

# **RABUN COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

## **Article I: Name**

The name of this body shall be “The Rabun County Baptist Association”

## **Article II: Purpose**

The Rabun County Baptist Association exists to help churches to work together to do God’s will of reaching, teaching, and baptizing people through dynamic Christian fellowship and cooperative ministry.

## **Article III: Membership**

1. This body shall be composed of messengers from the Baptist Churches in harmony and cooperation with the work and purpose of the Association.
2. The report, in the form of an Annual Church Profile (ACP) shall be submitted annually to the Association by each church.
3. For the annual meeting of the Association, each church shall be entitled to five messengers, and each church having more than one hundred members shall be allowed an additional messenger for each hundred members of major fraction thereof, with a maximum of ten messengers.
4. A Church desiring membership in the Association shall present their request at the Executive Committee or Annual Meeting of the Association. The moderator shall appoint a committee to study the church as to its beliefs and soundness of Baptist Doctrine and principle. For one year they shall be under the watchcare of the Association. Full membership will be granted if evidence of support by holding the same faith, attending the various meetings of the Association, and supporting with financial gifts to the mission causes and other work supported by the Association.
5. At the next annual meeting of the Association, the church under watchcare shall be formally accepted for membership, based on the above conditions have been met. The moderator shall extend the right hand of fellowship to the messengers of each church.

## **Article IV: Officers**

The Association shall have a Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian. These officers shall be elected upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee before the Annual Meeting. They shall be installed in their offices at the Annual Meeting.

## **Article V: Executive Committee**

1. There shall be an Executive Committee composed of one member of each church, all pastors of churches in the Association, and all officers and members of the Associational Leadership Team. The officers of the Executive Committee are as follows: Moderator serving as chairman, Vice-Moderator, and Clerk as Secretary.
2. The Executive Committee will meet December, March, June, and September.
3. The Administration Team is responsible for a called meeting of the Executive Committee.
4. It will be the duty of the Administration Team, Ministry/Missions Development Team, and Leadership/Education Development Team to promote properly all the work of the Association between annual sessions. The Executive Committee will transact the business of the Association between annual sessions.
5. Members present of the Executive Committee will constitute a quorum and can therefore conduct business at hand.
6. The Executive Committee will submit a report of its work at the annual meeting of the Association.

## **Article VI: Cooperation and Belief**

This Association shall subscribe to the principle of the Baptists Faith and Message adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in June 2000. Copies are available in pamphlet form from the Georgia Baptist Convention or in book form through Lifeway of the Southern Baptist Convention.

This Association shall also subscribe to the principles of the church covenant generally adopted by Southern Baptist Church as being how Christian should live together.

The association shall (1) cooperate with the Georgia Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention; (2) encourage support; and (3) promote the mission causes fostered by the Rabun County Baptist Association, Georgia Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

### **Article VII: Authority**

The Association does not claim and never will attempt to exercise any authority over any other Baptist body.

### **Article VIII: Privileges**

As an autonomous body, we retain the right to withdraw fellowship from any church body. Fellowship may not be withdrawn from any church without opportunity given such church to explain its actions before the Association. The reasons from which churches can be withdrawn from membership of the Association are (1) Total lack of cooperation with the work of the Rabun County Baptist Association; (2) Doctrinal practice contrary to the belief of this body; (3) failure to report for a period of three consecutive years to the Association.

### **Article IX: Meeting**

The date, location, and time of the Association's annual meeting will be determined by the Administration Team.

### **Article X: Northeast Area Mission Program**

The Rabun County Baptist Association shall cooperate in the Northeast Area Mission Program of the Georgia Baptist Convention. Representatives for the Advisory Committee will be the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and the State Executive Committee Representative. If one is serving two positions, the moderator shall appoint the third Representative of the Advisory Committee.

# **BYLAWS**

## **Article I:**

The Association calendar year will be from November 1-October 31.

## **Article II:**

All team members shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. No term limit is set for Moderator.

## **Article III:**

The Associational Leadership Team shall consist of Administration Team, Mission/Ministry Development Team, and Leadership/Education Development Team. Their responsibilities consist of preparing/coordinating the calendar of the Association. They will meet quarterly before the Executive Committee meetings.

## **Article IV:**

The Nominating Committee is to be appointed by the Moderator. The Nominating Committee is to nominate members to serve on the Administration, Missions/Ministry Development Team, and Leadership/Education Development Team. The names are to be presented at the Executive Committee Meeting prior to the Annual Meeting.

## **Article V:**

The Clerk of the Association is instructed to send an Annual Church Profile to the Clerk of each church of the Association. Included will be a letter of information and request that the ACP be completed and returned to the Association Clerk by October 10<sup>th</sup>. This is necessary to complete a summary of the year's work for presentation at the annual meeting of the Association.

## **Article VI:**

The Rabun County Baptist Association Leadership/Education Development Team exists to inspire churches to fulfill their role in the body of Christ.

**Article VII:**

The Rabun County Baptist Association Missions/Ministry Development Team exists to inspire and assist churches to reach all people for Jesus Christ through Prayer, Missions Education, and Networking.

**Article VIII:**

No team or sub-team of the Association shall solicit funds from churches in the Association or from individual members in the churches without the approval of the Administration Team.

**Article IX:**

The Parliamentary Authority for the Association shall be *Robert's Rules of Order* (Revised).

**C&B Revised 9/9/2002**  
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