



GOVERNING DOCUMENTS OF THE WEST CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I
NAME

The name of this body shall be West Central Baptist Association.

ARTICLE II MISSION, VISION, CORE VALUES

Section 1. Mission Statement

West Central Baptist Association (WCBA) is a network of Churches partnering together to fulfill the Great Commission through leadership development, missional engagement, and church wellness.

Section 2. Vision Statement

The WCBA shall strive to develop

Growing, healthy, missionally engaged congregations

Leaders who lead by Christ's example

Outstanding ministries and evangelism

Real and relevant Bible teaching and preaching

Your Church's pathway success—equipping, supporting, and encouraging pastors and staff in all aspects of their ministry

Section 3. Core Values Statement

Great Commission Vision

We believe that God's people are sent (Mt. 28:19-20). Therefore, the vision of fulfilling the Great Commission drives our congregations.

Relevant Ministries

In today's rapidly changing world, we believe that our ministry methods must be flexible while our principles are fixed (1 Cor. 9:19-23). Therefore, while maintaining our principles, we will regularly evaluate and change our forms of ministry in keeping with the times. (1 Chron. 12:32).

Accountable Partnership

We believe that believers are in partnership with Christ in bringing to reality His vision of redemption. We believe that this partnership is a sacred trust. Therefore, we will be good stewards of all the resources, both human and material, that are provided for ministry (1 Cor. 4:2).

Cooperative Participation

We believe that Churches working together can accomplish more than any one church alone (Acts 13:1-3). Therefore, we are committed to voluntarily cooperate together to accomplish the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Excellent Endeavors

We believe that God is creatively excellent (Gen. 1:31) and that He deserves the very best we have to offer (1 Cor. 3:13). Therefore, in all our ministries and activities, we will seek to maintain the highest standards of excellence to the glory of God.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. WCBA shall be composed of such Southern Baptist Churches in and around Lafayette, Johnson, and Henry Counties whose statements of faith are in harmony with the Baptist Faith and Message.

Section 2. Each Church with one hundred members or less shall be entitled to four (4) Messengers to the WCBA Annual Session, the pastor being one of these. Each Church with more than one hundred members shall be entitled to one (1) Messenger for each additional one hundred members or fraction thereof, but not to exceed ten (10) Messengers.

Section 3. A Church desiring affiliation with WCBA shall offer a letter of request including a statement of faith and a declaration of cooperation to WCBA. The request shall be referred to a credentialing team appointed by the Moderator. After the review, the Credentialing Team may (1) determine not to bring the request forward; (2) recommend at an Annual or Executive Board Session (Article IX) that the Church enter WCBA under watchcare, approval of which requires a simple majority of Messengers (Article III, Section 2) or Representatives (Article IV, Section 1) present; or (3) recommend at an Annual or Executive Board Session that the Church enter WCBA under full membership, approval of which requires a 2/3 majority vote of the Messengers or Representatives present.

Section 4. A Church may withdraw from fellowship with WCBA by offering notice on official Church letterhead accompanied by minutes from the Church's business meeting in which the vote was taken to dissolve affiliation with WCBA.

Section 5. WCBA has no power or authority over the Churches in respect to their doctrine or discipline; yet should any Church become unsound in faith or incorrect in practice and refuse to be counseled or advised, WCBA shall cease affiliation with that Church.

Section 6. WCBA may drop from its membership any Church which dissolves.

ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Representatives

The Executive Board shall consist of two (2) Representatives of each member Church.

Section 2. Sessions

- 2.1. Regular Sessions of the Executive Board shall be conducted three (3) times per year.
- 2.2. Special Called Sessions may be held at the direction of any two (2) Officers, Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, or Treasurer or upon the request of any seven (7) Representatives serving on the Executive Board. Notice shall be given at least eight (8) days prior to the date of the Session. Communication shall state the nature of the Session along with the time and place of the Session.

Section 3. A quorum shall be declared at any Session of the Executive Board when fifteen percent (15%) or more Representatives are present.

ARTICLE V CORE GROUP

Section 1. The WCBA Core Group shall serve as Board of Directors of the Corporation. As such, they are authorized to act on behalf of WCBA on matters that are not otherwise reserved for Messengers or Representatives to the Association.

Section 2. The Core Group shall be comprised of the Officers and the Three Circle Liaisons of WCBA.

Section 3. Core Group Sessions shall take place as needed.

Section 4. The purpose of the Core Group is to communicate the mission and vision of WCBA and to oversee the associational engagement and action strategy (Bylaw VII).

Section 5. The responsibilities of the Core Group include the following:

- 5.1 Coordinate the work of the associational engagement and action strategy. Communicate this work to the Churches of the WCBA.
- 5.2 Implement the ministry and business decisions of the Messengers or Representatives to the Association.
- 5.3 Nominate individuals to serve as Officers, Circle Liaisons, and any other role(s) deemed necessary. Present nominees to the Messengers during the Annual Session. (Should a vacancy occur in any of the above positions refer to Article X, Section 5.)
- 5.4 Develop the program for WCBA Annual and Quarterly Celebrations.
- 5.5 Meet to prepare the agenda for WCBA Annual and Quarterly Sessions.
- 5.6 Meet between Annual and Quarterly Sessions as necessary to make decisions regarding WCBA.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of WCBA shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and/or other such Officers as deemed necessary by WCBA. All Officers, except Moderator, shall be elected at each Annual Session. The Vice-Moderator shall serve as Moderator of WCBA the year following the term(s) of service of the Moderator.

Section 2. The Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall serve as Officers and legal representatives of the Not-For-Profit Corporation. The Moderator shall serve as President, the Vice-Moderator as Vice-President, the Clerk as Secretary, and the Treasurer as Treasurer of the Corporation.

Section 3. The Officers shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual Session and continue until their successors are elected at the next Annual Session.

**ARTICLE VII
DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. . Moderator

The Moderator shall preside over all WCBA Sessions, keeping order, taking the vote on all questions properly brought up; appoint committees or teams as determined by action of WCBA and all other duties usually performed by a presiding officer.

Section 2. Vice-Moderator

The duties of the Vice-Moderator shall be to assist the Moderator in the successful disposition of all business and shall preside in the absence of the Moderator.

Section 3. Clerk

The Clerk shall keep accurate records of WCBA Sessions. The Clerk shall send out notices of all Sessions of those bodies unless otherwise provided for, shall prepare and distribute the minutes, shall be the custodian of all documents belonging to WCBA, and perform such other duties as may be required. In the absence of the Clerk, a temporary Clerk may be appointed by mutual consent of those present at any WCBA Session.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer of WCBA shall have oversight of all monies at the direction of WCBA. The Treasurer shall work together with WCBA staff and elected check signatories to see that checks are signed and issued in a timely manner, shall handle financial documents responsibly, shall see that accurate and detailed financial reports are presented at all WCBA Sessions. The Treasurer shall perform other financial duties as WCBA may request.

**ARTICLE VIII
ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION STRATEGIST**

Section 1. An Associational Mission Strategist (AMS) shall be recommended by a Search and Selection Team and voted upon at an Annual or Special Called Session of the Messengers. The Search and Selection Team is elected by the Executive Board.

Section 2. The AMS of WCBA shall be the Chief Administrative Officer. He shall carry out the duties and expectations contained in the AMS' job description as approved by the Executive Board. Copies of the AMS job description shall be available to any member of WCBA through the office of the WCBA.

Section 3. The AMS job description shall be reviewed annually by the Core Group and any proposed changes shall be presented to the Executive Board for adoption.

Section 4. The AMS shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Core Group, Action Groups, and any other group, team, or committee deemed necessary.

Section 5. The tenure of the AMS shall be for an indefinite period of time. However, the relationship of the AMS and WCBA may be dissolved at any time by mutual agreement of both parties or with a sixty (60) day written notification by either party

ARTICLE IX
MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Celebration

- 1.1 The annual gathering of WCBA shall be called the WCBA Annual Celebration.
- 1.2 The WCBA Annual Celebration shall come together in the fall at such time and place as decided by the Core Group in order to celebrate God's work and convene to receive reports and conduct business during the Annual Session.
- 1.3 It shall be the duty of each member Church to submit an Annual Church Profile (ACP) and Leadership Profile prior to the WCBA Annual Session.
- 1.4 The planners of the program of the WCBA Annual Celebration shall be the Core Group, which shall work in concert with the WCBA staff and the host Church to design and implement all aspects of the gathering.
- 1.5 A quorum shall be declared at an Annual Session or Special Called Session of the Messengers when fifteen percent (15%) or more member Churches with Messengers being physically present.

Section 2. Quarterly Celebrations

- 1.1 The quarterly gatherings of WCBA shall be called WCBA Quarterly Celebrations.
- 1.2 A WCBA Quarterly Celebration shall come together at such time and place as decided by the Core Group during the months of February, May, and August, unless there is need to reschedule the gathering.
- 1.3 The purpose of each WCBA Quarterly Celebration is to celebrate God's work and convene to receive reports and conduct business during the Executive Board Sessions.
- 1.4 The planners of the program of each WCBA Quarterly Session shall be the Core Group working in concert with the WCBA staff and the host Church to design and implement all aspects of the gathering.
- 1.5 A quorum shall be declared when fifteen percent (15%) or more Representatives are present (Article IV, Section 3).

Section 3. Sessions with Digital Participation

- 3.1 The WCBA may permit any or all participants in any Associational Session, or may conduct the Session, through the use of any means of digital communication by which participants may simultaneously hear and speak to each other during the session.
- 3.2 Any participant utilizing a digital means of communication is deemed to be present in person at the Session.
- 3.3 Votes cast digitally during or after such a Session are subject to the normal quorum rule.

ARTICLE X ELECTIONS

Section 1. Voting Members

- 1.1 Voting members from cooperating Southern Baptist Churches located in and around Lafayette, Johnson and Henry Counties of the State of Missouri, shall be any Messenger who is a Church member in good standing of a WCBA Church by which he/she has been duly elected and shall only represent that Church in which they are a Church member (Article III, Section 2).
- 1.2 No Messenger shall be elected as a Messenger at-large.
- 1.3 A quorum shall be defined as representation in session of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of WCBA member Churches with Messengers being physically present at an Annual Session or a Special Called Session.

Section 2. Voting Process

- 2.1 All Messengers from cooperating WCBA Churches shall be registered at each Session before being allowed to vote.
- 2.2 Each registered Messenger representing a cooperating member Church shall be allowed to vote with one and only one vote afforded per Messenger on any question presented to the general membership.
- 2.3 No Messenger shall be compelled to vote but may be allowed to abstain.
- 2.4 Voting may be held at the discretion of the presiding Moderator in accordance with accepted procedures described in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (Bylaw I).
- 2.5 Voters may call for the tally of votes to be independently verified.
- 2.6 All elected positions shall be approved by majority consent of the Messengers in session.

Section 3. Election Process

- 3.1 The method of election for WCBA Officers and other positions shall be at the discretion of the Moderator at an Annual Session or Special Called Session.
- 3.2 Nominations of candidates for Officers and/or other positions may be received by the Messengers in Session from (1) the Core Group (Article V, Section 5, Subsection 5.3), (2) by recommendation of the Moderator, or (3) from the floor by any registered Messenger.
- 3.3 Write-in voting shall be permitted in a ballot vote for the election of candidates for any positions in question.
- 3.4 A recount for any election shall take place if approved by a majority vote of the Messengers.
- 3.5 A simple majority (fifty percent [50%] plus one vote) of votes cast shall be required for election to any position. If no candidate receives a simple majority, then a runoff election shall be held between the two candidates receiving the most votes for the position in question.
- 3.6 Completed ballots shall conform to whatever standard the Messengers and/or Moderator adopts or deems necessary and any ballot not otherwise conforming to such standard shall be disallowed.
- 3.7 Those elected shall begin their terms immediately upon adjournment of the Annual or Special Called Session in which they are elected.

Section 4. Qualifications for Election

- 4.1 Any registered Messenger desiring to be considered as a candidate for any Officer position shall (1) be a current Messenger from a cooperating WCBA Church, or (2) at any time served at least two (2) years as a registered Messenger of a cooperating WCBA Church or (3) served a minimum of three (3) years on a WCBA standing committee.
- 4.2 Any registered Messenger desiring to be considered as a candidate for any other elected position shall (1) be a current Messenger from a cooperating WCBA Church, or (2) at any time served at least one (1) year as a registered Messenger of a cooperating WCBA Church.

Section 5. Vacancies

Should a vacancy occur in any WCBA leadership position, the Core Group may nominate a replacement to the Executive Board for approval. The Moderator may appoint someone to fill a vacancy if the need is critical. Affirmation of such replacement shall be made at the next Executive Board Session.

**ARTICLE XI
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution may be amended at any regular Annual Session of WCBA by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered Messengers present, provided notices have been sent to each Church thirty (30) days before such amendment shall be presented for a vote.

**ARTICLE XII
DISSOLUTION AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY**

In the event of the dissolution of WCBA, all assets of WCBA—real, personal, and mixed of whatsoever kind and wheresoever located—shall be distributed as follows: (1) all real and personal property owned by WCBA shall be sold, (2) all debts of WCBA shall be paid to the extent funds allow, and (3) all remaining funds shall be distributed to the member Churches of WCBA to assist them in fulfilling their not-for-profit mission of building God’s kingdom. Disbursement of said funds shall be equally distributed to the remaining Churches.

BYLAWS OF WCBA

Bylaw I - PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be followed as WCBA's rules for conducting its Sessions, except as WCBA prescribes otherwise.

Bylaw II - OFFICERS COORDINATION

The four Officer positions, Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer are intended to be chosen with a view to keep a balance among the North, Central, and South areas.

Bylaw III - PAID PERSONNEL

Paid personnel shall serve as stated in a written job description for each position approved by the Executive Board. Copies of these job descriptions shall be available to any member of WCBA through the office of the WCBA.

Bylaw IV - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of WCBA shall be determined by the Messengers during an Annual Session and shall be in keeping with the best interest of the work of WCBA.

Bylaw V – ASSOCIATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND ACTION STRATEGY

Section 1. WCBA has established an Associational Engagement and Action Strategy, also known as 3 Circles, to provide direction for ministry resourcing and partnership activity.

Section 2. The Associational Engagement and Action Strategy involves the interaction of the Executive Board (Article IV); the Core Group (see Article V); and existing Action Groups (Bylaw VII).

Section 3. The Associational Engagement and Action Strategy shall focus on Leadership Development, Missional Engagement, and Church Wellness, which are represented by three focal Circles designed to encompass all ministry resourcing and partnership activity of WCBA. Each Circle shall have a corresponding Circle Liaison (Bylaw VI).

Section 4. The Churches shall be both beneficiaries and benefactors of ministry resourcing and partnership opportunities. The Churches shall also contribute to the establishment and implementation of Action Groups (Bylaw VII, Sections 2 and 3).

Section 5. Reports from the Associational Engagement and Action Strategy (3 Circles) shall be presented during all WCBA Sessions.

Bylaw VI – CIRCLE LIAISONS

Section 1. Three (3) Circle Liaisons shall be members of the Core Group (Article V, Section 2) and work closely with the Associational Engagement and Action Strategy of WCBA.

Section 2. The Circle Liaisons shall be assigned to oversee one of the three focal areas—Leadership Development, Missional Engagement, or Church Wellness, yet shall engage with the AMS and one another dynamically to establish and implement Action Group activity with the best interests of WCBA in mind.

Section 3. Circle Liaisons shall be elected during any Annual Session or Special Called Session (Article X, Section 3).

Bylaw VII – ACTION GROUPS

Section 1. Action Groups provide ministry resourcing and partnership involvement for WCBA Churches. All WCBA ministry resourcing and partnership activity shall emerge from one, two, or all three overlapping focus areas or Circle(s).

Section 2. Action Groups shall exist if they remain active. Activity level of Action Groups shall be monitored by Circle Liaisons, the AMS, the Core Group, and the Churches.

Section 3. Action Group leaders or partnerships shall be approved by two or more WCBA Churches and the Core Group. WCBA Churches shall assist in the implementation of Action Groups (Bylaw V, Section 4).

Section 4. A list of Action Groups shall be presented at each WCBA Session (Bylaw V, Section 5).

Bylaw VIII - AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended in any WCBA Session by a majority vote of Messengers (Annual or like Session) or Representatives (Executive Board or like Session) provided said changes or amendments have been either presented at a previous session of at least two (2) weeks before the vote or have been sent in written form to Messengers or Representatives at least two (2) weeks before the Session in which the vote is taken.

“May all that is contained within these governing documents be in accordance to God’s will and direction for West Central Baptist Association. All Glory to God!”