

Proposed CONSTITUTION

NORTH CENTRAL BAPTIST NETWORK

ARTICLE I - NAME

The Shelby County Baptist Association, Henry County Baptist Association, and the Oldham-Trimble Baptist Association merged to be the North Central Baptist Network, hereinafter referred to as NCBN or NETWORK.

ARTICLE II – MISSION STATEMENT

The NCBN NETWORK encourages, strengthens, and supports our NETWORK churches in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the glory of God.

ARTICLE III-VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be a family of thriving congregations working together to make an impact in our region by assisting churches in:

- Making disciples who make disciples.
- Planting/revitalizing churches.
- Developing leaders.
- Fulfilling God’s mission.
- Being vital in their community.

“...or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

ARTICLE IV –STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1- Authoritative Documents.

The NETWORK affirms the Bible as our final authority. A summary of our common faith and practice can be found in the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Reception of Churches into Fellowship

Any church desiring membership in The NETWORK shall petition the NETWORK Leadership Council at least three (3) months before the Fall semi-annual or Spring semi-annual meeting of the NETWORK by letter, furnishing satisfactory evidence of sound doctrine and orderly practice and declaring her intentions to cooperate with the NETWORK. The NETWORK Leadership Council shall recommend the petition at the subsequent semi-annual meeting of the NETWORK.

Between the time of application and action by the NETWORK, such church shall be considered an associate member and be entitled to all the rights and privileges of this NETWORK except its members voting and holding office. After this period, the church then becomes a member in regular standing by a two-thirds majority vote of this NETWORK's membership present and voting. When a petition for membership has received approval by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the messengers present and voting at the semi-annual meeting of the NETWORK, the Moderator shall declare the church received into regular membership.

The value of this cooperative endeavor is bound in high expectations for each member church. These expectations include:

- * a maintenance of unity through adherence to orthodox, scriptural doctrine and practice;
- * the exercise of biblical stewardship through financial support for the Network and its mission;
- * a commitment to mission evidenced in active participation in the life and work of the Network; and
- * a display of love through regular intercession in prayer for the Network and other churches.

Section 2 – Dismissal from Affiliation

The NETWORK shall exercise no authority which violates the autonomy of any member church, yet we deem it our privilege to dismiss a church from our fellowship under the following conditions. The church disqualifies itself from membership by becoming unscriptural in her doctrine and/or disorderly in her practice or for any other reason, which shall be specifically set forth in writing. Upon the recommendation of the Leadership Council, after due investigation, at the Fall semi-annual or Spring semi-annual session, this NETWORK may withdraw fellowship and membership from such church by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the messengers present and voting.

Section 3 – Withdrawal of a Church

Any church may withdraw from its affiliation with The NETWORK at its pleasure by notifying, in writing, the NETWORK Mission Strategist who will then inform affiliated NETWORK Churches of the decision.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

Section 1 - Special NETWORK Wide Gatherings

The NETWORK may hold special NETWORK Wide Gatherings as deemed profitable. The purpose of these gatherings will be exhortation, inspiration, worship, prayer, business, and fellowship.

Section 2 – Semi-Annual Meetings.

The NETWORK shall hold Fall and Spring semi-annual meetings. A quorum will be constituted by 1/3 of member churches being physically present.

Section 3 – Special Called Meetings

The NETWORK may be called into special or emergency session by members of the NETWORK Leadership Council or may be called by the Network Mission Strategist at the written request by 1/3 member churches, provided the churches are given one week's notice and announcement of the purpose, time, and place of the meeting by the NETWORK Leadership Team or NETWORK Mission Strategist. No action may be taken at such a called meeting except related to the announced purpose.

Section 4 - Government

All business sessions of the NETWORK shall be governed by **Robert's Rules of Order, Revised** (the latest edition).

ARTICLE VII – MESSENGERS (DELEGATES)

Member churches shall be represented in the NETWORK's meetings by a pastor (and may at the church's discretion be represented by an interim pastor) and their elected messengers, as set forth below.

Section 1- Messengers

A member church is entitled to a minimum of three (3) messengers in addition to the pastor. A member church is allowed one additional messenger for each 100 or majority fraction thereof above 100 resident members. A member church may be represented by a maximum of ten (10) messengers.

Section 2 -Election

Messengers shall be elected annually by each member church for all NETWORK meetings and reported to the NETWORK Ministry Assistant at the Network Office within ten (10) days after their election. If vacancies occur during the year, and a member church elects new messengers to complete the number of messengers allowed to a member church, the names of those newly elected messengers shall be reported to The NETWORK Ministry Assistant at the Network Office, at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting which they will be attending to transact business. If a messenger cannot attend a network meeting, the member church is responsible for electing an alternate messenger and communicating their name to the NETWORK ten (10) days prior to the meeting, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

ARTICLE VIII - ORGANIZATION

Section 1 – NETWORK General Officers

The general officers of the NETWORK, who are the officers of the Corporation, shall be the

- * Network Missions Strategist
- * Associate Network Mission Strategists (3)
- * Ministry Assistant
- * Moderator,
- * Moderator-Elect,
- * Treasurer,

The Moderator and Moderator-Elect shall serve two-year terms. The Treasurer is elected for two-year terms but is eligible for consecutive terms of service. These officers shall be nominated by the Leadership Counsel at the Fall semi-annual meeting for their approval. All officers shall be installed at the conclusion of the meeting. In the event that the Moderator is unable to serve, the Moderator-Elect will serve as Moderator for the remainder of that term; and serve his/her term as Moderator. If the Moderator-Elect has to assume the role of Moderator or is unable to serve, the NCBN Leadership Council will nominate a successor at the next Semi-Annual Meeting for their approval.

Section 2 - Authorized Signatory

The Network Missions Strategist, Moderator, Moderator-Elect, and Treasurer shall serve as the board of directors for the corporation and shall hold in trust the Network property. Upon a specific vote of the Network authorizing each action, they shall have the power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any Network property. When the signatures of officers are required, they shall sign legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or rental of property, or other legal documents related to the Network approved matters.

Section 3 - NETWORK Leadership Council

Membership: The general officers and empowered team leaders of the NETWORK make-up the Leadership Council.

Authority: The NETWORK Leadership Council shall have authority to act on behalf of the NETWORK.

Meetings: The NETWORK Leadership Council will meet quarterly, and as needed.

Section 4 – Empowered Teams

Empowered Teams are authorized to make decisions, spend money (according to budget guidelines), and perform ministry in the name of the NETWORK. Teams focus on ministry priorities not programs. They have freedom to act, but they also have accountability to the NETWORK. They must follow protocols set up in the governing documents, and they report to the Leadership Council of the NETWORK and the NETWORK in Session for what they did with the funds they spend and ministry priorities they established.

Leadership and Teams: The Network Leadership Council shall establish all Empowered Standing Teams and elect the leaders of each Empowered Teams. Each leader of a Team and the Network Mission Strategist shall choose and may remove any of that Team's members. The Network Mission Strategist shall be an ex-officio voting member of all Teams.

Sub-Teams: Teams will have permission to form Sub-Teams that promote the vision and mission of The NETWORK. Each Sub-Team will be asked to serve under the guidance of the appropriate Team and will be responsible for specific ministry assignments that relate to the mission of that Team. It can be temporary or long-term in duration.

Section 5.- Terms of Service

Team Leaders and Members will be elected to serve a three-year (3) rotating term, with a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms of service. No Team Member will serve more than six (6) consecutive years in the same capacity unless there is satisfactory evidence that the work would otherwise be seriously hindered by the loss of experience or technical information. All Team Members will be evaluated annually by the Team Leader and Network Mission Strategist.

Section 6 – Staff

The NETWORK at a semi-annual meeting may call a Network Missions Strategist (NMS) and other Staff, including Associate Network Mission Strategists (ANMS), upon recommendation by the Leadership Council, to serve the Network for such time as the NMS and Leadership Council deem useful. A two-thirds (2/3rds) vote at

the semi-annual meetings will be required to extend a call or recommend separation for cause in adherence to the Policy and Procedure Manual

The Network Missions Strategist shall be responsible for the coordination and supervision of all personnel and work of the NETWORK and shall have the authority (in consultation with the Leadership Council and Administration Team) to hire and terminate administrative staff as funded in the annual budget.

When a vacancy in the Network Missions Strategist position occurs, the Administration Team shall recommend to the Leadership Council for their approval a Search Team of at least five (5) but no more than nine (9) people. The Leadership Council will then select a Search Team Leader from that group.

When a vacancy in an Associate Network Mission Strategist position occurs, the Network Mission Strategist will work with the Leadership Council to provide a candidate to submit to the Network for approval at the next semi-annual or special called meeting. The Associate Network Mission Strategist, in addition to using his/her gifts to serve the Network and member churches as needed, will serve as a liaison to the local churches.

When a vacancy occurs in the administrative staff position the Network Mission Strategist shall recommend to the Leadership Council for their approval a Search Team of at least three (3) but no more than five (5) to assist him in the search.

ARTICLE IX - MANUALS

Section 1 – Policies and Procedure Manual

The Leadership Council shall develop, maintain, and amend from time to time, as appropriate, a Policies and Procedures Manual (the “Manual”) which shall describe and/or define the functions and responsibilities of The Network officers, Empowered Teams, and such other matters as are referred to in the governing documents. The Manual shall also address property management, staff relations, job descriptions, personnel, financial policies, etc. The Policies and Procedures Manual shall be consistent with the terms of the Constitution and in the event of a conflict between the Policies and Procedures Manual and the Constitution, the Constitution shall control.

ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of The NETWORK, to the extent allowed under applicable law, after all lawful debts and liabilities of The Network have been paid, all the assets of The Network shall be distributed to, or its assets shall be sold and the proceeds distributed to, another organization of like faith, operating for the same purpose for which The Network is organized and operating or to one or more corporations, funds or foundations organized and operating exclusively for religious, charitable, or any other activity permitted by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which shall be selected by the Leadership Council of The Network; provided, however, that any such recipient organization or organizations shall at that time qualify as exempt from taxation under the provisions of Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or in corresponding provisions of any subsequent law. If upon the dissolution of The NETWORK the Leadership Council of The Network fails to act in the manner provided within a reasonable time, a Court of competent jurisdiction in the County in which the principal office of The NETWORK is located shall make

such distribution as herein provided upon the application of one or more persons having a real interest in The Network or its assets.

ARTICLE XI – REVIEW, REVISION, OR AMENDMENT

A formal review of the Constitution will take place at least every five years by the NETWORK Mission Strategist in consultation with the NETWORK Leadership Council.

This constitution may be amended or revised at any semi-annual meeting by a vote of two-thirds majority of its members present and voting. Provided that thirty days prior notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given in writing to the church messengers and all proposals for constitutional changes have been approved by the Leadership Council.

Final Draft