

**CONSTITUTION
of the
CENTRAL VALLEY SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

1. Article I - The Name

This Association shall be called the Central Valley Southern Baptist Association.

2. Article II - The Purpose and Objective

a. It is the purpose of the Central Valley Southern Baptist Association to band together as a fellowship of churches on mission for the purpose of assisting each local Southern Baptist Church to:

- i. Multiply disciples through effective evangelism and discipleship,
- ii. Multiply congregations through effective church planting, and
- iii. Multiply and strengthen ministry participation through pastoral and lay development, encouragement, and support.

b. The objectives of this Association are:

- i. Mission Development - to assist the local churches in planting of new work, to promote mission education and social ministries.
- ii. Church Growth - to help each church and its mission by developing program leadership and by utilizing all the resources and methods available.
- iii. Pastoral Support - to provide various avenues of pastoral support, which will encourage and promote physical, emotional and spiritual health
- iv. Lay-leadership Development - to work with Associational churches in providing resources and opportunities for lay-leadership development that will encourage and promote greater lay participation in helping accomplish the objectives of the Association.

3. Article III - Membership

Section 1. This Association shall be composed of Baptist churches participating with and contributing financially to the Association during the current year, provided the church or churches shall have

adopted Articles of Faith in harmony with *The Baptist Faith and Message* statement, adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Section 2. Each church in this Association having fifty (50) members or less may send their senior pastor and three (3) messengers and one (1) additional messenger for every twenty-five (25) members there above, provided that no church shall have more than ten (10) messengers.

Section 3. Churches shall be recognized as a cooperating member of this Association who receive members on the basis of believer's baptism by immersion.

Section 4. If any church shall fail to meet the requirements of membership as required by the Association, the Moderator shall instruct the Credential Committee to inquire into its standing and report to the Association with recommendations.

4. Article IV - New Churches

Section 1. New churches desiring admission into the fellowship of this Association shall make application for such by a petitionary letter to the Executive Board of the Association.

Section 2. When a church makes application for fellowship into this Association by a petitionary letter, the Moderator shall instruct the Credentials Committee to inquire into their Articles of Faith, manner and nature of organization, and fellowship. Upon a favorable report from the Committee, the Moderator shall call for a vote. The Clerk of the Association shall notify the church of the decision in writing.

Section 3. The Executive Board, acting for the Association between its sessions, may in the same manner as stated above, receive and act upon applications from petitioning churches.

5. Article V - Authority

Section 1. This Association shall not exercise any authority over the autonomy of the local church.

Section 2. While this Association does not assume any authority over the autonomy of the local church, it does, however, reserve the right to discontinue membership of any church in the Association.

6. Article VI - Officers

- Section 1. The officers of the Association shall consist of a Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected to a three (3) year term. These officers shall be the legal officers of the corporation.
- Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to:
- (1) Preside over the deliberations of the Association,
 - (2) Discharge such duties as are usually incumbent upon the presiding officer of deliberate bodies,
 - (3) Appoint the members of committees as directed by the Association, and
 - (4) Work with the Director of Missions to appoint the Nominating Committee at the Mid-Annual Meeting.
- Section 3. In the absence of the Moderator, the Vice-Moderator, Clerk, or Treasurer, in the order named, shall act as Moderator for the meeting.
- Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Association to keep a record of the proceedings of the Association, and to file and keep in order, all papers considered important by the Association.
- Section 5. The Treasurer of the Association shall receive and keep a strict account of all Associational funds and shall make such reports to the Executive Board, provided that no funds be diverted from the cause for which they were designated. The Treasurer shall be bonded.
- Section 6. The books of the Clerk and the Treasurer shall be open for inspection by appointment by any person or organization contributing financially to the Association.
- Section 7. The election of officers of the Association shall be held at the Mid-Annual meeting. These officers will assume their duties at the close of the Annual Meeting.

7. Article VII - The Executive Board

Section 1 - Membership

- (1) The Executive Board shall consist of the duly elected officers of the Association (namely the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer), a maximum of fifteen (15) pastors/program leaders, and fifteen (15) lay/program leaders from approved churches. No one church will have more than three (3) representatives on the Executive Board. Those pastors and lay-leaders serving on the Executive Board will be recommended by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Association at the Annual Meeting.
- (2) Members of the Executive Board will serve a term of three (3) years (continuous).
- (3) After serving the three (3) year term, a member of the Executive Board will rotate off the Executive Board for one (1) year before being eligible to serve again.
- (4) Members of the Executive Board must be present and participating in a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of those scheduled and called sessions of the Executive Board to remain on the Executive Board.

For the first Executive Board under these new guidelines, the Association will elect fifteen (15) pastors/program leaders and fifteen (15) lay/program leaders with the first five (5) pastors/program leaders and five (5) lay/program leaders serving a five (5) year term, and another five (5) pastors/program leaders and five (5) lay/program leaders serving a four (4) year term, and the remaining five (5) pastors/program leaders and five (5) lay/program leaders serving a three year term. The next available election year will have all positions revert to the three (3) year rotational system. This will allow the Association to have experienced people on the Board at all times.

Section 2. - Purpose

The purpose of the Executive Board will be to work with all of the churches, agencies and ministries of the Association to accomplish the stated objectives of the Association, namely:

- (1) Mission Development,
- (2) Church Growth,
- (3) Pastoral Support, and

(4) Laity Development

and all other matters the Association deems necessary.

Section 3. - Officers

- (1) The Moderator shall serve as the Chair of the Executive Board
 - (a) The Moderator shall serv a term of three (3) years.
 - (b) The Moderator shall make an annual report to the Association of the decisions of the Executive Board.
- (2) The Vice-Moderator will serve alongside the Moderator and serve as Chair of the Executive Board in case of the Moderator's absence.
- (3) The Associational Clerk will record the minutes of the Executive Board and distribute those minutes to the members of the Board.

Section 4. Operations/Function

- (1) All of the work of the Association shall be under the supervision and direction of the Executive Board.
- (2) The Executive Board will meet at least quarterly.
- (3) A Quorum to conduct Associational business shall constitute those elected members of the Executive Board present and voting.
- (4) The Executive Board will:
 - (a) Recommend to the Association a Director of Missions, his salary and job description,
 - (b) Supervise the work of the Director of Missions,
 - (c) Work with the Nominating Committee to fill all vacancies in the organizations and committees of the Association at any regular or called meeting of the Executive Board,
 - (d) Plan and coordinate the programs of the Association,
 - (e) Plan the meetings of the Association,

- (f) Recommend to the Association an annual calendar of Associational activities, and
- (g) Assist in the planning of the annual budget.

8. Article VIII - Meetings

- Section 1. The Association shall meet twice (2) annually for conducting business.
- Section 2. The Executive Board may call additional meetings of the Association if necessary, or change the time and place of meetings of the Association when the Executive Board deems it inconvenient to convene at the time or place appointed.
- Section 3. The program of the Annual and Mid-Annual meetings shall be planned by the Associational officers and publicized to the churches no later than thirty (30) days prior to the meetings.

9. Article IX - Recognition of Organizations

- Section 1. The Association shall have areas of activities and programs related to the objectives of the Association. The Association shall allow time at the Annual meeting for the Association program leaders to make reports and discuss their work.
- Section 2. The leaders of these organizations shall be elected annually at the Mid-Annual meeting upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee.
- Section 3. At the Annual meeting, all additional organizational leaders and committee members shall be elected.

10. Article X - Director of Missions

- a. Duties/Responsibilities – the Director of Missions will:
 - i. Supervise the Associational staff.
 - ii. Work with the Associational Moderator to appoint the members of the Nominating Committee at the Mid-Annual Meeting.
 - iii. Be free, along with other missionary staff, to be guided by the Holy Spirit into places of service in the field assigned.

b. Selection

- i. Upon the vacancy of the office of Director of Missions, the Executive Board will appoint a Director of Missions Search Committee.
- ii. The Executive Board will establish those guidelines used by the DOM Search Committee in searching for, and recommending to the Association a new Director of Missions.

11. Article XI - Reports

Section 1. It shall be the duty of each cooperating church to make an annual report to the Association, giving names of messengers, statistics, financial condition of the church and any other helpful information that may be available.

Section 2. If any church shall fail to report as required by the Association for two (2) consecutive years, the Moderator shall instruct the Credentials Committee to inquire into its standing, and report to the Association with recommendations.

12. Article XII - Amendments

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the messengers present at the Annual Meeting provided that copies of the proposed amendment shall have been sent to all member churches at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Meeting. The proposed amendment may be presented to the Executive Board for its review and advice. Copies of the proposed amendment shall be available to all messengers upon registration at the Annual Meeting.

BY-LAWS OF CVBA

1. Article I - Authorization and Decorum
 - a. Section 1. This Association shall have the right to adopt such bylaws or rules of decorum as may seem necessary, and amend the same from time to time, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the messengers present at an Annual meeting.
 - b. Section 2. Parliamentary Procedure
 - i. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the guide in all matters pertaining to the conduct of the business sessions of the Association.
 - ii. A parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Moderator at the closing session of the Annual meeting to serve for the year and through the succeeding Annual meeting.
2. Article II - Program Committees
 - a. Section 1. Church Growth Committees
 - i. The Nominating Committee shall recommend annually five (5) program leaders from the areas of Associational activities to serve as the Church Growth Committee. A chairman shall be recommended. There shall be a chairman and a recorder.
 - ii. The Committee shall assist the Director of Missions in planning, motivating, and evaluating areas of work that relates to church growth.
 - iii. The Committee will report at the Annual meeting of the Association.
 - b. Section 2. Mission Development Committee
 - i. The Nominating Committee shall recommend annually five (5) members to serve as the Mission Development Committee. A chairman shall be recommended. There shall be a chairman and a recorder.
 - ii. The Committee shall assist the Director of Missions and other staff missionaries in planning, motivating, and evaluating the areas of the mission work of the Association.
 - iii. The Committee shall recommend to the Finance Committee the distribution of missions expenditures.

- iv. The Committee shall report to the Association annually.
- c. Section 3. Pastoral Support Committee
 - i. The Nominating Committee shall recommend annually five (5) members to serve as the Pastoral Support Committee. A chairman shall be recommended. There shall be a chairman and a recorder.
 - ii. The Committee shall serve the Association by planning, motivating, and evaluating various means for our pastors to maintain spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical health for the benefit of the local church.
 - iii. The Committee shall make an annual report to the Association.
- 3. Article III - Operational Committees
 - a. Section 1. - Nominating Committee
 - i. This committee shall consist of five members appointed by the Moderator and the Director of Missions at the closing session of the Mid-Annual Meeting.
 - ii. This committee shall nominate all officers, committees and committee members for the coming year from member churches who meet the criteria of membership in Article III, Section 1, of the Constitution.
 - iii. This committee shall work with the Executive Board to fill all vacancies in the organizations and committees of the Association at any regular or called meeting of the Executive Board.
 - iv. This committee shall present its recommendations for the Associational officers, presiding officers of the organizations, and standing committee chairpersons for the succeeding year to the Annual meeting of the Association.
 - b. Section 2. - Credentials Committee
 - i. The Credentials Committee shall serve as a sub-committee of the Executive Board, with its members appointed by the Associational Moderator.
 - ii. This committee shall function according to the provisions of Articles III, IV and XI of the Constitution.

- iii. This committee shall provide for supervision of the registration table of messengers at the Mid-Annual and Annual meetings.
- c. Section 3. Finance/Budget Committee
- i. This committee shall be composed of the Association Treasurer and four (4) members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected annually by the Association.
 - ii. This committee shall be responsible for the administration of the budget of the Association. It shall make recommendations on all financial matters pertaining to the work of the Association.
 - iii. This committee shall receive recommendations from the Cabinet for budget consideration.
 - iv. This committee shall present its budget recommendations to the Executive Board for review and advice.
 - v. This committee shall finalize and recommend the annual budget to the Association.
- d. Section 4. Personnel Committee
- i. This committee shall consist of five (5) members composed of the Moderator, Mission Development Chairman, Finance Committee Chairman and two (2) members who will be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected annually by the Association.
 - ii. The Committee's responsibilities shall be in full cooperation with the Director of Missions:
 - (1) To recommend to the Association policies, procedures, job descriptions, and salaries for all Associational employees.
 - (2) To survey the need for additional personnel.
 - (3) To interview, recruit, and recommend to the Association the employment of all Associational employees except the Director of Missions.
 - iii. The Association staff will be under the supervision of the Director of Missions.

e. Section 5. Camp Board

- i. The Camp Board shall be composed of three (3) people nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected annually by the Association.
- ii. This committee shall represent the Association at the District Camp Board meetings to plan, administer, and evaluate the operation of the District Camp.