

Bylaw 2: Baptist Unity through Cooperation

This State Convention exists to support local Southern Baptist churches in sharing the saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is accomplished by facilitating a spirit of cooperation and unity amongst the culturally diverse local churches in the state of Florida.

- A. Cooperation and Autonomy: A key distinctive of Southern Baptist life is cooperation. Cooperation is a cornerstone of Southern Baptist life. A basic principle inherent in cooperation is the autonomy of the local church, the Baptist association, the state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. Inherent in autonomy is the responsibility of this State Convention to define with whom it will cooperate and define what constitutes cooperation.

It is the desire of the State Convention that each Southern Baptist church be affiliated with a local cooperating Baptist association (hereinafter described), the Florida Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. The State Convention recognizes the local associations' historic role as the theological guardian of Baptist faith and practice. As a result, any local church that is approved by a local Baptist association will be accepted for affiliation with this State Convention.

A local Southern Baptist church may choose not to be affiliated with a cooperating Baptist association or the Southern Baptist Convention yet still may choose to cooperate and affiliate with this State Convention. A church, which chooses not to affiliate with a cooperating Baptist association (as herein defined), may seek to affiliate directly with the State Convention by securing Church-at-Large status as defined within these Bylaws. The cooperating ministry of this State Convention, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. through its State Board of Missions will provide for the theological guardianship of all churches affiliating through Church-at-Large status.

- B. Cooperating Local Church: The State Convention declares that a cooperating Southern Baptist church shall be that autonomous body of Christian believers, which by its free will makes a commitment to and demonstrates cooperation according to the following criteria:
1. **Theological**: The church shall have specified within its adopted Statement of Faith and Practice and/or governing documents, a declaration that the basis for its theology, faith, practice and polity is the Bible, with *The Baptist Faith and Message*, revised in the year 2000, or any other declaration of faith which is consistent with the tenets of our historic Baptist faith, as the theological framework.
 2. **Declaration**: The church shall express its intent and commitment to cooperate with the Florida Baptist State Convention by delivering a written communication to the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.
 3. **Financial**: The church shall consistently make a meaningful financial contribution through the Cooperative Program. For the purposes of this bylaw, a meaningful

Commented [MF1]: New Opening Title and Statement - emphasizing not just cooperation but the unity required to accomplish the primary mission of the convention. Also, highlights cultural diversity of our state.

Commented [MF2]: Highlighting the key distinctive in Baptist life of and each church's independence.

Commented [MF3]: Acknowledgment of the key thread that binds the many unique works together in Southern Baptist life.

Commented [MF4]: Emphasis on cooperation through the local association and then through state and national. Reaffirms the association as the theological guardian of churches.

Commented [MF5]: Clearly identifies that the State Board of Missions will be the theological guardian for churches that affiliate as church-at-large and not under an association

Commented [MF6]: Denotes that any other faith declaration may not deviate from the tenets of the Baptist faith vs. previous word "parallels". Parallels allows for an argument that a church could be close on some things but not everything. "Consistent" alleviates ambiguity. "Consistent" has been substituted for instances of "parallels" throughout document.

contribution recognizes the principle of equal sacrifice and commitment by all local churches.

4. Statistical: The church shall provide an annual church statistical profile (a/k/a an ACP) to the local association with which it is associated and/or the State Convention.

Commented [MF7]: Removes the \$250 requirement which no longer exists at the SBC level either. Uses language congruent with SBC bylaws but adds emphasis with the word consistently. Furthermore, "meaningful" is further elaborated on to recognize equal sacrifice.

C. Recognition of New Congregations: Congregations desiring to join in cooperation with this State Convention have two pathways.

1. **Affiliation through Association:** Each year, during the annual meeting of the State Convention, a report shall be made by the State Board of Missions identifying the Southern Baptist churches known to have organized within the past year in Florida and which have made commitments through a respective Baptist association's credentialing process to cooperate and to affiliate. The State Convention shall vote to receive the report on new churches. The State Board of Missions shall send a written notification to the pastor of each church noted in such report summarizing the Bylaw 2 criteria and benefits of cooperation.
2. **Affiliation through Church-at-Large Status:** As set forth above, the State Convention directs and empowers the State Board of Missions to determine and mediate questions involving churches which seek affiliation with the State Convention on the basis of Church-at-Large status. A church that seeks Church-at-Large status shall complete the application process as defined by the State Board of Missions' policy on "Baptist Polity and Cooperation," as well as affirm cooperation as defined herein by Bylaw 2B. The recommendations of the State Board of Missions regarding such at-large churches shall be voted upon by the State Convention.

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D. Cooperating Baptist Association: The State Convention recognizes that a cooperating Baptist association shall be that duly constituted and autonomous organization of local cooperating Southern Baptist churches, which by their collective free will as an association demonstrate cooperation according to State Convention criteria.

In recognition of the various organizational models of associational ministry present in Florida, for the purposes of defining an association, the convention will recognize names other than "Baptist association", such as "Baptist network", so long as the underlying organizational governance and ministry is consistent with the historic model of associational ministry and the requirements defined below. The associations which meet the criteria set forth below shall be considered in cooperation with this State Convention, its purposes and work:

1. Defined Role: The State Convention endorses the historic and traditional role of the Baptist association serving as the theological guardian of Southern Baptist theology, faith, practice and polity of Southern Baptist churches cooperating with the Florida Baptist State Convention.

Commented [MF10]: New language to clarify that functioning like a Baptist association regardless of name is required.

2. Recognition: The State Convention accepts the recognition given to a local Southern Baptist church which is made by a cooperating Baptist association.
3. Participation: Within these bylaws, provision is made for each cooperating, autonomous association to be entitled to a certain number of member(s) to participate on the State Board of Missions. In addition, a cooperating association is entitled to certain defined benefits provided by the State Convention through its cooperating ministry, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.
4. Cooperation: Any Baptist association which seeks to be considered cooperating with the Florida Baptist State Convention and its cooperating ministry, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., shall have specified within its adopted governing documents a declaration that the basis for the theology, faith, practice and polity of its cooperating churches is the Bible with *The Baptist Faith and Message*, revised in the year 2000, or any other declaration of faith which is consistent with the tenets of our historic Baptist faith, as the theological framework. The governing document shall provide for a process by which the association shall determine if each Baptist church seeking affiliation with the association, does affirm commitment to the theology, faith, practice and polity outlined in the Bible, with *The Baptist Faith and Message*, revised in the year 2000, or any other declaration of faith which is consistent with the tenets of our historic Baptist faith, as the theological framework.

E. New Associations: Any Baptist association which seeks to organize or re-organize after the date of this Bylaw, in addition to fulfilling the State Convention criteria set forth within Bylaw 2, also must satisfy the following criteria before it shall be recognized as a “cooperating” association with the Florida Baptist State Convention and its cooperating ministry, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.:

1. Membership: The association shall be comprised of at least 15 constituted Southern Baptist churches and whose combined total church membership shall be at least 7,000 persons.
2. Application: The association’s executive committee shall prepare and submit an “Application for Cooperation” to be received, reviewed and approved by the State Board of Missions and its appropriate committee.
3. The State Convention directs and empowers the State Board of Missions, through its appropriate committees to establish guidelines and procedures, by which to receive, review and grant “provisional cooperating acceptance” status to any newly-organized association which seeks to be considered for “unconditional cooperating” status.
4. When the parameters of cooperation have been met, an association shall be considered ready for presentation to the State Convention. The State Board of Missions may recommend that the Florida Baptist State Convention, during its next annual meeting, confer unconditional cooperating status upon the requesting association.
5. The year, following approval by the State Convention, and in subsequent years, the newly-organized or re-organized association shall then be eligible for a member on the State Convention’s Committee on Nominations and shall qualify for at least one

member from its cooperating churches being nominated to serve on the State Board of Missions, as provided for in these bylaws.

F. Southern Baptist Convention: The Florida Baptist State Convention declares that it fraternally cooperates with and supports the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies of work. As a demonstration of this cooperation, the State Convention promotes giving through the Cooperative Program and serves as the conduit for the distribution of Cooperative Program funds given by cooperating churches. To facilitate Baptist cooperation, this State Convention has empowered its State Board of Missions to enter into Cooperative Agreements with selected agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention which relate to mission, ministries, and support services provided by the State Convention cooperating ministry, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.

G. Compliance Remedies — Cooperation: As set forth previously in this bylaw, every cooperating church is expected to demonstrate its commitment to cooperation with the State Convention on an annual basis by doing two things: (1) consistently making a meaningful financial contribution through the Cooperative Program; and (2) providing an annual church statistical profile on the health and vitality of the church. A church which fails to fulfill its commitment to the Cooperative Program for three consecutive years shall be counseled regarding such failure. Such failure shall limit the church's ability to participate in the convention's financial related ministry programs, administered through the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., including but not limited to the church loan fund and church planting/revitalization grants. The Florida Baptist State Convention assigns to the State Board of Missions the authority to: (1) investigate the basis for any such failure; and (2) recommend the appropriate corrective action with such church. The procedure for determining the appropriate corrective action shall be developed and implemented by the State Board of Missions. Such procedure shall be set forth in the State Board of Missions' policy on "Baptist Polity and Cooperation."

Commented [MF11]: New language to address churches no longer in full cooperation through financial giving. Allows for the restriction of funds being available back to the church.

H. Compliance Remedies — Theological Integrity: Every cooperating church and cooperating association is expected to maintain their commitment to the doctrines set forth in *The Baptist Faith and Message*, revised in the year 2000, or any other declaration of faith which is consistent with the tenets of our historic Baptist faith. Any church or association which undertakes questionable theology, faith, practice or polity, shall be subject to having fellowship withdrawn by the Florida Baptist State Convention. The Florida Baptist State Convention assigns to the State Board of Missions the authority to investigate allegations of such deviation from biblical theology and practice as defined by Southern Baptists and make a final recommendation regarding a church's or association's continued affiliation. The procedure for conducting such investigation and making any recommendation shall be developed by the State Board of Missions, and set forth in its policy on "Baptist Polity and Cooperation."

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Cooperation is a cornerstone ~~to the very foundation~~ of Southern Baptist life. A basic principle inherent in cooperation is the autonomy of the local church, the Baptist association, the state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. Inherent in autonomy is the responsibility of this State Convention to define with whom it will cooperate and define what constitutes cooperation.

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3. Financial: The church shall ~~consistently annually~~ make a meaningful financial contribution through the Cooperative Program. For the purposes of this bylaw, a meaningful contribution recognizes the principle of equal sacrifice and commitment by all local churches. ~~A contribution of \$250 or more qualifies the church to elect and send messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention annual meeting.~~
4. Statistical: The church shall provide an annual church statistical profile (a/k/a an ACP) to the local association with which it is associated and/or the State Convention.

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~~D.~~

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organized association which seeks to be considered for “unconditional cooperating” status.

4. When the parameters of cooperation have been met, an association shall be considered ready for presentation to the State Convention. The State Board of Missions may recommend that the Florida Baptist State Convention, during its next annual meeting, confer unconditional cooperating status upon the requesting association.
5. The year, following approval by the State Convention, and in subsequent years, the newly-organized or re-organized association shall then be eligible for a member on the State Convention’s Committee on Nominations and shall qualify for at least one member from its cooperating churches being nominated to serve on the State Board of Missions, as provided for in these bylaws.

F. Southern Baptist Convention: The Florida Baptist State Convention declares that it fraternally cooperates with and supports the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies of work. As a demonstration of this cooperation, the State Convention promotes giving through the Cooperative Program and serves as the conduit for the distribution of Cooperative Program funds given by cooperating churches. To facilitate Baptist cooperation, this State Convention has empowered its State Board of Missions to enter into Cooperative Agreements with selected agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention which relate to mission, ministries, and support services provided by the State Convention cooperating ministry, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.

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H. Compliance Remedies — Theological Integrity: Every cooperating church and cooperating association is expected to maintain their commitment to the doctrines set forth in *The Baptist Faith and Message*, revised in the year 2000, or any other declaration of faith which ~~parallels~~ is consistent with the tenets of our historic Baptist faith. Any church or association which undertakes questionable theology, faith, practice or polity, shall be subject to having fellowship withdrawn by the Florida Baptist State

Convention. The Florida Baptist State Convention assigns to the State Board of Missions the authority to investigate allegations of such deviation from biblical theology and practice as defined by Southern Baptists and make a final recommendation regarding a church's or association's continued affiliation. The procedure for conducting such investigation and making any recommendation shall be developed by the State Board of Missions, and set forth in its policy on "Baptist Polity and Cooperation."

Bylaw 7: Committee on Nominations

This committee shall select persons to serve on selected State Convention committees and shall nominate for State Convention approval, those persons to serve as members of the State Convention's boards of cooperating ministries.

- A. The committee shall consist of three (3) members from each of the six (6) ministry regions as defined by the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. within the state of Florida, for a total of eighteen (18) committee members plus the ex-officio members. Vacancies to positions on the committee shall be appointed as a result of a joint consultation by the State Convention president, first vice president and second vice president. Service on the committee shall be a three (3) year appointment. In addition the State Convention's president, the first vice-president and second vice-president shall serve on the Committee as ex-officio members with voting privilege.
 - 1. A person who has been appointed for a three year term shall not be eligible for re-appointment until at least three years have elapsed.
 - 2. The officers will ensure that there is an adequate representation of laity and ordained persons on the committee.
 - a. Ordained persons and members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association shall constitute the ordained group. Within this group are included directors of associational missions, whose representation on the Committee shall be limited to one (1) member at a time.
 - b. No more than three-fifths of the members of the Committee shall be drawn from either the laity or ordained groups.
 - c. The officers shall give due consideration to appointing persons who reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity within Florida Baptist churches.
 - d. Persons appointed to serve on the Committee shall meet the requirements as defined in Bylaw 4 (6)(a)(b) and (c).
 - e. The three (3) members representing a region will be appointed in a way to ensure a staggered rotation in which one member from each region is rotating off each year.
 - 3. The officers shall make every reasonable effort to identify and select persons from cooperating churches in each region who have demonstrated involvement in the life and work of the Florida Baptist State Convention. Such individuals shall have been a member of a cooperating church in their respective region for at least two years. Each committee member shall be a member of a cooperating church within the geographic boundaries of the state of Florida.
 - 4. The officers of the convention will name a chairperson and vice-chairperson to lead the committee on an annual basis.
- B. On or before the first day of October of each year, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, the Committee on Nominations, after giving due regard to the desire of this State Convention for responsible lay participation in its activities and governance, shall appoint the Credentials Committee (whose tasks are described in these bylaws) and its chair and vice-chair. If practicable, the names of these appointees shall be published via flbaptist.org and Florida Baptist Convention social media channels.:
- C. On or before the first day of October of each year, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, the Committee on Nominations, after giving due consideration to the desire of this State Convention for responsible lay participation in its activities and governance, shall nominate members for the following committees, boards, commissions, corporations and cooperating ministries. If practicable, the names of these nominees shall be published via flbaptist.org and Florida Baptist Convention social media channels:

Commented [MF1]: Shift from association representation to regional model of representation and change to the number of total committee members.

Commented [MF2]: Establishes 3 year terms of service

Commented [MF3]: Reduction by 1 to account for overall change in size of the committee

Commented [MF4]: Added to establish rotational pattern of committee members

1. State Board of Missions (hereinafter described);
 2. Board of Trustees of Florida Baptist Children's Homes;
 3. F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees of potential directors of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes' Supporting Organizations (herein described);
 4. Board of Trustees of The Baptist College of Florida;
 5. Board of Directors of Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., who also shall serve as the board of
 - i. trustees for the Florida Baptist Foundation; Florida Baptist Retirement Center, Inc., and the Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc.;
 6. Board of Directors of Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc.; and
 7. Committee on Order of Business.
- D. The Committee shall nominate persons to serve on all other boards, corporations and cooperating ministries which now are or may hereafter be created by, or which now are or may hereafter be otherwise related to, this State Convention.
- E. The Committee shall annually select up to twenty (20) persons to be assigned to what shall be designated as the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees. These persons shall be for the exclusive use by the Board of Trustees of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes (FBCH), who is legally obligated to appoint persons to serve as directors of the Homes' separate Supporting Organizations. These organizations include: FBCH Land Holdings, Inc.; FBCH Landing Holdings II, Inc.; and the Orphan's Heart Foundation, Inc.
1. The persons nominated to the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees shall meet all criteria as defined in Bylaw 4(6)(a) of the Bylaws, Florida Baptist State Convention and their selection and service shall be governed by applicable provisions defined in Bylaw 4 and Bylaw 5, Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
 2. The persons designated for appointment to the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees shall meet all criteria as defined herein this Bylaw 7 of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
 3. Appointment to the Pool of Nominees shall only be good of one year. At the end of one year, the Committee on Nominations may determine to re-appoint persons or select new persons to be added to the Pool.
 4. The Board of Trustees of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes shall select persons from the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees, who are annually approved by the Florida Baptist State Convention, to fill vacancies that occur on the several boards of its Supporting Organizations. Those appointed directors shall serve terms of service as provided in the respective governing documents of the Supporting Organizations.
- F. In the discharge of its duties, the Committee on Nominations is requested to follow this procedure:
1. In May of each year the Executive Director-Treasurer will publish via flbaptist.org and Florida Baptist Convention social media channels a list of those persons who have been named to serve on the Committee on Nominations. Individual Baptists will be invited to propose the names of worthy individuals, lay and ordained, to be considered for membership on the various committees, boards, corporations and cooperating ministries of this State Convention. Employees of the State Board of Missions, corporations and cooperating ministries of this State Convention are hereby discouraged, but are not altogether prohibited, from making unsolicited submissions of proposed nominees to these State Convention entities.

2. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., shall serve as staff resource for the Committee. He is responsible for furnishing to each member of the Committee of Nominations, as soon after May 1 of each year as possible, complete information relating to the appointments and nominations to be made by the Committee and written suggestions regarding the proper discharge of the duties of the Committee members.
3. Each member of the Committee on Nominations is encouraged, upon being appointed, to search out and identify competent persons within their region, both lay and ordained, from cooperating churches of the Florida Baptist State Convention, to be considered by the Committee on Nominations in the discharge of its duties. In April of each year, the chair of the Committee on Nominations will notify in writing, both the moderator and the director of missions in each association of vacancies on this Convention's committees, boards, commissions, corporations and cooperating ministries. At which time, each association is encouraged to recommend nominees for consideration by the Committee on Nominations to said vacancies.
4. The State Convention officers and the chairman of the Committee on Nominations, in consultation with the Executive Director-Treasurer, will select a time and place for the Committee on Nominations to meet during the month of September. The Executive Director-Treasurer will assist in the meeting arrangements and send the meeting notices to Committee members. The chairman of the Committee shall schedule a time period during the Committee on Nominations meeting for the executive officer of each cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention, to discuss with the committee the qualifications required of persons to be nominated to serve on their respective board. For expediency and efficiency, meetings of the committees may be held and/or attended by telephone and videoconference.
5. Each Committee member and any interested Florida Baptist should submit nominations to the Executive Director-Treasurer's Office on or before July 1.
 - a. All nominees shall be sent a "Nominee Qualifying Questionnaire" for completion and return to the chairman of the Committee on Nominations. This questionnaire shall contain the following information categories:
 - i. Personal (name, address, telephone number, occupation, place of employment, length of Florida residency, and classification as either laity or ordained);
 - ii. Church Statistics for the prior church year as reported on the Annual Church Profile (ACP) [specifically the name of the church of which the nominee is a member, amount the church contributed to the Cooperative Program; percentage of church budget sent through the Cooperative Program; number of resident members; number of baptisms and ratio of baptisms to resident members]; and
 - iii. Bylaw Qualifying Requirements [as specified in Bylaw 4(6)(a)] written in question format with provision for a yes/no response or an open-ended response.
 - iv. The nominee must sign and return the questionnaire to the chairman of the Committee on Nominations in a timely manner.
 - b. The chairman will provide the collective nominations, and completed "Nominee Qualifying Questionnaires" received from individual Baptists,

Commented [MF5]: Maintains input channel for associations to make nominations.

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associations, and Committee on Nomination members to the Executive Director-Treasurer by August 1.

- c. The Executive Director-Treasurer's Office will duplicate all of the submitted "Nominee Qualifying Questionnaires" and send copies to each member of the Committee on Nominations two weeks prior to their scheduled committee meeting.
6. Following the Committee on Nominations meeting, the chairman of the Committee will notify in writing and request a response from those persons nominated to serve on the committees, boards, corporations and cooperating ministries of the State Convention. The chairman shall submit, on a timely basis, the complete list of nominees, for publication on or before October 15 via flbaptist.org and Florida Baptist Convention social media channels.
7. In carrying out its assigned task, the Committee shall give due consideration to each potential nominee and the church to which the nominee is a member in good standing.
 - a. The committee shall review the "Nominee Qualifying Questionnaire" submitted by each nominee. The committee may not recommend to the State Convention a nominee who has not submitted a completed and signed questionnaire.
 - b. The Committee, in considering a nominee, may give consideration to the nominee's church's baptism record and giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program.
 - c. The Committee shall give due consideration to nominating persons who reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of Florida Baptist churches.
8. The Committee on Nominations may, for just cause, replace any person currently serving on a standing State Convention committee or who is serving as a director, trustee or board member of a State Convention cooperating ministry. Additionally, the Committee on Nominations may, for just cause, replace any person who is eligible for re-election to a standing State Convention committee or who is eligible for re-election as a director, trustee or board member of a State Convention cooperating ministry. Just cause would specifically include: failure to attend regularly scheduled State Convention committee or cooperating ministry board meetings (defined as being absent from at least two or more meetings without good and sufficient reason); resignation from a State Convention committee or cooperating ministry board service; or a person removed from a State Convention committee or cooperating ministry board service as provided for in Bylaw 12,G(10). The Executive Director-Treasurer will be responsible each year to provide to the Committee on Nominations information on any individual who would be subject to replacement for just cause.
9. The Committee on Nominations shall nominate persons to fill vacancies which may exist on any board of a cooperating ministry or State Convention committee.
 - a. The Committee shall understand that the number of persons required for the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees may fluctuate from year to year. The number of nominees required will be determined by the Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, in consultation with the President, Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. The nominee count shall be based upon a formula consisting of the anticipated total director vacancies to be

filled on the FBCH's Supporting Organizations during the following year, plus three additional persons.

- b. Persons who have been named to fill a temporary vacancy by the respective board of a cooperating ministry or State Convention committee bylaw's procedure shall be eligible for nomination and election to complete a partial term and/or a new full term. A person's service to fill a temporary vacancy will be considered as a full term only if the individual has served more than one-half of the time specified for the term (i.e. six months of a one-year term, 12 months of a two-year term; or 18 months of a three-year term.)

Bylaw 7: Committee on Nominations

This committee shall select persons to serve on selected State Convention committees and shall nominate for State Convention approval, those persons to serve as members of the State Convention's boards of cooperating ministries.

- A. ~~A.~~ The committee shall consist of ~~one member~~ three (3) members from each of the ~~existing cooperating~~ six (6) ministry regions as defined by the Florida Baptist associations Convention, Inc. within the state of Florida, ~~and for a total of whom~~ eighteen (18) committee members plus the ex-officio members. Vacancies to positions on the committee shall be appointed as a result of a joint consultation by the State Convention president, first vice president and second vice president. Service on the committee ~~is normally limited to the~~ shall be a three (3) year ~~of their~~ appointment, except as provided within this bylaw. In addition the State Convention's president, the first vice-president and second vice-president shall serve on the Committee as ex-officio members with voting privilege.
1. ~~———— (1) The officers may select, but shall limit up to two-thirds of its appointed membership, any persons who served on the Committee on Nominations during the prior calendar year.~~ A person who has been annually appointed for ~~each of a~~ three consecutive years year term shall not be eligible for re-appointment until at least three years have elapsed.
 2. ~~———— (2) The officers will ensure that there is an adequate representation of laity and ordained persons on the committee.~~
 - a. ~~———— (a) Ordained persons and members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association shall constitute the ordained group. Within this group are included directors of associational missions, whose representation on the Committee shall be limited to two members per year~~ one (1) member at a time.
 - b. ~~———— (b) No more than three-fifths of the members of the Committee shall be drawn from either the laity or ordained groups.~~
 - c. ~~———— (c) The officers shall give due consideration to appointing persons who reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity within Florida Baptist churches.~~
 - d. ~~———— (d) Persons appointed to serve on the Committee shall meet the requirements as defined in Bylaw 4 (6)(a)(b) and (c).~~
 - e. ~~————~~ The three (3) members representing a region will be appointed in a way to ensure a staggered rotation in which one member from each region is rotating off each year.
 3. ~~————~~ The officers shall make every reasonable effort to identify and select persons from each cooperating association churches in each region who have demonstrated involvement in the life and work of their respective association. the Florida Baptist State Convention. Such individuals shall have been a member of a cooperating church in their respective ~~association~~ region for at least two years. ~~However, in no instance~~ Each committee member shall the State Convention be a member of a cooperating church within the geographic boundaries of the state of Florida.
 - 3.4. ~~————~~ The officers be obligated by any recommendation made by the association of the convention will name a chairperson and its leadership vice-chairperson to lead the committee on an annual basis.
- B. ~~B.~~ On or before the first day of October of each year, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, the Committee on Nominations, after giving due regard to the desire of this State Convention for responsible lay participation in its activities and governance, shall appoint the ~~following committees~~ Credentials Committee (whose tasks are described in these bylaws) and ~~their respective chairmans~~ its chair and vice-~~chairman~~ chair. If practicable, the names of these appointees

shall be published ~~in the~~ via flbaptist.org and Florida Baptist ~~Witness: _____~~ (1) Committee on Credentials Convention social media channels.:

- C. ~~C.~~ On or before the first day of October of each year, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, the Committee on Nominations, after giving due consideration to the desire of this State Convention for responsible lay participation in its activities and governance, shall nominate members for the following committees, boards, commissions, corporations and cooperating ministries. If practicable, the names of these nominees shall be published ~~in the~~ via flbaptist.org and Florida Baptist ~~Witness~~ Convention social media channels:

1. State Board of Missions (hereinafter described);
2. Board of Trustees of Florida Baptist Children's Homes;
3. F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees of potential directors of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes' Supporting Organizations (herein described);
4. Board of Trustees of The Baptist College of Florida;
5. Board of Directors of Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc., who also shall serve as the board of

i. trustees for the Florida Baptist Foundation; Florida Baptist Retirement Center, Inc., and the Church Growth Investment Fund, Inc.;

~~(1) Board of Directors of Florida Baptist Witness;~~

6. Board of Directors of Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc.; and
7. Committee on Order of Business.

- D. ~~D.~~ The Committee shall nominate persons to serve on all other boards, corporations and cooperating ministries which now are or may hereafter be created by, or which now are or may hereafter be otherwise related to, this State Convention.

- E. ~~E.~~ The Committee shall annually select up to twenty (20) persons to be assigned to what shall be designated as the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees. These persons shall be for the exclusive use by the Board of Trustees of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes (FBCH), who is legally obligated to appoint persons to serve as directors of the Homes' separate Supporting Organizations. These organizations include: FBCH Land Holdings, Inc.; FBCH Landing Holdings II, Inc.; and the Orphan's Heart Foundation, Inc.

~~1.~~ The persons nominated to the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees shall meet all criteria as defined in ~~2.1.~~ 2.1. Bylaw 4(6)(a) of the Bylaws, Florida Baptist State Convention and their selection and service shall be governed by applicable provisions defined in Bylaw 4 and Bylaw 5, Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

~~3.~~ The persons designated for appointment to the F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees shall meet all criteria as

~~4.2.~~ 4.2. defined herein this Bylaw 7 of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

~~5.~~ Appointment to the Pool of Nominees shall only be good of one year. At the end of one year,

~~6.3.~~ 6.3. the Committee on Nominations may determine to re-appoint persons or select new persons to be added to the Pool.

~~(4)~~ The Board of Trustees of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes shall select persons from the ~~7.4.~~ 7.4. F.B.C.H. Pool of Nominees, who are annually approved by the Florida Baptist State Convention, to fill vacancies that occur on the several boards of its Supporting Organizations. Those appointed directors shall serve terms of service as provided in the respective governing documents of the Supporting Organizations.

- F. ~~F.~~In the discharge of its duties, the Committee on Nominations is requested to follow this procedure:
1. ~~—(1)~~In May of each year the Executive Director-Treasurer will ~~provide to the~~publish via flbaptist.org and Florida Baptist ~~Witness~~Convention social media channels a list of those persons who have been named to serve on the Committee on Nominations. Individual Baptists will be invited to propose the names of worthy individuals, lay and ordained, to be considered for membership on the various committees, boards, corporations and cooperating ministries of this State Convention. Employees of the State Board of Missions, corporations and cooperating ministries of this State Convention are hereby discouraged, but are not altogether prohibited, from making unsolicited submissions of proposed nominees to these State Convention entities.
 2. ~~—(2)~~The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., shall serve as staff resource for the Committee. He is responsible for furnishing to each member of the Committee of Nominations, as soon after May 1 of each year as possible, complete information relating to the appointments and nominations to be made by the Committee and written suggestions regarding the proper discharge of the duties of the Committee members.
 3. ~~—(3)~~Each member of the Committee on Nominations is encouraged, upon being appointed, to search out and identify competent persons within their region, both lay and ordained, from ~~their association~~cooperating churches of the Florida Baptist State Convention, to be considered by the Committee on Nominations in the discharge of its duties. In April of each year, the ~~chairman~~chair of the Committee on Nominations will notify in writing, both the moderator and the director of missions in each association, of ~~State Board of Missions~~-vacancies on this Convention's committees, boards, commissions, corporations and cooperating ministries. At which exist in their respective time, each association.~~—And the Nominating Committee chairman will request the committee designated by the association is encouraged to send written suggested~~recommend nominees ~~in keeping with Florida Baptist State Convention Bylaw 12,C(3) for consideration by the Committee on Nominations to said vacancies.~~
 4. ~~—(4)~~The State Convention officers and the chairman of the Committee on Nominations, in consultation with the Executive Director-Treasurer, will select a time and place for the Committee on Nominations to meet during the month of ~~August~~September. The Executive Director-Treasurer will assist in the meeting arrangements and send the meeting notices to Committee members. The chairman of the Committee shall schedule a time period during the Committee on Nominations meeting for the executive officer of each cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention, to discuss with the committee the qualifications required of persons to be nominated to serve on their respective board. For expediency and efficiency, meetings of the committees may be held and/or attended by telephone and videoconference.
 5. ~~—(5)~~Each Committee member and any interested Florida Baptist should submit nominations to the Executive Director-Treasurer's Office on or before July 1.
 - a. ~~—(a)~~All nominees shall be sent a "Nominee Qualifying Questionnaire" for completion and return to the chairman of the Committee on Nominations. This questionnaire shall contain the following information categories:
 - i. ~~—(1)~~Personal (name, address, telephone number, occupation, place of employment, length of Florida residency, and classification as either laity or ordained);

- ii. ~~_____~~ ~~{2}~~ Church Statistics for the prior church year as reported on the Annual Church Profile (ACP) [specifically the name of the church of which the nominee is a member, amount the church contributed to the Cooperative Program; percentage of church budget sent through the Cooperative Program; number of resident members; number of baptisms and ratio of baptisms to resident members]; and
 - iii. ~~_____~~ ~~{3}~~ Bylaw Qualifying Requirements [as specified in Bylaw 4(6)(a)] written in question format with provision for a yes/no response or an open-ended response.
 - iv. ~~_____~~ ~~{4}~~ The nominee must sign and return the questionnaire to the chairman of the Committee on Nominations in a timely manner.
 - b. ~~_____~~ ~~{b}~~ The chairman will provide the collective nominations, and completed “Nominee Qualifying Questionnaires” received from individual Baptists, associations, and Committee on Nomination members to the Executive Director-Treasurer by August 1.
 - c. ~~_____~~ ~~{c}~~ The Executive Director-Treasurer’s Office will duplicate all of the submitted “Nominee Qualifying Questionnaires” and send copies to each member of the Committee on Nominations two weeks prior to their scheduled committee meeting.
6. ~~_____~~ ~~{6}~~ Following the Committee on Nominations meeting, the chairman of the Committee will notify in writing and request a response from those persons nominated to serve on the committees, boards, corporations and cooperating ministries of the State Convention. The chairman shall submit, on a timely basis, the complete list of nominees, ~~to the Florida Baptist Witness~~ for publication on or before October 15 via flbaptist.org and Florida Baptist Convention social media channels.
7. ~~_____~~ ~~{7}~~ In carrying out its assigned task, the Committee shall give due consideration to each potential nominee and the church to which the nominee is a member in good standing.
 - a. ~~_____~~ ~~{a}~~ The committee shall review the “Nominee Qualifying Questionnaire” submitted by each nominee. The committee may not recommend to the State Convention a nominee who has not submitted a completed and signed questionnaire.
 - b. ~~_____~~ ~~{b}~~ The Committee, in considering a nominee, may give consideration to the nominee’s church’s baptism record and giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program.
 - c. ~~_____~~ ~~{c}~~ The Committee shall give due consideration to nominating persons who reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of Florida Baptist churches.
8. ~~_____~~ ~~{8}~~ The Committee on Nominations may, for just cause, replace any person currently serving on a standing State Convention committee or who is serving as a director, trustee or board member of a State Convention cooperating ministry. Additionally, the Committee on Nominations may, for just cause, replace any person who is eligible for re-election to a standing State Convention committee or who is eligible for re-election as a director, trustee or board member of a State Convention cooperating ministry. Just cause would specifically include: failure to attend regularly scheduled State Convention committee or cooperating ministry board

meetings (defined as being absent from at least two or more meetings without good and sufficient reason); resignation from a State Convention committee or cooperating ministry board service; or a person removed from a State Convention committee or cooperating ministry board service as provided for in Bylaw 12,G(10). The Executive Director-Treasurer will be responsible each year to provide to the Committee on Nominations information on any individual who would be subject to replacement for just cause.

9. ~~(9)~~—The Committee on Nominations shall nominate persons to fill vacancies which may exist on any board of a cooperating ministry or State Convention committee.

~~(a)~~ The Committee shall understand that the number of persons required for the F.B.C.H. Pool of

- a. Nominees may fluctuate from year to year. The number of nominees required will be determined by the Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, in consultation with the President, Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. The nominee count shall be based upon a formula consisting of the anticipated total director vacancies to be filled on the FBCH's Supporting Organizations during the following year, plus three additional persons.
- b. ~~(b)~~ Persons who have been named to fill a temporary vacancy by the respective board of a cooperating ministry or State Convention committee bylaw's procedure shall be eligible for nomination and election to complete a partial term and/or a new full term. A person's service to fill a temporary vacancy will be considered as a full term only if the individual has served more than one-half of the time specified for the term (i.e. six months of a one-year term, 12 months of a two-year term; or 18 months of a three-year term.)

Bylaw 12: State Board of Missions

The State Convention shall elect a governing board to be known as “The State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist State Convention,” which body is incorporated by the State of Florida under the name of “Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.”

A. Membership:

1. The State Board of Missions shall be composed of members elected from within the bounds of each of the six ministry regions as defined by the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. The regional distribution of Board members is to be made on the following basis of church membership as recorded in the annual statistical reports which appear on flbaptist.org for the prior year.
 - a. One Board member for 1-9,000 church members which shall increase by one Board member for each additional 9,000 church members or portion thereof;
 - b. Total elected membership of the Board shall be no more than 99 members.
 - c. If the total membership is projected to fall below 90 the basis of church membership shall be adjusted accordingly by decreasing by 1,000 church members as needed.
 - d. In no instance shall a single ministry region have more than twenty-two (22) elected Board member representatives.
 - e. Each cooperating association shall be represented on the Board by a minimum of one (1) Board representative from one of its cooperating churches.
 - f. In no instance shall more than five (5) elected Board member representatives come from the same association.
 - g. At least one (1) elected Board member shall come from a church affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention as a Church-at-Large.
 - h. In no instance shall more than six (6) elected Board members come from churches affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention as a Church-at-Large, with no more than two (2) Church-at-Large representatives coming from any one of the six (6) ministry regions.
 - i. Each board member shall be a member of a cooperating church within the geographic boundaries of the state of Florida.
2. Persons eligible for membership on the State Board of Missions are hereby divided into two groups – ordained to the gospel ministry and lay person:
 - a. One group shall be comprised of ordained persons whether they serve on the staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association. For the purposes of this bylaw, a person who has been ordained to the gospel ministry shall be classified as ordained, whether or not they are serving in a ministry capacity.
 - b. The second group shall be comprised of lay persons who are not ordained to the gospel ministry and who are members in good standing with a cooperating local church. No more than three-fifths of the members of said Board shall be drawn from either grouping.
3. Not more than one person from any given cooperating local church shall serve on the State Board of Missions. An exception would permit an ex officio Board member and a regular Board member to hold membership in the same church and serve on the State Board of Missions concurrently.
4. No person shall be nominated to serve on the State Board of Missions until after the person has been a member for at least one year of their present church. The Board member’s church must be in friendly cooperation with the Florida Baptist State Convention and make

Commented [MF1]: Shift to representation based on regional model of ministry.

Commented [MF2]: Adjusted to current realities of membership to maintain current board members numbers

Commented [MF3]: Guaranteed representation for each active cooperating association.

Commented [MF4]: Caps representation of any one association.

Commented [MF5]: Guarantees minimum representation of churches-at-large

Commented [MF6]: Caps representation from church-at-large and guarantees geographic disbursement.

Commented [MF7]: Required Geographic Presence within the State of Florida

a consistent, meaningful financial contribution to missions through the Cooperative Program.

Commented [MF8]: Consistent with Bylaw 2

5. There will be three (3) ex officio members assigned to the Board. These shall include:
 - a. The President of the Florida Baptist State Convention who also will be a voting member of the Administrative/Personnel Committee.
 - b. The Recording Secretary of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
 - c. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.
 - d. The Recording Secretary and the Executive Director-Treasurer shall be without vote.
 6. The Board shall elect its own president and other officers.
 - a. The President and Vice-President of the Board shall be the President and the Vice-President, respectively, of the Corporation.
 - b. The Executive-Director Treasurer shall be the General Secretary of the Corporation.
 - c. The Assistant Executive Director shall be the Assistant General Secretary of the Corporation.
- B. Term of Office:
1. Each member, with the exception of the ex officio members, shall be elected for a three-year term, except when elected to fill an unexpired term and except as hereinafter provided.
 2. The terms of the President of the State Convention, the Recording Secretary of the State Convention, the Executive Director-Treasurer and the Assistant Executive Director shall be for such periods as they hold their respective offices or positions.
 3. Terms will be for three years, with a Board member being eligible for a second term.
 4. An unexpired term will be considered as a full term if the individual serves more than one-half of the time specified for the term.
 5. Following service on the Board, a person will not be eligible for nomination until a period of three years has elapsed.
 6. A variety of restrictions shall govern continued membership on the Board including the following exceptions:
 - a. Membership on the Board shall cease when the Board member either: [1] moves from the state; or [2] moves their church membership to a congregation which cooperates outside their currently represented ministry region; or [3] ceases to be a member in good standing with a church that is in cooperating fellowship with the State Convention; or [4] becomes deceased. See item (7) that follows for clarification on residency.
 - b. Additionally, a person's membership on the Board shall cease if the church of which they are a member either: [1] no longer cooperates with the local Baptist association; or [2] no longer cooperates with the State Convention, as defined by Bylaw 2 of these Bylaws.
 7. A Board member shall retain membership on the Board should they change church membership to another cooperating Florida Baptist congregation cooperating within the ministry region from which the Board member was elected to represent, unless said change ceases to provide an association any representation on the Board. Additionally, a Board member may continue their Board service, although their residence may change, as long as they either continue being a member in good standing or serving on the paid staff of the church cooperating within the same ministry region from which the Board member was elected to represent.

8. Membership on the Board will automatically be terminated when a member is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board, unless the Board votes to excuse the absence for good and sufficient reasons.
9. Vacancies will be filled according to provisions outlined in the State Board of Missions Bylaws.

C. Method of Election:

1. Members of the Board, other than ex officio members, shall be elected by the State Convention in annual session.
2. The Committee on Nominations of the State Convention shall bring nominations for all vacancies.
3. Due to the recognized Baptist principle of the autonomy of various Baptist bodies, and while recognizing the value of an association's experience and advice, the Committee on Nominations shall not be bound to accept the suggested nominees.
 - a. If an association chooses to suggest nominees to the Committee on Nominations, the association should submit at least two (2) persons for consideration.
 - b. Nominees should be grouped as specified in Bylaw 12,A(2). Specifically, one group shall be comprised of ordained persons and members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association; the second group shall be comprised of lay persons other than members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association.
4. Notification of the final date for suggestions will be made by the Committee on Nominations via flbaptist.org and Florida Baptist Convention social media channels.
5. The Committee on Nominations shall indicate in its report to the State Convention, the total number of years each nominee has previously served on the Board.

Commented [MF9]: Maintains input channel for associations to make nominations.

D. Meetings:

1. The State Board of Missions shall meet a minimum of three (3) times annually, one of which meetings shall be held immediately preceding the annual meeting of the State Convention. For expediency and efficiency, meetings of the Board and/or its committees may be held and/or attended by telephone and videoconference.
2. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President of the Board or by the Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, as necessary.
3. The Florida Baptist Convention will pay expenses for all meetings of the Board, except the pre-convention meeting, unless the Board member's church does not normally provide his expenses to the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

Commented [MF10]: Reduction to account for any necessary changes due to unforeseen scheduling issue such as a hurricane.

Commented [MF11]: Added to officially allow for telephone and video conference use in meetings.

E. Organization:

The State Board of Missions shall organize itself to carry out the work of the State Convention as committed to it.

F. Committees:

1. The State Board of Missions shall elect annually an Administrative/Personnel Committee, which also shall act as an executive committee of the Board having full authority to act on behalf of the Board between scheduled Board meetings. The committee shall be composed of the President and Vice-President of the Board, the President of the Florida Baptist State Convention to be a voting member, the Recording Secretary of the Board to be an ex officio

non-voting member, the chairmen of the standing committees, and eleven (11) other persons on the Board, to be elected by the Board.

2. The Board shall have such standing committees as it deems necessary and beneficial to its mission. Currently, the standing committees are: Budget-Allocations, Convention Properties, Program, Loans, Denominational Polity and Practice, and Nomination of Board Committees.
3. The president of the Board shall serve as chairman of the Administrative/Personnel Committee.

Commented [MF12]: Adjusted to allow changes as the board deems necessary.

G. Special Works:

The State Board of Missions shall have the following special works:

1. Act for the State Convention in the interim between annual meetings. The State Board of Missions acts for the Florida Baptist State Convention between its annual meetings; thus, the State Board of Missions should counsel the cooperating ministries and instrumentalities of the Florida Baptist State Convention between said annual meetings, and there should be a free exchange between all of the cooperating ministries and instrumentalities of the Florida Baptist State Convention and the State Board of Missions.
2. Have full charge of state mission work, including church building funds and all other loan funds.
3. Make an annual estimate of the needs of the work supported by this State Convention and fix state objectives for all causes.
4. Provide for the current financial support in the operation and maintenance of its work.
 - a. In carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, the Board shall ensure, by whatever policy and/or procedures are practicable, that the provisions of the State Convention's Business and Financial Plan (as defined in Bylaw 16 of the Bylaws, Florida Baptist State Convention) are followed.
 - b. The Board, acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention, shall have the authority to approve financial loans, as defined by these Bylaws, and which are required by a cooperating ministry, institution or the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.
5. Employ an Executive Director-Treasurer. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall have the following primary responsibilities:
 - a. Provide general supervision of all programs/ministries of work.
 - b. Take charge of the funds of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and hold same, subject to the order of the State Convention or the State Board of Missions, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., the incorporated body, during the recess of the State Convention.
 - c. Make an annual report of all receipts and expenditures, which shall be audited and published in the *Florida Baptist Annual*.
 - d. Ensure the publication of a *Florida Baptist Annual* each year.
 - e. Serve as a non-voting member of all State Convention appointed and elected committees and State Board of Missions committees, or, he shall appoint persons to serve with him or in his behalf, when needful or when it seems wise to him to do so.
 - f. Serve as an ex officio, voting member of any newly-created committee or study group authorized by the State Convention.
 - g. Serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of all boards of trustees or directors of the State Convention's cooperating ministries. The Executive Director-Treasurer or his designee shall be permitted to attend all regular and special meetings, including executive sessions, of the respective boards and their committees.

- h. Provide reasonable secretarial and staff assistance to the State Convention and its committees as specified in the State Convention's Bylaws.
 - i. In compliance with requirements by the Convention Corporation's auditor-of-record, the executive director-treasurer shall on a periodic basis submit his monthly travel expense reports to the State Board of Missions' President for review and sign-off.
- 6. Develop, review, revise and approve appropriate policies to regulate assistance programs, ministries, services and procedures authorized by either the Florida Baptist State Convention or the Board.
- 7. The State Board of Missions may call special meetings of the State Convention as provided for in Article 11 of the Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution, and procedures defined in the Board's Bylaws.
- 8. Employ, upon recommendation of the Executive Director-Treasurer, all professional staff members and such agents and employees as are found necessary to carry out its work.
- 9. The Administrative/Personnel Committee of the State Board of Missions is empowered to fully investigate any charges of misconduct which are brought against any elected or appointed official or committee member of the Florida Baptist State Convention or any person serving as a trustee or director of any cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
 - a. The basis for an investigation shall be any misconduct, unscriptural practices or behavior which may bring dishonor to the cause of Christ and to the position in which he or she serves.
 - b. There may be any one of several actions which could cause the Administrative/Personnel Committee to undertake an investigation of removal. These would include, but not be limited to:
 - i. The individual's resignation or removal from a leadership position in his or her local church or association which was the result of the individual's misconduct, unscriptural practices or behavior which may bring dishonor to the cause of Christ.
 - ii. Requests by a local church or association that the Administrative/Personnel Committee remove an individual from a statewide elected or appointed leadership position. Such requests, which must be in writing and signed, shall be sent to the President of the State Board of Missions and the Executive Director-Treasurer.
 - c. The Administrative/Personnel Committee shall establish its own procedure for investigating the charges. However, the Committee shall make every reasonable attempt to hear from both the party requesting the removal of an individual, as well as the individual being challenged. Once the Committee has made its determination, the Committee shall report its decision, on a timely basis, to the parties involved.
 - d. If the charges are substantiated and the elected or appointed official chooses not to resign his or her elected or appointed position, the Administrative/Personnel Committee shall then recommend to the State Board of Missions the removal of that elected official, committee member, trustee, or director of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
 - e. A vote of removal requires a two-thirds vote of the members of the State Board of Missions present at the meeting during which the matter is presented. Should the action for removal be affirmed, the Board shall report its action and the existence of

- a position vacancy to the Committee on Nominations, if appropriate, and to the next annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
10. To provide oversight and financial resources for the Florida Baptist Historical Society, a non-corporate fraternal organization of the Florida Baptist State Convention. The Society, through its board of directors, shall promote and encourage the collection and preservation of materials and information related to the history of Southern Baptists in Florida.
 - a. The State Board of Missions shall: approve proposed policy and procedures developed by the Society's board of directors; appoint its board of directors; receive annual reports from its board of directors; and provide for an annual operating budget.
 - b. As a result of authorization by the State Convention, the Florida Baptist Historical Society is expected to utilize a reasonable portion of the Society's annual operating budget for assisting the Florida Baptist Historical Collection in the acquisition of historical resources.
 11. Shall establish guidelines and procedures by which to review and recommend actions on all pertinent matters pertaining to the theology, faith, practice and polity of Florida Southern Baptists, including the Florida Baptist State Convention, the State Board of Missions, cooperating Florida Baptist churches and cooperating Florida Baptist associations.
 12. The Board shall assign to the appropriate committee the task of receiving, evaluating and recommending to the Board all requests to mortgage, sell or any transfer of ownership of any real property proposed by Florida Baptist State Convention related cooperating ministries and corporate and non-corporate entities. The assigned committee shall recommend to the Board whether or not to approve such request. Those requests approved by the Board shall then be recommended to the Florida Baptist State Convention for approval of the mortgage, sale or any transfer of ownership of any real property proposed by a State Convention related entity. This requirement shall not apply to land that was received as a gift or by other means and does not constitute an integral part of the entity's operations.
- H. Conflicts of Interest:
The State Board of Missions shall adopt and adhere to a "Conflicts of Interest" policy statement and procedures that shall govern the conduct of Board members and employees of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. This policy shall emphasize the fiduciary duty and responsibilities these persons have to exercise their best care, skill and judgment for the sole benefit of the Convention. Each Board member shall be required to annually complete, sign and submit a Board-approved questionnaire on "Conflicts of Interest."
- I. Quorum:
Fifty-one percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the State Board of Missions.

Bylaw 12: State Board of Missions

The State Convention shall elect a governing board to be known as "The State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist State Convention," which body is incorporated by the State of Florida under the name of "Florida Baptist Convention, Inc."

A. ~~A.~~ Membership:

1. ~~(1)~~ The State Board of Missions shall be composed of members elected from within the bounds of each ~~cooperating~~ of the six ministry regions as defined by the Florida Baptist association. Convention, Inc. The ~~geographical~~ regional distribution of Board members is to be made on the following basis of church membership as recorded in the ~~associational~~ annual statistical reports which appear ~~in~~ on flbaptist.org for the prior ~~year's published issue of the Florida Baptist Annual~~ year.
 - a. ~~(a)~~ One Board member for 1-~~159~~ 159,000 church members which shall increase by one Board member for each additional ~~159~~ 159,000 church members or portion thereof;
 - b. ~~(b)~~ Total elected membership of the Board shall be ~~at least 90 members and~~ no more than 99 members.
 - ~~b.c.~~ c. If the total membership is projected to fall below 90 ~~persons or exceed 99 persons in the succeeding year,~~ the basis of church membership shall be adjusted accordingly ~~either~~ by decreasing ~~or increasing~~ by 1,000 church members as needed.

~~(c)~~ In no instance shall ~~any association be permitted to a~~ a single ministry region have more than ~~seven (7)~~ twenty-two (22) elected Board ~~e.d.~~ d. member representatives.

 - e. ~~(2)~~ Each cooperating association shall be represented on the Board by a minimum of one (1) Board representative from one of its cooperating churches.
 - f. In no instance shall more than five (5) elected Board member representatives come from the same association.
 - g. At least one (1) elected Board member shall come from a church affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention as a Church-at-Large.
 - h. In no instance shall more than six (6) elected Board members come from churches affiliated with the Florida Baptist State Convention as a Church-at-Large, with no more than two (2) Church-at Large representatives coming from any one of the six (6) ministry regions.
 - i. Each board member shall be a member of a cooperating church within the geographic boundaries of the state of Florida.
2. Persons eligible for membership on the State Board of Missions are hereby divided into two groups – ordained to the gospel ministry and lay person:
 - a. ~~(a)~~ One group shall be comprised of ordained persons whether they serve on the staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association. For the purposes of this bylaw, a person who has been ordained to the gospel ministry shall be classified as ordained, whether or not they are serving in a ministry capacity.
 - b. ~~(b)~~ The second group shall be comprised of lay persons who are not ordained to the gospel ministry and who are members in good standing with a cooperating local church. No more than three-fifths of the members of said Board shall be drawn from either grouping.
3. ~~(3)~~ Not more than one person from any given cooperating local church shall serve on the State Board of Missions. An exception would permit an ex officio Board member and a regular Board member to hold membership in the same church and serve on the State Board of Missions concurrently.

4. ~~(4)~~ No person shall be nominated to serve on the State Board of Missions until after the person has been a member for at least one year of their present church. The Board member's church must be in friendly cooperation with the ~~association which will be represented by the nominee. And the Board member's church must be affiliated with the~~ Florida Baptist State Convention and give make a consistent, meaningful financial contribution to world missions through the Cooperative Program.
5. ~~(5)~~ There will be three (3) ex officio members assigned to the Board. These shall include:
 - a. ~~(a)~~ The President of the Florida Baptist State Convention who also will be a voting member of the Administrative/Personnel Committee.
 - b. ~~(b)~~ The Recording Secretary of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
 - c. ~~(c)~~ The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.
 - d. ~~(d)~~ The Recording Secretary and the Executive Director-Treasurer shall be without vote.
6. ~~(6)~~ The Board shall elect its own president and other officers.
 - a. ~~(a)~~ The President and Vice-President of the Board shall be the President and the Vice-President, respectively, of the Corporation.
 - b. ~~(b)~~ The Executive-Director Treasurer shall be the General Secretary of the Corporation.
 - c. ~~(c)~~ The Assistant Executive Director shall be the Assistant General Secretary of the Corporation.

B. ~~B.~~ Term of Office:

- ~~(1)~~ Each member, with the exception of the ex officio members, shall be elected for a three-year term,
1. except when elected to fill an unexpired term and except as hereinafter provided.
 2. ~~(2)~~ The terms of the President of the State Convention, the Recording Secretary of the State Convention, the Executive Director-Treasurer and the Assistant Executive Director shall be for such periods as they hold their respective offices or positions.
 3. ~~(3)~~ Terms will be for three years, with a Board member being eligible for a second term.
 4. ~~(4)~~ An unexpired term will be considered as a full term if the individual serves more than one-half of the time specified for the term.
 5. ~~(5)~~ Following service on the Board, a person will not be eligible for nomination until a period of three years has elapsed.
 6. ~~(6)~~ A variety of restrictions shall govern continued membership on the Board including the following exceptions:
 - a. ~~(a)~~ Membership on the Board shall cease when the Board member either: [1] moves from the state; or [2] moves their church membership to a congregation which cooperates with another association outside their currently represented ministry region; or [3] ceases to be a member in good standing with a church that is in cooperating fellowship with the ~~local Baptist association and/or the~~ State Convention; or [4] becomes deceased. See item (7) that follows for clarification on residency.
 - b. ~~(b)~~ Additionally, a person's membership on the Board shall cease if the church of which he or she is a member either: [1] no longer cooperates with the local Baptist association; or [2] no longer cooperates with the State Convention, as defined by Bylaw 2 of these Bylaws, ~~or [3] the church affiliates with another Baptist association.~~

7. — ~~(7)~~ A Board member shall retain membership on the Board should they change church membership to another cooperating Florida Baptist congregation cooperating ~~with~~ within the ~~same association~~ ministry region from which the Board member was elected to represent, unless said change ceases to provide an association any representation on the Board. Additionally, a Board member may continue his or her Board service, although their residence may change, as long as they either continue being a member in good standing or serving on the paid staff of the church cooperating ~~with~~ within the same ~~association~~ ministry region from which the Board member was elected to represent.
8. — ~~(8)~~ Membership on the Board will automatically be terminated when a member is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board, unless the Board votes to excuse the absence for good and sufficient reasons.
9. — ~~(9)~~ Vacancies will be filled according to provisions outlined in the State Board of Missions Bylaws.

C. ~~C.~~ Method of Election:

1. — ~~(1)~~ Members of the Board, other than ex officio members, shall be elected by the State Convention in annual session.
2. — ~~(2)~~ The Committee on Nominations of the State Convention shall bring nominations for all vacancies.
3. — ~~(3)~~ Due to the recognized Baptist principle of the autonomy of various Baptist bodies, and while recognizing the value of an association's experience and advice, the Committee on Nominations shall not be bound to accept the suggested nominees ~~from an association.~~
 - a. — ~~(a)~~ If an association chooses to suggest nominees to the Committee on Nominations, the association should submit at least ~~twice the number of persons required to fill the Board vacancies in that association~~ two (2) persons for consideration.
 - b. — ~~(b)~~ ~~These nominees~~ Nominees should be grouped as specified in Bylaw 12,A(2). Specifically, one group shall be comprised of ordained persons and members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association; the second group shall be comprised of lay persons other than members of the professional staff of a cooperating local church and/or an association.
4. — ~~(4)~~ Notification of the final date for suggestions will be made by the Committee on Nominations ~~in the~~ via flbaptist.org and Florida Baptist ~~Witness~~ Convention social media channels.
5. — ~~(5)~~ The Committee on Nominations shall indicate in its report to the State Convention, the total number of years each nominee has previously served on the Board.

D. ~~D.~~ Meetings:

1. — ~~(1)~~ The State Board of Missions shall meet ~~four~~ (4a minimum of three (3)) times annually, one of which meetings shall be held immediately preceding the annual meeting of the State Convention. For expediency and efficiency, meetings of the Board and/or its committees may be held and/or attended by telephone and videoconference.
2. — ~~(2)~~ Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President of the Board or by the Executive Director-Treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, as necessary.
3. — ~~(3)~~ The Florida Baptist Convention will pay expenses for all meetings of the Board, except the pre-convention meeting, unless the Board member's church does not normally provide his expenses to the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

E. ~~E.~~ Organization:

The State Board of Missions shall organize itself to carry out the work of the State Convention as committed to it.

F. ~~F.~~ Committees:

1. ~~—(1)~~ The State Board of Missions shall elect annually an Administrative/Personnel Committee, which also shall act as an executive committee of the Board having full authority to act on behalf of the Board between scheduled Board meetings. The committee shall be composed of the President and Vice-President of the Board, the President of the Florida Baptist State Convention to be a voting member, the Recording Secretary of the Board to be an ex officio non-voting member, the chairmen of the standing committees, and eleven (11) other persons on the Board, to be elected by the Board.
2. ~~—(2)~~ The Board shall have such standing committees ~~shall be as it deems necessary and beneficial to its mission. Currently, the standing committees are:~~ Budget-Allocations, Convention Properties, Program, Loans, Denominational Polity and Practice, and Nomination of Board Committees.
3. ~~—(3)~~ The president of the Board shall serve as chairman of the Administrative/Personnel Committee.

G. ~~G.~~ Special Works:

The State Board of Missions shall have the following special works:

1. ~~—(1)~~ Act for the State Convention in the interim between annual meetings. The State Board of Missions acts for the Florida Baptist State Convention between its annual meetings; thus, the State Board of Missions should counsel the cooperating ministries and instrumentalities of the Florida Baptist State Convention between said annual meetings, and there should be a free exchange between all of the cooperating ministries and instrumentalities of the Florida Baptist State Convention and the State Board of Missions.
2. ~~—(2)~~ Have full charge of state mission work, including church building funds and all other loan funds.
3. ~~—(3)~~ Make an annual estimate of the needs of the work supported by this State Convention and fix state objectives for all causes.
4. ~~—(4)~~ Provide for the current financial support in the operation and maintenance of its work.
 - a. ~~—(a)~~ In carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, the Board shall ensure, by whatever policy and/or procedures are practicable, that the provisions of the State Convention's Business and Financial Plan (as defined in Bylaw 16 of the Bylaws, Florida Baptist State Convention) are followed.
 - b. ~~—(b)~~ The Board, acting on behalf of the Florida Baptist State Convention, shall have the authority to approve financial loans, as defined by these Bylaws, and which are required by a cooperating ministry, institution or the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc.
5. ~~—(5)~~ Employ an Executive Director-Treasurer. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall have the following primary responsibilities:
 - a. ~~—(a)~~ Provide general supervision of all programs/ministries of work.
 - b. ~~—(b)~~ Take charge of the funds of the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., and hold same, subject to the order of the State Convention or the State Board of Missions, the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc., the incorporated body, during the recess of the State Convention.

- c. ~~_____ (e)~~ Make an annual report of all receipts and expenditures, which shall be audited and published in the *Florida Baptist Annual*.
 - d. ~~_____ (d)~~ Ensure the publication of a *Florida Baptist Annual* each year.
 - e. ~~_____ (e)~~ Serve as a non-voting member of all State Convention appointed and elected committees and State Board of Missions committees, or, he shall appoint persons to serve with him or in his behalf, when needful or when it seems wise to him to do so.
 - f. ~~_____ (f)~~ Serve as an ex officio, voting member of any newly-created committee or study group authorized by the State Convention.
 - g. ~~_____ (g)~~ Serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of all boards of trustees or directors of the State Convention's cooperating ministries. The Executive Director-Treasurer or his designee shall be permitted to attend all regular and special meetings, including executive sessions, of the respective boards and their committees.
 - h. ~~_____ (h)~~ Provide reasonable secretarial and staff assistance to the State Convention and its committees as specified in the State Convention's Bylaws.
 - i. ~~_____ (i)~~ In compliance with requirements by the Convention Corporation's auditor-of-record, the executive director-treasurer shall on a periodic basis submit his monthly travel expense reports to the State Board of Missions' President for review and sign-off.
6. ~~_____ (6)~~ Develop, review, revise and approve appropriate policies to regulate assistance programs, ministries, services and procedures authorized by either the Florida Baptist State Convention or the Board.
 7. ~~_____ (7)~~ The State Board of Missions may call special meetings of the State Convention as provided for in Article 11 of the Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution, and procedures defined in the Board's Bylaws.
 8. ~~_____ (8)~~ Employ, upon recommendation of the Executive Director-Treasurer, all professional staff members and such agents and employees as are found necessary to carry out its work.
 9. ~~_____ (9)~~ The Administrative/Personnel Committee of the State Board of Missions is empowered to fully investigate any charges of misconduct which are brought against any elected or appointed official or committee member of the Florida Baptist State Convention or any person serving as a trustee or director of any cooperating ministry of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
 - a. ~~_____ (a)~~ The basis for an investigation shall be any misconduct, unscriptural practices or behavior which may bring dishonor to the cause of Christ and to the position in which he or she serves.
 - b. ~~_____ (b)~~ There may be any one of several actions which could cause the Administrative/Personnel Committee to undertake an investigation of removal. These would include, but not be limited to:
 - ~~{1}~~ The individual's resignation or removal from a leadership position in his or her local
 - i. ~~_____~~ church or association which was the result of the individual's misconduct, unscriptural practices or behavior which may bring dishonor to the cause of Christ.
 - ~~{2}~~ Requests by a local church or association that the Administrative/Personnel
 - ii. ~~_____~~ Committee remove an individual from a statewide elected or appointed leadership position. Such requests, which must be in writing and signed,

shall be sent to the President of the State Board of Missions and the Executive Director-Treasurer.

- c. ~~(c)~~ The Administrative/Personnel Committee shall establish its own procedure for investigating the charges. However, the Committee shall make every reasonable attempt to hear from both the party requesting the removal of an individual, as well as the individual being challenged. Once the Committee has made its determination, the Committee shall report its decision, on a timely basis, to the parties involved.
 - d. ~~(d)~~ If the charges are substantiated and the elected or appointed official chooses not to resign his or her elected or appointed position, the Administrative/Personnel Committee shall then recommend to the State Board of Missions the removal of that elected official, committee member, trustee, or director of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
 - e. ~~(e)~~ A vote of removal requires a two-thirds vote of the members of the State Board of Missions present at the meeting during which the matter is presented. Should the action for removal be affirmed, the Board shall report its action and the existence of a position vacancy to the Committee on Nominations, if appropriate, and to the next annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.
10. ~~(10)~~ To provide oversight and financial resources for the Florida Baptist Historical Society, a non-corporate fraternal organization of the Florida Baptist State Convention. The Society, through its board of directors, shall promote and encourage the collection and preservation of materials and information related to the history of Southern Baptists in Florida.
- a. ~~(a)~~ The State Board of Missions shall: approve proposed policy and procedures developed by the Society's board of directors; appoint its board of directors; receive annual reports from its board of directors; and provide for an annual operating budget.
 - b. ~~(b)~~ As a result of authorization by the State Convention, the Florida Baptist Historical Society is expected to utilize a reasonable portion of the Society's annual operating budget for assisting the Florida Baptist Historical Collection in the acquisition of historical resources.
11. ~~(11)~~ Shall establish guidelines and procedures by which to review and recommend actions on all pertinent matters pertaining to the theology, faith, practice and polity of Florida Southern Baptists, including the Florida Baptist State Convention, the State Board of Missions, cooperating Florida Baptist churches and cooperating Florida Baptist associations.
12. ~~(12)~~ The Board shall assign to the appropriate committee the task of receiving, evaluating and recommending to the Board all requests to mortgage, sell or any transfer of ownership of any real property proposed by Florida Baptist State Convention related cooperating ministries and corporate and non-corporate entities. The assigned committee shall recommend to the Board whether or not to approve such request. Those requests approved by the Board shall then be recommended to the Florida Baptist State Convention for approval of the mortgage, sale or any transfer of ownership of any real property proposed by a State Convention related entity. This requirement shall not apply to land that was received as a gift or by other means and does not constitute an integral part of the entity's operations.
- H. ~~H~~ Conflicts of Interest:
~~(H)~~ The State Board of Missions shall adopt and adhere to a "Conflicts of Interest" policy statement and procedures that shall govern the conduct of Board members and employees of

the Florida Baptist Convention, Inc. This policy shall emphasize the fiduciary duty and responsibilities these persons have to exercise their best care, skill and judgment for the sole benefit of the Convention. Each Board member shall be required to annually complete, sign and submit a Board-approved questionnaire on "Conflicts of Interest."

I. Quorum:

—Fifty-one percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the State Board of Missions.