

MOBILIZING FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BAPTIST PRINCIPLES BYLAWS

ARTICLE I PURPOSE STATEMENT

The members of Mobilizing for the preservation of Baptist Principles (MPBP) shall work within the American Baptist Churches to promote and preserve the principles that have defined us as a denomination. The members of MPBP shall commit themselves to:

Authority of Scripture: that in matters of faith and practice the Bible is our primary source for instruction and guidance as it is interpreted in the gathered community.

Soul Liberty: that each person must be free to have a direct relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and that the form, or even the existence of this relationship, cannot be coerced. This freedom implies the individual expression of belief according to conscience.

Autonomy of the Local Church: the body of Christ is made incarnate by the local church guided by scripture and the Holy Spirit, and under the authority of Jesus Christ is free to shape its own life and mission while individuals within the church are free to give voice to their understanding of God's will for the larger body.

Associational Structure: that in order to fulfill 'the great commission,' local churches band together to fulfill areas of mutual ministry and mission but not to dictate to a local church what its members must believe.

The members covenant to preserve these principles.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to those who accept the purpose statement, are members in good standing in a church within The ABC/USA, and have paid annual dues as of January 1st of the current year.

ARTICLE III OFFICERS

There shall be the following officers:

A. Coordinator

1. Duties

- a. To serve as moderator of the Executive Committee.
- b. To serve as the spokesperson for MPBP.
- c. To assist in the promotion and development of local chapters.
- d. To convene meetings of the Executive Committee and Business meetings of MPBP held in conjunction with the ABC/USA biennial meetings.

2. Election:

1. The Coordinator shall be a member of MPBP.
2. Shall be elected to a two year term by the Executive Committee.
3. Term of office is renewable once.
4. With the exception of the Treasurer, no two officers shall be from the same Region.

B. Vice-coordinator

1. Duties

- a. To assist the coordinator in her/his duties.
- b. To arrange for events planned by the Executive Committee
- c. To make arrangements for the general meeting of the membership to be held in conjunction with the ABC/USA biennial meetings.

2. Election:

1. The Vice-Coordinator shall be a member of MPBP.
2. Shall be elected by the Executive Committee.
3. Term of office is renewable once.
4. With the exception of the Treasurer, no two officers shall be from the same Region.

- C. Secretary
 - 1. Duties
 - a. To keep the minutes of the meetings and mail them to MPBP members.
 - b. To work with the Treasurer in maintaining an accurate and current membership list.
 - c. In the event that the Treasurer cannot perform his or her duties, the Secretary shall be authorized to sign checks.
 - 2. Election:
 - 1. The Secretary shall be a member of MPBP.
 - 2. Shall be elected to a two year by the Executive Committee.
 - 3. Term of office is renewable once.
 - 4. With the exception of the Treasurer, no two officers shall be from the same Region.
- D. Treasurer
 - 1. Duties
 - a. To keep the financial records of MPBP.
 - b. To make payments of bills incurred by MPBP
 - c. To report to the Coordinator and the Executive Committee on the financial statuses of the organization.
 - d. To secure an annual audit of the financial records.
 - e. In the event that the Treasurer cannot perform his or her duties, the Secretary shall be authorized to sign checks.
 - 2. Election:
 - 1. The Treasurer shall be a member of MPBP.
 - 2. Shall be elected to a two year term by the Executive Committee.
 - 3. Term of office is renewable.
 - 4. The Treasurer may come from the same Region as one of the other officers

ARTICLE IV GOVERNANCE

- A. There shall be an Executive Committee
 - 1. Membership—The officers and Local Chapter coordinators shall serve on the Executive Committee.
 - 2. Duties
 - a. To review the performance of the officers and to assist in strategy development for MPBP.
 - b. To act on the annual audit of the financial records.
 - c. To act on the report of the Nominating Committee.
 - d. To elect the officers and replace officers as needed.
 - 3. Meetings shall be called by the Coordinator or two or more members of the Executive Committee. There shall be a meeting at each biennial of the ABC/USA.
 - 4. Votes taken by the Executive Committee shall be by 2/3's vote.
- B. There shall be a Nominating Committee
 - 1. Membership shall consist of one representative selected by each local chapter of MPBP who is not currently serving on the Executive Committee.
 - 2. Duties: to present a slate of officers to the Executive Committee one month prior to the Biennial Meeting of the ABC/USA. In the event of a vacancy in one of the offices, the Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates for action by the Executive Committee.
 - 3. Term of Service: two years.
- C. Meetings of the membership will take place during each of the biennials of the ABC/USA.

ARTICLE V AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

The following process shall be followed to amend the by-laws:

- A. Proposed changes shall be submitted to the Executive Committee.
- B. Proposed changes, approved by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee, shall be submitted to the general membership at least 30 days prior to the Biennial Meeting.
- C. By-law changes shall be by a 2/3 vote of the general membership and shall be deemed to be in effect.

ARTICLE VI IMPLEMENTATION

Upon the approval of these by-laws at the August 1996 Plenary Meeting at Green Lake Wisconsin, Jeffrey Long Middleton will convene a steering committee comprised of two representatives from each local chapter which will act in and for the organization in implementing the provisions of the by-laws until the 1997 biennial meeting. The Steering Committee will act as the Executive Committee and will select from among its membership the interim officers for MPBP.