

# **Constitution and By-Laws of the South Central Iowa Southern Baptist Association**

Approved September 2002

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **Article I – Name**

This organization, formed January 20, 1975, shall be known as the South Central Iowa Southern Baptist Association (hereafter referred to as “the Association”).

### **Article II – Membership**

#### **Section 1 – Composition**

The Association shall be comprised of messengers, in its Annual Meeting and additionally scheduled meetings, selected and certified annually by cooperating churches and missions. Each cooperating church and mission shall be entitled to 4 messengers plus 1 additional messenger for each 25 resident members for a maximum of 12 messengers per cooperating church or mission.

#### **Section 2 – Standard**

Cooperating churches and missions shall work together in a spirit of unity, subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, and provide financial support for the work and ministry of the Association.

#### **Section 3 – Affiliation**

Churches and missions desiring to affiliate with the Association shall make written petition to the Leadership Team. Said petition shall state the desire of the church or mission to affiliate and its understanding of, as well as intent to adhere to the Standard found in this Constitution, Article II, Section 2. After the Leadership Team has reviewed the petition and made appropriate inquiry, it may choose to recommend to the Administrative Team or the messengers of the Association that the petitioning congregation be affiliated with the Association. Upon the approval of no less than 2/3 of voting messengers of the Annual Meeting or no less than 2/3 of the Administrative Team, the petitioning congregation shall be considered a cooperating church or mission.

#### **Section 4 – Dismissal**

The messengers of the Association may choose to withdraw affiliation from any church or mission that fails to work together in a spirit of unity, subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message, and/or provide financial support for the work and ministry of the Association.

### **Article III – Fundamentals**

#### **Section 1 – Purpose**

The Association exists to assist and encourage cooperating churches and missions in extending the kingdom of God.

#### **Section 2 – Vision**

The Association will be a partnership, developing leaders, to build the kingdom of God in the midst of a changing world through Christ-centered, transformed lives.

### Section 3 – Core Values

- Kingdom Building: The Association values extending the mission of Jesus Christ beyond each local church and across all lines to see the world impacted for Him.
- Leadership Development: The Association values processes that provide for equipped and effective leadership among the churches.
- Partnerships: The Association values working together with other Christians, churches and missions, associations, and entities for common objectives and goals.
- Being Christ-centered: The Association values lives transformed to be like Jesus Christ.
- Forward Looking: The Association values looking forward with expectancy to the new things God has prepared for them in the midst of a changing world.

## **Article IV – Relationships**

### Section 1 – Autonomy

The Association is autonomous.

### Section 2 – Authority

The Association shall not exercise any authority over, interfere with the autonomy of, nor limit the exercise of the freedom of cooperating churches and missions in any way whatsoever.

### Section 3 – Fellowship

The Association shall nurture partnership among the cooperating churches and missions, as well as encourage the personal participation of their members.

## **Article V – Amendments**

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any Annual Meeting by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the messengers present and voting, provided such proposed change or amendment has been presented in writing to the Administrative Team at least two months prior to the vote.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **Article I – Leadership**

#### Section 1 – Officers

The Association shall elect the following officers at its Annual Meeting from nominees submitted by the Leadership Team and/or the messengers: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer. Officers shall serve one-year terms and no more than two consecutive full-year terms, except for the Clerk and the Treasurer. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

- Moderator. The Moderator shall preside at all meetings of the Association, the Administrative Team, and the Leadership Team.
- Vice-Moderator. In the absence or at the request of the Moderator, the Vice-Moderator shall preside at all meetings of the Association, the Administrative Team, and the Leadership Team.
- Clerk. The Clerk shall keep accurate records of the meetings of the Association, the Administrative Team, and the Leadership Team; provide minutes of said meetings to the associational staff; assist with compilation of the Annual Church Profile; and register messengers and guests at the Annual Meeting of the Association.

- Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and distribute all budgeted and designated monies, as well as prepare and present itemized monthly reports of all receipts and disbursements at meetings of the Association, Administrative Team, and Leadership Team.

#### Section 2 – Ministry Coordinators

The Association shall elect Ministry Coordinators as it deems necessary to fulfill its purpose. The Leadership Team shall propose Coordinator nominees and duties for each Coordinator to the Administrative Team or messengers of the Association. Coordinators shall begin to serve upon approval by the Administrative Team or the messengers of the Association and shall continue in their service, unless otherwise specified by the Leadership Team.

#### Section 3 – Associational Missionary/Church Starter Strategist

The Associational Missionary/Church Starter Strategist shall be an ex officio member of the Administrative Team and Leadership Team, as well as other associational leadership groups and ministry teams that may be formed.

### **Article II – Meetings**

#### Section 1 – Association

An Annual Meeting of the messengers of cooperating churches and missions shall be held on the second Saturday in September. The agenda for the Annual Meeting shall be determined by the Moderator and Associational Missionary/Church Starter Strategist, in consultation with the Leadership Team. Additional meetings shall be scheduled as deemed appropriate by the Moderator and Associational Missionary/Church Starter Strategist. All questions shall be decided by a simple majority vote, unless otherwise stated in this Constitution and By-Laws.

#### Section 2 – Administrative Team

The Administrative Team shall be comprised of the elected officers of the Association, the Ministry Coordinators of the Association, and a pastor and no more than two additional members selected and certified by and from each cooperating church and mission. A quorum shall consist of half of the total number of the cooperating churches and missions, elected officers, and Ministry Coordinators of the Association.

- The Administrative Team shall meet in March of each year.
- The Administrative Team shall conduct the business of the Association between Annual meetings of the Association.
- The Administrative Team shall be called into special session with 10 days prior written notice from the Moderator and Associational Missionary/Church Starter Strategist to the cooperating churches and missions.

#### Section 3 – Leadership Team

The Leadership Team shall be comprised of the elected officers of the Association and the Ministry Coordinators of the Association. The duties of the Leadership Team are as follows:

- Implement, evaluate, and make appropriate adjustments to the strategy of the Association.
- Recommend personnel to serve in the leadership capacities of the Association.
- Develop and propose a budget for the Association.
- Coordinate the calendar of the Association.
- Provide consultation for the Annual Meeting of the Association to the Moderator and Associational Missionary/Church Starter Strategist.

- Receive all petitions for affiliation from prospective cooperating churches or missions and make appropriate recommendations upon meaningful evaluation.
- Address other matters as might arise.

#### Section 4 – Coordinating Team

The Coordinating Team shall be comprised of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Treasurer of the South Central Iowa Southern Baptist Association and the North Central Baptist Association. The Coordinating Team shall address the shared interests of the two associations largely derived from the role of the Associational Missionary/Church Starter Strategist in both associations. In this capacity, the Coordinating Committee shall coordinate the mutual efforts and designated resources of both associations through a mutually beneficial partnership.

#### Section 5 – Ministry Events

The Association shall conduct such ministry events as will provide for the accomplishment of the Mission and Vision of the Association as stated in the Constitution, Article III – Fundamentals.

### **Article III – Finances**

#### Section 1 – Budget

A budget shall be adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Association and shall serve as a guide for all expenditures. The Treasurer shall not disburse any funds not authorized by the budget or by action of the Administrative Team or the messengers of the Association.

#### Section 2 – Giving

The Association urges cooperating churches and missions to give generously of undesignated receipts for the support of the Association and its ministry.

#### Section 3 – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Association shall be January through December.

#### Section 4 – Checks

All checks shall require the signature of the Treasurer and one other person designated by the Leadership Team.

### **Article IV – Amendments**

These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any Annual Meeting by a simple majority vote of the messengers present and voting, provided such proposed alteration or amendment has been presented in writing to the Administrative Team at least two months prior to the vote.