



**CONSTITUTION
OF
TOLEDO
AREA
AMERICAN
BAPTIST
CHURCHES
TAABA**

REVISED AND APPROVED

SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

CONSTITUTION
OF
TOLEDO AREA AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

SECTION 1 The name of this association shall be:
THE TOLEDO AREA AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II-MISSION

SECTION 1. The mission of this Association shall be to advance the Kingdom of God by promoting fellowship and cooperation among the churches, by developing new churches, and by other means to which we are lead by the Holy Spirit.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. The membership of this Association shall be Baptist churches and other churches having Baptist constituencies cooperating with the Toledo Area American Baptist Association (TAABA), the American Baptist Churches/Ohio (ABC/OHIO), and the American Baptist Churches/USA. Membership of said churches shall be limited to those churches meeting the following requirements:

(1a) An established church desiring membership in TAABA shall apply to the Board of Trustees of TAABA who will follow the "Guidelines for Churches Seeking Alignment" set forth by the ABC/OHIO. See article 1X section 3d.

(1b) A new church start desiring membership must apply to the BOARD of Trustees of TAABA which will follow the policy statement by the New Church Development Commission and the "Guidelines for Churches Seeking Alignment" set forth by ABC/OHIO.

(2) After the church meets the requirements set forth in either Section (1a) or Section (1b) of ARTICLE III, the application will be voted upon by the Board of Trustees.

(3) Upon favorable vote of the Board of Trustees, the church shall be admitted into membership and the right hand of fellowship shall be given on behalf of TAABA.

(4) If any church shall fail to comply with the agreements during any association year, the Board of Trustees shall make a concerted effort to restore the church to fellowship and full cooperation. A church failing to cooperate for two consecutive years shall be subject to dismissal by the Association. (1)

SECTION 2. Each member church shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Association by two lay delegates plus one additional lay delegate for each one hundred members Member churches must report the names of their delegates in writing annually to the TAABA Secretary.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SECTION 1. There shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of the Officers of the Association, the Pastors of each cooperating church, Council Presidents (Pres. American Baptist Women, Pres. American Baptist Men, Pres. American Baptists Youth and lay delegates as in ARTICLE III. Section 2.

SECTION 2. The official or incorporate title of the Board shall be "The Trustees of The Toledo Area American Baptist Association". The Board of Trustees shall have the power to acquire, accept and hold property or trust funds in the name of "The Toledo Area American Baptists Association" in conformance with the laws of the State of Ohio .

SECTION 3. Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held on the first Tuesday of February and June, or at least twice in a calendar year.

SECTION 4. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held at the call of the moderator or five (5) members of the Board of Trustees. The purpose shall be stated on the notice.

SECTION 5. The Secretary shall notify all members of the Board of Trustees by first class mail OR notified by e-mail or telephone contact at least five (5) days prior to all meetings.

SECTION 6. One member of the Board of Trustees from each of four different churches shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V- OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The officers of the Association shall be: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, and the Representative to the Board of Regional Ministries.

SECTION 2. The Moderator shall preside at all meetings of the Association and Board of Trustees and perform other duties which pertain to the office. The Moderator shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees, with the exception of the Nominating Committee. The Moderator shall contact an active TAABA Clergy member regarding installation of new officers. That Clergy member (along with Article IX, Section 2) will become responsible for the installation, worship outline and choosing a speaker.

SECTION 3. The Vice-Moderator shall perform the duties of the Moderator in case of vacancy of the office, holding that office until the Board of Trustees shall by election fill the vacancy.

SECTION 4. The Secretary shall send out notices of meetings, shall record all proceedings of the meetings of the Association and Board of Trustees and shall perform such other duties as related to the office.

SECTION 5. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies belonging to the Association, keep an accurate account of same and the sources from which they come, disburse funds only when authorized to do so by the Board of Trustees, and present a written statement of receipts and expenditures to the Association and the Board of Trustees at each of their regular meetings. The Treasurer with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees shall prepare the Association's annual budget for adoption by the Board of Trustees at the Fall meeting.

SECTION 6. The term of office for both Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall be one year, though either or both may serve a second term. The Secretary and the Treasurer may serve an unlimited number of terms if approved by the Board of Trustees. The term of the Representative and of the Alternate Representative to the Board of Regional Ministries shall be three years.

SECTION 7. If an officer is unable to fulfill the duties of his/her officer, the Board of Trustees may declare the office vacant, appoint an interim replacement, and hold an election at the next Association meeting to fill the unexpired term. Vacancies resulting from other causes will be filled by the same procedure.

ARTICLE VI- MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

SECTION 1. The Association shall hold at least two meetings each year. The Spring Rally meeting shall be at a time and place designated by the Board of Trustees. All members of the Association shall be invited to attend. At this meeting, reports presented and other Association business will be transacted. The Fall Rally shall be for the purpose of inspiration, election of officers for the coming year, fellowship and any necessary business.

SECTION 2. Voting at all Association meetings shall be limited to delegates from Association Churches, but any member of a church in the Association shall have the privilege of being heard on any matter coming before the meeting.

SECTION 3. Written notice of the Association meetings shall be mailed to the member churches at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

SECTION 4. The Association shall operate on the calendar year January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE VII-DIVISIONS

SECTION 1. The Association shall have the following divisions:
Christian Education and World Mission Support. The appointed officers of these divisions shall serve for a term of one year without limitations of the additional number of terms served.

SECTION 2. The work of the Division of Christian Education shall include but is not limited to plans for children's work, youth work, adult work, church school administration, leadership education, missionary and stewardship education, camps and conferences. The Division shall organize itself to meet the needs of the churches of the Association in matters related to Christian Education in cooperation with the Division of Christian education of ABC/OHIO.

SECTION 3. The Division of World Mission Support shall organize itself to meet the needs of Association churches in matters related to world missions, in cooperation with the Division of World Mission Support of ABC/OHIO. The Division of World Mission Support should assist in the raising of funds for the United Mission Fund, assist the Division of Christian Education with missionary and stewardship education, assist in special fund raising efforts such as World Mission Offering, America for Christ Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, and the Ministers and Missionaries Offering, and correlate the missionary programs of the Association to make the greatest impact upon the total constituency.

SECTION 4. The Board of Trustees shall, acting upon the recommendation of the Moderator, appoint coordinators for the Christian Education Division and World Mission Support.

ARTICLE VIII - REPRESENTATION

SECTION 1. The Association shall elect a representative and an alternate to the Board of Regional Ministries of ABC/OHIO to serve a three (3) year term. The representative and the alternate will be eligible to serve a second three (3) year term.

ARTICLE IX-COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Board of Trustees and the Council Presidents. It shall appoint three (3) members, from three different churches to each of the following committees, and give assistance to and supervise the work of these committees. All actions must be reported to and approved by the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 2. The Program Committee shall be responsible for the Spring and Fall meetings.

(4)

(Article IX Committees) (continued)

SECTION 3. The Church and Pastoral Relations Committee shall:

- (a) give advice to churches asking for such and assist churches harassed with special problems.
- (b) conduct preliminary and private examinations of all candidates for licensing or ordination in the Association and report findings to the church at any ordination council that may be called subsequently;
- (c) examine the credentials of all ministers seeking recognition in the Association and report their findings to the Board of Trustees;
- (d) serve as a membership committee, following the Guidelines for *New Church Development*, for a church seeking admission to the Association or Denomination and report to the Board of Trustees their findings and recommendations;
- (e) consider any special matters referred to it by the Board of Trustees. or its' officers .

SECTION 4. The Auditing Committee shall prepare an annual audit of the Association's financial records and present it to the Board of Trustees at their Spring meeting.

SECTION 5. The Nominating Committee shall submit to the Association at the Fall Rally a slate of qualified persons for the elective officers of the Association.

SECTION 6. Subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, the Moderator shall appoint any other committees deemed necessary to further the purpose of the Association.

SECTION 7. The committees shall meet at the call of their Chairperson.

ARTICLE X -AMENDMENTS and BY-LAWS

SECTION 1. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present, written notice having been given to the Association Churches at least thirty days in advance.

SECTION 2. By-Laws and Standing Resolutions may be adopted and included as part of the Constitution as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary.

ARTICLE XI -PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

SECTION 1. Parliamentary Authority, *Robert's Rules of Order*, shall govern all meetings of the Association.

**Rev. Benjamin Green, Moderator, 2009-2010
REVISIONS APPROVED September 22, 2009**

(Signed) _____
TAABA Secretary, Bettie J. Naugle