

# PROTOTYPE NEW CONSTITUTION YAZOO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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## ARTICLE I: NAME

This body shall be named the *Yazoo County Baptist Association*.

## ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Yazoo County Baptist Association is to promote the ministries of Christ's Church. It shall function as a medium of communication, a means of fellowship, and a bond of love among the Southern Baptist Churches of Yazoo County.

## ARTICLE III: AUTHORITY

**Section 1:** The Yazoo County Baptist Association may in no way interfere with the autonomy and individual rights of local churches. It disclaims any authority over them and recognizes the local church as free and independent in all matters and as possessing the sole right to exercise and control its own affairs.

**Section 2:** Being a body of voluntary cooperating churches, the Yazoo County Baptist Association does claim authority to deny seats or to withdraw fellowship from, the messenger of the churches that are not aligned with the Baptist Faith and Message in either practice or doctrine.

**Section 3:** The Yazoo County Baptist Association may give to the churches within its bounds advice and counsel in difficult internal matters, when invited by the churches to do so, and to remove such difficulties when possible.

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## ARTICLE IV: REPRESENTATION

**Section 1:** Representatives to the Yazoo County Baptist Association shall be identified as *Messengers* and shall be composed of the following:

- a. The pastor of each cooperating Southern Baptist Church.
- b. Five (5) other duly appointed messengers from each affiliated church.
- c. One (1) additional messenger for every one hundred (100) members, but no church shall have more than eight (8) messengers.

**Section 2:** Each church will nominate and report to the Yazoo County Baptist Association, its Messengers. Each church may contact an officer or personnel who will provide that information to the Associational Administrative Board.

**Section 3:** Churches wishing to become a member of the Yazoo County Baptist Association shall have been regularly organized for a period of six (6) months or more, and shall submit a formal request for admission at the Annual Fall Meeting. Accompanying the request there shall be a full report of the church's organization, articles of faith, location, membership, organization activities, and missionary benevolent effort.

**Section 4:** The Associational Administrative Board will be responsible for the consideration of new churches joining the Association.

- a. A full and thorough investigation of each application will be made
- b. A report will be made to the Annual Fall Session of the Yazoo County Baptist Association the following year.
- c. If there is a recommendation to receive the applicant church, then a three fourths (3/4) affirmative vote will be necessary for admission to the Yazoo County Baptist Association.
- d. Messengers from the churches received in this manner shall be extended the right hand of fellowship by the Moderator on behalf of the entire Yazoo County Baptist Association.

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## ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

**Section 1:** The Yazoo County Baptist Association shall meet annually in the Fall of the year at a time and location as it will be determined by the Associational Administrative Board

**Section 2:** The Yazoo County Baptist Association shall have an annual Spring Meeting of the Associational Executive Council at a time and location as determined by the Associational Administrative Board.

**Section 3:** The Moderator may, in concurrence with the other officers, call special meetings of the Yazoo County Baptist Association, the Associational Executive Council, the Associational Administrative Board, or may change the time and location of the Annual Meeting.

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## ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS AND PERSONEL

**Section 1:** The officers of the Yazoo County Baptist Association shall be a Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer. The officers shall be members of the Yazoo County Baptist Association in good standing. The Association reserves the right to create other officer positions as need may warrant.

**Section 2:** The officers of the Yazoo County Baptist Association shall be enlisted by the Associational Administrative Board and presented to the Associational Executive Council for approval. The officers will then be elected by the Yazoo County Baptist Association during the Annual Fall Associational Meeting. The officers shall assume the duties of office at the closing of the Annual Fall Associational Meeting, exercising all the duties of their respective offices and shall function until their respective successors have been qualified as herein approved.

**Section 3:** The officers may succeed themselves in office with the exception of the Moderator and the Vice-Moderator. The Moderator and the Vice-Moderator will be nominated and elected to a two (2) year term of office. The Vice-Moderator will be expected to succeed the Moderator in office upon the completion of the Moderator's term. A former Moderator or Vice-Moderator can be re-nominated six (6) years after they last served in office.

**Section 4:** The personnel of the Yazoo County Baptist Association shall be a Director of Missions and an Associational Secretary. The personnel shall be members in good standing of their home churches. The Association reserves the right to create other personnel positions as need may warrant.

**Section 5:** The personnel of the Yazoo County Baptist Association will be interviewed and hired by the Associational Administrative Board with approval from either the Associational Executive Council or the Messengers of the Annual Fall Associational Meeting.

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## Section 6: Duties of Officers

### 1. Moderator:

- a. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over all official meetings of the Yazoo County Baptist Association.
  - (1) The Annual Fall Association Meeting
  - (2) The Annual Spring Meeting of the Associational Executive Council
  - (3) Special called meetings
  - (4) Regular meetings of the Associational Administrative Board.
- b. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to appoint all committees not otherwise provided for and to do so in cooperation with the Associational Executive Council and Associational Administrative Board.
- c. The Moderator can be present, as ex-officio, of all Yazoo County Baptist Association committees.

### 2. Vice-Moderator:

- a. It shall be the duty of the Vice-Moderator to preside in the absence or the request of the Moderator.
- b. It shall be the duty of the Vice-Moderator to assist the Moderator and the Associational Administrative Board in planning the program and the agenda for all Association meetings.
- c. In the event of the death, removal from the county or removal from office, or the inability of the Moderator to fulfill his term and duties of office, the Vice-Moderator shall serve as Moderator.

### 3. Clerk:

- a. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep accurate minutes of all Association meetings. These minutes include those of the Associational Executive Council and Associational Fall Meeting.
- b. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to receive and tabulate all Yazoo County Baptist Association letters; to carry on such correspondence as necessary, to prepare, and at the instruction of the Associational Executive Council and or the Associational Administrative Board, to print and to distribute the minutes of the Association meetings.
- c. The Treasurer may serve as Clerk of the Yazoo County Baptist Association.

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## **4. Treasurer:**

- a.** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep all funds of the Yazoo County Baptist Association; to maintain accurate records and to dispense the same under the direction of the Associational Administrative Board and under the supervision of the Associational Executive Council, as a means of accountability.
- b.** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to communicate and cooperate regularly with the Chair of the Yazoo County Baptist Association Budget and Finance Committee and the Moderator.
- c.** The Clerk may serve as Treasurer of the Yazoo County Baptist Association.

**Section 7:** Duties and responsibilities of personnel are found in the By-Laws for the Yazoo County Baptist Association

**Section 8:** In the event of death, removal from the county or from office, or the inability to serve and discharge duties of said office on the part of any officer of the Yazoo County Baptist Association, the vacancy shall be filled by the Associational Executive Council upon the recommendation and nomination by the Associational Administrative Board.

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## ARTICLE VII: ASSOCIATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**Section 1:** The Yazoo County Baptist Association shall have an Associational Executive Council which shall carry on the work of the Yazoo County Baptist Association ad interim, with all powers of the Association.

**Section 2:** The Associational Executive Council shall consist of the following:

- a. The pastor and one (1) member from each church in the Yazoo County Baptist Association.
- b. If a member church does not have a pastor or if their pastor is unable to attend, then the church may appoint another member to serve on the Associational Executive Council
- c. The officers of the Yazoo County Baptist Association and the committee chairpersons shall also be members of the Associational Executive Council.

**Section 3:** Each church will nominate and report to the Yazoo County Baptist Association, its members of the Associational Executive Council. Each church may contact an officer or personnel who will provide that information to the Associational Executive Council and the Associational Administrative Board.

**Section 4:**

- a. The Associational Executive Council shall have an Annual Spring Meeting to consider recommendations and nominations from the Associational Administrative Board and to transact other business on the agenda as may be needed.
- b. The Associational Executive Council may meet at other times as need may require. The time and location of any special called meeting will be determined by the Moderator in concurrence and communication with the other officers.
- c. Proper notice shall be given to each church concerning the time and location of the meeting of the Associational Executive Council.
- d. A quorum shall be constituted by those duly authorized Council members who are present, and these shall be empowered to transact the business at hand.

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## **ARTICLE VIII: ASSOCIATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD.**

**Section 1:** The Yazoo County Baptist Association shall have an Associational Administrative Board which shall carry on the work of the Yazoo County Baptist Association as directed and supervised by the Associational Executive Council. The purpose of this Board is fourfold.

- a.** To insure the steady, effectual operation of the Yazoo County Baptist Association
- b.** To plan and execute orderly meetings of the Yazoo County Baptist Association
- c.** To nominate committee members and to interview potential personnel.
- d.** To communicate all activity to the Associational Executive Council and to the Yazoo County Baptist Association as a whole.

**Section 2:** The membership and duties of the Associational Administrative Board shall be composed as follows:

- a.** Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Budget and Finance Committee Chair, Missions Committee Chair, Ministry Committee Chair.
- b.** Members of the Board will need to be able to attend all Associational Administrative Board meetings and meetings of the Associational Executive Council.
- c.** The Director of Missions, Associational Secretary and Constitution and By Laws Chair can be present as ex-officio of the Associational Administrative Board

**Section 3:** The Associational Administrative Board shall meet once a quarter or as need may require.



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## ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES:

### **1. Budget and Finance Committee:**

- a.** The duty of the Budget and Finance Committee is fourfold.
  - (1)** To insure the faithful stewardship of the finances of the Yazoo County Baptist Association
  - (2)** To propose and enforce a yearly budget.
  - (3)** To receive requests and wisely oversee all discretionary spending.
  - (4)** To report all activity to the Associational Administrative Board, the Associational Executive Council and to the whole Yazoo County Baptist Association
- b.** The membership and operation of the Budget and Finance Committee is as follows:
  - (1)** The members will be three (3) members of the Yazoo County Baptist Association Churches and the Treasurer will serve in an ex-officio capacity
  - (2)** The members will be nominated by the Associational Administrative Board and approved by the Associational Executive Council.
  - (3)** The members will need to be able to attend all meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee.
  - (4)** One member, not including the Treasurer, will step down each year.
  - (5)** Members, not including the Treasurer, can serve a maximum term of three (3) consecutive years.
  - (6)** A former committee member can be re-nominated three (3) years after they last served.
- c.** The Budget and Finance Committee Chair will serve on the Associational Administrative Board.
- d.** The Budget and Finance Committee Chair will serve as a signer on the Yazoo County Baptist Association accounts

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## **2. Missions Committee:**

**a.** The duty of the Missions Committee is fourfold:

- (1)** To organize Association-wide missions opportunities
- (2)** To help member churches in missions opportunities.
- (3)** To communicate missions opportunities to member churches.
- (4)** To report missions activity to the Associational Executive Council and the Associational Administrative Board.

**b.** The membership and operation of the Missions Committee is as follows:

- (1)** The members of the Missions Committee will be three (3) members of the Yazoo County Baptist Association Churches
- (2)** The members will be nominated by the Associational Administrative Board and approved by the Associational Executive Council.
- (3)** The members will need to be able to attend all meetings of the Missions Committee.
- (4)** One member of the Missions Committee will step down each year.
- (5)** The members of the committee can serve a maximum of three (3) years.
- (6)** A former member of the Missions Committee can be re-nominated three (3) years after they last served.

**c.** The Chair of the Missions Committee will serve on the Associational Administrative Board.

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## **3. Ministry Committee:**

**a.** The duty of the Ministry Committee is fourfold:

- (1) To operate and oversee ongoing Association ministries.
- (2) To help member churches with their ministries'.
- (3) To communicate ministry opportunities to member churches.
- (4) To report ministry activity to the Associational Administrative Board and the Associational Executive Council.

**b.** The membership and operation of the Ministry Committee is as follows:

- (1) The members will be five (5) members of Yazoo County Baptist Association Churches
- (2) The members will be nominated by the Associational Administrative Board and approved by the Associational Executive Council.
- (3) The members will need to be able to attend all meetings of the Ministry Committee.
- (4) One member of the Ministry Committee will step down each year.
- (5) The members can serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive years.
- (6) A former member can be re-nominated three (3) years after they last served.

**c.** The Chair of the Ministry Committee will serve as a member of the Associational Administrative Board.

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## **4. Constitution and By-Laws Committee:**

**a.** The duty of this committee will be to recommend to the Yazoo County Baptist Association any amendments needed to the constitution and the By-Laws of the Association. The Constitution Committee may propose complete revision of the constitution to the Associational Executive Committee as times and need require.

**b.** The membership and operation of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee is as follows:

**(1)** The members will be three (3) member of the Yazoo County Baptist Association Churches

**(2)** The members will be nominated by the Associational Administrative Board and approved by the Associational Executive Council

**(3)** The members will need to be able to attend all meetings of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

**(4)** One member of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee will step down each year.

**(5)** The members can serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive years.

**(6)** A former member can be re-nominated three (3) years after they last served.

**5.** The Yazoo County Baptist Association reserves the right to create other committees as times and need may require.

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## ARTICLE X: CONSTITUTIONAL AND BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

**Section 1:** The Yazoo County Baptist Association may make amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws as circumstances may dictate and under conditions described therein.

### **Section 2: Constitutional Amendments**

- a. A notice must be made at the Annual Fall Meeting stating that an amendment shall be introduced the following year.
- b. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee will consider the amendment and report back at the next Annual Fall Meeting.
- c. If a recommendation to amend the constitution is made, then the amendment must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting.

### **Section 3: By-Law Amendments**

- a. A notice can be made at an Executive Council Meeting or at the Annual Fall Meeting that an amendment to the By-Laws will be introduced at either the following Executive Council Meeting or at the Annual Fall Meeting, whichever comes first.
- b. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee along with the Associational Administrative Board will consider the amendment and report back.
- c. If a recommendation to amend the By-Laws is made, then the amendment must be passed by a simple majority.

**Section 4:** If at any time the Yazoo County Baptist Association decides that a new Constitution is needed, then the process will be the same as that of a Constitutional Amendment.