

Constitution of the BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF MICHIGAN

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this Constitution and Bylaws to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern this body in an orderly manner (1 Corinthians 14:40), while striving to resource the unique God-given vision of every cooperating congregation in fulfilling the Great Commission both locally and globally. This Constitution and Bylaws supersedes any or all other Constitution and Bylaws previously adopted by Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

ARTICLE I - NAME AND LOCATION

This body will be known as the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, hereinafter referred to as the Convention. This Convention was incorporated as a non-profit organization, located in Michigan, on December 3, 1957 in accordance with the laws of the state of Michigan.

ARTICLE II - RELATIONSHIPS

As the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, we are cooperatively affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. While autonomous in its own affairs, the Baptist State Convention of Michigan recognizes the autonomy of other Baptist bodies and claims no authority over any church, association, or convention. However, the Convention may rescind the affiliation of any church, which will, in the judgment of the Convention, depart in doctrine or practice from the affiliation qualifications set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws.

The Convention is open to cooperation with other Christian bodies insofar as the Convention determines that such cooperation does not compromise the doctrinal integrity of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

ARTICLE III –VISION AND MISSION

Section 1. Vision

The convention of churches known as the Baptist State Convention of Michigan exists to be *“Partners in Advancing God’s Kingdom!”*

Section 2. Mission

Our Convention of churches will accomplish its vision by *“Doing whatever it takes to see lives transformed for Christ through starting, strengthening and mobilizing churches.”*

ARTICLE IV - AUTHORITY

Section 1. Authority

The Convention has full authority for carrying on its work to fulfill the provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws, including the right to receive and disburse funds, own property, and carry on any other activities necessary for implementation of its mission. Between annual sessions of the convention, the authority rest in the Leadership Team and Executive Council as outlined in the bylaws.

Section 2. Autonomy

The Convention has no authority over any church or the right to interfere with the rights and autonomy of the churches, recognizing that each church is sovereign and independent in all its matters. Therefore, the Convention is not responsible for individual decisions of its affiliated churches. The basis for operation in the Convention is in the spirit of voluntary cooperation in work and fellowship.

Section 3. Doctrine

The Bible is the sole authority upon which all doctrinal issues are settled. The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 is a broad description of historic Baptist doctrines and serves as the general statement of faith for the Convention. Whatever their adopted confession of faith, churches affiliating with the Convention will be in agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

Session 4. Consultation

The Convention is at liberty to consult with any of the churches on matters related to the work of ministry.

Section 5. Jurisdiction

The Convention has jurisdiction over the seating of all messengers and may refuse to seat messengers from any church that it deems to be unsound in faith, practice, or conduct based on a recommendation from the Executive Council.

Section 6. Dismissal

Churches who fail to fulfill the requirements of a cooperating church will be dismissed according to Article III, Section 4 of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposing an Amendment

A proposed amendment will be submitted to the Leadership Team not less than one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the annual session.

1. With the approval of the Leadership Team, the amendment is submitted to the Executive

Council prior to the annual session.

2. With the approval of the Executive Council, the amendment will be presented to the churches no less than 90-days before the annual session to be voted on by messengers.

3. If the proposed amendment is rejected by the Leadership Team or the Executive Council the person proposing the amendment will be notified in writing.

Section 2. Appeal Process for Rejected Amendment

A proposed amendment rejected by the Leadership Team and/or the Executive Council may be presented by the original author of the amendment to the Convention in annual session. Once submitted, the proposed amendment will be voted on at the next annual session of the Convention.

Section 3. Approval of Amendment

A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the messengers present and voting will be required for approval. The approved amendment will become effective at the close of the annual session of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan in which it is properly considered and approved.