



CONSTITUTION

*of the
Christian County Baptist
Association, Inc.*

(CCBA)

Hopkinsville, KY 42240

DATE PRESENTED: September 2018
Last Amended:

PREAMBLE

For the more certain preservation of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist Convention, and for purposes of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.

Name

This body shall be known as the Christian County Baptist Association, Inc. Hopkinsville, KY. Both Christian County Baptist Association and CCBA are abbreviations of the above.

ARTICLE II.

Character

Section 1 **POLICY** – The government of this association is vested in the churches and her messengers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Southern Baptist churches. This association shall follow the latest version of Robert's Rules of Order in matters of parliamentary procedure. In cases where a difference exists between Robert's Rules of Order and our By-laws, the By-laws will have precedence.

Section 2 **AFFILIATIONS** – For the purpose of voluntary missionary cooperation and mutual sharing of spiritual values, this association shall be affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention and when and where it can be done without compromise of principles and doctrine, we will cooperate with any and/or all Christian groups in the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Section 3 **DOCTRINE** – This association receives the Holy Scriptures as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of the Baptist churches as indicated in the Articles of Faith herewith.

ARTICLE III.

Articles of Faith

Section 1. **THE SCRIPTURES** – We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and that it is the truth without mixture of error; and that it is the standard by which all human conduct and creeds should be tried. *II Timothy 3:15-17*

Section 2. THE TRUE GOD – We believe that there is one, and only one, True and Living God; that in the unity of the God-head there are three coequal eternal persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *John 4:24 and John 10:30*

Section 3. THE FALL OF MAN – We believe that man was created in holiness, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy state, in consequence of which all humankind are now sinners and are under the condemnation of eternal ruin. *Genesis 1:27 and Romans 5:12*

Section 4. THE WAY OF SALVATION – We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the atoning death and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 2:8-9, Isaiah 53:4-4 and Hebrews 7:25* We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner but his depravity and rejection of the Gospel. *Isaiah 55:1 and John 3:16*

Section 5. JUSTIFICATION – We believe that through justification the perfect righteousness of God is imputed to the believers in Christ Jesus. *Acts 13:39 and Romans 5:1-2*

Section 6. GRACE IN REGENERATION – We believe that to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again through the work of the Holy Spirit. *John 3:3 and II Corinthians 5:17*

Section 7. REPENTANCE AND FAITH – We believe that repentance and faith are inseparable steps to salvation. *Mark 1:15 and Romans 19:9*

Section 8. GOD’S PURPOSE AND ELECTION – We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously saves and sanctifies sinners; and that this is consistent with the free agency of man. *Romans 8:28, 31 and II Peter 1:10-11*

Section 9. SANCTIFICATION – We believe that sanctification is a process by which the believer is made a partaker of God’s Holiness and Righteousness. This process takes place in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. *I Thessalonians 4:3 and Philippians 2:12-13*

Section 10. THE PRESERVATION OF THE SAINTS – We believe that only real believers endure to the end and that they are kept by the power of God through faith in Jesus Christ. *Romans 8:38-39 and II Timothy 1:12*

Section 11. A GOSPEL CHURCH – We believe that a New Testament Church as established by Christ, is a congregation of baptized believers bound together in faith, love, and fellowship of the Gospel. *Acts 2:41-42 and Matthew 28:18-20*

Section 12. BAPTISM AND THE LORD’S SUPPER – We believe that baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, done so on the authority of Jesus Christ. We believe that baptism is a prerequisite to the Lord's Supper and only such as have been scripturally baptized are proper subjects for the Lord's Supper. *Acts 8:36, Matthew 28:19 and I Corinthians 11:26*

Section 13. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH – We believe the principle of working six days and resting on the seventh is to be kept sacred and that the first day of the week is set aside as the Lord’s Day. *Acts 20:7 and Exodus 20:8*

Section 14. WORLD TO COME - We believe at the last day Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead; and that a solemn judgment and separation will then take place, and that His judgment will fix, forever, the final state of humankind in Heaven or Hell. *Acts 1:11, Acts 24:15, Mathew 13:49, and Matthew 25:1-46*

Section 15. PURPOSE – It shall be the purpose of this body to carry out the great commission of our Lord through worship, proclamation, education, and acts of service to all humankind. *Matthew 28:18-20*

Section 16. SEXUAL IMMORALITY

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one’s gender by surgery or appearance. *Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4*

We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. *Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23*

Section 17. SOBRIETY

We believe that God has commanded, disapproves of and forbids any form of drunkenness or addiction. Drunkenness and addiction are a sin. Due to the biblical concerns regarding alcohol and its effects, due to the easy temptation to consume alcohol in excess, and due to the possibility of causing offense and/or the stumbling of others, we believe it is best for a Christian to abstain from drinking alcohol, using illegal drugs or misusing legal drugs. *Leviticus 10:9; Numbers 6:3; Judges 13:4; Proverbs 20:1; Proverbs 23:29-35; Isaiah 5:11&22; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 6:12*

ARTICLE IV.

Purpose

The Christian County Baptist Association is a fellowship of autonomous, independent, self-governing Southern Baptist churches that choose to partner together to fulfill the Great Commission in Christian County, KY, and the surrounding area. The purpose of Christian County Baptist Association shall be to **promote cooperative Kingdom work among her churches and to help resource those churches** in their divinely appointed task of fulfilling Christ’s Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Also, to assist churches in forming relationships of interdependence to assist each other so that individually and corporately the churches might be more effective in their mission and to promote a sense of oneness and fellowship.

The association shall perform the following tasks to achieve its purpose:

1. Nurture fellowship, cooperation, and harmony in faith and practice among sister churches, church leaders, and members.
2. Provide resources for churches and church leaders.
3. Train, develop, and encourage church and associational workers.
4. Provide opportunities for churches to work together in missions, ministry, church growth, new work, evangelism, and worship.
5. Provide counsel and assistance to churches when requested.
6. Establish and maintain communication between sister churches, the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE V. *Membership*

This association shall be composed of duly elected messengers of the cooperating churches affiliated with the Christian County Baptist Association, Inc. Each cooperating church shall be entitled to three messengers for every fifty active members or fractions thereof, but no church shall have more than ten messengers. Also, there shall be allowed alternates for each CCBA church messenger ready to replace elected messengers who may fail to attend the annual meeting. Both messengers and alternates must be on file.

Pastors of cooperating churches affiliated with the Christian County Baptist Association, Inc. shall represent their churches in addition to ordained staff and elected messengers.

Churches desiring affiliation with the Christian County Baptist Association, Inc. shall make written application to the associational office by letter. The letter should include a copy of the following documents: the application for membership, the official action of the church business sessions approving the application to affiliate with the Christian County Baptist Association, Inc., and a copy of the applicant church's constitution and by-laws. Record of mission contributions through the Cooperative Program and the local association will be considered as well. Upon receiving a written application and during a scheduled Executive Board meeting, if approved by a two-thirds majority vote of messengers of the Christian County Baptist Association present and voting, the church shall be placed under the watch care of the association for a minimum of one year. Churches under watch care are encouraged to attend all associational meetings and will have a voice, but they will not have voting privileges. After a minimum of one year and upon a favorable recommendation from the Administrative Team's Credentials Committee, having reviewed their constitution and by-laws and inquired into their Articles of Faith, which shall be in harmony with the current ***Baptist Faith and Message*** adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Christian County Baptist Association shall vote upon their reception during a scheduled Executive Board meeting and if a two-thirds majority of votes cast are in favor of receiving such church, their messengers shall be seated, and they will become a sister church.

ARTICLE VI.

Authority

This association is an autonomous body, and its authority is derived from the elected messengers of the affiliated independent and autonomous churches. While the CCBA has no ecclesiastical authority over affiliated churches, it shall be the right of the association at any annual meeting, or a duly called meeting of the association for the stated purpose of withdrawal of affiliation, upon two-thirds vote of the messengers present, to withdraw affiliation with any church which persists in doctrinal practices out of harmony with the current *Baptist Faith and Message*, or which fails to be represented either by letter or messengers for two successive years, or upon notification from a church of its withdrawal. For the purpose of carrying out its objectives, the association has invested in the Administrative Team the right to function as the Corporate Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII.

The responsibility of Affiliated Churches to the Association

It shall be the responsibility of the clerk of each CCBA church to send to the administrative assistant of the association, not later than August 31 each year, a complete Annual Church Profile. Each church may also send appropriate additional information. Support of the association should be recognized by each church in financial stewardship i.e. regular giving and regular attendance at the annual meeting and executive board meetings throughout the year. The above is the metric for determining if a church is a cooperating CCBA church.

ARTICLE VIII.

Annual Meeting

This association shall plan to meet annually in two sessions on Monday after the fourth Sunday in September. In the event of an emergency or conflict, this date will be adjusted by the director of missions. In the absence of a director of missions, the moderator will make the necessary adjustments.

The purpose of the first session shall be to receive reports of the work from the teams, adoption of the budget, and adoption of the calendar of activities, and to transact whatever necessary business may require association action, and to worship.

The second session of the annual meeting shall include the election of moderator and assistant moderator, the transaction of any necessary business, and worship. This session will be a celebration service from the churches of mission activities from the previous year. Both meetings shall provide fellowship and inspiration. The duly elected messengers of the affiliated churches present at the annual meeting constitute a quorum for conducting business.

ARTICLE IX.

Executive Board

A. Membership

The executive board shall be composed of the following members:

(1) From each church: The pastor, provided his membership is in the church, other full-time, ordained ministers of each church, and two lay members. In the churches with missions, the pastor and an additional layperson may represent the mission. The official executive board members are those listed on the church letter. The church clerk must notify the associational office of any change or the election of additional members thirty (30) days prior to an executive board meeting. Churches under watch care are encouraged to attend.

(2) Associational Leadership: The associational officers are the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, team leaders and trustees. Professional staff members of the association shall be ex-officio members of the board.

The moderator shall serve as the chairperson of the executive board; the assistant moderator shall serve as assistant chairperson. The associational ministry assistant shall serve as secretary if no secretary is elected. Vacancies occurring among associational leaders or team members will be filled through a recommendation of the administrative team to the executive board. Vacancies occurring among officers of the association during a term of office shall be filled by a vote of the executive board upon recommendation of the administrative team.

(3) Executive Officer: The Director of Missions shall be the Executive Director of the Christian County Baptist Association, Inc.

B. Authority of the Executive Board

(1) To attend to the business of the association between annual sessions.

(2) The executive board shall have no authority to suspend or amend the constitution. It may amend the by-laws, see ARTICLE XI.

(3) A majority of the voting members in attendance at the meetings of the board shall constitute a quorum, but attendance of less than twenty (20) people and twelve (12) churches represented shall not qualify to conduct business.

C. Meetings

(1) The Executive Board shall hold such regular meetings as it may determine, and a special meeting thereof may be called by the Director of Missions, moderator or by the assistant moderator and the clerk, but a full week's notice shall be given in writing to each member of said Executive Board, stating the purpose of the meeting. Between annual meetings of the Association, the business of the Association may be transacted by the Executive Board. The Executive Board will meet quarterly on the Monday following the first Lord's Day of November, February, May.

ARTICLE X.

Amendments

This constitution may be amended at the annual meeting of the association by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present, the amendment having been proposed at the previous annual meeting. Proposed changes will be discussed at the May executive board meeting and voted on at the first session of the following annual meeting.

ARTICLE XI.

Parliamentary Authority

The parliamentary authority shall be “Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised.”

BY-LAWS

I. Amendments to By-Laws

These by-laws may be amended at any executive board meeting of the CCBA by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the messengers present provided that the amendment was discussed at a prior executive board meeting of the CCBA and that a minimum of 20 churches has representatives in attendance. These by-laws may not be suspended or set aside.

II. The Associational Year

The associational year shall begin at the close of each annual meeting and continue until the next annual meeting is concluded. The term “associational year” is synonymous with “fiscal year.”

III. Officers

The officers of the Association shall be a moderator, an assistant moderator, a clerk, a treasurer, assistant treasurer and three trustees, all of whom shall be elected at each annual meeting of the association by a majority of messengers and shall serve a term of one year. The offices of clerk and treasurer may be held by the same person if so elected by the Association. The moderator shall not be eligible to hold office in excess of one annual term.

1. Purpose

To function as the corporate board of directors.

2. Membership

The Corporate Board of Directors shall be composed of the following people:

- (1) The Director of Missions, who shall act as president.
- (2) The moderator, who shall act as vice president and is elected by the association at the annual session for a limit of two years.
- (3) The assistant moderator, who is elected by the association at the annual session for a limit of two years.
- (4) The associational ministry assistant/clerk shall act as secretary of the board.
- (5) The treasurer.
- (6) Three trustees to be elected by the association on a rotating basis of three years.

3. Duties and Responsibilities

- (1) The CCBA Trustees, alone, will represent the association on all legal matters as directed by the Christian County Baptist Association or its executive board.
- (2) Study and recommend action regarding the purchasing or leasing of properties, disposal or leasing of real estate owned by the association and the sale or transfer of ownership of any such properties.
- (3) Study and recommend any major remodeling of or structural changes in buildings and grounds owned by the association.
- (4) Meet as frequently as is needed to fulfill these duties and responsibilities.

4. Policies and Procedures

- (1) The officers of the corporate board will comply with all policies and procedures of all applicable Kentucky Nonprofit Corporation Acts.

IV. Associational Teams

1. The moderator shall appoint ad hoc teams as instructed by the CCBA or executive board.
2. Teams shall be composed of laypersons and staff members of affiliated churches. Members will be elected at the Annual Meeting and will take office immediately when the meeting is adjourned. Membership of all teams shall be on a rotating basis unless otherwise indicated, with one-fifth being elected annually for a five-year term. No person shall succeed himself on any team until one year has elapsed. The associational missionary and moderator are ex-officio members of all teams.

(1) Administrative Team

The purpose of this team is to provide administrative leadership and resources for the Christian County Baptist Association. This team will be organized to carry out duties related to personnel, financial, Stewardship, property, assets, leadership enlistment and planning quarterly meetings. This team shall be composed of ten members with two members being elected annually. The members will include a minimum of five laypersons. The duties of this committee will be as follows:

- A. Maintain a Personnel Policy Handbook that, at a minimum, includes official job descriptions of all staff stating principle functions employee categories, employment procedures, termination procedures, employee absence, employee benefits, salary administration, etc.
- B. When ministerial vacancies occur, this team shall serve as the search committee unless otherwise directed by the Executive Board. They will interview candidates and make recommendations to the executive board for an affirmative vote.
- C. In the securing of non-ministerial personnel, the administrative team will have final authority.
- D. Provide counseling, assistance, and encouragement, sometimes working out changes that might be needed for all personnel.
- E. The team will help the staff to plan, promote, and evaluate programs and services so that all efforts will be directed toward achieving the objectives of the association.
- F. Formulate a statement of benefits and privileges for staff including participation in the denominational life benefit, retirement programs, and hospitalization insurance; policy on vacation and holidays; establish policy on number of revivals (or special activities) in which staff members may participate each year; convention and education allowances in accordance with the responsibility, recommendation of salary structures and bonuses and other matters which may be referred to them by either the association or executive board.
- G. This team shall have the responsibility to appoint ad hoc teams as needed to deal with responsibilities such as the nomination of new team members, resolutions and credentials, constitution and by-laws, and building and grounds.
- H. This team shall oversee the budget and finances of the association, including the recommendation of an annual budget.

(2) Church Strengthening Team

The Church Strengthening team will be responsible for assisting churches in assessing church health issues including suggestions for promoting healthy practices. Leadership development is another vital concern for this Team and the Team will be available to assist churches with customized methods of leadership development. The Church Strengthening Team shall be composed of ten members with two members elected annually. One of the members will be a representative of the WMU and another will be the Christian County Baptist Association Vacation Bible School Director. The mission of the strengthening team is to resource and develop the congregational life, organizations, and ministries within her churches to fulfill the Great Commission. The duties of this team will include:

- A. Resource individual CBA churches to strengthen their specific ministries and organizations.
- B. Encourage and resource cooperative events among CBA churches that strategically seek to strengthen areas of need within churches.
- C. Encourage churches to build disciples that seek to fulfill the Great Commission.
- D. Provide counsel, training, information, and resources on trends and issues facing the local church and her ministries to help them build disciples that fulfill the Great Commission
- E. Partner with other agencies (SBC, KBC, other associations) to provide assistance and resources (financial, personnel) to strengthen local churches.
- F. Appoint ad hoc teams that will serve a specific purpose and timeframe on projects relevant to the team's mission.
- G. Provide resources and encouragement for CCBA churches to identify, develop, and assist leaders and church staff.

(3) Church Planting and New Work Team

The Church Planting and New Work Team shall be composed of ten members with two members elected annually. The mission of this team is to resource and assist churches and church plants in expanding the Kingdom by planting new churches and evangelistic small groups. The duties of this team will include:

- A. Providing resources and training for leaders and churches to engage in church planting and new work.
- B. Identifying and connecting potential leaders for church planting and new work.
- C. Encouraging and assisting existing churches in evaluating the community in order to strategize for new work.
- D. Assist in connecting churches and/or other entities to step forward in partnerships.
- E. Promote prayer, fasting and Christian spiritual disciplines to discern the will of God regarding the direction of church planting and evangelistic work.

(4) Missions and Evangelism Team

The mission of the Evangelism and Missions Team is to provide resources for missions and evangelistic endeavors for her churches in uplifting the Kingdom of God. The purpose of the Evangelism and Missions Team is to lead the association to fulfill the mission's mandate of the Great Commission. A strong emphasis of this Team is to assist churches to network with other churches for the outward expression of the gospel. The team will engage and encourage people to pray for renewal and revival and for the impacting of lostness in Christian County and beyond. This team shall be composed of ten members, one of which will be a representative of the WMU.

The duties of this team will be:

- A. To plan, promote, and implement the evangelism ministry of the association.
- B. To identify mission needs, opportunities, and resources by systemically gathering, analyzing and interpreting data.
- C. To provide information and necessary training for the involvement of local churches in specific ministry and mission projects.
- D. To encourage churches to elect an active and effective church On Mission Team, and to assist in the training of the team.
- E. To lead in surveying areas of new work and ministry possibilities.
- F. To lead the association in developing a strategy for new work.
- G. To plan, promote, and support local, state, and international missions endeavors.

(5) Leadership Team

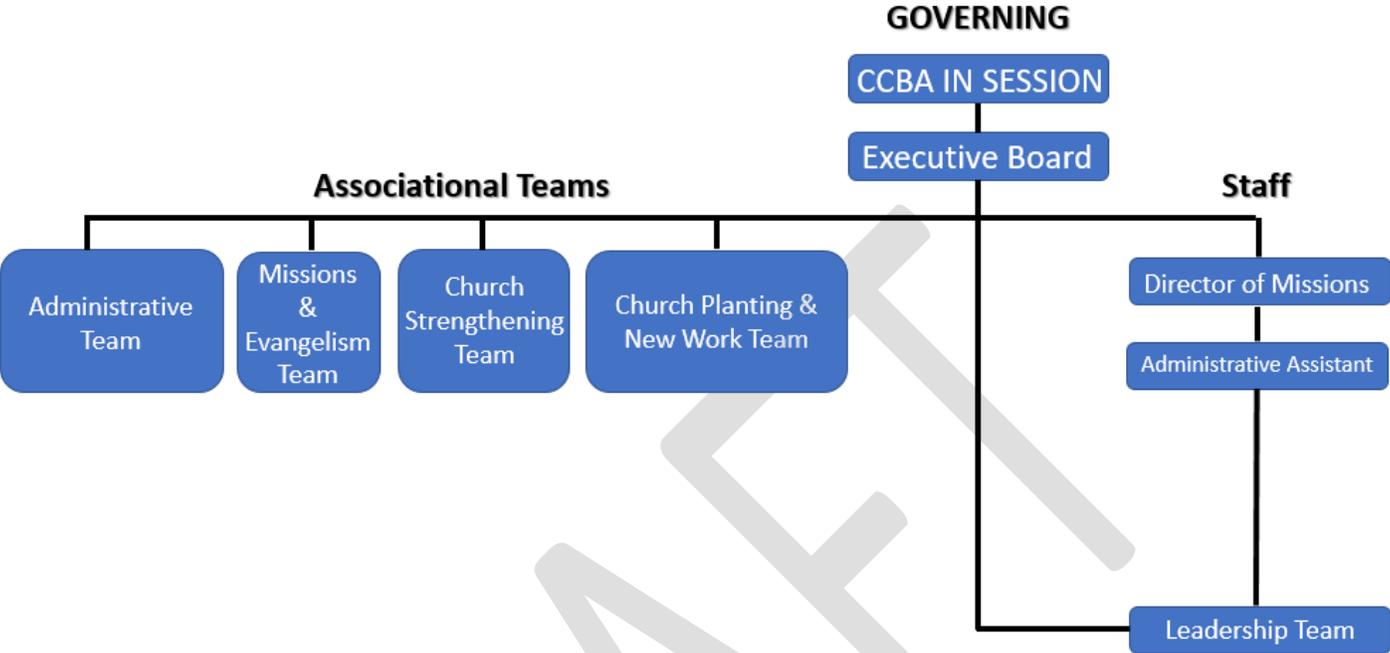
The mission of the Leadership Team is to coordinate and assist the association's teams, in implementing their objectives, make recommendations to the executive board and provide an ongoing comprehensive evaluation of the association's effectiveness. This team shall be composed of fifteen members. Director of Missions, Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk, Team Leaders (Administrative, Missions and Evangelism, Church Strengthening, Church Planting and New Work) WMU Director, Impact Ministries Director, a Disaster Relief Representative and the Baptist Collegiate Ministry Director, a Trustees Representative and a layperson. The Director of Missions will serve as chair. The duties of this team will be:

- A. To serve the association in the areas of planning and advising.
- B. To assist the association in the fulfillment its mission and to coordinate and evaluate its work.
- C. To identify areas in which the association needs to better focus their efforts.
- D. To Ensure effective communication between associational teams.

***Revised and presented September 2018
Adopted September 2019.**

DRAFT

**Organization Chart for the Christian
County Baptist Association**



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