

Uwharrie Baptist Association Constitution & Bylaws

PREAMBLE

Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and for the furtherance of His Gospel, we, the people of the Uwharrie Baptist Association, do hereby adopt the following Articles and Bylaws.

Insofar as practical, this Association will cooperate with and support the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE I: NAME

This body shall be known as the Uwharrie Baptist Association (referred to as the UBA).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE, MISSION & STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1: Purpose: The UBA exists to glorify Jesus Christ by assisting local churches to fulfill their unique, God-given mission to advance the Gospel.

Section 2: Mission: As a network of churches, our mission is to connect church leaders to encourage thriving churches engaged in community impact.

Section 3: Statement of Faith: While we affirm the autonomy of the local church and its freedom to live out its faith according to its own understanding of biblical teaching, we also affirm the association's freedom to only associate with those churches who share our faith and practice. The Bible shall be accepted as our sole guide in matters of faith and practice using the below statement of faith as a guide for our doctrinal and ecclesiological interpretation.

- A. The Baptist Faith & Message:** The doctrines found in The Baptist Faith & Message 2000 shall be held as essential to the Baptist tradition of faith and practice. These statements of religious convictions, drawn from the Scriptures, shall be our guide as instruments of doctrinal accountability.
- B. The Sanctity of Human Life:** We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps. 139)
- C. Marriage and Human Sexuality:** We believe that God created humanity male and female, equal but different, as the Bible testifies (Gen. 1:27); that people cannot change their gender; and that marriage is ordained by God as the lifelong union of one man and one woman. (Gen. 1 & 2: Ephesians 5:22-32; 1 Cor. 3:16 & 6:9-20) As a result of these beliefs, the facilities of this association may not be used for any ceremony or meeting that in any way approves, solemnizes, supports or allows any union other than one man and one woman or any union which, in the judgment of the UBA, is inconsistent with our beliefs. It is also UBA policy that no pastor or church staff member shall officiate at any ceremony designed to solemnize, promote, create or approve of such a union. Any church that permits and/or participates in such a union shall be subject to discipline by the UBA.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

UBA membership shall consist of affiliated churches, which have freely entered into a relationship of cooperative support and fellowship. As a self-determining body, the UBA determines its own membership, purposes, and processes, but claims no authority over any local church.

Section 1. Conditions of Affiliation

A. The Association shall be composed of cooperating local Baptist churches. Member churches shall maintain scriptural integrity and doctrinal positions and practices consistent with the above Statement of Faith.

B. A cooperating church shall be one that supports the ministry and mission of the UBA through participation and annual financial gifts.

Section 2. Receiving Affiliated Churches into Membership.

A. Any church seeking admission to the membership shall petition the UBA in writing at least thirty(30) days prior to a scheduled session of the UBA. The Executive Team shall examine the church for suitability and may choose to recommend the church for membership.

B. If the UBA accepts the church by a 2/3 majority vote of messengers present at the meeting, it shall be admitted to watch-care for a minimum of one year. During that period, the petitioning church shall meet the following requirements:

1. Send non-voting messengers to attend the sessions of the UBA.
2. Submit the UBA Watchcare Profile quarterly:

C. The petitioning church may be presented in a scheduled session of the UBA once the requirements are met. A two-thirds majority vote of messengers present at the meeting shall be required for acceptance of full membership status. The UBA may, alternatively, vote to continue the watch care status for a specified period of time. Should the motion fail to receive a two-thirds approval, the church's relationship to the UBA shall be severed.

Section 3. Discipline and dismissal of Member Churches:

A. Any church whose practices or doctrines are contrary to the UBA Statement of Faith may become subject to formal discipline or dismissal from the UBA. All disciplinary proceedings and actions shall be undertaken pursuant to the biblical principles and process set forth in Matthew 18:15-17 in the spirit of commitment to confession, repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation. The officers of the UBA will first meet with the pastor and/or leaders of the member church in question to clarify the issues at hand. Should the issue remain unresolved, the associational officers shall bring these findings to the Executive Team. No member church shall be disciplined, nor recommendation for such discipline forwarded to the other members, until the member shall have been notified, or bona fide effort made to notify, of such pending matter including information of the charges and an opportunity to appear before the Executive Team in person and to forward information relevant to the matter. Any notification regarding potential discipline or dismissal of an UBA church must be communicated to the pastor, the church clerk and the chair of the elders and/or deacons. The Executive Team may bring a motion of censure, suspension or dismissal to an associational

meeting. The church in question must also be allowed an opportunity to respond to the concerns before the voting body. A two-thirds majority vote of the messengers of active churches present at the meeting is required to approve any recommendation of discipline.

- B. Churches that have not supported the mission and ministry of the UBA by participating and giving in three years will be moved to inactive status, resulting in ineligibility to vote at UBA meetings. Churches that renew participation in UBA meetings and ministries and also give financially will be announced at the next UBA meeting to be returned to active status. The following meeting after their announcement, the church can seat messengers to vote.

Section 4. Withdrawal of Affiliated Churches

Any affiliated or watch care church may withdraw from affiliation by written notice from the pastor or clerk of that church that includes a copy of minutes documenting an appropriate church vote.

ARTICLE IV: GOVERNANCE

The government of the UBA shall be vested in the affiliated churches acting in scheduled or special called sessions, the elected officers and the Executive Team as set forth in the Bylaws.

The Executive Team shall otherwise carry out the business of the UBA, and shall have the powers of a Board of Directors, subject however to the limitations set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

These Articles may be amended by a written motion presented at a scheduled or specially called meeting and approved by a two-thirds vote of messengers present at a subsequent meeting (scheduled or called for this purpose).

ARTICLE VI: DISSOLUTION

Should the UBA voluntarily choose to dissolve, it is directed by state law to follow the guidelines below:

1. The Board of Directors (the Executive Team) drafts a resolution recommending that the UBA be dissolved and directing that the question of dissolution be submitted to its membership. This will include how remaining assets will be distributed to religious non-profit, 501(c)(3) organizations, once all liabilities are satisfied.
2. All members are notified in writing that the question of dissolution will be discussed at an annual or called session.
3. A resolution to dissolve is adopted if it receives at least two-thirds approval.
4. Notice of the dissolution is mailed to all creditors as well as the North Carolina Secretary of State and the Internal Revenue Service.
5. Pay all corporate liabilities. Any assets remaining after payment of liabilities are transferred to the organization or organizations of like faith and mission, named in the motion of dissolution.

Bylaws for the Uwharrie Baptist Association

ARTICLE I: MEETINGS

Section 1. **Scheduled Meetings.** The UBA shall hold sessions, included but not limited to the annual meeting, for worship, equipping, reports and business matters. The places and dates, as determined by the Executive Team, will be announced with at least thirty (30) days' notice.

Section 2. **Special Called Meetings.** The Executive Team can call special meetings by giving at least fourteen (14) days' notice.

Section 3. **Rules of Procedure.** The procedures governing the business sessions of the UBA shall be the general procedures set forth in the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order. Such rules, however, may be suspended by the Moderator when they conflict with a commitment to full discussion of the issues, or where their mechanical application would confuse or distort or unduly delay the process. Any diversion from ordinary procedures shall be by a vote of the body. Except as otherwise stated, actions of the UBA shall be by majority vote on any matter properly before the body for action.

Section 4. **Attendance.** Sessions of the UBA will be open to the public, unless a motion is presented and approved to limit the attendance to church messengers, associational officers and staff. Meetings will be held at a physical location except in cases of extreme circumstances during which the Executive Team may choose a means of remote communication provided that reasonable measures are taken to verify the identity of remote attendees.

ARTICLE II: MESSENGERS

The affairs of this body, spiritual and temporal, shall be governed by its affiliated churches, acting through their messengers, officers and staff. Each church shall be allowed five (5) messengers for the first 200 resident members or fraction thereof and one for each additional 100 resident members. A church may have a maximum of ten (10) messengers. Each church shall notify the UBA in writing of those duly elected by the church as messengers.

ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Executive Team, for the UBA includes the General Officers of the Association: Moderator, as Chairman, the Vice-Moderator, as Vice-Chairman, and the Treasurer as Secretary/ Treasurer. The Executive Team also includes the elected chairpersons of each ministry team and the association staff: The General Officers shall serve as the trustees of the Association.

The General Officers and the ministry chairpersons of the Executive Team shall be elected by the Messengers of the affiliated churches acting in the Annual Meeting of the UBA. All authority of the UBA and the affairs of the UBA shall be controlled and administered by its Executive Team, except that the election of the General Officers, the adoption of the annual budget, and the purchase, sale or encumbering of real property shall be conducted by a vote of the messengers.

The Executive Team shall recommend a list of proposed officers, ministry chairpersons and a proposed budget for consideration at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IV: ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS AND STAFF

Section 1. **Moderator.** The Moderator presides over meetings of the Association and is elected annually. The Moderator shall serve for no more than three consecutive terms. The Moderator serves as President of the Corporation and as Chairman of the Executive Team.

Section 2. **Vice Moderator.** The Vice Moderator shall discharge the duties of the Moderator in his absence and serve as an associate in his presence. Should the office of Moderator become vacant, the Vice Moderator shall immediately accede to this office. Should the office of ViceModerator become vacant, a candidate should be elected at the next scheduled session. The ViceModerator serves as the VicePresident of the Corporation and Vice Chairman of the Executive Team..

Section 3. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer manages the finances of the UBA in cooperation with the Associational Officers and Staff. The Treasurer prepares reports quarterly or as requested by the Association and serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Corporation.

Section 4. **Lead Missionary.** The Lead Missionary serves (1) as a mission strategist, (2) a consultant for church health, (3) a shepherd for church pastors, and (4) the operations director for the UBA.

Section 5. **Administrative Assistant.** The Administrative Assistant serves (1) to facilitate communication among churches and church/community/denominational leaders, (2) to assist Associational Teams and the Lead Missionary, and (3) to inform and equip church administrative assistants and secretaries.

Section 6. **Additional Staff.** At such time that a new position is deemed necessary by the Executive Team, they shall present the proposed job description and adjusted budget to the Association for approval. Once a post is approved, the Executive Team is authorized to fill the post.

Section 7. **Dismissal.** The Executive Team alone may bring a request of dismissal of officers or dismissal of the lead missionary to the association. Dismissal initiated by the Executive Team requires a forty-five (45) day notice, prior to an associational vote for dismissal, except in cases of immoral or illegal conduct. In such cases the Executive Team may issue a suspension until a motion is brought for a vote. Any officer or lead missionary may be removed by a two-thirds vote of messengers present during any scheduled or called session of the UBA. The Executive Team has the authority to dismiss associational support staff.

Section 8: **Vacancies.** In the event of a vacancy because of resignation, death or removal from office, the Executive Team may appoint interim staff or officers until the next scheduled or special called meeting of the Executive Team, which can approve the appointment and conditions of appointment.

a. **Lead Missionary Search Team.** At such time that the UBA is without a Lead Missionary, the Executive Team shall enlist five (5) to seven (7) active members of the Association to serve as an Lead Missionary Search Team with no two (2) members from the same church. In addition, the Moderator shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Associational Lead Missionary Search Team. The Search Team shall select its own Chairman from its membership, shall seek out a qualified Lead Missionary, and shall present the name to the Association for approval.

b. **Calling a Lead Missionary.** Election shall require the affirmative vote of 3/4 majority of the messengers at the scheduled or special called meeting.

c. **Concluding the Services of a Lead Missionary.** The Lead Missionary is to give a notice of no less than 30 days when concluding his service.

ARTICLE V: ASSOCIATIONAL TEAMS

The UBA accomplishes its stated mission by way of a team structure. Teams are organized and dissolved by the UBA in order to maximize effectiveness and focus. Teams are empowered by the UBA to attend and accomplish stated tasks. They are responsible to know their assignment and to be equipped to carry it out. They may enlist additional team members in cooperation with the Executive Team. They should communicate plans, actions and changes with the staff and officers regularly. The Administrative Assistant will keep a current roster of active teams and team members.

The following standing teams serve to accomplish essential support and management of people, resources, and vision for the association.

Section 1. Executive Team shall be composed of the associational officers, staff and the chairman of each standing team. The Moderator shall preside over the Executive Team. This team will support and serve all other teams in order to promote and administer the mission of the association.

The following are standing teams of the association.

Stewardship Team assists the association by monitoring the financial status, developing an annual budget, and implementing stewardship strategies.

Missions Team engages churches to demonstrate and declare the Gospel in their local community and the world.

Church Health Team assesses churches and equips them to be thriving.

Section 2: Additional Teams. In addition to the standing teams listed above, teams are formed or dissolved at the direction of the AMS and the Executive Team in order most effectively and efficiently accomplish the stated purposes and mission of the UBA.

ARTICLE VI: MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. **Fiscal Year.** The Association shall operate on the calendar year for budget and leadership.

Section 2. **Quorum.** After due notice of a business session, those members present at the meeting containing the business session shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. **Voting.** Voting shall be in-person unless extreme circumstances dictate the need for the association to hold a remote meeting. Voting shall be limited to active Church Messengers and Associational Officers. No absentee ballots or voting by proxy shall be permitted.

Section 4. **Special Procedures.** All motions involving (1) the purchase or sale of property, (2) the affiliation of relationships by the Association, must be communicated at least fourteen (14) days prior to the session, whether scheduled or called for this purpose.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a written motion presented at any meeting and, if accepted by majority vote, be approved by a two-thirds vote of messengers present at a subsequent meeting (scheduled at least 30 days later. Proposed bylaw amendments must be communicated to active churches at least 30 days prior to the subsequent meeting.

Amendments to the Operations Manual (Policies and Procedures) are made with the approval of the Executive Team.