

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
DBA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS**

1. Why are we amending our guiding documents?

- We are amending and restating our Articles of Incorporation to more fully comply with the Texas Business Organizations Code and to consolidate the provisions and all prior amendments to the Association's Articles of Incorporation.
- We currently have three guiding documents (Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws). The proposed amendments will reorganize our documents according to recommended plan for two guiding documents (Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws).
- The proposed amendments to the Bylaws will reorganize our procedures topically, restate several provisions for greater clarity, and change some terms used in the current constitution and bylaws.
- After a study of the guiding documents of more than 25 associations, the proposed amendments include some changes concerning the process of receiving churches into membership and allowing mission churches to join as Provisional Members.

2. What changes to our guiding documents are being proposed?

- Most of the amendments do not change our current procedures but simply reorganize and restate our bylaws for greater clarity.
- Some changes are proposed to insure that the Bylaws fulfill their intended purpose to provide structure and procedures for the orderly and effective functioning of the Association.
- In Article 2 – Number 2 of the proposed Bylaws, we have included a definition of what “cooperation” means for member churches.
- The amendments propose that we vote on receiving new churches for watch-care or membership at the Executive Board meeting instead of at the Annual Meeting. (See question 4)
- The amendments propose we allow church plants to apply for a Provisional Membership after a year of watch-care. (See question 5)

3. What are some of the new terms that are used in the proposed Bylaws?

- The Credentials Committee will be renamed Membership Committee. (Membership is a broader term that better reflects the process of receiving member churches.)
- Mission churches will be renamed Church Plants.
- The Missions and Survey Committee will be renamed Church Planting Committee. (Church Planting is the major focus of this committee's responsibility.)

4. We currently receive new churches for membership only at the Annual Meeting. What is the benefit to moving this decision to the monthly Executive Board?

- Because we currently vote only at the Annual Meeting in October on churches desiring membership in DBA, the process can take almost two years if the church applies in November. Other associations have found that by moving this decision to the Executive Board, which meets regularly during the year, they are able to respond in a more efficient and effective way. If approved, we will recognize at each Annual Meeting all the churches or church plants who have been received during the year.

5. What is the reason for allowing church plants or mission churches to apply for a Provisional Membership?

- For a variety of reasons, new church plants may remain on mission status for many years. For example, of the approximately 500 churches and church plants affiliated with DBA, 36% or 179 of them are on “mission status.” Some have been on “mission status” for five to ten years. Mission churches affiliated with DBA currently cannot have an Executive Board member or elect messengers to the Annual Meeting.
- Some associations allow church plants to join the association with limited voting privileges. The proposed amendments would create Provisional Membership for church plants of our member churches. After a year of watch-care, a church plant could become a Provisional Member. This qualifies them to have one Executive Board member (instead of the two members given to member churches) and two messengers to the Annual Meeting (instead of up to 15 messengers dependent on the number of members and amount of giving for member churches). When the church plants constitutes into a self-supporting and autonomous church, then the church can apply for member church status.

6. What is the process required to amend our constitution and bylaws?

- Our constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any two consecutive Annual Meetings. Our bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular session of the Annual Meeting.

7. If approved, when will these changes become effective?

- Some of these amendments will change procedures in our constitution which requires two Annual Meetings. Other amendments will change procedures in our Bylaws which require only one Annual Meeting. However, some of the bylaw changes are linked to procedures in the constitution. Therefore, we propose that we operate with our current constitution and bylaws until these proposed amendments are approved by the 2009 and 2010 Annual Meetings.

8. How can I get a copy of the current and proposed guiding documents?

- The following documents are available to you:
 - i. Current Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws
 - ii. Proposed amended and restated Articles of Incorporation
 - iii. Proposed amended and restated Bylaws
 - iv. A comparison of the current Constitution and Bylaws with the proposed Bylaws.
- You may receive these documents in the following ways:
 - i. PDF files for download from the DBA website. (www.dba.net/resources)
 - ii. Printed copies are available in our office and at the Executive Board meetings in August and September.
 - iii. If you would like a printed copy mailed to you, please call Wanda Hall, 214-319-1159.

9. How can I ask further questions?

- We welcome your questions! You can contact our Executive Director, members of the Administration Committee, or members of the Constitution and Bylaws Team.