

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE ONE

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: General

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist entity under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this association.

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of the Northwest Coast Baptist Association Inc, (NWCBA) and the conditions of such membership.

Section 2: Candidacy

Any Baptist-oriented church may offer themselves as a candidate for membership in the NWCBA. This process begins with the desire for membership expressed through an official written/printed communication from the church to the NWCBA. The candidate church will be asked to complete an application for associational membership. The candidate church will undergo a reasonable vetting process conducted by the NWCBA leadership team. The vetting may include both an interview component and written submissions by the applicant church. Upon completion of the vetting process, the leadership team will make a recommendation to the association at the Engage session of the Annual Celebration or one that is special called. All candidates receiving a 2/3 majority or greater begin a one-year probationary period in partnership with an established partner of the association. At the end of the year the Leadership Team will make a recommendation at an Engage session regarding whether to accept the candidate as a full member.

Missions, campuses, and other satellites of member churches will be considered as members of the NWCBA under the umbrella of the credentialed partner without petitioning for membership.

Section 3: Rights and Privileges of Members

1) Every cooperating member of the NWCBA is entitled to send the pastor or interim/ transitional pastor plus 3 members as messengers to the Engage Session of the Annual Celebration and at all special called Engage Sessions.

For every 50 members above 100 an additional messenger may be sent for a maximum of 10 messengers. This number includes messengers for missions, campuses, satellites and probationary members. It is up to each partner church to determine who the official messengers are.

2) Every member of the NWCBA is eligible to have representation for any office or team.

- 3) Member churches are expected to partner in the missional works of the NWCBA
- 4) Member churches are expected to contribute a meaningful amount to the NWCBA.

Section 4: Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways: 1) by request from the member church or 2) by three-fourths majority vote at an Engage Session of the Annual Celebration.

ARTICLE TWO

OFFICERS AND TEAMS

All who serve as NWCBA officers and on NWCBA teams shall be members of associational churches.

Section 1: Officers

The officers of the association shall be Associational Mission Strategist (AMS), Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, and Clerk.

- 1) AMS - The AMS is to be focused in leading the NWCBA to encourage, equip, and engage our network of churches to share the love of Christ with our communities. (A position description is included in the Policies and Procedures of the NWCBA.) The AMS may establish the number of positions that the Leadership Team and the Executive Team approves.
- 2) Moderator - The Moderator is responsible for presiding over the body, keeping order, and taking the vote of all questions and to perform all duties necessary to such office.
- 3) Vice-Moderator - The Vice-Moderator is responsible for assisting the Moderator and fills in when the Moderator is absent. The Vice-Moderator is elected at the Engage Session of the Annual Meeting for a one-year term then becomes the Moderator for one year.
- 4) Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing the receipt, expenditures, and accounting of the NWCBA. The Treasurer will also lead in the preparation of an annual budget. The term of service is one year without limits on the number of terms served.
- 5) Clerk - The Clerk shall be responsible for seeing that minutes are taken at Executive Team meetings and give oversight to the handling of documents. The term of service is one year without limits on the number of terms served.

Section 2: Teams

Teams are small groups of associational representatives who come together to assist the associational in prescribed objectives. These teams include:

1) Leadership Team -The Leadership Team is responsible for assisting the AMS in leading the work of the association between meetings of the Executive Team.

The Leadership Team is comprised of all the AMS, the officers, the leader of each of the "E" Teams (Encourage, Equip, and Engage), and an "at large" representative. It is a prerequisite that at least one of the Leadership team members be from the Eastern Time Zone. Recommendations are made each year at the Engage Session of the Annual Celebration by the AMS.

2) E Teams - leaders are appointed by AMS and the leaders in turn recruit and develop their teams.

a. Encourage - charged with developing strategies for encouraging pastors and church staffs to find joy and withstand the rigors of ministry.

b. Equip - charged with resourcing churches in developing a healthy church journey.

c. Engage - charged with developing pathways that lead to community transformation.

ARTICLE THREE

MEETINGS

1) Annual Celebration - each year in October, the NWCBA will call their member churches together for 3 sessions.

a. Engage Session - where matters of the NWCBA that require a vote by a larger representation of the body are presented. These matters fall into 5 categories:

i. The call of the AMS and creation of new paid positions

ii. Approval of the Annual Budget

iii. Approving the membership of the Leadership Team.

iv. Action pertaining to legal documents.

v. Sale/purchase of real property.

vi. Membership

Anything beyond these categories would be shared as information. The Engage session will take place apart from the other sessions. The quorum consists of those representatives present. Roberts Rules of Order will guide the process of the session.

b. Equip Session - a time where breakout sessions are offered pertaining to issues felt to be of interest to the constituents of the NWCBA.

c. Encourage Session - NWCBA in worship

2) Other - when there are occasions where matters pertaining to the 5 categories, that are listed above, are in need of a vote from the larger body, a special called Engage Session may be announced a week in advance.

ARTICLE FOUR

POLICY MANUAL

The NWCBA shall develop and keep current a policy manual. This would include policies, procedures, guidelines, position descriptions, and guidelines.

ARTICLE FIVE

FACILITY USAGE

The Leadership Team shall oversee implementation of a facilities use policy. Such policy will ensure that the facilities of the NWCBA are used in a manner which is consistent with our beliefs as Southern Baptist (e.g., in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Baptist Faith & Message). The Leadership Team shall also be charged with ensuring that any use of all or part of the NWCBA grounds or facilities will be done in a manner consistent with our beliefs as Southern Baptists. Moreover, any and all use of NWCBA property shall be sufficiently documented and memorialized so as to protect the NWCBA from unnecessary exposure to liability.

ARTICLE SIX

AMENDMENTS

Changes in the constitution and bylaws may be presented at an Engage Session (including one that is special called). amendments to the constitution shall require two-thirds vote. Amendments to the by-laws shall require a simple majority.

ARTICLE SEVEN

DISSOLUTION

In the event the NWCBA ceases to exist, any remaining assets shall be conveyed to a similar non-profit organization qualifying for tax exempt status under Section 503(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or as they may hereafter be amended.