

# CONSTITUTION

AND

## BY-LAWS

OF THE

**MID-LAKES SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

In

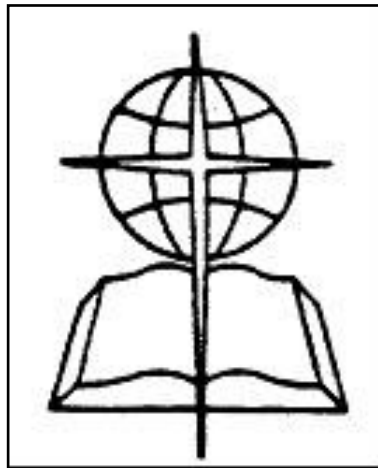
**BOLIVAR, MISSOURI**

**AS ADOPTED OCTOBER 7, 2014**

**~~LATEST~~ Previous Revision OCTOBER 4, 2016**

**Latest Revision October 12, 2026**

“Churches working together...  
Serving Jesus...  
Throughout the World.”



# Mid-Lakes Southern Baptist Association

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**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
MID-LAKES SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**AS ADOPTED OCTOBER 7, 2014  
LATEST REVISION ~~OCTOBER 4, 2016~~ **October 12, 2026****

**ARTICLE I -- NAME**

The name of this body shall be "The Mid-Lakes Southern Baptist Association."

**ARTICLE II -- PURPOSE**

**Section 1.** The purpose of the Association shall be to furnish the constituent churches a medium of fellowship and cooperation for the propagation of the gospel and the strengthening of the churches by all methods in accord with the Word of God.

**Section 2.** This Association shall cooperate with the Missouri Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention in achieving its purpose.

**ARTICLE III -- MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.** This Association shall be composed of messengers from the Southern Baptist churches which are in friendly cooperation with this Association, together with a pastor of these churches, the officers and trustees of the Association, the Executive Board members for the year, the ~~Director of Missions~~, **Associational Missions Strategist** and those additional leaders listed in the By-Laws, Article II, "Duties of Officers, Trustees and Other Leaders".

**Section 2.** This Association is an autonomous body.

**Section 3.** Any church desiring to affiliate with this Association shall make application by letter to the chairperson of the Personnel/Church Relations Committee requesting such affiliation. This letter shall indicate the church's friendly and loyal cooperation with this body and the date of the church's action approving such application. The letter should include a copy of the church's articles of faith. All such applications shall be thoroughly studied and considered by the Personnel/Church Relations Committee. This committee shall then present the applications with recommendations for consideration by the Association at a regular Annual Meeting. The application must be received by the Personnel/Church Relations Committee at least ninety days prior to the **first day of the Annual Meeting** at which it is to be considered.

## ARTICLE VI -- TRUSTEES

The Association shall elect three Trustees who shall have duties as set forth in the By-Laws.

## ARTICLE VII -- EXECUTIVE BOARD

This Association shall have an Executive Board whose membership, duties, meetings, and quorums shall be set forth in the By-Laws.

## ARTICLE VIII -- COMMITTEES

Provision shall be made in the By-Laws for elected and appointed committees. Special committees may be appointed by the Moderator.

## ARTICLE IX -- AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the Association by a two-third majority of the members present and voting, provided written notice of the proposed change(s) shall have been given at the regular meeting of the Executive Board immediately prior to the annual meeting. The proposed amendment(s), further, shall be presented ~~on the first day of~~ at the Annual Meeting and ~~for~~ action ~~to be~~ taken. ~~on the second day.~~

# BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I -- MEETINGS

**Section 1.** The Association shall meet annually within the month of October at such time ~~s~~ and place ~~s as may be~~ set by the Association.

**Section 2.** Messengers shall register with the Clerk immediately upon their arrival at the meetings, indicating the church or associational office represented. Mess

Treasurer's accounts shall be audited annually by the Budget Committee and at such other times as the Executive Board may direct. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Budget Committee.

**Section 6.** The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in the discharge of the Treasurer's duties and act during the Treasurer's absence, incapacity, resignation or death.

**Section 7.** The Trustees shall fulfill all legal requirements of the Association at the direction of the Association or the Executive Board. The Trustees shall have responsibility for maintaining, repairing, remodeling and redecorating all Association properties. They will prepare and recommend to the Association a policy for the occupancy and use of all Associational property.

**Section 8.** The directors of: Women's Missionary Union, Youth, Children, and Music shall affect adequate organizations through which they shall promote the best interests of their respective programs. They shall provide practical assistance to the churches in their respective programs.

**Section 9.** The standing and appointed Committees shall develop plans to encourage the churches and assist them in their individual and cooperative work in their respective areas of ministry.

**Section 10.** Each leader listed in Sections 5, 7, 8 and 9 of Article II of these By-Laws shall submit a written report at the Annual Meeting and may report as needed at Executive Board Meetings.

**Section 11.** All persons authorized to handle funds of the Association shall be covered by a bond, the premium for which shall be paid by the Association.

### **ARTICLE III -- ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE**

**Section 1.** Officers, Trustees and other committee members shall be elected by majority vote at the Annual Meeting.

**Section 4.** Members of the Executive Board representing forty per cent, rounded up to the nearest whole number, of the affiliated churches shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 5.** Electronic communication is acceptable to conduct Executive Board business and for the purpose of making recommendations and votes if deemed necessary by the moderator who has the authority to call such meetings. A quorum of 40% of the churches must respond for all electronic votes. The clerk will keep a record of all correspondence which will serve as the minutes for the meeting.

#### **ARTICLE V -- ASSOCIATIONAL COUNCIL**

The Associational Council shall consist of those officers and leaders named in Article II, Sections 1, 8 and 9, together with the ~~Director of Missions~~ **Associational Missions Strategist**, who shall serve as chairman. This Council shall coordinate the program and plan the calendar of the Association.

#### **ARTICLE VI -- PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

The Program Committee shall plan the program of the Annual Meeting and recommend its order of business. The committee shall consist of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, ~~Director of Missions~~ **Associational Missions Strategist**, Director of Music, pastor of the host church and the preacher of the annual sermon. The Moderator will serve as chairman.

#### **ARTICLE VII -- COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.** Membership and terms of office: The Members of the Nominating Committee including the chairperson shall be appointed by the Moderator at the Annual Meeting. The members of all **other standing** committees shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee. Each committee shall consist of three elected members (in addition to ex-officio members) unless otherwise specified below. Each member of a committee shall serve for three years with one-third of the members being elected each year. Each committee will elect its own chair. No member shall be eligible for re-election, after having served more than eighteen months, until

**Section 6.** The Historical Committee shall gather and preserve historical information both past and present about the churches and the Association. It shall establish and maintain relationship with the Missouri Baptist Historical Society. This Committee shall also encourage the churches to compile and preserve their histories and records. The Committee shall assemble and present to the Association during the Annual Meeting a list of the brothers and sisters whose deaths have been reported for the Associational year just closed.

**Section 7.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate for election by the Association or the Executive Board all officers, trustees, other leaders, and members of committees except the members of the Nominating Committee and staff personnel. A proposed slate of nominees shall be presented to the churches at the Annual Meeting. Nominations to fill vacancies occurring between Annual Meetings will be made to the Executive Board. This Committee shall recommend to the Association a proposed time and place of the next Annual Meeting, together with the preacher of the annual sermon and an alternate.

**Section 8.** The Personnel/Church Relations Committee shall consist of six members, four of whom shall be laypersons and two pastors or church staff members. No more than one member from any church shall serve on this committee. Any member who is absent more than one-third of the meetings in a year may be replaced by the Association or the Executive Board, upon the initiative of the other members of this committee. The Personnel/Church Relations Committee shall meet as needed or as requested by the Executive Board and shall submit a written report as deemed necessary to the Executive Board and at the Annual Meetings of the Association. The Personnel/Church Relations committee shall supervise the work of the ~~Director of Missions~~ **Associational Missions Strategist**. In the event the position of ~~Director of Missions~~ **Associational Missions Strategist** is vacant, this committee shall recommend a replacement for election by the Association in regular session or by the Executive Board. This committee is to assist the Association in administering policies for staff personnel (paid or volunteer) by carrying out the following:

1. Periodically survey the need for staff positions.
2. Prepare, periodically review and update position descriptions for all staff personnel.
3. Develop and recommend to the Executive Board a policy manual for staff personnel.
4. Recruit, interview and recommend to the Association or Executive Board, a **nominee for the Associational Missions Strategist position** ~~the Director of Missions~~.
5. Consider the recommendation of the ~~Director of Missions~~

**Section 10.** Electronic communication is acceptable to conduct committee meetings and for making recommendations requiring a committee vote. Electronic modes of communication offer effective and efficient ways to share information, saving time and financial resource. Any committee meetings held using electronic communication will have minutes taken, including the names of members participating, and minutes will be distributed to members of the committee prior to presenting proposals to other association bodies. *This applies only to transactions between parties each of which has agreed to conduct transactions by electronic means. Whether the parties agree to conduct a transaction by electronic means is determined from the context and surrounding circumstances, including the parties' conduct.*

#### **ARTICLE VIII -- STAFF**

~~A Director of Missions~~ **The Associational Missions Strategist** and other staff personnel may be employed by the Association or the Executive Board in accordance with adopted position descriptions and staff personnel policies.

#### **ARTICLE IX -- AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the Association by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, provided written notice of the proposed change(s) have been given at the regular meeting of the Executive Board immediately prior to the Annual Meeting. The proposed amendment(s), further, shall be presented ~~on the first day of~~ **at** the Annual Meeting ~~and~~ **for** action taken ~~on the second day~~ **by the messengers**.



Mid-Lakes Baptist Association

~~L. Joe Coppedge, Director~~

**John Rhodes, Associational Missions Strategist**

Bolivar, MO

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