

GREATER DAYTON ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS

CONSTITUTION

(Amended October 2020)

ARTICLE I - NAME

This body shall be called the Greater Dayton Association of Baptists (affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention).

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this association shall be to Partner with member churches pastors, using networks to promote coaching, planting and encouragement. It is our end desire to promote fellowship among the churches, to seek the well-being of each of the churches in the Lord's work, to conduct a definite work of local missions in cooperation with the churches of the association, and to encourage as it deems proper the support of the cooperative and charitable work of evangelism, missions, Christian education and benevolence fostered by the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program in carrying out Christ's Great Commission.

ARTICLE III - ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We adopt as our statement of faith, THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE, as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14, 2000.
2. In reference to baptism in "Item 7 of the Baptist Faith and Message, 1963" the following resolution is recommended:
 - A. We believe that scriptural baptism is:
 - (1) By immersion and is reserved for believers only.
 - (2) A symbol of our Lord's death, burial and resurrection.
 - (3) It is a symbol of the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old man and the resurrection of the new man in Christ Jesus, and it is not necessary for salvation.
 - (4) Administered by the authority of a church that believes and teaches scriptural baptism as is herein stated and also believes and teaches that genuine experience of salvation is an eternal experience never to be lost.
 - (5) A prerequisite to church membership and the observance of the Lord's Supper.
 - (6) That these statements should be taught as the Great Commission commands.
 - B. In keeping with the above statement, we further recommend:
 - (1) That each church should carefully determine that this is the belief of any one who is seeking to become a member of said church, and that his baptism was administered by a church believing and consistently practicing the same, otherwise he would be accepted by baptism into the said church.
 - (2) That any church in the Greater Dayton Association of Baptists that knowingly and continuously maintains a policy of receiving

members by letter or statement from any group that violates the above statement will be breaking the fellowship in this association.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

1. The association in session shall be composed of duly elected messengers from cooperating Southern Baptist Churches affiliated together in carrying out the purposes set forth in Article II and continuing in the New Testament doctrines and practices as interpreted in Article III
2. The basis of representation for the annual sessions shall be as follows:
 - A. Each church shall be entitled to two (2) messengers for the first fifty (50) members or fractional part thereof, and one (1) messenger for each additional fifty (50) members, or major part thereof, providing that no church shall have more than ten (10) messengers. Messengers must be members having been properly elected by their church.
 - B. All pastors of churches of this association shall be recognized as messengers unless the church deems otherwise.
 - C. Churches desiring to affiliate with this association may be received upon written application accompanied by acceptable testimony of their soundness in the faith and evidence that they were properly constituted.

The church desiring to affiliate shall present to the Credentials/Constitution Committee, in addition to the Application for Affiliation, a copy of the minutes of the organizational council, a copy of the church constitution and by-laws, including their articles of faith and church covenant.

Upon the recommendation of the Credentials/Constitution Committee and approval of the Executive Board by the two-thirds majority vote, members present and voting, such church may be received under the watch-care of the association. After the watch-care period (of at least six months but no longer than one and a half years) the petitioning church may then be received into membership of the association at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting. Churches under watch-care shall be afforded all the services and privileges of the association with the exception of the right to seat voting messengers to the association.

ARTICLE V - RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCHES

1. The association may advise, give counsel, and propose measures but it shall exercise no power to ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the churches. It shall have power, however, to withdraw fellowship from any church which departs from the doctrines and practices found in this constitution.
2. The Credentials/Constitution Committee shall review the propriety or continued associational fellowship of any church:
 - A. Which fails to submit a church letter to the association for two consecutive years
 - B. Which fails to contribute financially for a period of one year to the association and through the Cooperative Program in keeping with the spirit of Article II of this constitution.
3. The Credentials/Constitution Committee shall pursue reasonable efforts to correct any existing failures of churches to cooperate according to this constitution. Should the offending church persist in its tendencies the Credentials/Constitution Committee may recommend that fellowship be withdrawn from said church.
4. Any question concerning the withdrawal of fellowship from a church shall be considered by the Credentials/Constitution Committee and the Executive Board

before coming to the annual meeting. Such presentation shall be presented the first day session and acted upon the second session of the annual associational meeting. Any withdrawal question shall be determined by a two-thirds majority of messengers present and voting.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

1. The association shall convene annually on Tuesday after the second Sunday of October for two sessions.
2. When necessary, the time or place of the annual meeting may be changed, or special meetings called, by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII - ASSOCIATIONAL YEAR

The associational operating year shall begin on September 1st and end on August 31st for Annual Church Profile (ACP) reporting. The associational annual budget and calendar of activities will be consistent with the calendar year January 1st through December 31st.

ARTICLE VIII - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

1. The officers of the association shall be moderator, assistant moderator, clerk and assistant clerk and such others as may be authorized by the association.
2. The officers of the association shall be elected during the annual meeting by a majority vote and shall take office at the close of the annual meeting. When two or more are nominated for any stated office the elected shall be by ballot.
3. The moderator shall preside over the meetings of the association and the Executive Board. He shall appoint such committees as may be authorized by this constitution and/or by the association. The moderator may serve a maximum of two years in succession. The assistant moderator shall discharge the duties of the moderator in his absence and may preside at his request.
4. The clerk shall (1) distribute annually to each church the proper letter forms on which said church will report to the association, (2) Keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the association and its Executive Board, (3) Report regularly to the Executive Board and annually to the association, and (4) Serve as an ex-officio member of the Budget and Finance Committee.

ARTICLE IX - EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. The association shall have an Executive Board which shall consist of the following: officers of the association as established in Article VIII, program organizational leaders, chairmen of the administrative committees (Christian Life and Resolutions, Credentials and Constitution, Budget and Finance, and Personnel), Associational Missionary, Coaching Team Leader, Planting Team Leader and Encouragement Team Leader, all active pastors of churches in the association and of their missions, the pastor of a church under watch-care, interim and emeritus pastors of churches in the association providing they hold membership in a church in the association, full time associate pastors, full time ministers of music and/or education employed by churches of the association, and three lay members from each church elected by that church and certified in

writing to the association or its Executive Board. No church shall have more than five (5) Executive Board members.

2. The Executive Board shall care for every interest of the association and direct its activities in the interim between the quarterly and annual meetings and shall carry out the policies and will of the association as so expressed at the quarterly and annual meetings. It shall hold quarterly meetings (January, April and July) at such time and place, as it shall decide. Called meetings may be held only after all members have been notified of the time, place and purpose of the meeting. The Executive Board shall be empowered plan any appropriate and necessary business of the Association and report such activities to the Association members as represented by the messengers at the quarterly and annual meetings.
3. The Executive Board shall be supported by an Administrative Leadership Team (ALT), which shall serve to provide counsel and correlate and coordinate the regular work of the Association and shall perform other duties at the direction of the Board. The ALT shall meet as often as expedient or at the call of the Associational Missionary. The Alt shall consist of membership set forth in By-Laws paragraph, OFFICERS, COMMITTEE AND THEIR FUNCTIONS, sub-paragraph 3A.

ARTICLE X - TRUSTEES

The association shall have five trustees, elected to rotating terms not to exceed three years, who shall be the representatives of the association in all legal matters and who shall act for the association in all matters as the association or the Executive Board directs protecting the interests of the association where any process of law is required. The trustees shall be responsible for any matters pertaining to the building and grounds. They shall perform other duties as prescribed by the association or the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the association by a two-thirds majority of the messengers present and voting provided notice of the proposed amendment is given in writing a week before action is taken and has been considered by the Constitution Committee. The constitution shall be reviewed in years ending in 0 and 5 to ensure that the structure an alignment is consistent with the mission of the GDAB. Its purpose is to ensure that this document and the GDAB structure serve the mission of the GDAB BY-LAWS.

OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

1. The moderator, in consultation with the assistant moderator and the Associational Missionary, shall appoint such special committees as the association may direct.
2. The association shall have an Association Administrative Leadership Team (ALT) and Administrative Committees and other committees authorized by the association of the Executive Board. The committees shall begin their duties at the close of the annual meeting and shall make reports of their work to the Executive Board and the association.

The Associational A.L.T.

- A. Membership: The Association ALT shall be composed of the "Associational Missionary, Coaching Team Leader, Planting Team Leader, Moderator,

Chairman of the Personnel Committee, and Chairman of the Finance Committee.”

- B. Duties: The Associational ALT shall act as the Steering Committee of the association in all its work. It shall also recommend all officers, administrative committees for election at the annual meeting. The ALT shall recommend, to the Executive Board, persons to fill vacancies that occur during the associational year. This ALT shall present to the association in its annual meeting nominations for trustees, officers, administrative committees members and committee chairmen.
- C. Associational Teams. All Associational Teams report to the Associational Missionary.

(1) **Administrative Team.** Shall be directed by the Associational Missionary. The team will include all paid staff (to include an Associational Resource Manager (ARM)) and the Administrative Committees. All Administrative Committees shall be composed of three (3) or more members. These shall be elected for three (3) years renewable by the association upon recommendation by the nominating committee. They shall take office at the close of the annual meeting and are listed below:

- a. **Budget/Finance/Annuity Committee** shall annually formulate and present to the Executive Board an associational budget to be adopted at the associational annual meeting. At least three (3) months before the annual meeting this committee shall receive recommendations from the officers, program organization leaders and committees. This committee shall consider all matters of finance referred to it by the association or the Executive Board. Shall also keep the churches informed of the Annuity Programs of the Southern Baptist Convention and promote and update retirement plans for pastors and other eligible workers.
- b. **The Christian Life/Resolutions Committee** shall create an awareness of changing social conditions and trends and shall recommend to the association such action as it deems appropriate. Shall also consider, prepare and present all resolutions to be acted upon by the association or the Executive Board.
- c. **The Credentials/Constitution Committee** shall review this constitution and by-laws in years ending in “0” and “5”. It is expected that they shall also ensure the continuity of this document with the goals and objectives of the Association and its consistency with resolutions adopted by the Association. They shall also ensure compliance with Constitution Articles IV and V.
- d. **The Personnel Committee** shall formulate and recommend to the Executive Board personnel policy and job descriptions for all associational paid staff. This committee shall be responsible for the employment of all administrative staff and field personnel subject to the approval of the Executive Board or association in its annual meeting.

NOTE: The Associational Missionary and Moderator are ex-officio members of all committees.

(2) **Coaching Team.** The Associational Coaching Team Leader will form and organize a team of experienced pastors to provide coaching to other Associational Pastors. This should include strategic redesign, coaching partnerships, facility evaluation and other techniques and tools as they become known.

(3) **Planting Team.** The Associational Planting Team Leader will form and organize a team of experienced pastors and their churches to encourage and pursue planting and replanting in the Association. This should include education development for church planters, re-planter, networks and resources, and sending church candidates.

(4) **Encouragement Team** - The Encouragement Team will be directed by the Encouragement Team Leader whose mission and vision is to form networks of geographically located groups of pastors and leaders supported by local Network Convener members of that geographic cohort, providing Biblical Counseling and personal and family renewal events.

3. **ASSOCIATION DISSOLUTION:** If it should become necessary to dissolve the association then all properties and monies shall be first offered to the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO) and then to the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention and finally to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). If none of the above-mentioned organizations desire ownership then the properties shall be sold and all monies shall distributed equally among associational member churches for use in ministry.