

**MID-VALLEY SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**CONSTITUTION - 10/15/2005**

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**ARTICLE I - NAME**

This body shall be known as Mid-Valley Southern Baptist Association.

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

**Section 1.** The purpose of this Association is to assist cooperating congregations to effectively fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

**Section 2.** This Association is purely a cooperative body which voluntarily chooses to cooperate with the California Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. It shall provide fellowship among the churches, to promote Christian education, and to furnish a means by which the Southern Baptist churches in their sovereign capacity can work together in promoting all denominational enterprises which they deem necessary in carrying out the Great Commission.

**ARTICLE III - CONSTITUENCY**

This association will consist of messengers elected by the Southern Baptist churches cooperating with and contributing to the work of the Association as follows:

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

**Section 2.** This Association shall be composed of messengers elected by the Southern Baptist churches who are cooperating with this Association and sympathetic with its purpose and work, provided that the church or churches have adopted Articles of Faith generally accepted by the Southern Baptist churches.

**Section 3.** Messengers shall not be seated in the annual meeting of the Association until the Annual Church Profile or an equivalent report for the preceding year shall have been filed with the Corporate Secretary.

**ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** This Association shall meet annually in the fall. The meeting may include prayer, praise, proclamation, election of Officers, Committees, and Priority Action Team Leaders, adoption of the annual budget, and any other pertinent business the Association must address. Special meetings of the association may be called by the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE V - OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The officers shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Corporate Secretary, who shall be elected at the annual meeting. These officers shall assume their duties at the close of the annual meeting.

**Section 2.** It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the deliberations of this body and of the Executive Board, and to discharge such other duties as are usually incumbent upon the presiding officer of deliberative bodies. The moderator shall appoint all special committees of

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the Association unless the Association or the Executive Board shall otherwise direct. The Moderator shall be an ex-officio member of all Association committees.

**Section 3.** In the absence of the Moderator, the Vice-Moderator shall act as the moderator of the meeting. Should a vacancy occur in the office of the Moderator, the Vice-Moderator shall succeed to that office.

**Section 4.** It shall be the duty of the Corporate Secretary to record the proceedings of the meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board. He or she shall cooperate with the Association staff in the tabulation of the Annual Church Profile and in the preparation of the Association Annual for the year served.

**Section 5.** The minutes and the financial records of the Association shall be open at all times for inspection by any pastor or his designee from any cooperating church.

**Section 6.** In case of vacancy in any office during the regular term, the Executive Board shall fill such vacancy.

**ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Section 1.** The Executive Board shall be composed of the officers of the Association, the chairman of the trustees, the chairmen of standing committees, the pastors of the cooperating churches and missions, and two members elected annually from each of the cooperating churches and certified to the Association Clerk.

**Section 2.** The Executive Board shall have charge of all work of the Association and shall have full authority to conduct any business pertaining to the Association in the interim between sessions when otherwise directed by this body. The Board shall at all times endeavor to carry out the express will of the Association.

**Section 3.** A quorum shall be constituted by the Executive Board members present from the cooperating churches.

**Section 4.** The Executive Board shall meet as directed by the annual Association calendar. An agenda for each regular or called meeting of the Executive Board shall be mailed to the churches and each board member at least ten days prior to the meeting date.

**ARTICLE VII - TRUSTEES OF THE CORPORATION**

**Section 1.** The trustees shall be composed of the Director of Missions, Moderator, Vice-Moderator and Corporate Secretary.

**Section 2.** Any two of the four trustees shall have authority to and are hereby authorized to sign any and all legal documents pertaining to the legal business of the Association. They are responsible for securing tax exemptions and seeing that any taxes are paid.

**Section 3.** No sale or disposal of property belonging to this Association by title, deed, or otherwise, shall be executed unless there be direct vote of this body in its annual meeting or in any regular or called meeting of the Executive Board authorizing such action.

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**ARTICLE VIII - PROMOTIONAL AGENCIES**

**Section 1.** The Association may elect leaders and committees, and initiate such ministries as needed for the promotion and implementation of the purposes for which the Association exists.

**Section 2.** Time and place shall be given on the program of the annual meeting of the Association for reports from all association team leaders and committees.

**ARTICLE IX - NEW CHURCHES**

**Section 1.** New churches which are in sympathy with the principles, purposes and methods of this Association desiring admission into its fellowship shall make application for a cooperative relationship by proper petitionary letter and messengers.

**Section 2.** When a church makes application for recognition as a cooperating constituency by petitionary letter and messengers, the Leadership/Membership Committee shall inquire into its Articles of Faith, manner and nature of its organization and fellowship. Upon a favorable report from the committee, the church may be recognized as a cooperating body by a majority vote.

**Section 3.** The Executive Board, acting for the Association between sessions, may, in the manner stated above, receive applications for membership, and after proper investigation and favorable report of the committee, recognize the petitioning church as a cooperating body by a majority vote with all the rights and privileges of the Association.

**ARTICLE X - AUTHORITY**

**Section 1.** This Association shall never exercise any authority whatsoever over any church, nor shall it interfere in any way with the constitution of any church, or with the exercise of its functions as the only ecclesiastical body, but will always cheerfully recognize and uphold absolute independence of the churches.

**Section 2.** While this Association does not assume any authority over any church and its members, it does reserve to itself the right to withdraw fellowship from any church which shall become corrupt in faith and practice.

**Section 3.** Robert's Rules of Order, 1970 revision, shall be the guide in all matters pertaining to the conduct of business sessions of this Association.

**ARTICLE XI - REPORTS**

**Section 1.** It shall be the duty of each cooperating church to make an annual report to the Association using the Annual Church Profile.

**Section 2.** If any church shall fail to report as required to this Association for two (2) consecutive years, the Leadership/Membership Committee shall inquire into the standing of the church and report to the Association at its next annual meeting.

**Section 3.** When any church shall fail to make a report to the Association for three (3) consecutive years, it shall be considered as withdrawn from the Association and its name shall be dropped from the membership roll of the churches.

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**ARTICLE XII - FINANCIAL POLICIES**

**Section 1.** No bond, mortgage, or other evidence of debt shall be executed by any auxiliary or organization involving any of the property of this Association without prior approval of the Association.

**Section 2.** No existing auxiliary or agency of this Association shall launch any move or enterprise calling for the expenditure of money apart from the annual operating expenses until the same has been presented to and approved by the Association or Executive Board.

**Section 3.** All financial records of the Association shall be kept in the association office. The Director of Association Missions shall be the treasurer and administrator of all financial matters in the Association, and a monthly report shall be made to the churches and to the Executive Board of all receipts and expenditures.

**Section 4.** No funds shall be diverted from the cause for which they were designated. Budget funds may be changed by the Executive Board by a majority vote unless otherwise directed by the Association.

**Section 5.** There shall be an annual audit of the financial records of the Association.

**ARTICLE XIII - DIRECTOR OF ASSOCIATION MISSIONS**

**Section 1.** The Director of Association Missions shall be elected by the Executive Board in cooperation with the California Southern Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist convention. He will be supervised by the Executive Board. His support shall be shared jointly with the California Southern Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

**Section 2.** The Director of Association Missions shall be an ex-officio member of the association committees.

**Section 3.** In the event of a vacancy, the Leadership/Membership Committee shall bring the recommendations for the election of a Director of Association Missions to the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS**

**Section 1.** This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the messengers present at any regular annual meeting, provided that the proposed amendment be submitted in writing to each cooperating church at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.

**Section 2.** Section 1 of Article X shall not be changed or amended but shall be held inviolate.

**Section 3.** This Association shall have the right to adopt such by-laws as it may deem necessary and amend or alter such by-laws by a majority vote of the messengers present at any session of the annual meeting.

**Section 4.** The by-laws may be amended in any regular meeting of the association Executive Board by two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Executive Board in writing at least thirty (30) days in advance.