

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST BIVOCATIONAL MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

(As Revised and Approved December 7, 1996)

(Current drafted revision - September 3, 2004)

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers' Association, Inc. (the Association)~~which is a not for profit organization.~~ The Association is a not-for-profit corporation operating exclusively for religious purposes limited to those activities which qualify under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE II – MISSION and PURPOSES

~~This Association is organized and will operate exclusively for religious purposes limited to those activities which qualify under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.~~ Mission: The mission of the Association is doing whatever it takes to encourage, promote and serve bivocational churches, ministers, and families in their kingdom service within local communities, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the larger Christian family.

Purposes: The purposes of the association are:

1. To provide affirmation and encouragement for the members engaged in bivocational ministry, and to enlarge their participation in the Association.
2. To establish and maintain ministry teams and groups to address the needs, challenges, and opportunities of bivocational churches and ministers.
- ~~2.3.~~ To provide a network to help connect bivocational ministers to ministry opportunities, especially including in starting new churches. Also to connect persons in monovocational ministry positions facing economic pressure, with resources and encouragement to move toward bivocational service.
- ~~3.4.~~ To provide opportunities for professional and personal growth among Bivocationals. To encourage young men and women and second-career persons to prepare themselves intentionally for serving as bivocational ministers.
- ~~4.5.~~ To provide means of recognition of Bivocationals for outstanding contributions to ministry.

(Financial Support), Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors of the Corporation.

3. The President, ~~and First Vice-Presidents and Second Vice-President~~ shall not serve more than two consecutive ~~terms~~ terms of office.
4. No two officers shall be elected from any one Southern Baptist church ~~Convention Church~~.

ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

1. President. The President shall preside at all regular and called meetings; ~~serve as chairman of the Executive Committee;~~ serve as ~~an ex-~~ an ex- officio member of all committees; ~~and~~ perform other duties as required by the office.
2. First Vice-President. The First Vice-President shall assist the President in presiding at the meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee and shall serve as Chairperson of the Program Committee.
3. ~~Second~~ Vice-President (Membership). ~~The Second Vice-President~~ shall serve as ~~the~~ Chairperson of the Membership Committee.
4. Vice-President (Financial Support) shall serve as Chairperson of the Financial Support Committee.
- 4.5. Secretary. The Secretary shall maintain all records of the Association. The Secretary will also record the minutes of the meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee.
- 5.6. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall maintain the financial records ~~books~~ of the Association, presenting them. ~~The books of the Association will be presented~~ to the Audit Committee at each annual meeting.
- 6.7. Directors. Three Directors shall be elected by the Association for three-year terms. They shall function in all legal matters of the Corporation required by law; they shall also serve as full participating members of the Executive Committee appointed by the National Consultant. The Directors shall be persons known to have a heart and vision for bivocational ministries, whose experience and strategic position of Christian service will allow them to undergird the leadership team of the Association. They will meet with the Executive Committee to facilitate visionary thinking and progressive decision making in support of the work and purposes of the Association.

ARTICLE VI – PERSONNEL ADVISOR

Persons employed or contracted by the Association may be secured and funded by the Association only within its financial resources. Selection is upon recommendation by the Executive Committee and approved by the The Advisor for the Association shall be the National Consultant for Bivocational Ministries for the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Advisor shall offer counsel to the Association and its officers and shall promote the general welfare of the Association and its membership. The Advisor shall meet with the Executive Committee. Association.

1. National Coordinator for Bivocational Ministry: The Coordinator shall be recommended by the Executive Committee and elected by the Association for a specific period. The Coordinator shall give leadership to and promote the general welfare of the Association and its membership; providing counsel to its officers, committees, and ministry groups. The Coordinator shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee and the Ministry Coordinating Council, and as ex officio member of all committees and ministry groups.
2. Regional Bivocational Consultants: These Consultants shall be nominated by the National Coordinator and approved by the Association or its Executive Committee. They shall promote bivocational work within their regions, including bivocational church planting, and shall serve as members of the Ministry Coordinating Council. (Note: These Consultants may also simultaneously be partially funded by the North American Mission Board as Church Planting Consultants.)
3. Other personnel positions may be established and funded by action of the Association or its Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES AND MINISTRY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Section 1. Standing Committees

The following committees shall be constituted as described below and approved by the Association.

1. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall function in behalf of the Association between its sessions, making annual reports of its actions. It shall also serve in the Association's personnel and budgeting functions.

~~of the Association.~~ It shall be composed of the following: the National Coordinator, Advisor for the Association, the elected officers and Directors of the Association, and one member from each of the following groups: (a) the National Council, the Partners Assisting the Lord's Servants, (b) and the elected officers of ~~the~~ state bivocational fellowships, ;(c) the Volunteer Regional Bivocational Consultants, and (d) persons relating to bivocational work in the state conventions. The President of the Association ~~Advisor~~ shall serve as ~~the~~ Chairperson of the Executive Committee ~~and as an ex officio member of all Standing Committees.~~

2. Membership Committee. The Membership Committee shall be composed of the ~~Second Vice-President, serving as~~ Chairperson, and two three members named by the Executive Committee. It shall actively recruit members ~~foref~~ the Association in keeping with the constitutional provisions regarding membership.
3. Program Committee. The Program Committee shall be composed of the Association's First Vice-President, serving as ~~the~~ Chairperson, and threetwo members named by the Executive Committee. It shall plan the program, prepare agendas, and circulate them to the membership for the annual and special meetings s of the Association.
4. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of a Chairperson and threefour persons members appointed by the President of the Association and the National Coordinator ~~Advisor~~. None of the ~~presidential~~ appointees shall be current officers of the Association. The Committee shall nominate the officers listed in ARTICLE IV, Section 2. Nominations from the floor shall also be in order.
5. Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall consist of three members of the Association, not presently serving as an officer of the Association. The committee members shall be appointed by the Association's President ~~Advisor~~ at the Executive Committee session prior to the annual meeting. The Audit Committee will receive the books from the Treasurer, review them and report to the Association during the final session of the same annual meeting.
6. Financial Support Committee. The Financial Support Committee shall be composed of the Chairperson and three members named by the Executive Committee. This committee shall work with the National Coordinator and the Executive Committee to guide the Association in its development and fund-raising programs.

Section 2. Ad Hoc Committees

Ad Hoc Committees may be appointed by the President and the National Coordinator ~~Adviser and approved by~~ ~~on approval of~~ the Executive Committee and/or the Association.

Section 3. Ministry Coordinating Council

1. A Ministry Coordinating Council shall be maintained by action of the Association or its Executive Committee. Its primary assignment is to work with the National Coordinator to develop and implement the several ministries as the Association achieves its mission and purposes.

2. Ministry groups and teams may be structured by approving the team and its leader; other members of the team may be appointed by the team leader or the National Coordinator.

3. Membership of the Ministry Coordinating Council includes the following:
--the elected officers and Directors of the Association
--the National Coordinator and the Regional Consultants
--the elected officers of the ministry groups or teams
--the state and regional bivocational presidents
--the state and regional bivocational staff consultants

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

1. Annual Meeting. The Association shall hold an annual meeting. The specific location and time of the meeting shall be recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the membership in the Annual meeting. Locations for the meetings should be approved at least two years in advance of the meeting date.
2. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once between the annual meetings of the general membership; “virtual meetings” as needed are encouraged.
3. Special Meetings. The leaders of the Association may request a special meeting of the membership. Notification of the Association’s membership shall be made not less than thirty days before the special meeting. The Executive Committee leadership may also request a special meeting of the committee. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be conducted through ~~a~~ teleconference.

4. The Ministry Coordinating Council shall also meet at least one time between annual meetings of the Association. The ministry groups or teams may meet as needed; “virtual meetings” are encouraged.

ARTICLE IX – FINANCES

Section 1 – Membership Dues

Annual membership dues ~~will shall~~ be established by the Executive Committee and are \$25.00 payable to the Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers’ Association and remitted to the Treasurer. The dues help to meet budget expenses will be used to defray the expenses of the Association. The membership year will ~~be run~~ from January 1 thru December 31.

Section 2—Gifts and Bequests

The Association may expand its ministries by seeking to secure gifts, grants, and bequests from its members, interested persons, supporting partners, and participating organizations.

Section 3 – Irrevocable Trust

Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers’ Association, Inc. Trust (Trust) has been established to provide finances to support the work and purposes of the Association. Endowment gifts shall be sought to enlarge this Trust. Up to five percent (5%) of the corpus may be expended annually for the Association’s expense.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the Association by a vote of two-thirds of the members present. Notification of proposed amendments shall be made to the membership through publication in The Bivocational Beacon, or its successor communication organs, prior to the annual meeting in which they are to be considered.

ARTICLE XI – DISSOLUTION

The Association may dissolve itself by a two-thirds majority vote of the attending membership in two successive meetings, following this procedure:

--Dissolution is initiated by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee, or by a petition of 20% of the registered members.

--Notification shall be made to the Association membership prior to an annual meeting in which dissolution is to be considered.

--In the event that the Association ceases to exist, any remaining funds, including those in the Trust, shall be designated by the Association and be disbursed by the Treasurer to another organization qualifying under or the Executive Committee to the Southern Baptist Convention as long as the Southern Baptist Convention continues to be an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Tax Code. The funds shall be used by the designated organization the Southern Baptist Convention totally and completely to support the work and ministry of Bivocational Ministries.

Rough Draft – September 3, 2004

“Cautiously” submitted by Lloyd Elder

Assisted by Joyce M. Byrd

Based on discussions and decisions of the Task Force

The Constitution
Of the
Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers' Association, Inc.

Approved by a unanimous vote of the membership present at the annual meeting on Saturday, December 7, 1996, held at Florida Baptist Theological College.

(Signature) Ronald W. Ward, President

(Signature) Ann Hall, Clerk

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As recommended and presented by the Constitution Committee of:

Jean Beachum, Chairman

Vernon Beachum

Norman Ponder