

Recommendation #6: Constitution and Bylaw Revisions – Codify the Annual Meeting Emergency Cancellation Process Used in 2020 within FBSC Bylaws and Constitution

The State Board of Missions recommends the Florida Baptist Convention adopt the following governing document amendments and additions:

1. Amend **Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution Articles 11, 13 and 14** as listed below; and
2. Amend **Florida Baptist State Convention Bylaw 11: Time, Place and Preacher** as listed below; and
3. Adopt the addition of new **Florida Baptist State Convention Bylaw 12: Continuing Operation When Annual Meeting is Postponed or Cancelled** as listed below; and

That the Florida Baptist State Convention authorize and direct the executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention to make any necessary editorial and/or grammatical corrections to any Bylaw of the Florida Baptist State Convention that may be affected by the proposed revisions to the proposed and existing Bylaws of the Florida Baptist State Convention to ensure clarity, continuity and parity of these Bylaws.

(This will be the first of two required votes in subsequent years to approve the amendments to the Constitution and the sole vote for amending the bylaws.)

Highlighted sections represent edits and additions, including the addition of the new bylaw.

Florida Baptist State Convention Constitution Articles 11, 13 and 14

Article 11. The annual meeting of this State Convention shall typically be held during the month of November at such time and place as the State Convention may elect. As set forth in more detail in Bylaws 11 & 12 of the State Convention's Bylaws, the State Board of Missions may change the meeting place and/or time, including the month, of the annual meeting of the State Convention in any given year as necessary and/or desired.

Article 13. The Annual Meeting of this State Convention—barring a catastrophic event or other wide-spread emergency—shall be held each year. Its primary purposes, with time allocated in a priority sequence to ensure the general and specific objectives of the State Convention (as defined in Article 3 of this Constitution), are as follows:

- A. To conduct the business and consider the needs, problems and opportunities of the State Convention and its *cooperating ministries*;

- B. To permit the State Convention's *cooperating ministries* to report on their prior year's activities and to make appropriate recommendations for consideration by the messengers comprising the annual meeting;
- C. To ensure time is allocated on the annual program for the several requirements *specified* by the State Convention's Bylaws;
- D. To elect State Convention officers and to elect persons to fill vacancies on the State Convention's committees and boards as defined in Article 9 of this Constitution;
- E. To hear messages from the State Convention president and the person designated to bring the Convention Sermon; and
- F. When practicable and within the available remaining time, provide appropriate inspirational emphases and/or special emphases to be determined by the program committee (also known as the Committee on Order of Business) as defined in the State Convention's Bylaws.

Article 14. This Constitution or any article thereof may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the messengers present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present, at two (2) successive annual sessions of the State Convention. Notice of any change proposed must be published online by the *Florida Baptist Witness* and shared on one or more of the Convention's social media platforms at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting of the State Convention.

Florida Baptist State Convention Bylaw 11: Time, Place and Preacher

- A. The annual meeting time of the State Convention shall typically be scheduled to occur on the second Monday and Tuesday of the month of November, with the session meeting times to be determined by the Committee on Order of Business. As authorized in Article 11 of the Constitution and set forth in Bylaw 12 below, the State Board of Missions may change the meeting place and/or time, including the month, of the annual meeting of the State Convention in any given year (or cancel it if necessary).
- B. The State Convention shall select the future city location for the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention to be held seven years hence, based upon a recommendation by the State Board of Missions.
 - 1. Such a recommendation shall seek to propose meeting site locations that ensure, when feasible, that four out of every six years the site location shall be in the central area of the state.
 - 2. Such a recommendation shall propose meeting facilities locations that meet the criteria defined by policies of the State Board of Missions.
- C. The Convention directs the Committee on Order of Business to select the "convention preacher" and alternate to bring the annual convention sermon.

Bylaw 12: Continuing Operation When Annual Meeting is Postponed or Cancelled

As set forth in Articles 11 & 13 of the Constitution and Bylaw 11 above, the State Board of Missions is expressly empowered to adjust the annual meeting dates and times as needed and appropriate. One scenario where adjustment may be needed is in the case of a catastrophic event or other wide-spread emergency. In consultation with the officers of the Florida Baptist State Convention, the State Board is hereby empowered to recognize the existence of a catastrophic event or other wide-spread emergency that would render gathering in-person for the Florida Baptist State Convention's Annual Meeting impossible or impracticable. In such an event, the State Board shall determine that either: 1) a postponed annual meeting is appropriate, or 2) the annual meeting for a given year should be cancelled altogether. Should the annual meeting be postponed, the State Board shall—as soon as reasonably possible—issue notice of the date, time and location of the annual meeting via one or more of its social media platforms and/or online news outlets.

Should the annual meeting be postponed or cancelled, the following steps will be taken to ensure that the normal and appropriate operations of the Florida Baptist Convention will continue until the next annual meeting can be held:

A. Location

The State Board, in consultation with the officers of the State Convention, shall work with the local church which was to host the postponed or cancelled annual meeting. If such church is able to host the annual meeting on the postponed or next annual date, then the current seven-year schedule will be maintained (albeit pushed back as appropriate). If the host church cannot accommodate the schedule change, then: 1) an alternate site will be determined for a postponed meeting (if any), and 2) the next annual meeting location will stay true to the seven-year schedule approved by the messengers at the previous annual meeting (with the actual year of meeting adjusted as necessary and appropriate).

B. Budgetary Concerns:

1. The last-adopted annual budget will be carried over and followed during the non-meeting year or until such time as the State Convention's annual meeting can be held and a new budget is adopted by the messengers.
2. During any year wherein an annual meeting cannot be held, the State Board of Missions is empowered to make changes to budgetary allocations (within the constraints of the previously-approved total budget) to address issues that may arise.

C. Officers and Other Elected Positions:

1. The Florida Baptist State Convention Officers' terms of service shall be extended until the next annual meeting of the State Convention.
2. The term for each member of the Committee on Order of Business of the Florida Baptist State Convention shall be extended until the next annual meeting of the State Convention. The individuals serving as the chairperson and vice-chairperson

shall remain in their respective position of service until their successor has been elected by the messengers.

3. The term for each member of the Committee on Nominations of the Florida Baptist State Convention, as appointed by the Convention president, shall be extended until the next annual meeting of the State Convention.
4. The terms of each member, director or trustee serving the State Board of Missions, Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. (and its subsidiaries), Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc. (and its subsidiaries), The Baptist College of Florida or Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc., shall be extended until the next annual meeting of the State Convention.
5. In the event a vacancy occurs (for any reason) in any member, director or trustee position throughout the non-meeting year—whether on the State Board of Missions, Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. (and its subsidiaries), Florida Baptist Financial Services, Inc. (and its subsidiaries), The Baptist College of Florida or Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Inc.—such vacancy shall remain open until the next annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention.