

Recommendations to be Presented at the Semi-Annual Meeting

April 22, 2021

- 1. Recommendation on transferring Anaconda Church property to Anaconda Baptist Church.**
- 2. Vote on proposed constitution and bylaw changes.**
 - (See attached document with proposed amendments and present constitution and bylaws.)**

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FRANKLIN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE REPORT
SEPTEMBER 27/OCTOBER 25, 2020

Proposed changes to the Franklin Baptist Association Constitution

The Constitution Committee recommends the adoption of the following proposed amendments to the Franklin Association Constitution and Bylaws. Most of the suggested amendments are made to provide more flexibility for scheduling and conducting association meetings in light of our current practices, technology and needs. Some of the changes help to strengthen and affirm guidelines of use of association property. The primary resource for the terms of these amendments come from Mike Whitehead, MBC Attorney. As a constitution change, this is presented in writing at this Annual Meeting and will be voted on at our next Semi-Annual Meeting. A two-thirds vote of Messengers in attendance at that time will be required to approve adoption of these changes.

Key to understand proposed Amendments.

The suggested amendments are highlighted by **bold and underlined** text. Bold areas preceded by and followed by parenthesis are proposed for deletion.

Overview/Summary of proposed Bylaw amendments.

Article I, Section 2 – provisions for cancelling and notification of meetings.

Article I, Section 5 – Clarification on reporting and participation by churches

Article III - propose switching section 1 and 2 and renumbering for clarity

Article III, Section 8 – delete the representatives listed. These representatives were helpful when first created this committee. Over recent years the Committee on Committees has not followed this as no longer think is needed after 21 years of having this committee. Focus is on balanced and quality committee members with interest in the Camp.

Article III, Section 9 – Adding an Administrative Committee for day to day assistance in association operation.

Article IV, Sections 3.1-6 - These are amendments to allow for digital notices and participation when needed, and provisions for cancellation and conducting urgent business digitally, if needed.

Article VI - Adds guidelines and policies for association property use

Article IX - Delete Section 5 “requiring” Doctrinal sermon and renumber remaining items. This was practiced when we had extended Annual Meetings, and have not required or included this in recent years.

FRANKLIN COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION
REVISED SEPTEMBER, 2020

I. NAME

This body shall be called the Franklin County Baptist Association of Missouri, Inc., affiliated with Missouri Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. The Association may also use a DBA, Franklin Baptist Association of Union, MO.

The officers of the Corporation shall be as follows:

President	Moderator
Vice-President	Assistant Moderator
Secretary	Clerk
Treasurer	Treasurer

The Board of Directors for the Corporation shall be the Trustees.

II. OBJECT

The object of this Association shall be to promote the preaching of the Gospel, fellowship among the brethren, cooperation among the churches and missions at home and abroad.

III. ARTICLES OF FAITH

Section 1. The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 version shall be the basic statement of faith which will be used to interpret and guide the work that the association does together as an association. (This does not require present member churches to adopt the 2000 version.)

Section 2. The following statements shall serve as a brief summary of important doctrines of our faith:

1. We believe in one true and living God: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and these three are one.
2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and the only true rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe man was made upright but by voluntary transgression, he violated God's Laws and became a sinner; thereby all have sinned.
4. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them.
5. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith and justification.
6. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and not one shall be lost.
7. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the church and that they should be kept as the Lord delivered them until He comes again.

8. We believe that Baptism is immersion of the believer in water by a scripturally qualified administrator.
9. We believe that none but baptized believers have the right to partake of the Lord's Supper, and that no one has the right to administer the ordinances of the church unless he be scripturally qualified.
10. We believe in a revealed religion by the operation of the Holy Spirit, agreeable to the Word of God, and that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, and that the government of the church is with the membership.
11. We believe that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust, and the judgments and the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal.
12. We believe that the Lord's Day should be set apart for the worship of God and that no work of a worldly nature should be done thereon – (work of necessity excepted).
13. We believe that this Association and every church in it should foster a worldwide missionary program.
14. We believe that the tithe is the least that God expects of each of us to promote His kingdom on earth.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. This Association shall be composed of the Director of Missions, pastors, and messengers elected by the churches. Each church shall be allowed four messengers, and churches with more than one hundred members, one additional messenger for each additional hundred members, or major fraction thereof, not to exceed 10 messengers.

Section 2. Meetings of Membership. Messengers shall meet to conduct business of the association at an Annual Meeting and Semi-Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held regularly on the fourth Thursday of September, or the last Sunday of September. The Semi-Annual Meeting will be held on a date in April as scheduled and approved by the Executive Board. The dates of either of these meetings may be changed to accommodate a special emphasis or need, **or be cancelled if deemed necessary**, with the approval of the Executive Board and at least 30 days notice **to the member churches. A reminder of the date, time, and place of each regular meeting and a suggested agenda will be mailed or emailed to each member of the Board at least 15 days prior to the date of such meeting.**

Section 3. Reception of Member Churches. Any Baptist church that agrees in faith and practice, which cooperates with the Missouri Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, and subscribes to the Baptist Faith and Message statement of 2000, whose geographical location is such that is convenient, may petition for membership in the Association by furnishing a copy of its organization, Covenant and Articles of Faith. All churches desiring membership in the Association must apply by letter at the Annual Meeting or Semi-Annual Meeting, to be voted on at the next Annual Meeting or Semi-Annual Meeting. Application letters must be received at least thirty days prior to meeting in which membership will be requested. Those churches that so apply will be under watchcare with full association membership privileges between its application and

final approval for membership. The Credentials Committee shall examine said papers and recommend the acceptance or rejection of said church.

Section 4. Discipline and Dismissal of Member Churches.

All member churches are autonomous local bodies and are responsible and free to make any and all decisions that pertain to their church. However, any member church whose doctrine or practice becomes divisive or destructive to the fellowship and ministry of the association, will be subject to the counsel and discipline of the association, and may be dismissed from membership in the association, if necessary, by vote of the Messengers. The Credentials Committee shall investigate any such concerns, work to resolve such, and report back to the Association with any suggested actions of discipline or dismissal.

Section 5. Churches Reporting to the Association.

Any church failing to report to the Association by letter or by messenger **each year** shall be **(dropped from the roll) placed in inactive status, and not eligible for voting on Association Business,** unless good and sufficient reasons are given. The Credentials Committee shall contact the church and investigate reasons for not reporting to the Association. The Committee shall report its finding at the next Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Director of Missions, Trustees, Associational Sunday School Director, Church Training Director, Baptist Men's Director, Woman's Missionary Union Director, Director of Music, Chairman of Evangelism, Chairman of Missions, Chairman of Stewardship and such other officers as shall be required to carry out the program of the Association.

All Associational Officers, and any other committees that need to, will give a report at each Executive Board Meeting, as well as at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Duties of officers.

Moderator – The duties of the Moderator shall be to preside at all meetings, maintain order, decide all points of order, except those appealed to the body, appoint such committees as the Association may direct. He shall have the authority and responsibility to see that all actions of the Association be carried out and that all committees function as instructed, vote in case of tie; and it shall be his privilege to speak as any other person, provided he calls the Assistant Moderator, if present, or some other member to the Chair. He shall also have authority to appoint committees and other leaders in the event it is needed and not otherwise assigned or completed by other persons or committees. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

Assistant Moderator – The Assistant Moderator shall act in full capacity of Moderator when called to the Chair or in the absence of the Moderator and other duties as assigned.

Clerk – The Clerk shall keep records of all proceedings of the Association and of the Executive Board, attend to the printing of the Minutes and distribution of the same over to his successor in

office. He shall receive reasonable postage and other expenses involved in the faithful discharge of his duties.

Treasurer – The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds entrusted to the Treasurer and render to the Association at each Annual Meeting. Vouchers are to be made by the Director of Missions for the disbursement of all associational funds before the Treasurer pays any bills, and a copy of all vouchers shall be kept by the Treasurer and the Associational Office of the Director of Missions for a period of five years. All vouchers shall be made only for the specific individual expense to a company or a person.

Director of Missions – His shall be an office of promotion and leadership in the Association. In cooperation with Associational Officers and organizations, he shall promote the growth, cooperation and progress of the churches in the total program of Associational, State and World Missions. He shall be ready to offer counsel and to help pastors and churches in their local work, and shall encourage the use of the best organization, methods and programs for the carrying out of Christ’s Commission. He shall be an ex-officio member of all association committees.

Leaders of Organizations - The officers responsible for the work of Associational Sunday School, Church Training, Baptist Men, Woman’s Missionary Union and other organizations shall render service consistent with the nature of their respective organizations.

Other Officers – The duties of other officers of the Association shall be those which are consistent with their office and with the program of the Association.

Section 3. Election of Officers.

1. All officers shall be elected at the Semi-Annual Meeting and shall hold office from the close of the Annual Meeting until the close of the next Annual Meeting when successors shall have been duly elected and qualified, with the exception of the Director of Missions, who shall be selected by the Executive Board and approved by the Association for an indefinite call under the will of the Lord and mutual satisfaction of the Director of Missions and the Association. The Moderator may not serve more than two consecutive years, but after one year of absence from the office, may be elected again.
2. Nominating Committee – In the Annual Meeting of the Association, the Moderator shall name a Nominating Committee of six members. This Committee shall be responsible for nominating for election at the Semi-Annual Meeting the administrative officers and department heads. The associational organizations shall present to the Nominating Committee their nominees of officers for their organizations. These shall be presented for election at the Association Annual Meeting (following the Spring meeting).

ARTICLE III. STANDING COMMITTEES

(Proposed change: Switching Section 1 and Section 2 and renumbering accordingly to provide clarity)

Section 1. Committees appointments and election. Committees may be appointed or elected on a rotating basis. The Committee on Committees will present those being nominated to serve the following year to the Annual Meeting for election. Those elected will take office at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

Section 2 Committee on Committees – In the Annual Meeting of the Association, the Moderator shall name, and the messengers shall approve a Committee on Committees, consisting of five members. This Committee shall be responsible for oversight of committees, nominating members of the following committees, and shall name each committee chairman:

1. Finance Committee (5)
2. Camp Program Committee (5) – Refer to Camp Policy
3. Stewardship Committee (3)
4. Resolution Committee (3)
5. Annual Meetings Program Planning Committee (Combines program and time, place and preacher committee, 3 + moderator, assistant moderator, music director and host pastor)
6. Memorial Committee (3)
7. Missions Committee – 3 + Missions Development Director, WMU & Brotherhood Director
8. Trustees (3)
9. Personnel Committee (3)
10. Constitution and By-Laws Committee (3)
11. Camp Operations Committee (6)
12. Ministry Center Operations Committee
13. Credentials Committee
14. Any other committees as needed and not otherwise assigned

Section 3. Board of Trustees. The Association shall elect a committee of three trustees, one-third of whom shall be nominated by the Committee on Committees to serve for three years and, shall not succeed themselves for one year. They will hold in trust property of the Franklin County Baptist Association. They shall have the actual care of all property, but shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any property of the Franklin County Baptist Association without a specific vote of the Annual Association or the Executive Board, authorizing such action.

Section 4. Missions Committee. This committee shall consist of five (5) members: the Baptist Men's Director, WMU Director and three (3) other members, one will be elected for one (1) year, one for two (2) years and one for three (3) years; thereafter, one each year, to be nominated by the Committee on Committees.

The Missions Committee shall encourage mission work in the Association, survey needs, seek assistance for mission points or struggling churches, teach and lead in the Association to promote missions. The Missions Committee will serve as an Advisory Committee to the Director of Missions.

Section 5. Auditing Committee. This Committee shall consist of the Director of Missions, Moderator, Assistant Moderator and Clerk. This Committee shall audit the Treasurer's books and report to the Annual Meeting.

Section 6. Personnel Committee. This Committee shall consist of three (3) members, serving for three (3), two (2) and one (1) year. They shall not be able to succeed themselves for one year. They will have the responsibility of searching for and recommending the hiring or dismissal of salaried employees and for personnel related matters. (See also Article IV. Section 4 (4).)

Section 7. Constitution and By-Laws Committee. This Committee shall consist of three (3) members elected the first year for three (3) years, two (2) years, one (1) year, then the Committee on Committees nominates one for three (3) years, not to succeed themselves for one year.

This Committee shall be responsible for reviewing the Constitution and By-Laws and the Policy and Operation Manual of the Association, with input from members of the Association, and reporting any changes recommended at the August meeting of the Executive Board each year.

Section 8. Camp Operations Committee. This committee shall consist of six members (**with a representative from Trustees, Finance and Camp Program Committees**). They shall have the responsibility to oversee development and operation of the camp including the finances of the camp. They may employ and work with a Camp Manager and/or Caretaker to insure efficient operation of the camp.

Section 9. Administrative Committee. This Committee is composed of the Director of Missions, Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer and Clerk. This Committee will meet as needed to discuss matters necessary to the prudent administration of the Association business and program, and make needed administrative decisions and recommendations to the Association.

ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Name. A body with powers to act between Annual Meetings of the Association shall be called the Association Executive Board.

Section 2. Membership. This Board shall be composed of the Director of Missions, Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, all pastors, all associational officers as appears in Article II and one member from each church, who shall be elected by the Association, each church having the right to recommend her representative. The Moderator and Clerk shall hold like positions on the Executive Board as in the Association.

Section 3. Meetings.

3.1. This Board shall have its meetings on the second Monday of January and August, and such other meetings as the Moderator or Clerk may call, provided all churches have been notified at least ten days before the meeting. Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

3.2. Special Meetings.

Other meetings of special significance or urgency may be called at any time upon the request of a majority vote of the Administrative Committee, or 15 of the members of the Executive Board. Notice for these meetings may be sent by regular mail, email or text message and addressed to each member church and the Executive Board members at addresses currently on record. Notices will be mailed or emailed a reasonable time in advance of the meeting, given the circumstances, but attendance of a quorum at any meeting without objection waives the notice requirement. Only business specified in or included with the notice may be transacted at the special meeting.

3.3. Meeting with Digital Participation.

When possible and if deemed helpful by the Moderator, The Association may permit any or all board members to participate in a meeting of the Executive Board, or a committee of the Association, by any means of communication by which all board members participating may simultaneously hear and speak to each other during the meeting. A trustee participating in a meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting. Votes cast digitally during such meeting are subject to the normal quorum rules.

3.4. Digital Voting without Meeting.

If a special circumstance arises whereby the Board is required to vote on a matter, but a regular or special meeting cannot reasonably be held, in the opinion of the majority of the Administrative Committee, then an electronic or mail vote may be authorized, provided:

3.4.1. Proxy voting is prohibited.

3.4.2. The vote is authorized in advance by the Executive Board, or at the request of the majority of the Administrative Committee.

3.4.3. The quorum for the ballot without meeting is the same as the regular quorum number.

3.4.4. The Board Members have access to the question to be voted on in writing, either by mail, fax, or electronic means, before the vote is taken.

3.4.5. A telephone conference call, or other electronic means, such as “web conferencing,” whereby collaborative interaction is possible, is provided to discuss the question.

3.4.6. Every Executive Board Member in attendance has an opportunity to cast a vote by mail, fax, or electronic means.

3.4.7. The Secretary reviews and certifies the vote total, and that the quorum requirement has been met.

3.5. Cancellation of Meetings.

In the event of a catastrophe, disaster, condition endangering life or health, or other grave emergency likely to affect a meeting, the Association Administrative Committee, by majority vote (cast electronically, if needed) may cancel a previously scheduled regular or special meeting, giving reasonable notice to all Executive Board Members, and may either reschedule the meeting date, time and place, conduct the meeting electronically, or may make provision for any extensions of terms of officers and committee assignments, and other

adjustments necessary for legal compliance, subject to the ratification of the Board at its next meeting.

3.6. Quorum.

A minimum of 15 Executive Board members is necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of any association business, and the act of a simple majority of those present and voting at a duly called meeting of the Association or Executive Board is the act of the Association, except when a larger majority is required by statute, the articles of incorporation, or by these By-Laws for particular business requirements.

Section 4. – Duties.

1. Supervise Associational Mission work.
2. May upon reasons justifiable to itself declare vacancies, fill vacancies thus declared, and fill vacancies that may otherwise occur.
3. Approve the position, policy and salary of any salaried worker of the Association in the interim of Annual Meetings and within the scope of the program of the Association. The Personnel Committee, working with the Director of Missions, shall have the responsibility to seek, employ, supervise and terminate non-ministerial employees as needed.
4. Approve the employment of the Director of Missions and other ministerial staff as needed.
5. Shall establish and maintain a Policy and Operation Manual for the association.

ARTICLE V. THE ASSOCIATIONAL CAMP

Section 1. The property purchased by the churches of Franklin County Baptist Association for an Associational Camp site shall be named Spring_Bluff Retreat Center. This camp, located one mile west of Spring Bluff, Missouri on AC Road, shall be controlled and operated by the Association in accordance with the Camp Policy adopted by the Association.

Section 2. The Director of Missions, or his designate, shall be the Camp Manager, who shall have charge of the main campgrounds and buildings. Churches desiring to use the main grounds and buildings shall first arrange with the Manager.

Section 3. Camp Operations Committee. This committee shall have the responsibility of overseeing the development and general operation of the camp facilities, including financial policies.

ARTICLE VI. BUILDING, GROUNDS AND EQUIPMENT USE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

All real property facilities and equipment of the Franklin County Baptist Association (collectively, the "Association Facilities"), used for the mission of the Association, wherever located, shall be used solely for purposes consistent or compatible with the mission, faith and doctrine of the Association, as defined in its Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws, or in Statements of Faith adopted by the Association from time to time, it being acknowledged and understood that the Association Facilities are intended not to be facilities of "public accommodation" as defined by law, but are facilities owned by the Association, a Missouri Non-Profit Corporation, dedicated solely for such permitted uses.

The Association's facilities were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of Association member churches and individuals. The Association desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship and ministry of the Body of Christ and always to God's glory. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we do on occasion make our facilities available to non-members, both individuals and groups, after approval by the Association consistent with this policy.

Facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs, or advancing, advocating, or engaging in practices that conflict with the Association's faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the Association's Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws and other policies or statements of faith adopted by the Association. Nor may facilities be used for activities that express viewpoints that contradict, or are deemed by the Director of Missions to be inconsistent or incompatible with the Association's faith or moral teachings. The Association designates the Director of Missions, or Moderator in such case there is no Director of Missions available, as its final decision-maker on whether a person or group is allowed to use Association facilities for particular activities.

Therefore, in no event shall persons or groups who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate, or engage in practices that contradict the Association's faith be permitted to use any Association facility. Nor may facilities be used in any way that contradicts the Association's faith and policies. See Colossians 3:17.

The foregoing policy shall apply to any ceremony or activity, whether or not recognized by law, involving persons of the same birth gender or transsexual persons, including a civil union, commitment ceremony, or so-called same-sex marriage.

Any request for use of the Association Facilities which are in conflict with or not covered in the above guidelines and policies must be submitted in writing to the Association Director of Missions' Office at least 60 days in advance of such requested use and must be approved in writing by the Facility Operation Committee.

(This Policy was adopted by vote of the membership of Franklin Baptist Association on this August 11, 2015.)

ARTICLE VII. RIGHTS OF THE CHURCHES AND OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section 1. The relation between the Association and the churches shall be fraternal and cooperative. The Association shall never exercise any authority over the churches, nor do anything that would interfere with their complete autonomy and independence as New Testament churches, nor omit the exercise of their freedom.

Section 2. The Association shall always have the right to sit in judgment upon the qualification of its own members and may at any time decline to seat as a messenger any person who may be considered by the Association disqualified on personal grounds, or by reason of the character or attitude of the church from which such messengers may come.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any regular Annual Meeting or Semi-Annual Meeting by two-thirds vote of the messengers voting, provided that notice of such amendment shall have been given in writing at the preceding Annual or Semi-Annual Meeting, and provided that Article VI shall not be subject to any amendment that would violate the principles which it embodies. The Association Policy and Operation Manual may be amended by majority vote at any executive board or annual meeting. Unless otherwise specified all amendments are effective immediately upon approval.

ARTICLE IX. RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. The sessions of the Association shall be opened and closed with prayer. Song and prayer shall be frequent throughout the sessions.

Section 2. Only one person shall speak at a time. The person to speak shall rise and address the Moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator", and when duly recognized by him shall proceed to speak. The speaker shall confine himself to the subject in question. He shall in no wise reflect on any speaker and shall take advantage of no one, but shall give his views on the subject.

Section 3. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject without consent of the Body.

Section 4. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed in this Association. All voting shall be done by the uplifting of hand or by voice, except that special cases may be decided by ballot upon action of the Body to do so.

(Section 5. At least one Doctrinal Sermon shall be preached at each Annual Meeting).

Section 5. Any member who violates these rules or otherwise manifests a spirit contrary to the spirit of the Gospel shall be reprimanded by the Moderator or otherwise dealt with according to the pleasure of the Body.

Section 6. These rules may be amended or suspended by a majority vote.

Section 7. Any question of Parliamentary Procedures not covered by any of these general rules shall be governed by the most recent version “Robert’s Rules of Order”.

Section 8. All policies of the Association shall be printed in the Annual Associational Minutes.

Section 9. All officers and committees shall be elected each year, unless otherwise stated.

Section 10. PARLIAMENTARIAN. The Moderator shall appoint, for approval of the Association, a Parliamentarian to serve for one year.