

CONSTITUTION

We are united in our purpose received from God and under the lordship of Jesus Christ. As members of Baptist churches located principally in Horry County and the Waccamaw Neck of Georgetown County, we declare ourselves an Association and agree on this Constitution as our basis for cooperation.

ARTICLE I: NAME

Waccamaw Baptist Association, Inc. is the name of this body and is referred to as the Association.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The Association: 1) empowers churches for Kingdom Growth by servicing their needs; 2) is a resource churches can use to accomplish their purpose and vision; 3) listens to needs of churches and matches the best resource or individual to meet diverse and changing needs; 4) sees its success reflected in the vitality and vibrancy of the churches; 5) should attempt to build ministries to people in the community that are church-based; 6) fosters understanding, fellowship, and cooperation among the churches by encouraging the practice of the Christian faith.

ARTICLE III: STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Baptist Faith and Message, adopted in 2000 by the Southern Baptist Convention, is an appropriate summary of our doctrine.

ARTICLE IV: RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. COMPOSITION

The Association shall be composed of Baptist churches who voluntarily enter into a relationship of cooperative support and fellowship. As a self-determining body, the Association determines its own membership and ministry, but has no authority over the member churches. However, the Association may, upon invitation from a church, advise that church.

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP

A church desiring to join the Association shall complete a provided written application to the Association. After examining the application and meeting with the church, the Fellowship Team may recommend the church for membership at a Semi-Annual Meeting or for watchcare at an Executive Committee Meeting. A two-thirds vote by the elected messengers at a Semi-Annual Meeting is required for membership. Watchcare requires a two-thirds vote of the Association's Executive Committee. Members of churches under watchcare have all the privileges of membership except voting or being elected to a position in the Association.

Section 3. DISMISSAL OF CHURCHES

Any church whose practices or doctrines are contrary to those of the Association may disqualify itself from membership. The Fellowship Team will attempt to reconcile the church but can recommend dismissal. A two-thirds vote by the Executive Committee and by the elected messengers at a Semi-Annual Meeting is required to dismiss a church.

Section 4. MESSENGERS

Each church may send three messengers to a Semi-Annual Meeting. For every fifty members over the first hundred the church may send one additional messenger. However, no church shall have more than ten messengers. Messengers shall provide satisfactory evidence of their election by their church to the Association.

Section 5. COOPERATION WITH OTHERS

The Association will cooperate and fellowship with sister associations, the South Carolina Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. The Association is an autonomous body not controlled by any other entity.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the messengers at a Semi-Annual Meeting or by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.

(Revised October 15, 2001)

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: MEETINGS

Section 1. SEMI-ANNUAL:

The Semi-Annual Meetings of the Association shall be held during April and October. Registered messengers shall constitute the voting body for the transaction of business.

Section 2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Executive Committee of the Association will meet in the months of January and July. It shall be composed of elected associational officers and team members, pastors of member churches, and two lay members selected by each member church. These lay members may be reported to the associational office on the Annual Church Profile or by other means. The Executive Committee conducts associational business in between Semi-Annual Meetings of the Association. Written notice of meetings will be sent to all members one week prior to the meeting.

Section 3. SPECIAL:

The Executive Committee or the Associational Missionary in consultation with the elected associational officers may call special meetings of the Executive Committee. The purpose of the meeting must be stated to all members in a written notice at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE II: ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL:

An Administrative Manual will be maintained and reviewed at least every three years by representatives from each team. It shall contain the structure, guidelines, and functions of all volunteers as well as procedures and policies essential for administering the Association. Extreme care shall be given to see that leadership responsibility is fairly distributed among all churches. Revisions can be made by a simple majority vote of the messengers at a Semi-Annual Meeting or by the Executive Committee, provided the revision does not conflict with or violate the Association's Constitution or By-Laws.

ARTICLE III: FISCAL POLICIES:

The fiscal year is January 1 – December 31. All persons authorized to receive and/or disburse Associational funds shall be bonded. The Association shall bear the expense of bonding. An internal audit of the Association's books shall be conducted annually or as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE IV: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be the parliamentary authority for all meetings of the Association.

ARTICLE V: LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES

The Associational Missionary and two officers of the Association are authorized to sign all legal documents as approved by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

Any by-law may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the messengers at a Semi-Annual Meeting or by a two-thirds vote of the members at an Executive Committee Meeting.

(Revised October 15, 2001)