

CONSTITUTION OF WILLIAMSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this body shall be Williamson Baptist Association.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE AND CORE VALUES

Purpose:

The purpose of Williamson Baptist Association is to assist member churches in effectively accomplishing the Great Commission.

Core Values:

- Cooperation
- Autonomy
- Unity
- Diversity
- Excellence
- Innovation
- Accountability

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Williamson Baptist Association shall be composed of churches cooperating to carry out the purpose identified by this Constitution. Such cooperation shall include an attitude sympathetic with the purposes and work of the Association, bona fide financial support of the work in each associational year, and participation in associational activities and efforts.

Section 2

The churches of this Association shall be in doctrinal harmony with the historic faith and practice expressed in "The Baptist Faith and Message," adopted in the 1963 annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City.

Section 3

Williamson Baptist Association when duly assembled shall be the sole judge regarding membership. It claims as inherent and indispensable the power to accept or reject any petition for membership by a non-member church.

Section 4

Williamson Baptist Association when duly assembled shall be the sole judge of the qualifications and fitness of its membership. In justice and propriety, it claims the power to withdraw

fellowship from member churches that are unsound in doctrine, disorderly in practice, uncooperative in spirit, or unchristian in character or Leadership. This right shall be recognized as inherent and indispensable.

ARTICLE IV - THE WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section 1

The work of the Association shall be determined by elected representatives from cooperating churches duly assembled. Each representative shall be a member of the church which he or she represents.

Section 2

Each church shall be entitled to three representatives for the first one hundred resident members or fraction thereof plus one additional representative for each one hundred resident members or fraction thereof. The maximum any church may have is ten representatives.

Section 3

The power of the representative lies in his casting his single vote and influence as an individual and not being a delegated authority from the church which has elected him as a representative.

Section 4

Each cooperating church is expected to submit an annual report prior to the October meeting using the form provided by the associational office.

Section 5

The association will meet two times per year in March and October and at other times when decisions need to be made. The Leadership Team with the Moderator may call Special Meetings. Notice of Special Meetings must be provided to every cooperating church by the Sunday prior to the said meeting. Notice may be given by email, Regular mail or telephone for Regular or Special Meetings. The agenda for called meetings is restricted to the agenda distributed in the notification of the meeting.

Section 6

A quorum of the Association will consist of representatives from churches present at Regular and appropriately called Special Meetings.

Section 7

The Association shall employ a Director and other professional staff who shall give direction to the work of the Association.

Section 8

The representatives from the churches shall comprise the governing body of Williamson Baptist Association.

Section 9

All meetings of the association shall follow Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE V — ADMISSION OF NEW CHURCHES

Section 1

Petitionary letters from churches seeking membership in this Association shall be presented to the Association at least ninety (90) days before the Regular Meeting of the Association. Petitions for membership shall be referred to the Leadership Team for examination and study.

Section 2

The Leadership Team shall counsel with the petitionary church to determine soundness of doctrine, orderliness in practice and cooperativeness of spirit.

Section 3

At a Regular meeting, the Leadership Team shall bring its report and recommendation. The church desiring membership shall be received into a one (1) year watch-care status upon favorable recommendation by the Leadership Team and by unanimous vote of the representatives of the churches present. If objections shall arise, those objecting shall appear before the Leadership Team, presenting their objections in writing. The Leadership Team shall then make its report at the next meeting of the association. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of representatives voting shall bring the petitionary church into watch-care status. Watchcare is a status allowing participation and involvement without the right to vote or hold Leadership positions.

Section 4

At the Association meeting one year later the Leadership Team shall bring a recommendation to accept the church into full membership, deny the church membership, or extend the watch-care status for one (1) additional year. A recommendation to receive the church into full membership or to extend

watch care status for an additional year requires a two-third (2/3) majority of the representatives present.

Section 5

Sponsored mission type churches within the Association, shall be under the watch-care of the Association, if the sponsor church so desires. When such a mission constitutes as a church, it shall continue under the watch-care of the Association and shall be eligible to be received into full membership at the next meeting of the Association provided it has been a mission for not less than one year. The process for obtaining membership if the mission has not been in existence for one year shall be the same as set forth in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Article V.

ARTICLE VI — WITHDRAWAL OF FELLOWSHIP

Section 1

This Association reserves to itself the right to withdraw fellowship from any member church that may become unsound in doctrine, disorderly in practice or uncooperative in spirit.

Section 2

Charges against a member church are to be presented in writing to the Director at least ninety (90) days prior to a Regular Meeting. Such charges are to be referred to the Leadership Team for study.

Section 3

The Leadership Team shall investigate the allegations and counsel with the identified church. The Leadership Team shall present the church under investigation a written notice outlining the allegations against it. The church under investigation shall have opportunity to answer allegations in a meeting with the Leadership Team.

Section 4

The Leadership Team shall report their findings in the next Regular Meeting.

Section 5

The Leadership Team shall bring its report and recommendation at the designated meeting. Should the Leadership Team recommend withdrawal of fellowship, a two-thirds (2/3) majority of voting representatives present is required to withdraw fellowship and deny participation to the representatives of the identified church.

Section 6

Any church dismissed from membership may petition for membership according to the procedure in Article V.

Section 7

Any church may withdraw from fellowship with the Association by giving notice of such desire at any Regular Meeting.

ARTICLE VII — OFFICERS

Section 1

The officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Parliamentarian and Trustees.

Section 2

The officers shall be elected in the October Regular Meeting of the Association by nomination from the Leadership Team. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. The Moderator and Vice Moderator may not immediately succeed themselves in office more than once. Vacancies that may occur in the offices shall be filled at a Regular Meeting of the association.

Section 3 — Duties

- (1) The Moderator shall preside at all Regular and Special Meetings or request the Vice-Moderator to serve. He shall be an ex-officio member of the Leadership Team.
- (2) The Vice-Moderator shall preside at all Regular and Special Meetings from which the Moderator is absent or upon being requested to preside by the Moderator.
- (3) The Clerk shall keep a record of all Regular and Special Meetings of the Association.
- (4) The Treasurer shall keep a record of receipts and expenditures, and submit a report at each Regular meeting.
- (5) The Parliamentarian shall assist the Moderator in conducting the meetings according to the high degree of correct parliamentary procedure.
- (6) The trustees shall be the legal signatories of the Association.

Section 4 — Duties

"Each officer shall take office at the conclusion of the meeting when he or she is elected and serve through the Regular Meeting one year later."

Section 5 – Trustees

Trustees have sole authority to represent the association in legal transactions. They may only act under direction of the association.

ARTICLE VIII — Leadership

Section 1

A Leadership Team shall be elected from nominations by the Director in the October Regular Meeting of the Association. The Leadership Team will manage the association to ensure it fulfills its purpose.

Section 2

The current Leadership Team will nominate all other positions to be elected in the October Regular Meeting of the Association.

Section 3

The Leadership Team may adjust the organization as needed in order for the Association to fulfill its purpose.

Leaders may enlist others to serve in their areas of responsibility, as they deem necessary.

Section 4

Special Task Forces may be appointed by the Moderator as needed.

ARTICLE IX — AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be amended by the following procedures:

An amendment must be submitted to the Association in a Regular Meeting. Churches must be apprised of amendments in writing no less than ten days before the meeting where they are to be introduced. If the amendment receives a two thirds (2/3) approval of the representatives present and voting it becomes a part of the Constitution.