

**DALLAS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

ARTICLE I - Name:

The name of this Association shall be "The Dallas Baptist Association, Inc."

ARTICLE II - Objects:

The objects of this Association shall be Missions, Education, Benevolence, Fellowship, and Co-operation among the churches, and the establishment and maintenance of co-operative measures through which the churches, in common fellowship, may accomplish their co-operative work most efficiently.

ARTICLE III - Membership:

The two-fold nature of an Association, and the two-fold sense in which the term is used, shall be recognized as follows:

1. The group of churches that constitute this common fellowship shall be churches that are in harmony and cooperation with the objects set forth in this constitution; and
2. The organized body known as the Association, when authoritatively assembled, shall be composed of Messengers duly elected by the member churches. Such Messengers shall be received on the following basis:
 - a. Two (2) Messengers for the first one hundred members or fractional part thereof from each church which:
 - 1) Is in friendly cooperation with the Association and sympathetic with its purposes and work; and
 - 2) Has been a bonafide financial contributor to the work of the Association during the fiscal year preceding.
 - b. One (1) additional messenger from each church for every additional one hundred members or major fractional part thereof and each \$250.00 given to the work of the Association during the fiscal year preceding the Annual Meeting.
 - c. The Messengers shall be elected by the churches and certified on a written Annual Report. No church may certify more than fifteen (15).
 - d. Each Messenger shall be a member of the church by which he/she is elected.
 - e. Extenuating circumstances preventing financial contribution or practical cooperation may be appealed to the Credentials Committee for recommendation.
3. The churches of this Association shall be in doctrinal harmony with the qualifications and fitness of its membership, both as to churches of the common fellowship and individual Messengers to the Annual Meeting. This right shall be recognized as inherent and indispensable.
4. The churches of this Association shall be in doctrinal harmony with the historic faith and practices of Baptists substantially as set forth in the Holy Scriptures.
5. Churches wishing to enter into fellowship and cooperation with this Association may be received after the presentation of petitionary letters and Messengers and the approval of the recommendations of the Credentials Committee by the Association in its Annual Meeting. The principle of unanimous vote in matters of fellowship shall be observed in the admission of churches into the Associational fellowship. The matter of objections shall be covered in the By-Laws (#8).

ARTICLE IV - Section 1:

The general officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Clerk, and Assistant Clerk. The Executive Director shall serve as Treasurer and the Church Program Director shall serve as Clerk with their secretaries serving as assistants respectively. The Moderator and Vice Moderator shall be elected at the opening session of each Annual Meeting of the Association and shall serve

one year; or until their successors shall have been elected and installed.

In any election for office, the nominee who receives the vote of a majority of the enrolled messengers present in the session shall be elected. If on the first ballot no nominee receives a majority of votes cast, there shall be a run-off election between the two nominees who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot. They shall assume their official duties at the close of each Annual Meeting.

In case of the death, resignation, removal from the Dallas Baptist Association, or disability of the Moderator, the Vice Moderator shall automatically succeed to the office of the Moderator. In the absence of the Moderator from a regular meeting of the Association or the Executive Board the Vice Moderator shall preside.

In the event that neither the Moderator nor the Vice Moderator is present for a regular meeting of the Association or the Executive Board, the Chairman of the Administration Committee shall preside.

- Section 2:

No person shall be eligible for Moderator for more than two successive terms of office.

ARTICLE V - The Executive Board:

The membership and work of the Executive Board shall be as follows:

1. The Executive Board shall be composed of the pastor of every church in the Association (or in lieu of the pastor, a staff member duly elected by the church) and one additional elected member from each church. The additional member or member elected in lieu of the pastor is to be noted in an Annual Report. In the event changes are made during the year concerning Executive Board representation, said church should notify the Dallas Baptist Association office in writing. All general officers of the Association shall be ex-officio members of the Board. The Executive Board shall have charge and control, except when otherwise directed by the body, of all work of the body, including missions, education, and benevolence in the interim between Dallas Baptist Association Annual Meetings.

In addition to these stated requirements, eligibility for representation on the Executive Board will be the same as those required for messengers in Article III, 2, with the exception that once cooperation in giving is established or reestablished, eligibility for participation is authorized immediately.

2. As soon as feasible, following its election, the General Executive Board shall meet for organization and for the adoption of plans and policies for the ensuing year.

3. The Executive Board shall be the custodian of all property of the Association. The President, Vice-President, and the Executive Director and Clerk shall serve as Trustees of the Corporation.

4. When deemed expedient by the Moderator or the Executive Director of this Association, the Executive Board may be called to meet at such a time and place as found necessary.

5. To expedite the work for a new associational year, the Moderator shall appoint the Committee on Committees as early as July. Standing Committees nominated by the Committee on Committees will be presented for election at the Annual Meeting. The structure of all standing committees shall include a number which is multiple of three with one-third of the members elected each year to serve for a three-year period. No person shall be eligible to succeed himself until one year shall have elapsed. A temporary appointment shall not count as a part of that person's term of service. All committee members shall be members in good standing of congregations affiliated with Dallas Baptist Association.

6. The Budget Committee shall present a proposed budget by the September Executive Board meeting so that it can be publicized among the churches. The final budget will be presented for adoption at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VI - Annual Meeting:

This Association shall meet annually at such time and place as it may determine. The Executive Board shall have power to change time and place in case of emergency, and may call the Association in extra session when deemed indispensably necessary.

ARTICLE VII - Concerning Associational Authority:

Under no circumstances shall this Association attempt to assume ecclesiastical authority over the churches, but shall, at all times recognize the absolute freedom and independence of the churches in all ecclesiastical matters. The Association does, however, recognize and encourage the principle of voluntary cooperation in Kingdom work.

ARTICLE VIII - Amendments:

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any two consecutive Annual Meetings of the Association. Proposed changes must be recommended by the Executive Board and are to be publicized among the churches prior to the Annual Meeting.

BY-LAWS

1. The churches in this Association are expected to send an Annual Report to the Annual Meeting, providing statistics in matters concerning their cooperative work as facts of information and service, the statistical form of said report being supplied by the Association.
2. The churches are expected and urged to send as Messengers only those who are committed to and in sympathy with the causes fostered by the Association.
3. The churches of this Association are expected and urged to maintain a standard of godly living as required by the Holy Scriptures and morally obligated to uphold each other in matters of fellowship.
4. Recognizing the respect due them in their God-given role as ministers to the local churches, the Association encourages the churches to conscientiously provide proper care and support for their ministerial leadership.
5. Churches that maintain their standing of fellowship in this Association will contribute, according to their ability, to the support of Dallas Baptist Association.
6. The right of churches to designate their gifts to the co-operative work shall be recognized, and shall be faithfully applied where designated. But all are urged, as a common fellowship, to co-operate, as far as possible, with adopted plans and policies of the Association as a whole.
7. Procedure for affiliation with the Association:
 - A. Churches seeking affiliation with the Association
 1. shall file a letter of intent, the form being supplied by the Association
 2. shall cooperate one full year in DBA programs & financial support
 3. shall participate in a DBA orientation led by DBA staff or other designated party(ies).
 4. shall submit to the Credentials Committee their formal petition for membership at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.
 - B. Missions of cooperating member Baptist churches seeking affiliation with the Association
 1. shall be encouraged to participate in DBA programs & financial support
 2. shall participate in a DBA orientation led by DBA staff or other designated party(ies).]
 3. shall submit to the Credentials Committee their formal petition at least 30 days prior to Annual Meeting.

If, after thorough investigation, the committee is convinced that the church or mission making application is in full accord with the program and policies of the Association, it may recommend that the church be recognized by the Association as a cooperating body and its Messengers be seated.

8. When objections are offered against receiving any new church into the Association, said objections to a new church seeking admission shall be referred immediately, without discussion, to the Credentials Committee.

The Credentials Committee shall seek to determine whether or not the cause or causes of objection involve the matter of fellowship between or among the churches, and shall report to the messengers in the same annual session, the

church to be received or rejected by a simple majority vote of the messengers.

9. Endorsement by this Association cannot be given an institution, movement or individual without approval of the Executive Board.

10. Those contemplating the organization of new Baptist churches or the relocation of existing churches are urged to act in harmony and cooperation with the Executive Director and the Executive Board, that, by mutual Consideration of all interests involved, the cause as a whole may be considered and advanced.

11. All resolutions shall be automatically referred to the Resolutions Committee, without public reading or discussion. This committee is directed to report back to the Association such resolutions as it deems proper, whether submitted to or prepared by the committee.

12. The parliamentary authority of the Dallas Baptist Association shall be Robert's Rules of Order (latest revised edition). The Moderator, in conference with the Executive Director and Vice-Moderator, may select a parliamentarian, as necessary, to advise the presiding officers of both the Association and the Executive Board on matters of parliamentary procedure.

13. The right to vote in the Annual Meeting or Executive Board Meetings is limited to enrolled Messengers or elected representatives, respectively, who are actually present in the meetings at the time the vote is taken.

14. Quorums:

A. Quorum for conducting business during the Annual Meeting of Dallas Baptist Association shall be those currently enrolled messengers present in the session.

B. Quorum for conducting business during Associational Executive Board Meetings shall be those members (as defined in Article V of the Constitution who are actually present.

C. Quorum for conducting business of elected or duly appointed committees of the Association shall be members actually present, all committee members having been duly notified.

15: Before Dallas Baptist Association acquires a tract of real property, by purchase, gift, or otherwise, approval of such addition will be made by the Executive Board.

Prior to any such approval by the Executive Board, information pertaining to the tract will be made available to the board as described in the following guidelines:

- 1) Size and legal description,
- 2) A title search performed by a title insurance company,
- 3) A determination of any, if applicable, liens against the property,
- 4) A professional environmental assessment to confirm that the property is free from any environmental hazards or other concerns,
- 5) What zoning governs this particular tract of land,
- 6) What plans in the future any governmental entity has for the tract,
- 7) Any defects in the improvements on the property.

16. These by-laws may be amended, added to, or repealed by two-thirds vote at any regular session of the Annual Meeting of the Association, provided the time of action in the matter shall have been presented in writing at some previous business session.