

## **COALITION FOR BAPTIST PRINCIPLES**

### **ARTICLE I PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The members of the Coalition for Baptist Principles (CBP) shall work to promote and preserve the principles that have defined us as a denomination. The members of CBP shall commit themselves to:

**Guidance 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.

**Separation of church and state:** that liberty of conscience cannot be coerced by the power of the state, and that religious liberty is best served by church/state separation.

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 Baptist church, and who request membership.

### **ARTICLE III OFFICERS**

There shall be the following officers:

A. Chair of the Coalition

1. Duties

- a. To serve as moderator of the Steering Committee.
- b. To serve as the spokesperson for CBP.
- c. To assist in the promotion and development of local chapters.
- d. To convene meetings of the Steering Committee and Business meetings of CBP held in conjunction with the ABCUSA biennial meetings.

2. Election:

1. The Chair shall be a member of CBP.
2. Shall be elected to a two-year term by the Steering 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 Chair of the Coalition

1. Duties

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

2. Election:

1. The Vice-Chair shall be a member of CBP.
2. Shall be elected by the Steering 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.
    - b. To work with the Coordinator in maintaining an accurate and current membership list.
  - 2. Election:
    - 1. The Secretary shall be a member of CBP.
    - 2. Shall be elected to a two-year term by the Steering 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 CBP.
    - b. To make payments of bills incurred by CBP.
    - c. To report to the Chair and the Steering 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 Coordinator** shall be authorized to sign checks.
  - 2. Election:
    - 1. The Treasurer shall be a member of CBP.
    - 2. Shall be elected to a two-year term by the Steering 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 a Steering Committee
  - 1. Membership— 8-12 elected at the biennial meeting for two-year staggered terms.
  - 2. Duties
    - a. To review the performance of the officers and to assist in strategy development for CBP.
    - 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 Chair or two or more members of the Steering Committee. There shall be a meeting at each biennial of the ABCUSA.
  - 4. Votes taken by the Steering Committee shall be by 2/3's vote.
- B. There shall be a Nominating Committee
  - 1. The Steering Committee will be the Nominating Committee
  - 2. Duties: to present a slate of officers one month prior to the Biennial Meeting of the ABCUSA. In the event of a vacancy in one of the offices, the Steering Committee will be empowered to select temporary replacements until the following biennial meeting.
  - 3. Term of Service: two years.
- C. Meetings of the membership will take place during each of the biennials of the ABCUSA.

#### **ARTICLE V AMENDMENT PROCEDURE**

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

- A. Proposed changes shall be submitted to the Steering Committee.
- B. Proposed changes, approved by a 2/3 vote of the Steering 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 revised by-laws at the 2009 biennial, Steering Committee members and officers will be elected at the business meeting of the Coalition for Baptist Principles.