

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I: NAME

This body shall be called the Pike Association of Southern Baptists, hereafter referred to as PASB.

## ARTICLE II: STATEMENT OF FAITH

This association affirms *The Baptist Faith & Message 2000* as our statement of faith, hereafter referred to as *BF&M 2000*.

## ARTICLE III: STATEMENT OF AUTONOMY

This body shall have no jurisdiction over the churches.

## ARTICLE IV: MISSION & CORE VALUES

The mission of the Pike Association of Southern Baptists, under the authority of the Holy Bible, is to help churches partner together to reach eastern Kentucky and the world for Christ.

As we seek to accomplish this mission, this body will promote the following core values:

- Church Strengthening: We value the strengthening of the local church. This includes encouraging, equipping, and empowering local congregations to achieve their God-given purpose and vision. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- Church Mobilization: We value the Great Commission. This mandate is given by Christ to the local church to be engaged in missions activities locally, nationally, and globally by praying, giving, and going. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)
- Church Planting: We value the starting of new, healthy churches that, in turn, participate in starting new, healthy churches themselves (Acts 9:31)

## ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this Association shall be composed of Baptist churches which in their doctrine, polity, and practice show evidence of their cooperation through regular participation and support.

### (A) Application for Membership

Any church desiring membership in this Association shall make application in writing by the Spring semi-annual meeting, furnishing satisfactory evidence of their adherence to the *BF&M 2000*, their orderly practice, and their intention to participate and cooperate in the life of the Association.

(B) Acceptance Procedure

Following the church's initial written application for membership, the Credentials Committee shall meet for consultation with the pastor and/or leaders of the applying church. The Credentials Committee shall then report on their interview and recommend the church's acceptance or rejection to the Executive Board. If approved, the applying church shall be presented to the messengers at the next semi-annual meeting for approval. If approved by the messengers, applying churches which have been planted by an existing member church of the association will be received immediately as a member church. All other applying churches shall be admitted under "watchcare" status for a period of twelve (12) months. A church under "watchcare" is expected to maintain the same responsibilities and duties of member churches, with the exception of voting privileges. Upon completion of the "watchcare" period, the applying church shall be considered for full membership (including voting privileges) at the next semi-annual meeting.

(C) Responsibilities and Duties of Membership

1. Annual Church Profile: Churches should submit their completed ACP [for the period of July 1 of the previous year through June 30 of the current year] to the associational office no later than the fifteenth day of August prior to the Fall semi-annual meeting.
2. Financial Contributions: Providing regular financial support is an expected and vital means of participating in the life of the Association and cooperating with other churches fulfilling the Great Commission. Each church freely determines the level of financial support it will provide.
3. Fellowship: Each member church is expected to be represented in associational meetings, which include Executive Board meetings and semi-annual meetings.

(D) Termination of Membership:

1. If any church is suspected to be teaching or promoting doctrines contrary to those of the *BF&M 2000*, the members of the Credentials Committee will make every effort to meet with the pastor and leaders of the church to determine if the church is in conflict with the *BF&M 2000*, according to the process outlined by Christ in Matthew 18:15-17:
  - a. If the church is found not to be in conflict with the *BF&M 2000*, no further action is needed.
  - b. If the church is found to be in conflict with the *BF&M 2000*, but makes satisfactory efforts to comply (as determined by the Credentials Committee), no further action is needed.
  - c. If the church is found to be in conflict with the *BF&M 2000*, and after meeting with the Credentials Committee, is unwilling to comply with the applicable guidelines stated in the *BF&M 2000*, the Credentials

Committee will notify the other member churches of the Association at least 30 days prior to the upcoming semi-annual meeting. The church will then be removed from the membership of the Association by two-thirds majority vote of the messengers present at any semi-annual meeting.

2. If any church fails to meet the responsibilities and duties of membership, the following actions will be taken:
  - a. After the first year of non-cooperation, a letter will be sent to the church reminding them of their responsibilities and duties of membership, along with encouragement to fulfill these expectations.
  - b. After the second year of non-cooperation, the Credentials Committee will meet with the church, reminding them of their responsibilities and duties of membership, along with encouragement to fulfill these expectations.
  - c. If the church still has not fulfilled its responsibilities and duties of membership by August 15 of the following year, the church will be notified by letter of the Association's intent to remove the church from the membership of the Association at its Fall semi-annual meeting. The Credentials Committee will also send a letter to each member church at least 30 days prior to the Fall semi-annual meeting, notifying them of the violation of the church as well as the Credentials Committee's intent to remove the uncooperative church from membership.
  - d. The uncooperative church will then be removed from the membership of the association by two-thirds majority vote of the messengers present at the Fall semi-annual meeting.
3. Any church may withdraw from the Association at its own discretion, which does not require a vote of the other member churches of the Association. A letter of notice of withdrawal is required at least 30 days prior to any semi-annual meeting. A church that withdraws from membership in the Association may be reinstated only by applying for and meeting the qualifications as a new member church as described above.

## **ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS**

### **(A) Semi-annual meetings**

1. Officers
  - a. Election and Tenure: The election of officers and department directors should be conducted at the Spring meeting. The body shall elect the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, from the membership of PASB member churches. Their duties shall be such as custom imposes upon such officers. The newly-elected officers shall assume their duties immediately following the Fall meeting and shall

serve through the close of the next Fall meeting. No one shall be elected to the office of Moderator more than two successive terms. The officers of the Association shall serve as officers of the Executive Board.

- b. Removal: Any officer or leader elected or appointed by the Association may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board, whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Association would be served. In such a case, advance notice of no less than ten days must be given with the purpose clearly stated in that notice.
2. Messengers: The members of this body shall consist of not more than four messengers appointed from each church having fifty resident members or less. One additional messenger may be allowed for each additional fifty resident members, or for each 1% of undesignated receipts given to the association in the preceding fiscal year, but no church shall have more than ten messengers.
3. Sessions: This body shall meet semi-annually in the Spring and Fall sessions according to adjournment, but, in case of emergency, the Moderator may call a special session with the advice and consent of the Executive Board.
4. Committees:
  - a. At the close of the Fall semi-annual meeting, the newly elected Moderator, in consultation with the Associational Mission Strategist shall appoint the members of the Nominating Committee, who will serve until the next Fall meeting. No one may serve more than three consecutive terms on the Nominating Committee.
  - b. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to select all standing committees. The body shall have the following standing committees: Nominating, Credentials, Budget, and Resolution, and such other standing committees as seems necessary.
  - c. The Moderator, in consultation with the Associational Mission Strategist shall appoint any ad hoc committees as directed by the Executive Board.
5. Rotational Standing Committees: On occasion of its Spring semi-annual meeting, the body shall elect three men to serve as Trustees and three members (men or women) to serve on the Audit and Personnel Committees, upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee. Audit Committee, Personnel Committee, and Trustees shall serve for a term of three years each. The Nominating Committee shall designate which members shall initially serve one, two, and three year terms upon the first election. Members may not succeed themselves, but may be elected again after a lapse of one year.

The Trustees shall hold legal and equitable title to the Association's property vested to the use of the Association and other duties as custom imposes upon such officers. The Trustees shall perform their duties as above defined, subject at all times to the direction and oversight of the Association. They shall submit a report of all their doings at the Fall semi-annual meeting of the Association.

(B) Executive Board meetings

1. Members:

- a. The Executive Board of this body shall consist of:
  - i. The pastor and two lay members from each church,
  - ii. The pastor of each church plant
  - iii. The officers of the Association.
- b. In the event that a church is without a pastor, the church may elect an alternate to serve on the Executive Board during the interim period.
- c. In the event that a pastor is elected as an associational officer, the church may elect a third lay member to serve on the Executive Board during the pastor's term as an officer.
- d. Any attendees in addition to the allotted maximum number from each church must register as guests, and do not retain voting privileges.

2. Purpose:

- a. The Executive Board shall have charge of the work of this body between its semi-annual sessions.
- b. The Executive Board shall appoint all officers and agencies that may be required during that time.
- c. The Executive Board shall make an annual report of the Association during the Fall session.

**ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended except Article III by concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at either the Fall or Spring semi-annual meeting, on having been given notice of the proposed alteration or amendment at the previous semi-annual meeting.

## BY-LAWS

1. Each session of the Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. Each messenger, when he speaks in debate, or has any communication to make to the Association, shall rise and address the Moderator and, when he has finished, he shall sit down.
3. No member shall speak more often than twice in any single debate on the same day without unanimous permission from the Association.
4. When a member shall be called to order, he shall sit down until the Moderator has determined whether he is in order. An appeal may be made from the decision of the Moderator in this as in any other case.
5. When the Moderator shall desire to be heard in debate, or be temporarily absent, the chair shall be taken by the Assistant Moderator, or in his absence, by some other member whom the Moderator may select.
6. Each session of the Association shall operate under the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.