

KANSAS-NEBRASKA CONVENTION OF SOUTHERN BAPTISTS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - Name

This body shall be known as The Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists.

ARTICLE II - Purpose

Section 1: This Convention shall furnish a means by which the cooperating congregations in their sovereign capacity can work together in promoting all enterprises which they collectively deem necessary and helpful in carrying out Christ's Great Commission to make disciples of all peoples.

Section 2: This Convention shall have no ecclesiastical authority, nor shall it assume to write creeds or exercise control over the cooperating congregations.

ARTICLE III – Statement of Faith

The *Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000 shall be the doctrinal guideline for this Convention.

ARTICLE IV – Membership

Section 1: The Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists (KNCSB) shall be comprised of messengers from congregations that have been granted affiliation with this Convention.

(a) A Partner church is an autonomous church or church-type congregation which has requested and been granted such affiliation with this Convention.

(b) An Associate church is a church or church-type congregation (e.g., "campus," "church plant," "location," "mission," "multi-site," "satellite," etc.) that does not meet the requirements to be a Partner church but which has requested and been granted affiliation with this Convention. A church or church-type congregation that is a subsidiary of some tier of a Partner church or affiliated Association shall automatically be recognized as an Associate church.

Section 2: Each Partner church shall be entitled to twelve (12) messengers. Each Associate church shall be entitled to two (2) messengers.

Section 3: A congregation asking for affiliation with this Convention shall present to the Credentials Committee a petitionary letter and evidence of being in harmony with the doctrinal principles of this Convention.

Section 4: Each congregation shall demonstrate its desire to cooperate with this Convention in spirit and in practice by supporting financially the program of the Convention.

Section 5: The Convention shall recognize the right of any cooperating congregation to withdraw from its affiliation with this Convention.

Section 6: This Convention shall retain the right to exercise moral and spiritual persuasion to encourage a congregation to remain in cooperation with this Convention.

ARTICLE V - Meetings

Section 1: This Convention shall meet annually and at such time as may be designated by the Convention in annual session.

Section 2: In case of interruption of the regular meeting of the body or failure through unforeseen events to hold the regular meetings of the Convention at the time and place appointed, the KNCSB Mission Board shall have the authority to determine the time and place of the next Annual meeting or to call a meeting of the Convention at such time and place as it may determine.

Section 3: In case of extreme emergency, the President and the Executive Committee may call a special session of the Convention at the time and place they may designate.

ARTICLE VI – Officers, Trustees, Executive Director-Treasurer

- Section 1: The officers of this Convention shall be a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Historical Secretary, and Parliamentarian.
- Section 2: The Convention officers shall hold the same positions on both the Mission Board and the Executive Committee.
- Section 3: Should the President vacate the office for any reason, the Vice-President shall assume the vacated office. In the event that both President and Vice-President offices are vacated at the same time, the Mission Board shall conduct elections to fill the unexpired terms for both offices. If the office of Parliamentarian is vacated, the President shall bring a nomination to the Executive Committee for approval. All other vacated offices shall be filled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Mission Board members present and voting at a regular or called meeting as they deem necessary.
- Section 4: For the purpose of carrying out the plans of the Convention, the Mission Board shall employ the Executive Director-Treasurer whose duty it shall be to superintend the entire work of the Board in all of its departments and to have general charge of the educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the Convention in the area which it serves.
- Section 5: The President, Recording Secretary, and the Executive Director-Treasurer shall be the Trustees of the Convention. Compensation, if any, for KNCSB Trustees shall be set by the Convention in Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VII - Executive Committee

- Section 1: The Executive Committee shall be a standing committee of the Convention, comprised of the Convention officers, the immediate Past President having served at least one full term, and one member of the Mission Board from each affiliated Association, to be elected by the Convention.
- (a) The elected members of the Executive Committee shall serve terms of three (3) years, with one-third of the members being elected annually by the Convention.
- (b) Unexpired terms which are vacated or unfilled for any reason may be filled by another individual from the same affiliated association by election by the Mission Board.
- (c) Membership on the Executive Committee shall terminate automatically if, for any reason, a member no longer holds a position on the Mission Board.
- Section 2: The Executive Committee shall be authorized to transact business for the Convention and its Mission Board between regular meetings of the Mission Board and shall perform such other duties as the Convention or its Mission Board may designate.
- Section 3: The Executive Committee shall serve as the Convention's committee on personnel, budget, and finance.
- (a) The Executive Committee shall work with the Executive Director-Treasurer as a nominating committee for the selection of all paid employees except support staff which shall be employed by the Executive Director-Treasurer. Nominees shall be presented for election by the Mission Board.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall work with the Executive Director-Treasurer to prepare a Convention budget proposal for the ensuing year. The proposed budget adopted by the Executive Committee shall be published as a matter of information in Convention publications at least three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.
- (c) The Executive Committee shall review and adopt the annual report from the independent auditors. The report of the independent auditors shall be presented to the Mission Board for their information only.
- Section 4: The Executive Committee shall serve as the Convention's committee on resolutions. Resolutions may be presented to the Convention or its Mission Board for adoption.

Resolutions submitted by outside parties must be submitted to the Executive Committee by August 1 in order to be considered by the Executive Committee for action at that year's Annual Meeting.

- Section 5: The Executive Committee shall serve as the Convention's search committee when seeking an Executive Director-Treasurer. Their nominee shall be presented for election by the Mission Board at a regular or special meeting of the Mission Board and must receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to be elected.

ARTICLE VIII - Mission Board

Section 1: Mission Board Composition

- (a) The Mission Board shall be comprised of the following:
1. All Convention officers,
 2. The immediate Past President having served at least one full term,
 3. One member from each affiliated association, to be elected by the Convention.
 - i. A second member shall be added when the affiliated association's resident membership reaches 1000.
 - ii. A third member shall be added when the affiliated association's resident membership reaches 3,000.
 4. Four additional members-at-large, each of whom is to be representative of an ethnicity, race, or sex which is a minority on the Mission Board; or a sparsely populated geographic area within KNCSB.
- (b) At least one-fourth of the total membership of the board shall be men and women other than ministerial staff.
- (c) Mission Board members are elected by the Convention to terms of four years.
1. Unexpired terms which are vacated or unfilled for any reason may be filled by another individual from the same affiliated association by election by the Mission Board.
 2. No member shall be eligible for re-election for one year after the completion of a term, except one who was elected to fill a vacated or unfilled term and served less than two years of that term.
 3. Membership on the Mission Board shall terminate automatically when a member moves from the association from which elected.
- (d) Each member of the Mission Board must be an active resident member of a congregation that is affiliated and cooperating with KNCSB.
- (e) Salaried employees of the Convention shall not be members of the Mission Board.

Section 2: Mission Board Responsibilities

- (a) The Mission Board shall have the authority to act for the Convention during the interim of the sessions of the Convention and in all matters that may arise affecting the interests fostered by the Convention, provided that this shall not be interpreted as authorizing the Mission Board to reverse any action of the Convention nor to do anything contrary to the Constitution and principles of this Convention.
- (b) The Mission Board shall employ such personnel as is required to do the work of the Convention. It shall be the duty of these workers to serve under the direction of and in cooperation with the Executive Director-Treasurer and to aid him in keeping the interests and institutions both of the KNCSB and the Southern Baptist Convention before affiliated congregations and associations.
- (c) The Mission Board may fill vacancies occurring on either the Mission Board or the Executive Committee.
- (d) The Mission Board may make appointments as it deems wise.
- (e) The minutes of the Mission Board shall be reported in writing to the Convention in Annual

Meeting.

Section 3: Mission Board Meetings

- (a) The Mission Board shall determine the times and places of its meetings.
- (b) A special meeting of the Mission Board may be called by the Executive Committee, at any time and place it may choose, to consider a matter beyond the Executive Committee's authority or propriety. A special meeting may also be called by the President and the Executive Director-Treasurer.
- (c) A majority of the elected members of the Mission Board being present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. In the event of a called meeting, two-thirds (2/3) of the elected members being present shall constitute a quorum.
- (d) The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of attendance at all Board meetings. Members who are absent from two (2) meetings without providing an acceptable reason to the Executive Committee through the recording secretary shall be considered to have resigned, and the unexpired term shall be filled upon election by the Mission Board.

ARTICLE IX - Boards, Commissions, Institutions, Subsidiaries

Section 1: This Convention shall have the authority to elect such boards, commissions, standing committees, and any other electees as shall be deemed necessary for handling the business of the Convention.

Section 2: All boards, commissions, institutions, and subsidiaries, shall make an annual report to this Convention of all material transactions covering work committed to them for this Convention.

Section 3: This Convention shall always retain oversight authority with regard to transactions made by any of the above.

ARTICLE X - Partnerships

Section 1: The work of the Convention shall be in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention, unless otherwise ordered by KNCSB.

Section 2: KNCSB recognizes and affirms the right of churches to associate together; however, only associations which are recognized by the Convention and herein listed as being affiliated with KNCSB are entitled to representation on the KNCSB Mission Board and KNCSB Executive Committee.

- (a) KNCSB recognizes 12 associations of churches as being affiliated with KNCSB: Central Baptist Association, Flint Hills Baptist Association, Heart of Kansas Southern Baptist Association, Heartland Church Network, Kansas City Kansas Baptist Association, Oregon Trail Baptist Association, Sandhills Church Network, Smoky Hill Baptist Association, South Central Association of Southern Baptists, Southeast Kansas Baptist Association, Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches, and Western Kansas Baptist Association.
- (b) The Mission Board recognizes the necessity for cooperation with the local Associations of the state, and the Executive Boards of these Associations are the proper mediums through which such cooperation should be carried out.

Section 3: KNCSB recognizes and affirms The Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) as an autonomous, cooperative ministry partner. All cooperative work with WMU is to be in harmony with the general program of this Convention.

ARTICLE XI - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Convention by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the messengers voting provided that notice of such amendment shall have been given in writing and approved by the Executive Committee in its fall meeting. The Amendment, once approved, shall be published as a matter of information in Convention publications at least three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS SPECIAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE KNCSB STRIKE THE EXISTING KNCSB CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS DOCUMENTS AND REPLACE THEM WITH THIS PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS; THIS PROPOSAL WAS GIVEN IN WRITING AND APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2021.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA CONVENTION OF SOUTHERN BAPTISTS BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – Election of Officers

- Section 1: At each Annual Meeting of the KNCSB, nominations shall be received, in order, for the offices of President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, and Historical Secretary.
- (a) These officers of the Convention shall be elected by ballot, except where there is only one nominee. In such cases, the election may be by acclamation of the body, or the vote of the body may be cast by the Secretary.
- (b) The officers shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the two receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the nominees, and subsequent ballots shall be taken until a candidate is elected.
- Section 2: The Parliamentarian shall be nominated by the newly elected or re-elected President at the first (1st) Executive Committee Meeting subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.
- Section 3: The officers of the Convention, except the President, may be eligible to serve indefinitely. The President shall be eligible to serve only two terms in succession.

ARTICLE II - Committees, Boards, Electees

- Section 1: The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of one person from each Association. This committee shall be appointed at or before the first regular meeting of the Mission Board following the annual meeting.
- (a) The Nominating Committee shall bring nominations to the next annual meeting for the following:
1. Members of the Mission Board.
 2. Members of the Executive Committee.
 3. Six (6) members on the Order of Business Committee to finalize plans for the next Annual Meeting and to make preliminary plans for the subsequent Annual Meeting, including the time, place, and preacher of the Convention sermon. Members are to serve a three (3) year term with one-third (1/3) of the committee members rotating off each year.
 4. Three (3) members on Credentials Committee. Members are to serve a three (3) year term with one-third (1/3) of the committee members rotating off each year.
 5. Directors or trustees of any board, commission, institution, or subsidiary of KNCSB not otherwise provided for in the KNCSB Constitution and these Bylaws.
- (b) The Nominating Committee shall make its recommendation to the Convention in the form of a motion to elect those persons it recommends for specific terms of office. The motion may be amended, but no messenger shall be allowed to propose more than one (1) person at a time for election. When adopted by the Convention, the motion of the Nominating Committee, as amended, shall constitute the election of the persons named in the motion to their respective terms of office.
- Section 2: Any person who is an employee of the Convention or a North American Mission Board appointed missionary shall be ineligible to serve on Convention boards and agencies. Spouses of Convention employees shall likewise be ineligible for election to such boards, unless elected as an officer of the Convention.

ARTICLE III – Institutional Affiliates

- Section 1: In order for an institution to be considered an institution of The Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists and to share in the financial support contributed to and administered by the general Convention, such institution must comply with the following requirements:

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- (a) Its President or Chief Executive Officer and all of the members of its Board shall be members of Southern Baptist congregations affiliated with the Convention.
- (b) It shall not be conducted for private or corporate gains, but all funds received shall be disbursed at the direction of the Convention.
- (c) If it is an educational institution, all of its teachers shall be members of Southern Baptist congregations affiliated with the Convention.
- (d) If it be a benevolent institution, it shall engage principally in the care of the sick, and/or orphans, and/or the aged, or other needy persons; and it shall do significant gratuitous and charity work.
- (e) Each and every such institution shall be officially received, or set up, by the Convention in Annual Meeting; however, such may be temporarily received by the Mission Board during the interim.

Section 2: The property of each educational and benevolent institution must be safeguarded to the best interests of Baptists in a manner satisfactory to the Convention. Each of these institutions shall submit its books and works to the inspection of the Mission Board or anyone authorized by the Convention whenever requested. The financial exhibit of each report shall be audited in a manner acceptable to the Convention.

ARTICLE IV – Parliamentary Authority

Section 1: Any question that may arise that is not provided for in the Constitution or Bylaws shall be decided in accordance with Parliamentary Law by Robert's Rules of Order Revised.

Section 2: The Bylaws herein adopted shall conform to the Constitution of The Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists which has been adopted; and, in case of conflict between the Constitution and Bylaws, the provisions of the Constitution shall prevail.

ARTICLE V - Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended and others adopted at any Annual meeting by a majority vote of the messengers voting provided that no amendment shall be offered or voted on the last day of the session unless such amendment shall have been given in writing and read on a previous day of said Annual Meeting.

Approved 10-2020; Proposed Revision: 10-2021