

# *Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention*

## *Constitution & By-Laws*



**CONSTITUTION  
UTAH-IDAHO SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION**

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this body shall be Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

This Convention shall provide an organization through which churches may cooperate in missionary, education, benevolent, inspirational and fellowship activities for the general advancement of the work of our Lord at home and abroad. It shall provide a channel for all contributed funds in keeping with the wish of the contributor and provide reasonable, available, and requested assistance to aid cooperating churches in fulfilling their local ministries.

**ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. This Convention shall be composed of messengers elected and certified by Baptist churches which are cooperative in spirit and financial support with this Convention and seated by this body.

Section 2. Each cooperative church shall be entitled to three (3) messengers and one (1) additional messenger for every fifty (50) resident members or major portion thereof, providing that no church may elect more than ten (10) messengers.

Section 3. Messengers from new churches may be seated at any annual convention session by three-fourths (3/4) vote of messengers present and seated. Cooperation is voluntary and any church may withdraw its cooperation at its discretion.

**ARTICLE IV - AUTHORITY**

This Convention shall have no authority over the churches or associations and shall never presume to write or impose creeds.

**ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

Section 1. The officers of the Convention shall be President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, and Recording Secretary elected annually. Nominations shall be from the floor. The officers shall hold their office until their successors are installed at the close of the annual session. The president may succeed himself only once consecutively.

Section 2. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees and shall perform such duties as are customarily imposed upon this office.

Section 3. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the sessions and shall prepare minutes for publication.

**ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Section 1. The general work of the Convention shall be committed to the Executive Board. It shall have power to act for the Convention in the interim between sessions, but shall not contravene action of the Convention taken at the regular session.

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Section 2. The Executive Board shall consist of twenty-two (22) members, including the Convention officers. The Convention shall elect eighteen (18) members representing the constituency of the Convention. One-third (1/3) of these members shall be elected at the annual convention for a three (3) year term. After a member shall have served a three (3) year term, the member is eligible to be elected to a second three (3) year term. After the second three (3) year term, one three (3) year term shall elapse before he or she is eligible for re-election. The Convention shall annually elect members to fill all unexpired terms on the Board. (Not more than one (1) person from any given church shall serve on the Board, except that an elected officer of the of the Convention and a regular Board member may hold membership in

the same church and serve on the Board concurrently. No person shall be nominated to serve on the Executive Board unless he or she is a member in good standing of a church which is affiliated with the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention and is giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program). No member of the Board shall hold any remunerative office under the (Southern Baptist) Convention or any of its agencies (with the exception to those receiving Church Growth Assistance and Language Pastoral Assistance).

Section 3. The Executive Board shall elect its own chairman and secretary and shall determine its own meeting places and dates. These meetings shall be open except in the case of executive session.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall employ an Executive Secretary-Treasurer for an indefinite term. The Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as the official superintendent of all work of this Board, making full report of this work to the Board.

Section 5. The Executive Board shall appoint all employed personnel, establish policies, fix salaries, and determine the departments and fields of work for the accomplishment of the Convention's purposes.

Section 6. The Executive Board shall make a report to the Convention of its activities during the year. The Board shall have its report printed and ready for distribution at the first session of the Convention. Any recommendations from the Board shall be published thirty (30) days in advance of the Convention.

#### **ARTICLE VII - AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS**

Section 1. The Convention shall own and operate any agency or institution it deems necessary to fulfill the general purposes specified in Article II. Boards of these agencies or institutions shall report in the manner specified by the Executive Board of the Convention unless the Convention itself directs otherwise.

Section 2. No institution or agency shall be acquired without an approval of the Convention in two (2) successive annual conventions.

Section 3. No existing institution or agency of this Convention shall launch enterprises calling for expenditures of money apart from usual operating expenses until the same has been approved by the Executive Board.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS**

The Convention shall meet annually. Special sessions may be called by the Executive Board.

#### **ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be changed or amended on the second day of any annual session of the Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the messengers, provided that notice of the proposed change shall have been published not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.

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### **BY-LAWS**

#### **ARTICLE I – RULES**

Section 1. The rules of order for the Convention shall be those given in "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised."

Section 2. Visitors attending the Convention, who are members of cooperating churches, may be allowed all privileges of the session except to make motion and to vote.

Section 3. One third (1/3) of the seated messengers shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Members of the Executive Board shall attend at least one out of two meetings unless providentially hindered and, in such cases, notice shall be given to the Board. Two successive absences without notification shall give the Board the right to appoint a new member to replace the absent one to serve until the next session of the Convention.

**ARTICLE II – COMMITTEES** Section 1. Convention Committees: The newly-elected president and the first and second vice-presidents shall serve as a committee on committees and shall annually appoint the following committees in time to have the member's names included in the Convention Annual.

- (a) A committee on nominations, of not less than five members, exclusive of current Executive Board members, charged with the responsibility of selecting nominees for the Executive Board.
- (b) A committee on order of business.
- (c) A committee on time, place, and preacher.
- (d) A committee on resolutions.
- (e) A committee on credentials composed of five (5) members shall examine messengers of new churches applying for Convention affiliation and recommend Convention action toward them. When necessary, this committee may be authorized to examine messengers from affiliated churches whose seats are contested and recommend Convention action. Churches desiring affiliation with this Convention shall submit their Petitionary Letter no later than ninety (90) days prior to the Annual Convention meeting.
- (f) A committee on constitution composed of five (5) members who shall study the Convention's Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-Laws, and shall receive and review proposed amendments committed to the committee and shall formulate whatever proposed amendments it may consider proper and shall report them to the Convention in the manner prescribed in the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-Laws.

**ARTICLE III - AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Amendments to the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, after approval by the Executive Board, will be presented to the Convention for approval, as specified in the said ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION. When a special meeting is required for this approval, no less than ten (10) days notice will be given to the churches of the Convention either in writing, or by whatever means the Executive Board deems wise. Messengers must be seated for this meeting.