

Constitution of the Baptist General Convention of Missouri

Revised at the Annual Gathering on April 4, 2011

Article I - Name

This body shall be called “The Baptist General Convention of Missouri” and may conduct its ministry under the name “Churchnet—A Baptist Network Serving Churches.”

Article II - Nature

The Convention is, and is always to remain, only and solely an entity through which Baptist churches may work voluntarily in cooperation and partnership with each other in promoting the purposes of the Convention. The Convention does not have, to any degree, and shall never possess nor exercise any ecclesiastical authority.

The Convention shall never possess nor exercise any authority over any church. The Convention forever disclaims any right or prerogative over doctrinal principles, recognizing that every church is sovereign and independent under the one Sovereign, Jesus Christ our Lord, and capable of managing its own affairs without the interference or assistance of any body of individuals on earth; therefore, the Convention will not act in any way so as to interfere with or limit the exercise of the freedom of an individual church. Provided, however, the Convention shall always have the right to determine qualifications of voting members on the basis of Christian character and financial support.

Article III -Purpose

The purpose of the Convention shall be to assist, inform, educate and train Baptist churches, their members and leaders, in the planning, execution and follow up of special evangelistic, mission and ministry events, programs and functions; to serve as an entity by and through which Baptist churches and their members will be able to cooperate, network, associate and partner in advancing the ministry and mission of the Kingdom of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Article IV –Cooperation

Section 1. The Convention (Churchnet) membership is open to any church or individual who shares our values and is interested in cooperating to fulfill our mission as stated in Article III.

Section 2. Any Baptist church in agreement with the purpose of the Convention and desiring to voluntarily cooperate with other churches and individuals of like faith in the work and purpose of the Convention and contributing to the budget of the Convention in the year preceding the Annual Session shall be considered to be in cooperation with the Convention and shall be entitled to send voting members to the Annual Session. There is no limit to the number of voting members eligible to represent the church.

Section 3. Any Baptist individual in agreement with the purpose of the Convention and desiring to voluntarily cooperate with other churches and individuals of like faith in the work and purpose

of the Convention and contributing to the budget of the Convention in the year preceding the Annual Session shall be considered to be in cooperation with the Convention and shall be entitled to be registered as a voting member at the Annual Session of the Convention.

Article V - Meeting

The Convention shall meet at such times and places as the Board of Directors (Directors) shall deem proper and necessary for the administration and conduct of the work of the Convention, provided that the Directors shall set a time and place for an Annual Session at which time and place voting members, from local churches in cooperation with the Convention, can assemble to hear reports and act on recommendations relating to the administration and work of the Convention, as provided for within the Bylaws of the Convention. The Annual Session will be comprised of the Officers, Directors and registered voting members.

Article VI - Board of Directors

The Convention shall be under the governance of the Board of Directors which shall consist of the Officers and members, who shall be elected by voting members at the Annual Session in accordance with procedures and under qualifications and for terms as set forth in the Bylaws of the Convention. The Directors shall have charge and oversight of the work of the Convention, provided however, that the Directors shall not have any power to reverse any action taken pursuant to a vote of voting members at an Annual Session of the Convention.

Article VII - Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Convention shall be a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The president, vice-president and secretary shall be elected by voting members at the Annual Session in accordance with procedures and under qualifications and for terms as set forth in the Bylaws. The treasurer shall be the executive director. The officers shall hold the same offices on the Board of Directors, provided however, the treasurer/executive director shall not have a vote on the Board. In the event of a vacancy in the position of executive director, the Directors shall have authority to name a person to carry out the duties of the treasurer, until such time as the vacancy is filled.

Section 2. The president, vice-president and secretary shall serve from the close of the Annual Session of the Convention at which they were elected until the close of the next Annual Session, provided, however, that the secretary shall be responsible for the preparation of minutes of the annual meeting at which he/she functioned. The officers shall have such duties as set forth in the Bylaws, or as established by action of the Directors or voting members in Annual Session.

Section 3. No one shall be eligible for the office of president for more than three successive years.

Section 4. Each officer shall be a member of a church, or an individual, in cooperation with the Convention, as defined in Article IV. No salaried employee of the Convention, nor spouse of such salaried employee, shall be eligible to be president, vice-president or secretary.

Section 5. Candidates for offices of the Convention shall be nominated from the floor of the Annual Session. Election of officers shall be by ballot, unless there is only one nominee for an office, in such event by action of the assembly, the secretary shall be instructed to cast one ballot for the sole nominee and said individual shall be elected. In the election of officers, if no nominee receives the majority, there shall be a run-of election between the two nominees who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot.

Article VIII - Committees

The Convention shall have such committees with duties and authority as set forth in the Bylaws. The Convention may also have committees with duties and authority established by action of the Directors or voting members in Annual Session. Provided, however, that no committee shall have any authority take any action contrary to or in violation of the provisions of the Constitution or Bylaws, or to reverse any action taken pursuant to a vote of voting members at an Annual Session of the Convention.

Article IX - Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Session by two-thirds of the voting members, provided that the text of the proposed amendment shall have been presented at the previous Annual Session. Any proposed amendment shall, upon introduction and being seconded, stand referred to the corporate documents committee (as established in the Bylaws), for examination and hearing on such amendment and a report and recommendation to the Convention at its next Annual Session. Provided, however, that the Board of Directors may present amendments at an Annual Session, provided the proposed amendment has been approved by a majority vote of the entire membership of the Directors and published at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Session, such proposed amendments may be voted on without waiting to the following Annual Session. The vote necessary for such Director proposed amendments is a two-thirds vote of the voting members.

Section 2. Article II of this Constitution may not be subject to any amendment that would violate the principle of local church autonomy and the sovereignty and independence of the local church under the one Sovereign, Jesus Christ our Lord.