Baptists of North Carolina in cooperation with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and to form a brotherly tie with Baptists and Christians around the world.

ARTICLE III: STRUCTURE

Section 1. The work and program of this Convention shall be done and carried out through Boards, Committees, Departments, Commissions, Auxiliaries and Districts.

Section 2. This Convention shall have:

A. BOARDS

This Convention shall have a General Board. The General Board shall elect its Vice Chairman, and Secretary. The Chairman of the General Board shall be the Vice President at Large. The General Board will be the final authority in the Convention relative to the affairs of the Convention.

B. COMMITTEES

1. Executive Committee
2. Budget Committee
3. Finance Committee
4. Legal Affairs Committee
5. Nomination Committee
6. Order of Business Committee
7. Place Committee
8. Resolutions Committee
9. and any others it seems necessary to carry out its work.

C. DEPARTMENTS

1. Home Missions Department
2. Foreign Missions Department
3. Christian Education Department
4. Higher Education Department
5. General Program and Administration Department
6. and any others deems necessary to carry out this work.

D. COMMISSIONS

1. Central Children's Home Commission
2. Benefit Commission
3. and any others it deems necessary to carry out this work.

E. AUXILIARIES

1. Women's Auxiliary
2. Laymen's Auxiliary
3. Ushers Auxiliary
4. Congress of Christian Education
5. Ministers Council

F. DISTRICTS

Section 3. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

A. Budget Committee

The Budget Committee shall be composed of sixteen (16) members with three (3) from the Executive Board, three (3) from the General Board and two (2) from each member of auxiliary.

B. FINANCE

The Finance Committee shall be composed of five (5) members appointed by the President, to work under the direction and supervision of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Its responsibility will be to accurately report the receipts and expenditures of all monies to the Convention and present an audit report at the annual session.

C. LEGAL

The Legal Committee shall be composed of five (5) members, one of whom shall be an attorney.

D. NOMINATION

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of

thirteen (13) members with area representation.

E. ORDER OF BUSINESS

This Committee shall be composed of fifteen (15) members, with area representation two (2) from each auxiliary, five (5) from the Convention.

F. PLACE

The Committee on Place is to consist of thirteen (13) members with area representation.

G. RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of fifteen (15) members with two (2) from each auxiliary and five (5) from the Convention.

ARTICLE IV: DEPARTMENTS

Section 1. HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

The Department of Home Missions shall be composed of a Committee from the General Board and Auxiliaries. Chaired by the First Vice President, its work shall embrace Evangelism, Church Mission, Church extension and Institutional Ministries, Building Planning, Support and Interpretations- Cooperative Ministries. This Committee shall consist of twenty-six (26) members. The President, at the request of the Department, may appoint ten (10) members.

Section 2. FOREIGN MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

The Department of Foreign Missions shall be composed of a Committee from the General Board, chaired by the Second Vice President. Its work shall embrace information, promotion and support of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention, Inc., and other foreign missions bureaus, Overseas Adoption Plan, C.A.R.E., C.O.R.E., and other foreign missions programs. The Committee shall consist of twenty-six (26) members; four (4) each from auxiliaries, six (6) from the Convention.

Section 3. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Department of Christian Education shall be composed of a Committee from the General Board. The Director of Christian Education shall be the Chairman of this committee. Its work shall embrace Christian Education, Christian publications, guidance, curriculum and credits, Supply Store, church music and other related subjects, Ex-Officio members include the Editor of the Baptist Organ, Manager of the Supply Store, and Director of Music. Twenty-six (26) members shall constitute this committee, four (4) each from auxiliaries, six (6) from the Convention.

Section 4. HIGHER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Department of Higher Christian Education shall be composed of a Committee from the General Board. The Third Vice President shall serve as Chairman. Its work shall consist of financial and moral support to Shaw University, the United Negro College Fund and other related Baptist Institutions supported by the Baptist Churches within the Convention. The Committee shall consist of twenty-six (26) members, four (4) each from auxiliaries, SIX (6) from the Convention.

Section 5. GENERAL PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATION

This Department shall be composed of the Executive Committee. This Committee shall elect its Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary. This Department shall embrace the general administration of the Convention's Program including Archives and History, Christian Social Concern, Cooperative Christianity, Management, Men's Work, Women's Work, Program Planning, Radio and TV ministry and others concerns of the Convention.

Section 6. CENTRAL ORPHANAGE COMMISSION

This Commission shall be composed of a Committee from the General Board, chaired by the Fourth Vice President. Its work shall embrace promotion and support of the Central Children's Home, scholarships for deserving students, services to and from the Central Children's Home. The Committee shall consist of twenty-six (26) members, four (4) each from auxiliaries, six (6) from the Convention.

Section 7. BENEFIT COMMISSION

This Commission shall be composed of a Committee from the General Board, chaired by the Assistant to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

Its work shall embrace Direct Services, Field Services, Ministers Council, Lay Workers Pension Plans and other benefits to those full time Christian services. Thirteen (13) members constitute this Commission; one (1) each from the auxiliaries, eight (8) from the General Board.

Section 8. AUXILIARIES BODIES

1. The Women's Auxiliary (Woman's Baptist Home & Foreign Missionary Convention)
2. The Congress of Christian Education
3. The Ushers Auxiliary
4. The Laymen's League Auxiliary
5. The Minister's Council Auxiliary

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

The officers of this Convention shall be: President, Vice President at-Large, Four Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, an Assistant to the Recording Secretary, an Executive Secretary-Treasurer, an Assistant to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Director of Christian Education, Director of Music, Editor of the Baptist Organ, Statistician, Historian, Parliamentarian, seven (7) Trustees, and any other officers the Convention deems necessary to carry out its work.

Section 1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All officers of this Convention and its auxiliaries shall be elected annually with the exception of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. (The Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for an indefinite period of time.) All officers shall be elected to serve no more than four (4) consecutive years in office without having vacated that office for at least one (1) year.

Section 2. TENURE OF OFFICE

Tenure of office shall consist of four (4) one (1) year consecutive terms and shall expire at the end of the fourth (4th) year in office.

Section 3. HOW ELECTED

Officers of this Convention shall be elected by a majority vote of the voting delegates, and on recommendations of the Nomination Com-

mittee.

- A. Before any election is conducted, the presiding officer shall give opportunities for nominations to be made from the floor.
- B. The voting shall be conducted by means of a standard secret ballot; with four (4) delegates elected by the Convention to serve as tellers, provided that no candidate for office shall be qualified to serve as a teller.
- C. A ballot shall be distributed to each delegate who shall then cast his or her ballot for the candidate of his or her choice. The Nomination Committee shall prepare the ballot.
- D. Each candidate will be allowed to run for only one office.
- E. Each person running as a candidate for an office in the General Baptist State Convention shall announce his candidacy in the *Baptist informer* at least three months prior to the date of election.

Section 4. WHEN ELECTION IS HELD

The Convention shall hold its quadrennial election on the afternoon of the second full day of the Convention.

Section 5. VACANCIES

- A. If the office of presidency shall become vacant, the Vice President at Large shall ascend to Presidency, and the Vice Presidents, in order of their rank, shall move up. The General Board shall fill the office of the Fourth President.
- B. In case of a vacancy in the office of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, the Assistant to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall fill the office until a successor is chosen.
- C. The employed personnel shall retire at age 65, their services ending at the end of the calendar year in which they reach age 65, unless their time is extended by the Convention.

Section 6. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. **THE PRESIDENT** shall preside over the deliberations of the Convention. He shall appoint Committees that are not provided by the Constitution unless otherwise stated. He

shall chair and preside over the Executive Committee and shall perform any and all other duties appertaining to the office of the President.

- B. **THE VICE PRESIDENT AT-LARGE** shall preside over the deliberations of the Convention in the absence of the President, or at the request of the President. He shall assist the President in the carrying out of the work of the Convention and shall chair and preside over the General Board.
- C. **THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT** shall assist the President in the operation of the Convention at the request of the President, or at the request of the body, if the President and Vice President at Large are absent. He shall chair the Committee for the Department of Home Missions.
- D. **THE SECOND VICE PRESIDENT** shall assist the President in the operation of the Convention and shall perform all other duties peculiar to this office. He shall chair the Committee for the Department of Foreign Missions.
- E. **THE THIRD VICE PRESIDENT** shall serve the Convention at the request of the President and shall chair the Committee for the Department of Higher Education.
- F. **THE FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT** shall serve the Convention at the request of the President and shall chair the Commission on the Central Children's Home
- G. **THE RECORDING SECRETARY** shall record and compile the minutes of the Convention, and in conjunction with the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, cause the same to be printed for distribution.
- H. **THE ASSISTANT RECORDING SECRETARY** shall assist the Recording Secretary in the recording and printing of the records.
- I. **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER** shall have the total administrative supervision over and is responsible for the total promotion of the Convention's program. He shall be the chief executive officer of the Convention and of the General Board, the chief of budget officer of the General Board, supervisor of all staff, the chief professional advisor

of the Convention and its committees, the secretary and treasurer of the General Board and the Convention, and a strong spiritual leader providing statewide guidance and inspiration.

- J. **THE ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER** shall work under the supervision of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer and shall assist him in the performance of his duties. He shall chair the Benefit Commission.
- K. **THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** shall be responsible for formulating a program of Christian Education for the Convention. He shall also be responsible for the direction and supervision of the program, which is to cover the entire Convention and Auxiliaries. He is to coordinate the entire program of Christian Education for this Convention. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer and to the Executive Committee. He shall submit an annual written report of his activities to the Executive Committee and/or Convention. He shall serve as the chairman for the Department of Christian Education.
- L. **THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC** shall be responsible for providing the Convention with adequate musical settings for the various sessions. The Director shall seek out good quality music to recommend to the Convention and shall demonstrate the use of good church music. He shall report to the Executive Board on his statewide activities and aspirations in the promotions of the program of church music.
- M. **THE EDITOR OF THE BAPTIST ORGAN** shall gather, compile, edit and publish the official organ of the Convention. He is to be responsible to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and to the Executive Committee. He shall make a quarterly report and an annual written report to the Executive Committee and/or Convention. The Editor shall have the authority to appoint an editorial staff to assist him in the compilation of the paper.
- N. **THE STATISTICIAN** shall gather and compile the statistics

of the Convention and shall make an annual written report of the same to the Convention.

- O. **THE HISTORIAN** shall record and report to the Convention in writing such information as may be germane to the history of the Convention.
- P. **THE PARLIMENTARIAN** shall decide what rules of order shall govern the deliberation of the Convention and shall give points of clarification on matters of parliamentary procedure.
- Q. **THE TRUSTEES** shall sign all legal documents and be the custodian of the Convention's property as pertains to the duties of the Trustees and shall employ counsel whenever the deem it necessary to effectively perform the duties peculiar to office.

ARTICLE VI: GENERAL BOARD

The General Board shall be made of one hundred twenty-seven (127) persons with members from each auxiliary, the moderators of all associations and from the Convention. The President of each auxiliary shall be an ex-officio voting member of the General Board.

ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be made up of forty (40) members; three (3) from the Woman's Auxiliary, two (2) each from the other Auxiliaries and twenty-nine (29) from the Convention.

ARTICLE VIII: BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. THE GENERAL BOARD shall elect an Executive Committee of forty (40) and shall supervise the work of the Executive Committee.

- A. It shall do the work of the Convention during the interim of its sessions.

- B. It shall report annually to the Convention on its work during the interim.

Section 2. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall be made up of forty (40) elected by the General Board.

- A. It shall work under the supervision of the General Board and shall make its report to the same.
- B. It shall function for the General Board, during the interim of its session.
- C. It shall meet at the call of the President of the Convention.
- D. It shall report annually to the General Board, and at such other times, as the Board may deem necessary.
- E. It shall employ the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, the Assistant to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, the manager to the Bookstore, all employees of the Convention and such other help it deems necessary.
- F. It shall fix the honorariums of all Convention personnel and participants and the salaries of all the employees of the Convention.
- G. The Executive Committee shall meet in regular sessions within sixty (60) days after the annual session of the Convention to assess the adopted program, direction to the Departments, Commissions and Auxiliaries.
- H. In case of emergency: (1) The General Board will meet at the call of the Chairman, (2) be empowered to change the time or place of meetings, cancel the sessions of the Convention and its auxiliaries or call a special meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present when the vote is taken.
- I. Those present for a regular or call meeting shall constitute a quorum for the said meeting, members having been notified for the meeting in writing at least ten (10) days before the meeting.

Section 3. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES shall be elected by the Convention. The number of Trustees shall be seven (7), with two (2) representing the Woman's Auxiliary and five (5) representing the Convention. The members of

the Trustee Board shall be associate members of the Executive Committee with a vote.

- A. The Trustee Board shall negotiate all assignments of the Convention, looking after the legal matters of the Convention, and shall, at the direction of the Convention, maintain general supervision over the properties of the Convention in consultation with legal counsel.
- B. The Trustee Board shall make an annual report to the General Convention and shall report to the General Board and the Executive Committee whenever requested to do so.
- C. The Trustee Board shall determine the amount of bond for the Executive Secretary- Treasurer.
- D. One-third of the membership of the Trustee Board shall expire every four (4) years.

ARTICLE IX: MEMBESHIP

Section 1. The General Baptist Convention of North Carolina shall be composed of regular organized Missionary Baptist Churches and Baptist Associations cooperating with this Convention, all cooperating Missionary Baptist organizations such as district and state organizations and messengers from cooperating churches.

Section 2. DISTRICTS shall enroll with fifty dollars.

ARTICLE X: ENROLLMENT AND MESSENGERS

Section 1: ENROLLMENT.

- A. Churches with membership of 1-50 shall enroll with \$50.00
- B. Churches with membership of 51-100 shall enroll with \$75.00
- C. Churches with membership of 101-200 shall enroll with \$150.00

- D. Churches with membership of 251-500 shall enroll with \$175.00
- E. Churches with membership of 501-750 shall enroll with \$200.00
- F. Churches with membership of 751-1000 shall enroll with \$225.00
- G. Churches with membership of 1001-1499 shall enroll with \$250.00
- H. Churches with membership of 1500 and up shall enroll with \$350.00

Section 2. MESSENGERS

- A. Churches with membership of 1-50 shall be entitled to two (2) voting messengers
- B. Churches with membership of 51-100 shall be entitled to three (3) voting messengers.
- C. Churches with membership of 101-200 shall be entitled to four (4) voting messengers.
- D. Churches with membership of 251-500 shall be entitled to five (5) voting messengers.
- E. Churches with membership of 501-750 shall be entitled to six (6) voting messengers.
- F. Churches with membership of 751-1000 shall be entitled to seven (7) voting messengers.
- G. Churches with membership of 1001-1499 shall be entitled to eight (8) voting messengers.
- H. Churches with membership of 1501 and up shall be entitled to nine (9) voting messengers.

ARTICLE XI: FISCAL YEAR

Section 1: The Fiscal Year of this Convention shall be a calendar year ending on December 31.

Section 2. The Annual Session of this Convention shall be held during

the week including the last Tuesday in October.

Section 3. The Mid-Year Session of this Convention shall be held the week including the Wednesday after the first Sunday in May.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote, one year's notice having been given in writing and notice having been read

(End of Constitution)

ASSOCIATIONS

1. Alexander Missionary Baptist Association
2. Bear Creek Missionary Baptist Association
3. Brunswick-Waccamaw Missionary Baptist Association
4. Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association
5. County Line Missionary Baptist Association
6. Deep River Missionary Baptist Association
7. East Carolina Progressive Missionary Baptist Association
8. East Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Association
9. Eastern Pamlico River Missionary Baptist Association
10. Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association
11. Franklin County Missionary Baptist Association
12. Gaston County Missionary Baptist Association
13. Gold Hill Missionary Baptist Association
14. Guiding Light Missionary Baptist Association
15. Guilford Educational and Missionary Baptist Association
16. Hammond Creek Missionary Baptist Association
17. High Point Educational and Missionary Baptist Association
18. Hyde County Missionary Baptist Association
19. Johnston District Missionary Baptist Association
20. Kenansville Eastern Missionary Baptist Association
21. Lane Creek Missionary Baptist Association
22. Lumber River Missionary Baptist Association
23. Middle Missionary Baptist Association
24. Middle District Missionary Baptist Association
25. Middle Ground Missionary Baptist Association
26. Mountain and Catawba Missionary Baptist Association
27. Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association
28. Neuse River Missionary Baptist Association
29. New Bern Eastern Missionary Baptist Association
30. New Covenant Missionary Baptist Association
31. New Era Missionary Baptist Association
32. New Home and Durham Missionary Baptist Association
33. New Hope Missionary Baptist Association
34. Northampton County Missionary Baptist Association
35. Ocean View Missionary Baptist Association
36. Old Eastern Missionary Baptist Association
37. Pee Dee Missionary Baptist Association
38. Pee Dee Union Missionary Baptist Association
39. Progressive Tar River Missionary Baptist Association

40. Reedy Creek Missionary Baptist Association
41. Rising Star Missionary Baptist Association
42. Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association
43. Rowan Missionary Baptist Association
44. Saint John Missionary Baptist Association
45. Tar River Missionary Baptist Association
46. Trent River-Oakey Grove Missionary Baptist Association
47. Union Missionary Baptist Association
48. United Missionary Baptist Association
49. United Shiloh Missionary Baptist Association
50. Wake Missionary Baptist Association
51. Waynesville Missionary Baptist Association
52. West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association
53. Western Union Missionary Baptist Association
54. Wilson Missionary Baptist Association
55. Yadkin Davie Missionary Baptist Association
56. Yadkin Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Association
57. Yadkin Valley Missionary Baptist Association
58. Zion Missionary Baptist Association



**THE GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
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