

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
ANSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
ANSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION**

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the Corporation is Anson Baptist Association of Anson County, North Carolina.

ARTICLE II - DURATION

The period of duration of the Corporation shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSES

- A.** The purposes for which this Corporation is organized are to operate and function as an Association in all its religious, charitable and educational dimensions including but not limited to the following Association's purposes:
1. To promote Christian Fellowship and cooperation among the churches affiliated with the Association.
 2. To uphold and practice the doctrines and principles of our Baptist faith.
 3. To encourage the churches to be loyal to and uphold these doctrines.
 4. To promote the preaching and teaching of God's Word.
 5. To enlist and train all Christians for service.
 6. To promote missions, benevolence, stewardship, Christian education and the winning of all men to Christ to the ends of the earth.
 7. To cooperate with the North Carolina Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention in a worldwide mission program.
 8. To organize and maintain such ministries and divisions, including but not limited to, schools, day care centers, relief programs and social services and other programs authorized by law which will promote and advance the religious purposes set forth herein.
- B.** In furtherance of its purposes, and to the extent necessary to carry out such purposes, the Corporation
1. Shall have all the powers given to and possessed by a North Carolina Corporation organized under the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act.
 2. May engage in any lawful activity within the purpose for which the Corporation may be organized which are incidental to and in furtherance of the exempt purposes of the Corporation.
- C.** No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefits of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes as set forth in the Articles.
- D.** No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding, any other provision of these articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a Corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by any Corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNMENT

The government of the Association shall be congregational in nature, and the final authority for the operation and management of the affairs of this Corporation, spiritual and temporal, shall be vested in the membership of the Corporation, which authority shall be exercised in the manner set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERS

The corporation shall have one class of members as provided in the By-Laws and all members shall be elected by the congregations in the manner set forth in the By-Laws. All present members of the Association shall automatically become members of the Corporation.

ARTICLE VI - INITIAL DIRECTORS

The directors and their terms shall be the same as the current officers of the Anson Baptist Association, whose names and addresses are on file in the office of the Corporation.

ARTICLE VII - DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such a manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall, at the time, qualify as exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors Shall determine. Any such not so disposed of shall be dispersed by the Superior Court of the county in which the principle office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE VIII - REGISTERED OFFICE

The address of the initial registered office of the Corporation in North Carolina is P.O. Box 958, 2710 U.S. Hwy. 74 West, Anson County, Wadesboro, NC, and the initial registered agent of the Corporation is the Director of Associational Missions.

ARTICLE IX - INCORPORATORS

The names and addresses of the incorporators, acting as representatives of all the current members of Anson Baptist Association of Anson County, are on file in the office of the Corporation.

BY-LAWS

Anson Baptist Association

ARTICLES OF FAITH

THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE, as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention May 9, 1963, shall be the Articles of faith adopted by this body.

AFFILIATIONS

The Anson Baptist Association is affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Cary, NC and The Executive Committee Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, TN.

COMPOSITION

1. Associational Membership

All churches composing the body of the Anson Baptist Association, and those asking for membership in this body, shall believe and practice the doctrine of the New Testament as interpreted by Baptists through the years.

The Association shall be composed of cooperating Baptist churches in the area of the Association. A cooperating church shall be defined as one, which sends an annual report and messengers to the Annual Session, contributes to the financial program of the Association and adheres to the BY-LAWS of this Association.

The Association shall be sole judge of its membership and may receive, or reject churches, according to its BY-LAWS. Member churches may also withdraw, as they desire. Any church in the Association which fails to cooperate with the Association shall be contacted by Credentials committee to ascertain the wishes and desires of the church relative to its continuance in the Association. The Credentials Committee will report its findings to the Executive Committee, who in return, will bring appropriate recommendations to the Association in Annual Session. Churches desiring to affiliate with this Body shall make a written request to the Credentials Committee 45 days prior to the March Executive Committee meetings, or the October Annual Meeting. If in the judgment of the Credentials Committee and the Executive Committee, the requirements hereinafter set forth have been met, the church may be recommended for membership at the Annual Meeting of the Association. Normally, it is recommended that a church be received under watch care for a year.

ANNUAL MEETING

1. Annual Meeting Composition

The Association shall be composed of messengers of affiliating churches. When such messengers are elected by the Association, they shall be seated and entitled to participate in the affairs of the Body. Each church affiliated with the Association shall be entitled to three (3) messengers for the first fifty (50) resident members or fraction thereof. The church will then be allowed an additional messenger for every one hundred (100) resident members or fraction thereof. No church shall be entitled to more than ten messengers. The Association may refuse to seat messengers who are not in fellowship or doctrinal agreement with the Body.

2. Annual Meeting Rules of Conduct And Order

Messengers to the Association shall be accorded equal rights and privileges of the floor, provided each messenger who desires to speak shall rise and address the moderator and be recognized prior to speaking. No messenger shall be entitled to speak on any one subject more than twice until other messengers desiring to speak have been heard. Upon request of a messenger, and by consent of the Body, the moderator may invite a visitor to speak during a discussion.

Each church affiliated with the Association should complete the annual report and get a copy to the Clerk at least ten days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Association.

This body shall be governed by **ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, REVISED.**

The fiscal year of this Association shall be January 1 through December 31. Annual committee and organizational reports to the Association shall cover September of the previous year through August of the present year.

A place shall be made on the Order of Business of the Annual Meeting of the Association for miscellaneous business.

Twenty members representing at least ten member churches shall constitute a quorum for the Executive Committee.

3. Annual Meeting Date And Place

The Association shall hold an Annual Meeting each year on the second Tuesday in October. The place shall be determined by the Place and Preacher Committee.

The Executive Committee shall have power to change the stated time and/or place of the Annual Meeting in case of emergency or necessity.

AUTONOMY, AUTHORITY, AND ASSISTANCE

This Association shall be an autonomous body and therefore reserves the right to determine its own policies and direct its own business. It may refuse to seat messengers who are not in fellowship or doctrinal agreement with this body, or whose churches are not.

As to authority, this body shall not exercise any authority over churches affiliated with it.

As to assistance, this Association will stand ready to lend assistance or counsel to any church making request for such help.

LEADERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

All leaders must be members in good standing of affiliated churches. All elected leaders are elected to a one-year term and shall be voted on in the Annual Meeting. A person may serve three consecutive years in the same position. After three consecutive years a person must exit that position for one year after which they may be re-elected to the same position. Exceptions will be the treasurer and clerk who may hold office for five consecutive years. Another exception are the three Trustees, all of which serve a three year term on rotating basis, one to be elected each year. In the event of death, resignation, or move from an affiliated church, the position will be filled by the Nominating Committee with approval of the Executive Committee. The W.M.U. will continue to elect its own officers.

OFFICERS

The officers of the Association shall be Director of Missions, Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Music Director, Parliamentarian, and Historian. These officers, except the Director of Missions, shall be nominated by the

Nominating Committee and elected by the Association during the Annual Meeting and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed.

A Director of Missions shall be called as need arises. His tenure of service shall be indefinite. When a vacancy occurs the Associational Council will recommend a six member search committee to the Executive Committee for election. The Council will also recommend the chairperson. The composition of the committee should include at least three pastors. The moderator and chairperson of the Finance Committee shall serve as ex-officio members of the Committee.

1. Associational Officers

- (1) **Director of Missions:** (See Appendix)
- (2) **Moderator:** The Moderator shall call to order and preside over the meetings of the Association, and the Executive Committee.
- (3) **Vice-Moderator:** The Vice-Moderator shall preside over all meetings in the absence of the Moderator. The Vice-Moderator shall assist the Moderator in such ways as the Moderator may direct. The Vice-Moderator may ask other officers to preside if necessary.
- (4) **Clerk:** The clerk shall keep a full and accurate record of all the business meetings of the Association, Annual Meeting, the March Meeting of the Executive Committee and any called meetings of the Executive Committee. At each meeting the clerk shall give the minutes of the previous meeting.
- (5) **Treasurer:** The treasurer shall chair the Finance Committee and give supervision to the total budgetary program of the Association.
- (6) **Assistant Treasurer:** The Associational Administrative Assistant shall serve as the Assistant Treasurer and co-sign all checks with a C.P.A. who will keep the financial books of the Association. The Administrative Assistant shall receive and record funds, deposit funds, request checks to pay bills, and print monthly and quarterly financial statements used in reports at the Annual and Executive Committee meetings. Presently, C.P.A. Mr. Sam Turner is responsible for bookkeeping, the issuing of checks, and preparing monthly and quarterly financial statements.
- (7) **Music Director:** The Music Director shall serve on the Program Committee and shall give supervision to the music ministry of the Association. The Music Director shall seek to foster fellowship among the Ministers of Music and shall assist in providing associational training workshops as deemed needful by the churches of the Association.
- (8) **Parliamentarian:** The Parliamentarian shall be recommended by the Moderator and approved by the Executive Committee. The Parliamentarian shall be considered an officer of the Association and, thus, a member of the Executive Committee.
- (9) **Historian:** The Historian shall write in orderly form the events of the Association, beginning with its organization. The Association shall request the churches and individuals who possess historical information about the Association to make it accessible to the Historian. The Historian shall make a record of current events of each fiscal year and read the Annual Chapter to the Annual Meeting of the Association for adoption.

2. Organizational Directors

The Association shall encourage and promote such organizations as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Discipleship Training, Woman's Missionary Union, Baptist Men, Music, Seminary Extension, and Youth. All organizations are accountable to the Association and the Association may create any other organizations, which are in keeping with the purpose of this Association.

Associational Council

The Associational Council: The Associational Council shall consist of: Director of Missions, Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Sunday School Director, Discipleship Director, Music Director, WMU Director, Brotherhood Director, Chairman of the Evangelism Committee, Clerk, Treasurer and Seminary Extension Director. The Moderator shall chair the Associational Council. The functions of the Associational Council shall be as follows:

1. Prepare an Annual Calendar budget of Associational activities and ministries;
2. Study church needs in the Association and needs of the people in the area of the Association. Plan and carry out a missions program to meet such needs;
3. Project annual three year and five year goals for the Association;
4. Prepare and recommend plans for involving organizations and committees appropriately in attaining goals;
5. Review and coordinate plans made by the organizations and committees and relate these to the attainment of the goals;
6. Evaluate the use of resources;
7. Report to the Executive Committee Meetings and Annual Meeting progress made toward the attainment of Associational goals;
8. Nominate people to serve on the Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting.

3. Committees

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the pastor of each affiliated church (an interim pastor may serve if the church recommends him to the committee) and two lay members from each church, plus the officers of the Association.

The Executive Committee has one March meeting per year; the second Tuesday of March. Other meetings may be called as needed.

Twenty members representing at least ten churches shall constitute a quorum for the Executive Committee.

Called meetings should occur only when it is absolutely necessary. Called meetings can only be called by the Moderator and/or the Director of Missions. All churches will be notified at least one week prior to such a meeting.

The Moderator shall serve as the chairman of the Executive Committee. The Vice-Moderator shall serve as chairman in the Moderator's absence. The Clerk shall serve as secretary of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee attends to all matters of the Association between Annual Meetings. It shall make an annual report during the Annual Meeting with a copy printed in the annual.

Standing Committees

Program Committee: The membership of this Committee shall consist of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Music Director and two other members. The purpose of this Committee is to work out a well-balanced program in which all the work of the Association and denominational interests are fairly represented. The Committee shall plan the Annual Meeting. The four (4) associational gatherings (February, May, August and November) shall be planned in conjunction with other committees and organizations.

At the Annual Meeting of the Association, the Program Committee will be responsible for such adjustments in the suggested agenda as become necessary for the effective presentation of the work. The Vice-Moderator or someone appointed by him shall always present the program to the messengers.

The Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members chosen from different geographical locations in order to represent the whole of Anson County. It shall nominate the Officers, Organizational Directors, Memorials Representative and Standing Committees that require nominations at the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall make nominations to the Executive Committee to fill vacancies that may occur in the Association Officers, Organization Directors,

Committees and Memorials Representative during the year. Woman's Missionary Union will continue to elect its own officers.

This Committee shall solicit recommendations from each church cooperating with the Anson Baptist Association prior to its first meeting. The Nominating Committee shall meet by the first of May prior to the Annual Meeting, and it shall meet at such other times as necessary.

The Finance Committee: This Committee shall be composed of the Director of Missions (ex officio member), Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, and three at large members chosen from different areas of the Association. The Associational Treasurer shall chair the committee. The committee shall complete a proposed annual budget to be presented in the Annual Meeting. The budget shall cover the period of January 1 through December 31 of the following year. Each church shall be encouraged to give monthly to the Associational budget.

The Evangelism Committee: The Evangelism Committee shall be composed of three members who are vitally interested in the Southern Baptist Program of Evangelism. The members of this Committee shall lead in promoting a program of evangelism in the Association.

The Credentials Committee: The Credentials Committee shall be composed of five members. Its duties shall be to examine the credentials of churches requesting admission into the Association and to examine the procedures, operation, and denominational relationship of missions and new churches. The membership application of any church seeking membership in the Association should be in the hands of the Credentials Committee for at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Associational Annual Meeting. The Credentials Committee shall be responsible for examining and recommending solutions to problems within the Association when the lack of cooperation is evident.

The Resolutions Committee: An Associational Resolution is an expression of opinion by the Association in Annual Session, or the March Executive Committee Meeting. The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of three members, its duty being to express the voted opinions of the Association whether to local individuals, groups and churches, or to the State, National, and World concerns. All resolutions to be presented in Annual Session, or the March Executive Committee Meeting should be referred to this committee for its careful study and action. The committee shall be responsible for writing recommendations, bringing recommendations for a revised resolution, a substitute resolution or an "accepted as is" resolution. This committee shall also be responsible for the forwarding of copies of the resolution to persons concerned and for presenting a legible copy of each resolution to the Associational Clerk.

The Ordination Committee: The Ordination Committee shall consist of five pastors. Churches desiring to ordain ministers are invited to place their candidates before the committee for examination on the following principles: (a) Christian experience or conversion; (b) Call to ministry; (c) Attitude toward denominational work and objectives; (d) Support of denominational causes; (e) Moral and spiritual fitness; (f) Doctrinal belief; (g) Purpose to serve; (h) Knowledge of the Bible.

No candidate for ordination shall be considered by the Committee who has not been a member of a cooperating Southern Baptist Church for at least one year.

Candidates are to be urged to prepare themselves for the ministry as far as possible in Baptist colleges and Seminaries.

Recommendations will be made by the Committee to the church where the candidate holds membership. The Committee will assist the church in the ordination service at a time convenient to the church and the members of the Committee, if such assistance is desired.

The Place And Preacher Committee: The Place And Preacher Committee shall be composed of three members whose duty it shall be to receive or solicit invitations for the place of meeting of the Annual Session for the following year, and to recommend to the Association in Annual Session, a place or places of meeting, along with a preacher and alternate for the sermon for the following year. In the event that

neither the preacher nor the alternate are available for the Annual Meeting, the Committee will make another selection.

The Bylaws Committee: The Bylaws Committee shall be composed of five members. All proposed changes in the Bylaws shall be presented to the Bylaws Committee forty-five (45) days prior to the October Annual Meeting, the March Executive Committee meeting, or a called meeting of the Executive Committee for such purpose. If presented during the October Annual Meeting, the changes shall be read in the first business session and voted on during the last business session.

This Committee shall study the bylaws each year before the October Annual Meeting to be sure the bylaws are up-to-date with local and convention changes.

The Committee of Trustees: (a) The Trustees shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee on a rotation basis with no member to serve over three (3) consecutive years. Trustees may be reelected after they have rotated off for one (1) year. (b) The Trustees shall hold title to all Associational Property and handle all legal matters of the Association in compliance with the bylaws of the Association and the laws of the State of North Carolina.

Other Committees

The Properties Committee: The Properties Committee shall be in charge of building and ground maintenance of all Associational properties. Major expenditures, other than emergencies, shall be referred to the Executive Committee, or the Association in Annual Meeting. The Properties Committee shall consist of six members.

The Registration Committee: The Administrative Assistant shall chair this committee. Other members of this committee shall be enlisted from the church or churches hosting the Annual Session. The duties of this committee shall be to provide for the orderly and systematic registration of all messengers and visitors to the Annual Sessions, to keep the Moderator informed as to the number of messengers and visitors registered, and to present a copy of the registration information to the Associational Office for filing at the close of the Annual Session. This committee shall keep the churches informed as to proper registration procedures.

4. Representatives

This Association shall have the following representatives: (1) Baptist Children's Homes, (2) Baptist Retirement Homes, (3) Baptist Hospital, (4) Christian Education, (5) Cooperative Program, (6) Christian Literature, (7) Christian Action League, (8) Christian Life Council and (9) others deemed necessary. The Associational Administrative Assistant shall serve as representative of the above agencies and shall give a written report to the Annual Meeting. The Memorials Representative shall prepare a brief service to be given at the Annual Meeting.

Amendments

The Corporation Charter, The Articles and Bylaws may be amended at any Annual Meeting or Executive Committee meeting by a two-thirds majority of the messengers present, provided written notice of such changes has been given to the Bylaws Committee forty-five (45) days prior to the October meeting, the March Executive Committee meeting, or any called meeting of the Executive Committee. The Bylaws Committee shall present such amendments in written form at such meeting mentioned above. If the amendment is presented at the Annual Meeting, it shall be read in the first session and voted on in the final session. All changes in the Charter must be filed with the Secretary of State in the same manner as the original Articles.