

WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION CONSTITUTION

Article I - Name

The name of this Convention shall be the "West Virginia Baptist Convention".

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of the West Virginia Baptist Convention shall be to promote the preaching and teaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ among its member churches by offering opportunities for mutual inspiration and fellowship, providing leadership training and program resources, assisting in the establishment and strengthening of Baptist churches in West Virginia, encouraging and coordinating mission support for the West Virginia Baptist Convention and American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., and providing avenues for working together in denominational, moral, and spiritual matters.

Article III - Membership

The Convention shall consist of the Associations, which are members at the time of enactment of this Article, and of the churches which are members of one of these Associations. The Executive Board of the Convention shall establish policies and procedures for the admission and dismissal of Associations.

Article IV - Polity

The West Virginia Baptist Convention shall be governed by the delegates from cooperating churches which comprise its membership. The implementation of the Convention's purpose shall be the responsibility of its staff, under the leadership and direction of its Executive Board. Specific procedures for the development and implementation of Convention policies shall be set forth in the by-laws. The Convention reserves unto itself the right of approval of its elected leaders' actions.

Article V - Relationship

The Convention and its member churches shall be autonomous, interdependent bodies in voluntary relationships. The Convention shall maintain a relationship with the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. Member churches of the Convention may choose to relate to the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. or only to the Convention.

Article VI – Dissolution

In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the West Virginia Baptist Convention will be turned over to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in sections 501 (c) (3) and 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding sections of any prior or future Internal Revenue Code or to the Federal, State or local government for exclusive public purpose.

Article VII - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by the Convention in session by a three-fourths vote of the delegates from the member churches, present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been approved by a majority of the delegates at the preceding Annual Meeting of the Convention, or shall have been recommended by the Executive Board, and further provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall have been published in the official Convention publication at least three months before the session at which the vote is to be taken. No amendment of Article V, the effect of which is to alter the relationship of the Convention or its member churches with the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. may be adopted, unless three-fourths of the delegates, present and voting, from the member churches which choose to relate to both the Convention and the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., concur in such amendment.

This Constitution was adopted by the West Virginia Baptist Convention on October 16, 1991, October 18, 2000 and October 22, 2008 superseding all previous constitutions.

**WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION
BY-LAWS**

Article 1 - Voting Membership

Paragraph 1.0.0 - The voting membership shall consist of the Convention Officers and the pastor and two delegates from each cooperating member church, and one additional delegate for each one hundred members or major fraction thereof above the first one hundred members from each such church, provided that no member church shall be entitled to more than ten delegates plus the pastor in this class. Members must be present to vote; proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted.

Paragraph 1.0.1 - When the term "ex officio" is used throughout these by-laws, the person so designated shall have the right to vote.

Paragraph 1.0.2 - A cooperating member church shall be a church which is in fellowship with the Association of which it is a member, which is in general sympathy with the purpose of the Convention, which participates as it is able in appropriate activities of the Convention, and which contributes to the mission budget of the Convention and/or the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

Paragraph 1.0.3 - The voting membership from a Cooperating member church which chooses to relate to its local Association and the Convention, but not to the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., shall have full voting privileges except they may not vote on matters relating to the "Covenant of Relationships" between the Convention and the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. or the election of American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. Board members. These voting privileges and restrictions shall also apply to Executive Board and Executive Committee members.

Article 2 - Officers

Section 2.0 - General

Paragraph 2.0.0 - The officers of this Convention shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Convention for a one-year term. The officers' terms shall begin immediately following the Annual Meeting.

Paragraph 2.0.1 - In the absence of sufficient cause, the Nominating Committee shall nominate the First Vice-President for President, the Second Vice-President for First Vice-President, and the Minister of Business and Finance for Treasurer. Conditions permitting, the nominees for President shall rotate among clergy, laymen, and laywomen. The President and the two Vice-Presidents shall not succeed themselves in office.

Section 2.1 - President

Paragraph 2.1.0 - The President shall be chair of the Executive Board and of the Executive Committee, and shall preside at business meetings of the Convention. The President shall develop agendas for Executive Board and Executive Committee meetings, in consultation with the Executive Minister, and shall be a member "ex officio" of all committees and commissions. The President may call the Executive Committee or the Executive Board to meet in special sessions.

Paragraph 2.1.1 - In consultation with the Executive Minister, the President shall nominate persons to serve on standing committees, appoint members of the Executive Board to serve as chairs and vice-chairs of the commissions, and members of the Executive Board to serve on one of the commissions, in such numbers that each commission shall have approximately twenty percent of the total Board membership.

Paragraph 2.1.2 - The President shall appoint persons to represent the Convention at meetings of various ecumenical and church-related bodies, when such representation has been authorized by the Executive Committee. The number of persons so appointed shall be determined by the Executive Committee from time to time.

Paragraph 2.1.3 - The President shall appoint a Parliamentarian for all meetings of the Board and of the Convention.

Section 2.2 - First Vice-President

Paragraph 2.2.0 - The First Vice-President shall be chair of the Annual Meeting Program Committee.

Paragraph 2.2.1 - The First Vice-President shall have such other duties as determined by the President or the Executive Committee, and appropriate to the office.

Section 2.3 - Second Vice-President

Paragraph 2.3.0 - The Second Vice-President shall be chair of the Nominating Committee, and shall be a member "ex officio" of the Annual Meeting Program Committee.

Paragraph 2.3.1 - The Second Vice-President shall have such other duties as determined by the President or the Executive Committee, and appropriate to the office.

Section 2.4 - Secretary

Paragraph 2.4.0 - The Secretary shall keep a roll of members and their attendance at meetings of the Executive Board and of the Executive Committee.

Paragraph 2.4.1 - The Secretary shall keep minutes for all meetings of the Convention, the Executive Board, and the Executive Committee.

Paragraph 2.4.2 - The Secretary shall keep the minutes and all other official documents at the offices of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, the location of said offices to be fixed from time to time by the Convention.

Section 2.5 - Treasurer

Paragraph 2.5.0 - The Treasurer shall receive and disburse funds as authorized by the Executive Board, and shall make a report to the Board and Executive Committee at their regular meetings. The Treasurer shall submit an annual report to the Convention, showing receipts and disbursements and the state of the treasury.

Paragraph 2.5.1 - All financial records shall be submitted annually by the Treasurer for audit by a certified or registered public accountant, and the Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds and valuable papers belonging to the Convention.

Article 3 - Executive Board

Section 3.0 - Organization

Paragraph 3.0.0 - The Executive Board shall consist of the Convention officers, at-large members, associational representatives, and members "ex officio."

Paragraph 3.0.1 - There shall be twenty-seven at-large members, nine of whom shall be elected each year by the Convention for three-year terms beginning January 1. At-large members, having served a term of eighteen months or more, must be off the Board for at least one year before being eligible for another term of at-large service. The Nominating Committee shall ensure that, conditions permitting, nominees shall be one-third clergy, one-third laywomen, and one-third laymen.

Paragraph 3.0.2 - Each Association shall elect a representative to serve on the Executive Board for a term of three years. Associational representatives shall not succeed themselves in office. Conditions permitting, the representatives of a given Association shall be rotated among clergy, laywomen, and laymen.

Paragraph 3.0.3 - Members "ex officio" to the Executive Board shall consist of the presidents of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia, the American Baptist Men of West Virginia, the West Virginia Baptist Ministers Council, the American Baptist Youth of West Virginia, the West Virginia Baptist Education Society, the West Virginia Baptist Historical Society, and the Baptist Campus Ministry Board; immediate past president of the Convention; the chairs of the Baptist Camp at Cowen Board, the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center at Parchment Valley Board

and the Committee on Ministerial Standing; the West Virginia members of the board of general ministries or mission boards of the American Baptist Churches in the U. S. A.; and the Executive Minister. These members shall serve on the Board as long as they hold their respective offices.

Paragraph 3.0.4 - An at-large or associational Board member, upon absence from two successive meetings of the Board without a reasonable excuse, shall be dismissed from Board membership by vote of the Board. The Executive Committee, in consultation with the Association where applicable, shall nominate a successor for the unexpired term to the Board for election.

Paragraph 3.0.5 - The term of office for members of the Board shall begin January 1 after their election to the Board. No one shall substitute for a Board member.

Section 3.1 - Duties

Paragraph 3.1.0 - The Executive Board shall function as the West Virginia Baptist Convention between Annual Meetings of the Convention, and shall have authority to act on matters which come before it.

Paragraph 3.1.1 - Among the duties of the Board shall be the selection of an Executive Minister, the formulation of Convention policies, the disposition of recommendations from the commissions, committees, and task forces, the approval of the annual budget, and the election of at-large members of the Executive Committee and members of the Budget Committee, the Annual Meeting Committee, and the Nominating Committee.

Paragraph 3.1.2 - The Board shall require the Executive Minister and other officers and department heads to report annually to it and the Convention, giving an account of ministries performed and funds acquired and disbursed.

Paragraph 3.1.3 - The Board shall require the Executive Minister, the Treasurer, and other appropriate office personnel, to be bonded at the Convention's expense in such amounts as the Board deem necessary.

Paragraph 3.1.4 - The Board shall submit an annual report to the Convention, listing activities related to the carrying out of the Convention's purpose, and other matters of interest and concern to the Convention.

Paragraph 3.1.5 - The Board shall not incur financial obligations beyond its operating budget without the consent of the Convention.

Paragraph 3.1.6 - The Board shall be organized into four commissions: Christian Leadership, Discipleship Ministries, Christian Stewardship, and Christian Outreach. These commissions shall meet in conjunction with the Executive Board, and on call of their chairs.

Paragraph 3.1.7 - The Board will meet three times each year with the scheduled meetings being: the first weekend in January after January 2; the first weekend in May; and the first weekend in October. The President may change the meeting dates providing adequate notice to the Board. Twenty members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 3.2 - Administration

Paragraph 3.2.0 - The Executive Minister, selected by the Executive Board, shall be the chief administrative officer of the Convention, and shall be under the direction of the Board. The Executive Minister or a person designated by the Executive Minister shall be a member "ex officio" of all commissions, committees, and convention-related organizations.

Paragraph 3.2.1 - All other Convention program staff shall be employed by the Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the Executive Minister.

Paragraph 3.2.2 - The Treasurer's books shall be open for inspection by any member of a cooperating member church.

Paragraph 3.2.3 - The Executive Committee shall conduct an annual performance review of all Convention employees over the age of 65 years. Employment shall be terminated at the age of 70 years for all Convention program and executive staff.

Paragraph 3.2.4 - Three at-large members of the Board shall be elected by the Convention to serve as Convention Trustees for three-year terms, on a rotating basis. They shall act for the Convention in legal matters, upon authorization of the Board.

Article 4 - Executive Committee

Section 4.0 - Organization

Paragraph 4.0.0 - The Executive Committee of the Executive Board shall consist of the Convention officers; the commission chairs, the presidents of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia, the American Baptist Men of West Virginia, and the West Virginia Baptist Ministers' Council; the immediate past president of the Convention; and two at-large members. The Executive Minister shall meet with the Committee.

Section 4.1 - Duties

Paragraph 4.1.0 - The Committee shall elect two Board members to serve for one year as at-large members; their terms shall begin January 1.

Paragraph 4.1.1 - The Committee shall function as the Executive Board between meetings of the Board, with authority to make decisions on all matters referred to it by the Convention staff or officers, except approval of the annual budget and the selection of the Executive Minister.

Paragraph 4.1.2 - The Executive Committee shall recommend an annual budget to the Executive Board.

Paragraph 4.1.3 - The Committee shall develop policies governing the hiring, training, compensation, utilization, and retirement of Convention employees, and shall approve a job analysis and description for each program staff and executive staff position.

Paragraph 4.1.4 - The Committee shall appoint persons to fill unexpired terms of office; such appointments for elected offices must be confirmed by the Executive Board at its next meeting.

Paragraph 4.1.5 - All program staff members, except the Executive Minister, shall be employed or dismissed by the Committee upon recommendation of the Executive Minister.

Paragraph 4.1.6 - The Committee shall recommend for Board action three persons to serve on the Committee on Ministerial Standing for three-year terms, on a rotating basis.

Paragraph 4.1.7 - The Committee shall meet in conjunction with the Executive Board, and on call of the President or Executive Minister. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Paragraph 4.1.8 - The Committee shall report actions taken by it to the Executive Board at the Board's next meeting, and shall submit its minutes to the Board for approval. This requirement shall not apply to discussions and minutes taken when the Executive Committee is functioning as the Personnel Committee.

Article 5 - Commissions and Standing Committees

Section 5.0 – Quorums and Terms of Office

Paragraph 5.0.0 - Unless otherwise stated in the by-laws, a majority of the members of a commission or committee shall constitute a quorum.

Paragraph 5.0.1 - All Commissions and Standing Committees and Boards terms of office are for calendar years unless specified.

Section 5.1 - Commission on Christian Leadership

Paragraph 5.1.0 - The Commission on Christian Leadership shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining state ordination accreditation criteria and ministerial credentials through the Committee on Ministerial Standing; for developing programs of continuing education for ministers; for providing leadership education for lay leaders in the member churches, in cooperation with the Commission on Discipleship Ministries; for developing opportunities to

enhance minister-church relations; for providing a support system for pastors and their families; and for designing support programs for use by churches with small membership.

Paragraph 5.1.1 - The presidents of the West Virginia Baptist Education Society and the West Virginia Baptist Ministers' Council and the Chair of the Committee on Ministerial Standing shall be members of this Commission.

Section 5.2 - Commission on Discipleship Ministries

Paragraph 5.2.0 – The Commission on Discipleship Ministries shall be responsible for supporting the discipleship ministries of the local church by: developing programs for discipleship/educational ministry with children, youth and adults; providing opportunities for training of local church discipleship ministries, education and music leaders; development and promotion of discipleship/educational materials for use in the churches; providing leadership education for lay leaders in the member churches, in cooperation with the Commission on Christian Leadership; providing mission education, in cooperation with the Commission on Christian Stewardship.

Paragraph 5.2.1 - The chairs of the Baptist Camp at Cowen Board, the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center at Parchment Valley Board, the American Baptist Youth of West Virginia, and the president of the West Virginia Baptist Historical Society shall be members of this Commission.

Section 5.3 - Commission on Christian Stewardship

Paragraph 5.3.0 - The Commission on Christian Stewardship shall be responsible for promoting fund raising and deferred giving for Convention projects; for funding new church development; for oversight of the aided church program; for developing and raising the Convention's share of the American Baptist Mission Budget and Institutional Support Process, in cooperation with the Division of World Mission Support; and for mission education, in cooperation with the Commission on Discipleship Ministries.

Paragraph 5.3.1 - Jointly with the Convention Trustees, this Commission shall have oversight of Convention property, investments, and church loans.

Paragraph 5.3.2 - The Convention Trustees and the Treasurer shall be members of this Commission.

Section 5.4 - Commission on Christian Outreach

Paragraph 5.4.0 - The Commission on Christian Outreach shall be responsible for programs to promote church growth and new church development; for an aggressive and ongoing program of evangelism; for Christian social concerns; for promoting cooperative Christianity; and for developing special evangelism and mission projects.

Paragraph 5.4.1 - The presidents of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia and the American Baptist Men of West Virginia, and the chairs of the Resolutions Committee and the Baptist Campus Ministry Board shall be members of this Commission.

Section 5.5 - Budget Committee

Paragraph 5.5.0 - The Budget Committee shall consist of six members recommended by the President to the Executive Board for election to three-year terms, with two being elected each year. The Convention Treasurer shall be a member "ex officio" of this Committee.

Paragraph 5.5.1 - The Committee shall receive funding requests from commissions, committees, related organizations, and the Executive Minister, and shall develop and recommend an annual budget to the Executive Committee.

Section 5.6 - Annual Meeting Program Committee

Paragraph 5.6.0 - The Annual Meeting Program Committee shall consist of nine members recommended by the President to the Executive Board for election to three-year terms, with three being elected each year. The First Vice-President shall be chair of this Committee, and the President and Second Vice-President shall be members "ex officio".

Paragraph 5.6.1 - The Committee, in consultation with the Executive Minister, shall prepare the Annual Meeting program.

Paragraph 5.6.2 - The Committee, in consultation with the Executive Minister, shall recommend to the Executive Board the annual sermon preacher for the next year, and shall recommend to the Convention the time and place of the Annual Meeting on a five-year basis.

Section 5.7 - Nominating Committee

Paragraph 5.7.0 - The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine members recommended by the President to the Executive Board for election to three-year terms, with three being elected each year. The Second Vice-President shall be chair of this Committee.

Paragraph 5.7.1 - The Committee shall nominate Convention officers, at-large members of the Executive Board, and directors for the Baptist Campus Ministry Board, the Baptist Camp at Cowen Board, and the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center at Parchment Valley Board. Conditions permitting, the Committee shall ensure that the presidential nominees are rotated among clergy, laymen, and laywomen, and that the at-large nominees are equally distributed among clergy, laywomen, and laymen.

Section 5.8 - Resolutions Committee

Paragraph 5.8.0 - The Resolutions Committee shall consist of five members appointed by the President annually, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Executive Board. The chair of the Committee shall be a member of the Commission on Christian Outreach.

Paragraph 5.8.1 - The Committee shall develop resolutions on matters of interest and concern to the Convention, and shall present its recommendations to the Executive Board, through the Commission on Christian Outreach. Resolutions approved by the Executive Board shall be presented for consideration to the Convention at the Annual Meeting.

Paragraph 5.8.2 - The Committee shall examine current resolutions and recommend to the Executive Board through the Commission those resolutions which should be amended, rescinded, or retired. Current resolutions, which require substantive changes, shall be presented to the Convention as new resolutions.

Paragraph 5.8.3 - Resolutions originating from member cooperating churches shall be referred to this Committee for study and recommended action.

Section 5.9 - Committee on Ministerial Standing

Paragraph 5.9.0 - The Committee on Ministerial Standing shall consist of six members: three members from the Commission on Christian Leadership appointed annually by the President, and three members nominated by the Executive Committee to the Executive Board for three-year terms, on a rotating basis. The chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the President, and shall be a member "ex officio" of the Executive Board.

Paragraph 5.9.1 - The Committee shall recommend to the Executive Board, through the Commission on Christian Leadership, policies, criteria, and procedures for ministerial accreditation, and shall oversee the implementation and operation of the accreditation program.

Section 5.10 – West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen Board

Paragraph 5.10.0 – The Baptist Camp at Cowen Board shall consist of six members elected by the Convention for three-year terms on a rotating basis, and two members appointed by the President annually, one of whom shall be a Convention Trustee and the other a member of the Commission on Discipleship Ministries. The elected members may serve no more than two terms in succession. The Executive Minister and the Convention Treasurer shall be members "ex-officio".

Paragraph 5.10.1 - The Chair shall be elected by the Board, and shall serve on the Commission on Discipleship Ministries. The Chair shall be a member "ex officio" of the Executive Board.

Paragraph 5.10.2 - The Board shall develop, maintain, promote, and oversee the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen. It shall work with appropriate program staff for securing leadership, programs, and funding.

Section 5.11 - West Virginia Baptist Conference Center at Parchment Valley Board

Paragraph 5.11.0 - The West Virginia Baptist Conference Center at Parchment Valley Board shall consist of six members elected by the Convention for three-year terms on a rotating basis, and two members appointed by the President annually, one of whom shall be a Convention Trustee and the other a member of the Commission on Discipleship Ministries. The elected members may serve no more than two terms in succession. The Executive Minister and the Convention Treasurer shall be members "ex-officio."

Paragraph 5.11.1 - The Chair shall be elected by the Board, and shall serve on the Commission on Discipleship Ministries. The Chair shall be a member "ex-officio" of the Executive Board.

Paragraph 5.11.2 - The Board shall develop, maintain, promote, and oversee the West Virginia Baptist Conference Center at Parchment Valley. It shall work with appropriate program staff for securing leadership, programs, and funding.

Section 5.12 - Baptist Campus Ministry Board

Paragraph 5.12.0 - The Baptist Campus Ministry Board shall consist of nine members elected by the Convention for three years on a rotating basis. The Chair of the Christian Outreach Commission and the Executive Minister shall be members "ex-officio". The elected members may serve no more than two terms in succession.

Paragraph 5.12.1 - The Chair shall be elected by the Board and shall be a member "ex-officio" of the Executive Board, and shall serve on the Christian Outreach Commission.

Paragraph 5.12.2 - The Board shall develop, maintain, promote, and oversee the Baptist Campus Ministry program. It shall work with appropriate program staff for securing leadership, programs and funding.

Article 6 - Convention Meetings

Paragraph 6.0.0 - The Convention shall assemble in an Annual Meeting to elect the various Convention leaders as set forth in these by-laws, to transact such business as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the Convention, and for mutual encouragement, inspiration, and fellowship, at such time and place as it may determine.

Paragraph 6.0.1 - Only church and "ex officio" delegates, displaying their registration badges, may make motions, speak, or vote at Convention business sessions. Delegates may speak only once and then for not more than two minutes, on any motion under discussion. The Convention may waive this provision by majority vote.

Paragraph 6.0.2 - All business matters to be considered at the Convention meeting must be presented in writing to the President during the introductory business session on the day preceding the annual business session.

Paragraph 6.0.3 - The Convention shall be one session, recessing from meeting to meeting within that session.

Paragraph 6.0.4 - Fifty registered church delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; once established, a quorum shall not be broken by the absence of delegates at that session.

Paragraph 6.0.5 - Questions of parliamentary procedures shall be decided on the basis of the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Paragraph 6.0.6 - Neither the article nor section titles, nor the article, section or paragraph numbers are part of these by-laws. The Executive Committee shall have authority to make necessary grammatical, editing, and name changes which do not substantively change the intent or meaning of the by-law so changed.

Article 7 - Related Organizations

Section 7.0 - West Virginia Baptist Historical Society, Incorporated

Paragraph 7.0.0 - The West Virginia Baptist Convention shall be related to the West Virginia Baptist Historical Society, Incorporated through the Society's Board of Directors, and through the Convention's recognition and support of the Society's collection and preservation of Baptist history in West Virginia.

Paragraph 7.0.1 - The Convention shall elect three Directors, one person each year for a three-year term, who shall, with the Society's Officers, constitute the Board of Directors for the Society. The Executive Minister shall be a member "ex officio" of the Board of Directors.

Paragraph 7.0.2 - The Convention shall accord to the Society's President membership on the Convention's Executive Board and on the Commission on Discipleship Ministries.

Paragraph 7.0.3 - The Board of Directors shall keep on file a current copy of its by-laws with the Secretary of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Section 7.1 - West Virginia Baptist Education Society, Incorporated

Paragraph 7.1.0 - The West Virginia Baptist Convention shall be related to the West Virginia Baptist Education Society, Incorporated through the Society's Board of Directors, and through the Convention's recognition and support of the Society's role in providing scholarships to West Virginia Baptist ministerial students.

Paragraph 7.1.1 - The Convention shall elect six representatives to the Society, two persons each year for three-year terms. The Executive Minister shall be a member "ex officio" of the Society's Board of Directors.

Paragraph 7.1.2 - The President of the Society shall be accorded membership on the Convention Executive Board and on the Commission on Christian Leadership.

Paragraph 7.1.3 - The Board of Directors shall keep on file a current copy of its by-laws with the Secretary of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Section 7.2 - West Virginia Baptist Ministers Council

Paragraph 7.2.0 - The West Virginia Baptist Convention shall be related to the West Virginia Ministers Council through the Council's Executive Committee and through the Convention's recognition and support of the purpose of the Council.

Paragraph 7.2.1 - The President of the Council shall be accorded membership on the Convention Executive Committee, the Convention Executive Board, and the Commission on Christian Leadership. The Executive Minister shall be a member "ex officio" of the Council's Executive Committee.

Paragraph 7.2.2 - The Council shall keep on file a current copy of its By-laws with the Secretary of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Section 7.3 - American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia

Paragraph 7.3.0 - The West Virginia Baptist Convention shall be related to the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia through the Women's Executive Board and through the Convention's recognition and support of the purpose and work of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia.

Paragraph 7.3.1 - The President of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia shall be accorded membership on the Convention Executive Committee, the Convention Executive Board, and the Commission on Christian Outreach. The Executive Minister shall be a member "ex officio" of the Executive Board of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia.

Paragraph 7.3.2 - The American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia shall keep on file a current copy of its By-laws with the Secretary of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Section 7.4 - American Baptist Men of West Virginia

Paragraph 7.4.0 - The West Virginia Baptist Convention shall be related to the American Baptist Men of West Virginia through the Men's Executive Committee and through the Convention's recognition and support of the purpose and work of the American Baptist Men of West Virginia.

Paragraph 7.4.1 - The President of the American Baptist Men of West Virginia shall be accorded membership on the Convention Executive Committee, the Convention Executive Board, and the Commission on Christian Outreach. The Executive Minister shall be a member "ex officio" of the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Men of West Virginia.

Paragraph 7.4.2 - The American Baptist Men of West Virginia shall keep on file a current copy of its By-laws with the Secretary of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Section 7.5 - American Baptist Youth of West Virginia

Paragraph 7.5.0 - The West Virginia Baptist Convention shall be related to the American Baptist Youth of West Virginia through its State Youth Committee and through the Convention's recognition and support of the purpose and work of the American Baptist Youth of West Virginia.

Paragraph 7.5.1 - The chair of the American Baptist Youth of West Virginia shall be accorded membership on the Convention Executive Board and the Commission on Discipleship Ministries. The Executive Minister shall be a member "ex officio" of the State Youth Committee.

Paragraph 7.5.2 - The American Baptist Youth of West Virginia shall keep on file a current copy of its By-laws with the Secretary of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Section 7.6 - Other Organizations

Paragraph 7.6.0 - The President of the West Virginia Baptist Convention shall, upon authorization of the Executive Committee, appoint persons to represent the Convention at meetings of various ecumenical bodies. The number of persons appointed shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee.

Article 8 - Amendments

These By-laws may be amended by the Convention in session by a two-thirds vote of the delegates from the cooperating member churches, present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been approved by a majority of the delegates at the preceding Annual Meeting of the Convention, or shall have been recommended by the Executive Board, and further provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall have been included in the registration packet of the delegates in attendance at the Annual Meeting at which the vote is to be taken. Amendments to Article 1, Paragraph 1.0.3. shall require a two-thirds vote of the delegates, present and voting, from the cooperating member churches which choose to relate to both the Convention and the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

These by-laws were adopted by the West Virginia Baptist Convention on October 16, 1991 and amended on October 17, 1995; October 20, 1998; October 19, 1999; October 18, 2000; October 17, 2002; October 22, 2003; October 19, 2012; and October 16, 2015 superseding all previous by-laws.