



*Utah-Idaho
Southern Baptist
Convention*

CONSTITUTION

Effective October 2020

**CONSTITUTION
UTAH-IDAHO SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION**

Effective 10/2020

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.

- (a) This Convention shall consist of messengers:
 - (1) elected and certified by affiliated Southern Baptist churches that are cooperative in faith and practice and in financial support with this Convention and
 - (2) seated by this body.

- (b) For the purposes of this Constitution, “*affiliated Baptist churches*” are those Southern Baptist churches that have been approved for affiliation in accordance with the *Application Guidelines and Procedures for Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention Affiliation*.

- (c) For the purposes of this Constitution, a “*church*” is any constituted, autonomous church, whether incorporated or not, which has an assigned SBC identification number from LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

- (d) For the purposes of this Constitution, a church that is “*cooperative in faith and practice*” means the church:
 - i. Gives evidence of its submission to the Bible as its authority in matters of faith and practice.
 - ii. Actively participates in the formation of and supports the stated vision, mission, resolutions, and values of the Convention.
 - iii. Cooperates with the work and purpose of this Convention.
 - iv. Is in doctrinal agreement with and embraces no doctrinal statement that contradicts the most current *Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention;
 - v. Does not knowingly take or has knowingly taken any action that directly or indirectly affirms, endorses, supports, condones, or approves in any way homosexual conduct, same-sex marriage, or any other sexual, non-binary gender, or transgender expression or conduct prohibited by the Word of God.

- vi. Does not knowingly take or has knowingly taken any action that directly or indirectly affirms, endorses, supports, condones, or approves in any way any conduct prohibited by the Word of God.
 - vii. Accepts the responsibility to submit an annual church profile to the Convention.
 - viii. Agrees, as circumstances and finances reasonably permit, to send a messenger or messengers to the UISBC Annual Meeting
- (e) For the purposes of this Constitution, “*cooperative in financial support*” means the church financially supports this Convention and participates in missions and other ministries by giving annually to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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

Section 3. Subject to the *Application Guidelines and Procedures for Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention Affiliation*, the general procedure for affiliation shall be:

- (a) A church desiring to affiliate with the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention shall submit an application packet with all required materials and information to the Executive Director.
- (b) The Executive Director will review the packet and submit the application to the Executive Board and the Credentials Committee.
- (c) The Credentials Committee shall submit its recommendations to the Executive Board.
- (d) The Executive Board shall consider the application and the recommendations of the Credentials Committee and shall then approve or disapprove the affiliation or take other action as it deems reasonable and appropriate. The Executive Board shall notify the Executive Director and the Credentials Committee of its actions.
- (e) If approved, the affiliation shall become effective as of the date of approval.
- (f) The Executive Director shall:
 - i. Notify the applying church of the action of the Executive Board.
 - ii. Submit the name of and required information relating to each newly affiliated church to the Internal Revenue Service for inclusion in the UISBC group tax exemption.
 - iii. Make a report at the next Annual Meeting of all church affiliations approved since the immediately preceding Annual Meeting.
- (g) The messengers may acknowledge the affiliation of the church at the next Annual Meeting.

Section 4.

- (a) If there is reasonable cause to believe an affiliated church is not cooperative in faith and practice or is not cooperative in financial support or has taken action or conducted itself in a manner which is significantly detrimental to the best interest and ministry of the Convention the affiliation of said church may be revoked or other appropriate action taken by the messengers during an Annual or Special Meeting.
 - i. Before taking such action, an inquiry shall be conducted to consider the reasons for non-compliance, after which a report and recommendations of action, if believed necessary, shall be submitted to those considering the action by the Credentials Committee.
 - ii. The revoking of affiliation requires a vote of three-fourths (3/4) majority of those messengers present and seated at the meeting addressing this issue.
- (b) Because affiliation is voluntary, any church may withdraw its affiliation at its discretion at any time.
 - i. The withdrawing church shall submit a written notice to the Executive Director of this Convention. The notice shall state the date of church action and include the date of withdrawal.
 - ii. Voluntary withdrawal of affiliation will disqualify the withdrawing church from sending messengers to the next or subsequent Annual Meetings.
 - iii. Any voluntary withdrawal by an affiliated church will be reported at the next Annual Meeting.
 - iv. Churches that have withdrawn in the past may reapply for affiliation in the future, according to the same guidelines and procedures referred to in Article 3 Section 3.

Section 5. Church plants may be placed in a Watchcare status until such time as they become a church as defined in the foregoing Section 1.

- (a) For purposes of this Constitution, "church plant" means any new congregation, five years old or less, which has a sending church (one which can seat messengers at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention) and is not yet self-sufficient, self-governing, or self-sustaining.
- (b) A church plant applying for Watchcare status shall comply with the Application Guidelines for Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention Watchcare status which have been approved by the vote of a majority of seated messengers at an Annual Meeting.
- (c) A church plant with a Watchcare status will not be eligible to elect messengers to the Convention Annual Meeting in its own right but may, at the discretion of its sponsoring church, be represented through messengers elected from the membership of the church plant to be part of the delegation of messengers of the sponsoring church.
- (d) The Convention shall submit the name of the church plant in Watchcare status to the federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to be included the Convention's group tax exemption.
- (e) When a church plant becomes a church as defined in the foregoing Section 1, it may submit a petition for affiliation.

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 Meeting. 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 Meetings, but shall not contravene action of the Convention taken at Annual or Special Meetings.
- 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 Meeting 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 Convention and a regular Board member may hold membership in the same church and serve on the Board concurrently. In a case where one board member changes membership to a church where an existing board member is attending both members can continue to serve through the next regular scheduled Board meeting or Annual Meeting at which time the member that relocated will be asked to step down and their position be filled as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws. 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 Director/Treasurer for an indefinite term. The Executive Director/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 Annual Meeting. Any recommendations from the Board shall be published thirty (30) days in advance of the Annual Meeting.

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 Meetings.
- 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 Meetings may be called by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be changed or amended at an Annual Meeting of the Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the seated messengers, provided that notice of the proposed change shall have been published not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting.