

FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION



CONSTITUTION (Revised July 2014)

**CONSTITUTION OF THE
FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION
REVISED JULY 2005**

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ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be called the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship Association (also referred to as “F.B.F.A.” or “Association”).

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship Association shall be to promote the establishment of Bible believing Baptist churches of like faith through means of encouragement, fellowship, and financial support; to foster the spirit of evangelism; to spread the Gospel; to advance the cause of Christ through mutual efforts in Christian education and missions – both at home and throughout the world; to promote the institution of the family; and to maintain a pure testimony of Jesus Christ by separation from worldliness, modernism and apostasy. (Matt. 28:19, 20)

ARTICLE III – DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

The Doctrinal Statement of the Association represents the core scriptural values upon which the Association was founded and upon which the Association continues to exist. These core values are non-negotiable and are the tenets upon which our faith in the triune God (The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit) is built. The Doctrinal Statement is available as a separate document from the Constitution. The Doctrinal Statement shall only be revised for purposes of making additions, clarifications or corrections but without altering the meaning of any portion of the document.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Association shall be open to churches and individuals. Church membership entitles its members to unrestricted franchise and participation and all other rights and privileges available under the Constitution or other operating manuals/guidelines. Individual members have no rights of franchise, limitations on the level of participation and restrictions on rights and privileges normally available to those with membership in Association churches. Individual members must be endorsed by a member church and/or approved by the Membership Committee.

SECTION I – CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Church membership with this Association shall consist of churches that subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement of the Association and that have taken a separated stand upon God’s Word as articulated in the Doctrinal Statement. The Association shall not accept into its membership any church that condones or permits the practice of modernism, apostasy, or immoral behavior.

Any Baptist church in the United States or abroad that meets the aforementioned criteria may obtain membership with the Association and shall have every right of franchise and participation

available under the Constitution. Additionally, churches that are Baptist and known for their evangelical soundness, though not affiliated with the Baptist denomination, may apply for membership with the Association.

All churches will be required to sign a statement annually to affirm that they:

1. continue to subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement of the Association
2. continue to take a separated stand upon God's Word as articulated in the Doctrinal Statement
3. do not condone or permit the practice of modernism, apostasy, or immoral behavior.

In addition, member churches are expected to participate, minimally, at the following levels:

1. Payment of its annual membership fee, according to the prescribed scale
2. Participation in the annual conferences, and/or its regional events
3. Selecting and sending of delegates to the Annual conference's business meetings.

SECTION II – INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individuals who are known for their evangelical soundness, though not affiliated with an Association church, but who are members in good standing in a local church, may obtain Individual membership with the Association provided the individual has taken a separated stand upon God's Word as articulated in the Doctrinal Statement. The Association shall not accept into its membership any individual who condones or permits the practice of modernism, apostasy or immoral behavior. Such individuals shall not be an Association officer and shall not be a part of the Steering Council and shall have no rights of franchise.

All individual members will be required to sign a statement annually to affirm that they:

1. continue to subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement of the Association
2. continue to take a separated stand upon God's Word as articulated in the Doctrinal Statement
3. do not condone or permit the practice of modernism, apostasy, or immoral behavior.

SECTION III – APPROVAL FOR MEMBERSHIP

PART A: CHURCH

Before a church begins the application process, the majority of the members of that church must indicate their desire to become affiliated with the Association. Following satisfactory completion of the application process, the Membership Committee shall make its recommendation to the Steering Council. A three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor of acceptance shall be required of the Steering Council before the Council can present the church to the delegates for final approval. A two-thirds (2/3) vote by the delegates voting at any Annual Conference shall be required for final acceptance of a church into membership with the Association.

PART B: INDIVIDUAL

The applicant must be endorsed by a member church that is in good standing with the Association. Following satisfactory completion of the application process, the Membership Committee shall make its recommendation to the Steering Council. A three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor of acceptance shall be required of the Steering Council before the Council can present the individual to the delegates for final approval. A two-thirds (2/3) vote by the delegates voting at any Annual Conference shall be required for final acceptance of an individual into membership with the Association.

SECTION IV – WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

PART A: CHURCH

Any member church may withdraw its membership at any time for any reason it so desires. It is expected that reasons for withdrawal will be filed with the Secretary of the Association prior to such withdrawal.

A member church may, based upon evidence presented by the Steering Council, be asked to withdraw its membership if it ceases to:

1. adhere to evangelical soundness
2. subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement of the Association
3. take a separated stand upon God's Word as articulated in the Doctrinal Statement
4. affirm that it does not condone or permit the practice of modernism, apostasy, or immoral behavior.

Also, a member church may be asked to withdraw its membership for any of the following reasons:

1. inactivity in the Association for three or more years, as evidenced by significant underperformance at any of the following levels:
 - a. payment of the annual membership fees
 - b. participation in the annual conferences, and/or its regional events
 - c. failure to submit or send delegates to the annual conference business meeting.
2. lack of visible evidence of interest in the affairs of the Association
3. openly or secretly attempting to subvert the Association's doctrinal position and Baptist persuasion
4. other just reasons as may be recommended by the Steering Council and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates voting at any Annual Conference.

Each recommendation for withdrawal from membership with the Association will be considered on its own merit.

Before any member church is asked to withdraw its membership, the Membership Committee shall conduct a fact-finding investigation. Following satisfactory completion of the investigation, the Membership Committee shall make its recommendation to the Steering Council. A three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor of withdrawal shall be required of the Steering Council before the Council can present the church with the option to withdraw its membership.

If the withdrawal of membership is not voluntarily submitted, the church may, upon recommendation from the Steering Council, be removed from membership with the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates voting at any Annual Conference.

Determination of member church eligibility shall be based, in part, on information contained in this section.

PART B: INDIVIDUAL

Any individual member may withdraw his/her membership at any time for any reason he/she so desires. It is expected that reasons for withdrawal will be filed with the Secretary of the Association prior to such withdrawal.

An individual member may, upon satisfactory evidence presented to the Steering Council, be asked to withdraw his/her membership if he/she ceases to:

1. adhere to evangelical soundness
2. subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement of the Association
3. take a separated stand upon God's Word as articulated in the Doctrinal Statement
4. affirm that he/she does not condone or permit the practice of modernism, apostasy, or immoral behavior.

Also, an individual member may be asked to withdraw membership for any of the following reasons:

1. inactivity in the Association for three (3) or more years
2. lack of visible evidence of interest in the affairs of the Association
3. openly or secretly attempting to subvert the Association's doctrinal position and Baptist persuasion
4. other just reasons as may be recommended by the Steering Council and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates voting at any Annual Conference.

Each recommendation for withdrawal from membership with the Association will be considered on its own merit.

Before any individual member is asked to withdraw his/her membership, the Membership Committee shall conduct a fact-finding investigation. Following satisfactory completion of the investigation, the Membership Committee shall make its recommendation to the Steering Council. A three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor of withdrawal shall be required of the Steering Council before the Council can present the individual with the option to withdraw his/her membership.

If the withdrawal of membership is not voluntarily submitted, the individual may, upon recommendation from the Steering Council, be removed from membership with the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates voting at any Annual Conference.

ARTICLE V – MEETING

The F.B.F.A. shall hold an Annual Conference each year in order to properly conduct business which requires participation of its member churches. The Annual Conference will generally be held during the months of June or July. Other meetings may be held on the local, state and regional levels as determined to be in the best interest of member churches. The Steering Council and other subordinate ministries shall meet as deemed necessary to conduct business consistent with the Association's Purpose.

ARTICLE VI – STEERING COUNCIL

SECTION I – COMPOSITION

The Steering Council shall consist of a minimum of nine (9) persons and a maximum of nineteen (19) persons plus the Representative(s).

The Council shall contain a maximum of seven (7) lay persons (non-clergy).

Nine (9) permanent seats on the Council shall comprise the following:

1. Chairman who also is the Association President
2. Vice-Chairman who also is the Association Executive Vice-President
3. Secretary who is also the Association Secretary
4. Association Chief Financial Officer
5. Vice-President of Administration
6. Vice-President of Christian Education
7. Vice-President of Church Development
8. Vice-President of Fellowship
9. Vice-President of Outreach

SECTION II – CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATE SELECTION

All Steering Council members shall be spiritually mature, of unquestionable Christian character, loyal to the Word of God, dedicated and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the spiritual and material welfare of the Association. Candidates for any Council seat shall be evaluated according to 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1 & Titus 2. Additionally, no one shall be able to serve on the Steering Council who condones or permits the practice of modernism, apostasy or immoral behavior.

All candidates for serving on the Steering Council must be in good standing in a member church that is in good standing in the Association. Any Council member who transfers membership from a member church must resign from his/her Council seat. Any Council member who is affiliated with a church that terminates its membership with the Association, must likewise be required to resign his/her seat on the Council.

SECTION III – APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES

1. The Steering Council shall nominate candidates to serve on the Steering Council but the candidates must be approved by the churches.
2. A three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor of approval of the candidate shall be required of the Steering Council before the Council can present the individual to the delegates for final approval.
3. A two-thirds (2/3) vote by the delegates voting at any Annual Conference shall be required for final acceptance of an individual as a member of the Steering Council.
4. The Steering Council may select persons to serve in an interim capacity without prior approval by the churches.

SECTION IV – ACCOUNTABILITY

The Steering Council is always in subjection to the churches. For this purpose “the churches” is defined as the combined total of all pastors and delegates from all the churches that comprise membership with the Association.

SECTION V – INHERENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Serves as the policy making body of the F.B.F.A.

2. Serves as the Membership Committee for the Association.
3. Serves as the Nomination Committee for the Association.
4. Sets the tone for righteous living (spiritual, social, economic, physical, etc.) as unto godliness and models a lifestyle consistent with Biblical principles.
5. Oversees all affairs/activities of the Association, including activities of the Ministry Teams.
6. Creates, fosters and maintains an atmosphere wherein love, harmony, goodwill and unity thrive among Association churches and members.
7. Serves as the official voice for the Association in response to both private and public issues of our churches.
8. Serves as the official voice for the Association in the evangelical community.
9. Serves as the official voice for the Association in the broader community (private and public, religious and secular)
10. Fulfills any other tasks (herein stated or unstated) that may be essential to the continued growth & development and viability of the Association as we live out the gospel until the eminent return of Christ

SECTION VI – TERMS OF OFFICE & SUCCESSION

PART A: PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

1. Serve as the Association President and Executive Vice-President respectively.
2. Are elected for a four (4) year term.
3. May serve for a minimum of four (4) years and a maximum of eight (8) consecutive years subject to nomination by the Steering Council.
4. Are eligible for re-election to the same office after remaining out of office for a period of two (2) years subject to nomination by the Steering Council.

PART B: SECRETARY

1. Serve as the Association Secretary.
2. Is elected for a three (3) year term.
3. Is elected for a minimum term of three (3) years but may serve indefinitely subject to nomination by the Steering Council.

PART C: ALL OTHER MEMBERS

1. Are elected for a three (3) year term.
2. May serve for a minimum of three (3) years and a maximum of six (6) years subject to nomination by the Steering Council.
3. Are eligible for re-election to the Council after a one (1) year absence subject to nomination by the Steering Council.
4. While rotating off the Steering Council, council members may continue to serve on any Ministry Team in any other capacities.

PART D: EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions may be made to the succession guidelines upon recommendation by the Steering Council, but only after a thorough search reveals that there is no one else qualified or willing to fill the vacant seat except the person(s) whose term(s) just expired.

ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

The Officers of the Association shall be:

1. President who also is Chairman of the Steering Council
2. Executive Vice-President who also is the Vice-Chairman of the Steering Council
3. Secretary who also is Secretary of the Steering Council
4. Chief Financial Officer
5. Any other officers deemed necessary for conducting affairs of the Association, as recommended by the Steering Council and approved by the churches.

SECTION I – CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATE SELECTION

All Association Officers shall be spiritually mature, of unquestionable Christian character, loyal to the Word of God, dedicated and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the spiritual and material welfare of the Association. Candidates for any office shall be evaluated according to 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1 and Titus 2. Additionally, no one shall be able to hold an office who condones or permits the practice of modernism, apostasy or immoral behavior.

All candidates for serving as an Association officer must be in good standing in a church that is in good standing in the Association. Any Association officer who transfers membership from a member church must resign from his/her office. Any Association officer who is affiliated with a church that terminates its membership with the Association, must likewise be required to resign his/her office.

SECTION II – APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES

1. The Steering Council shall nominate candidates to serve as officers of the Association but the candidates must be approved by the churches.
2. A three-fourths (3/4) majority vote in favor of acceptance shall be required of the Steering Council before the Council can present the individual to the delegates for final approval.
3. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by the delegates voting at any Annual Conference shall be required for final acceptance of an individual as an officer of the Association.
4. The Steering Council selects the Vice-Presidents and Directors of the Ministry Areas. Approval by the churches is not required.
5. The Steering Council may select persons to serve in an interim capacity without prior approval by the churches.

SECTION III – RESTRICTIVE CLAUSES

1. The President and Executive Vice-President of the Association must be males with pastoral experience and/or training.
2. Ministry Vice-Presidents must be males.
3. Laymen may serve as Ministry Vice-Presidents but may not serve as President and Executive Vice-President of the Association.
4. Youth are encouraged to serve in all ministry areas.
5. Women are encouraged to serve in all ministry areas.

SECTION IV – TERMS OF OFFICE & SUCCESSION

PART A: PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

1. Are elected for a four (4) year term.
2. May serve for a minimum of four (4) years and a maximum of eight (8) consecutive years subject to nomination by the Steering Council.
3. Are eligible for re-election to the same office after remaining out of office for a period of two (2) years subject to nomination by the Steering Council.

PART B: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND SECRETARY

1. Are elected for a three (3) year term.
2. Are elected for a minimum term of three (3) years but may serve indefinitely subject to nomination by the Steering Council.

PART C: OTHER OFFICERS

1. Are elected for a three (3) year term.
2. May serve for a minimum of three (3) years and a maximum of six (6) years subject to nomination by the Steering Council.
3. Are eligible for re-election to the same office after remaining out of office for a period of one (1) year subject to nomination by the Steering Council.

PART D: EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions may be made to the succession guidelines upon recommendation by the Steering Council, but only after a thorough search reveals that there is no one else qualified or willing to fill the vacant seat except the person(s) whose term(s) just expired.

SECTION V – RESPONSIBILITIES

The officers of the Association shall have the following generally described responsibilities and such other responsibilities as may be assigned from time to time by the Steering Council of the Association.

PART A: PRESIDENT

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION: To carry out the purpose of the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship Association by providing overall team leadership in reaching the Association's vision, mission and goals, and is accountable to the Steering Council.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Serves as the Chairman of the Steering Council and an ex-officio member of all Ministry Teams.
2. Provides strategic leadership for the F.B.F.A.
3. Provides general oversight for the affairs of the Association.
4. Plans and implements vision, mission and goals for the direction of the F.B.F.A.
5. Serves as the public spokesman for the Association.
6. Performs such other duties as may be assigned by the Steering Council and as specifically detailed in the Association's Operations Manual which may be amended from time to time.
7. Performs other duties normally expected of the President of an organization such as the F.B.F.A.

PART B: EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION: To carry out the purpose of the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship Association by assisting the President in providing overall team leadership in reaching the organization's priorities, and is accountable to the President and Steering Council.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Steering Council and an ex-officio member of all committees.
2. Assists in providing strategic leadership for the F.B.F.A.
3. Assists in providing general oversight for the affairs of the Association.
4. Assists in planning and implementing vision, mission and goals for the direction of the F.B.F.A.
5. Serves as the public spokesman for the Association in the absence of the President.
6. Performs such other duties as may be assigned by the Association President or Steering Council and as specifically detailed in the Association's Operations Manual which may be amended from time to time.
7. Performs other duties normally expected of the Executive Vice-President of an organization such as the F.B.F.A.

PART C: SECRETARY

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION: The Secretary of the Association is responsible to the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship Association and serves as Secretary to both the Steering Council and the Association. The Secretary is supervised by the Vice-President of Administration and performs those duties normally expected of a Secretary.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Serves on the Steering Council.
2. Keeps records of all business meetings and records other information that is of interest to the Association.
3. Performs such other duties as may be assigned by the Association President or Vice-President of Administration and as specifically detailed in the Association's Operations Manual which may be amended from time to time.
4. Performs other duties normally expected of the Secretary of an organization such as the F.B.F.A.

PART D: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION: The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Association is responsible to the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship Association; is supervised by the Vice-President of Administration and performs those duties normally expected of a Chief Financial Officer.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Serves on the Steering Council.
2. Prepares financial information for the Steering Council and other Ministry Areas.
3. Ensures financial integrity and accountability at all levels within the Association.

4. Provides oversight of the investment portfolio.
5. Performs such other duties as may be assigned by the Association President or Vice-President of Administration and as specifically detailed in the Association's Operations Manual which may be amended from time to time.
6. They shall perform other duties normally expected of the Chief Financial Officer of an organization such as the F.B.F.A.
7. Oversees the budget preparation process and ensures due diligence in its implementation.

ARTICLE VIII –REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

SECTION I – CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATE SELECTION

The Regional Representatives must be male with pastoral experience and/or training.

The Regional Representatives shall be spiritually mature, of unquestionable Christian character, loyal to the Word of God, dedicated and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the spiritual and material welfare of the Association. Candidates for Regional Representative shall be evaluated according to 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Additionally, no one shall be employed as a Regional Representative who condones or permits the practice of modernism, apostasy or immoral behavior.

All candidates for serving as a Regional Representative must be in good standing in a member church that is in good standing in the Association. Any Regional Representative who transfers membership from a member church must resign from his position. Any Regional Representative who is affiliated with a church that terminates its membership with the Association, must likewise be required to resign his position.

SECTION II – APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES

1. The Steering Council shall nominate candidates to serve as Regional Representative(s) but the candidates must be approved by the churches.
2. A three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor of acceptance shall be required of the Steering Council before the Council can present the individual to the delegates for final approval.
3. A two-thirds (2/3) vote by the delegates voting at any Annual Conference shall be required for final acceptance of an individual as a Regional Representative of the Association.
4. The Steering Council may select an individual to serve as an interim Regional Representative without prior approval by the churches.

SECTION III – ACCOUNTABILITY

Generally, the Regional Representatives shall be employees of the Association. The National Representatives shall be accountable to the Steering Council.

SECTION IV – RESPONSIBILITIES

The National Representatives of the Association shall have the following generally described responsibilities and such other responsibilities as may be assigned from time to time by the Steering Council of the Association.

1. The Regional Representatives shall serve on the Steering Council but without voting privileges.
2. They may serve on the Membership Committee but without voting privileges.
3. They may serve on the Constitution Revision Committee but without voting privileges.
4. They shall assist, encourage and promote Fundamental Baptist Fellowship Association Churches.
5. They shall encourage the establishing of Bible-Believing Baptist churches whose doctrine are in accord with those of the F.B.F.A., and shall encourage their membership with the F.B.F.A.
6. They shall encourage F.B.F.A. affiliated churches to actively support the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship Association financially as a mission outreach.
7. They shall use preaching and teaching engagements to promote F.B.F.A., as opportunities present themselves.
8. They shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to them from time to time by the President and/or the Steering Council and as specifically detailed in the Association's Operations Manual which may be amended from time to time.
9. Performs other duties normally expected of the National Representatives of an organization such as the F.B.F.A.

ARTICLE IX – CHURCH DELEGATES

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION: The delegates are selected by the member churches and serve as the official spokespersons for the churches at Association business meetings. They have the right to vote on any matters pertaining to the Association as presented for approval by the churches. Generally, the delegates are to vote according to the will of the churches rather than his/her individual will. They are the eyes and ears of the churches and are empowered to serve as communication links between the Association and member churches.

SECTION I – SELECTION

1. Each church can name up to five delegates in addition to the pastor for each 200 members, and one additional delegate for each additional 100 members or fraction thereof.
2. These delegates shall be selected by the church and their names sent to the Association Secretary prior to or at the annual meeting.
3. The delegates' terms of appointment shall be determined at the discretion of the church.
4. Delegates must be members of a member church that is in good standing with the Association.

SECTION II – PRIVILEGES

1. Delegates shall not presume to speak officially for the Association at any time unless officially appointed.
2. Delegates may be specially appointed to serve as spokesperson for the Association.
3. Only the pastor of member churches and persons named by the churches as delegates shall have the right to vote during the Association business sessions.

All delegates will be required to sign a statement annually to affirm that they:

1. continue to subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement of the Association.
2. continue to take a separated stand upon God's Word as articulated in the Doctrinal Statement.
3. do not condone the practice of modernism, apostasy or immoral behavior.

ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 – STANDING COMMITTEES

PART A: MEMBERSHIP

1. The Membership Committee shall be appointed by the Steering Council from among its members.
2. The Membership Committee shall consist of at least three (3) persons plus Regional Representatives.
3. It shall be the duty of the Membership Committee to coordinate interviews with both church and individual applicants.
4. The committee shall coordinate interviews and fact-finding sessions regarding matters of withdrawal and dismissal of members.
5. The committee performs such other duties as may be assigned by the Association President or Vice-President of Administration and as specifically detailed in the Association's Operations Manual which may be amended from time to time.

PART B: NOMINATION

1. The Nomination Committee shall be appointed by the Steering Council from among its members.
2. The Nomination Committee shall consist of at least three (3) persons.
3. References in the Constitution to "the Steering Council nominates" is synonymous with "the Nomination Committee nominates."

PART C: FINANCE

1. The Finance Committee shall consist of at least three (3) persons.
2. The Finance Committee shall be appointed by the Vice-President of Administration.
3. It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to coordinate all financial matters of the Association at the direction of the Chief Financial Officer.
4. The committee shall assist the Chief Financial Officer in carrying out his defined responsibilities.
5. The committee performs such other duties as may be assigned by the Association President or Vice-President of Administration and as specifically detailed in the Association's Operations Manual which may be amended from time to time.

PART D: CONSTITUTION REVISION

1. The Constitution Revision Committee shall consist of at least five (5) persons plus Regional Representatives.
2. The Constitution Revision Committee shall be appointed by and accountable to the Vice-President of Administration.

3. It shall be the duty of the Constitution Revision Committee to review the Constitution at a frequency designated by the Steering Council for the purpose of keeping the instrument viable and relevant while retaining the Association's doctrinal position and spiritual values.
4. The committee prepares the various drafts of proposed amendments for approval by the Steering Council before presentation to the churches at an Annual Conference business meeting.
5. The committee may prepare drafts of proposed By-laws governing practices and procedures not necessarily of a Constitutional nature.
6. The committee performs such other duties as may be assigned by the Association President or Vice-President of Administration and as specifically detailed in the Association's Operations Manual which may be amended from time to time.

SECTION II – SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special Committees may be appointed by the Steering Council whenever necessary for the proper execution of business of the Association. Such an appointment should be made in writing with clear explanation of the purpose for which said Committee is appointed, the number of people to serve on the committee and the approximate length of time the committee is expected to function before being dissolved.

ARTICLE XI – MEMBER CHURCH AUTONOMY

The Association believes in the autonomy of the local church and that every local church has the right to govern itself and that every local church must ultimately give account of itself to God. Should the Association have an ownership interest in a property of its member church or churches, the ownership interest of the Association shall in no wise be used to affect the autonomy of the member church. Nor shall the Association seek legal rights to any member church property as a requisite to membership in the Association.

The Association shall in no way interfere in the appointment of pastors, teachers or other Christian workers, nor exert pressure upon the local church in any manner. The Association recognizes and must respect the autonomy of each local congregation. However, member churches are expected to partner with the Association for the purposes of accountability, encouragement, exhortation, fellowship, rebuke, etc. in order to maintain a spirit of unity and a biblical testimony for the cause of Christ.

ARTICLE XII – BY-LAWS

By-laws governing practices and procedures not necessarily of a Constitutional nature may be decided upon from time to time and recorded in the minutes of the Association by the Secretary. Such By-laws shall be made available for handy reference and distribution to members.

ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to the Constitution will normally be expedited through the Constitution Revision Committee at the direction of the Steering Council.

1. This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Conference business meeting.
2. The proposed amendment(s) shall have been previously circulated in writing to all voting member churches at least three (3) months before action is taken at the designated business meeting.
3. A quorum representing fifty-one percent (51%) of the eligible member churches must be present and voting at the designated meeting before any action can be taken to amend the Constitution.
4. Determination of member church eligibility shall be based, in part, on information contained under ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP, Section IV, Part A.
5. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of all voting delegates at the designated business meeting is required for approval of any amendment(s) to the Constitution.

Exception Clause: Minor revisions may be made and approved by the Steering Council without subsequent formal vote approval by the churches only if all following criteria are met.

1. The changes are made to correct spelling and/or grammar.
2. The changes are made to make content clearer to read and understand.
3. The changes do not alter the meaning of any portion of the document.
4. The revised document showing proposed changes is sent to and circulated to all member churches for review and response for a period of three (3) months.
5. No responses for a period of three (3) months.

If no opposing responses are received within the three (3) month period, the newly revised document can be printed and circulated to the churches as the official Constitution of the Association.

ARTICLE XIV – DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Association, the Steering Council of the Association shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Association, dispose of all of the assets of the Association exclusively for the purposes of the Association in such manner, or to such organization(s) organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational or religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization(s) under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law), as the Steering Council shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court of the county in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization(s), as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.