Constitution and By-Laws

BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS

OF SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA

Preamble

We, the associations and churches of the Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana, do hereby declare and establish this constitution to define and preserve the cooperative relationship between ourselves and to govern the body in an orderly manner so as to insure the faithfulness of the work of our associations cooperating together for the Kingdom of Christ.

Article One

NAME

This body shall be known as the Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana (BASELA)

Article Two

OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana to facilitate the cooperation of the three associations in equipping our churches to get the gospel to our communities, our state, our nation, and our world and to grow believers to be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Article Three

PRINCIPLES OF FAITH

We affirm that the Holy Bible is God’s revelation to mankind, and that it is inspired by God, it is without error, it is an accurate record of the history and future of mankind, and that it depicts the birth, life, death and resurrection of the Savior of all mankind, our Lord Jesus Christ, and is therefore the sole basis for our faith. We regard the scriptures of the Holy Bible as authoritative in all matters of faith, practice, and principle. Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana affirms as our doctrinal statement *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Article Four

PURPOSE OF THE BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS OF SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA

We confirm that our primary purpose is to facilitate the work of the three cooperating associations and to give administration to the work that we do together.

Article Five

 GOVERNMENT

The government of Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana shall be vested in the Administrative Committee of Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana. The Administrative Committee shall be made up of representatives of Two Rivers Baptist Association, Washington Baptist Association, and William Wallace Baptist Association as set forth in the Bylaws of Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana.

Article Six

RELATIONSHIPS

This organization known as the Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana is subject to the control of no other civil or ecclesiastical body except in our accountability to the three named associations. However we recognize the benefits and sustain the obligations of mutual cooperation, which are common among Baptist churches, associations and conventions. Insofar, as practical, this body agrees to cooperate with and support the Two Rivers Baptist Association, the Washington Baptist Association, the William Wallace Baptist Association, and the Louisiana Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Article Seven

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended, modified or repealed under the following circumstances: the proposal must be read at one Administrative Committee meeting. The proposal must then be presented before a meeting of the three associations. The proposal must be approved by two-thirds majority vote of representatives present voting in the affirmative.

Article Eight

SOLE AUTHORITY

All rules, regulations, bylaws and policies previously approved, if any, by Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana, in conflict with this Constitution are each and all hereby repealed, set aside and superseded. This Constitution shall be and is, hereby established as the sole “Constitution” for this organization. No rules, regulations, bylaws or policies shall be established which conflict with this constitution.

**BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE ONE**

**BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS OF SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1: General**

The Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana (BASELA) is a voluntarily cooperating relationship made up of the Two Rivers Baptist Association, the Washington Baptist Association, and the William Wallace Baptist Association. Said associations maintain a cooperative relationship with the Louisiana Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

**ARTICLE TWO**

**GOVERNING BODY – ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1: General**

The Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana (BASELA) governing body shall be the Administrative Committee of BASELA.

**Section 2: Membership**

The Administrative Committee shall be composed of the Moderator, Vice-moderator, and one lay person appointed by the Moderator of each of the three cooperating associations.

**Section 3: Annual Appointment**

Members of the Administrative Committee are designated annually as follows:

1. The elected Moderator and Vice-moderator of each association
2. The Pastor’s Conference President of each association
3. One lay person from each association appointed annually by the moderator of each respective association

**Section 4: Meetings**

The Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana Administrative Committee shall meet quarterly or as called by the Moderator of the Administrative Committee and Director of Missions. All meetings will be publicized to all associations.

**ARTICLE THREE**

**BASELA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Section 1: Director of Missions**

The Administrative Committee shall have the responsibility to call a new Director of Missions when needed. The committee shall consult with each of the three associations to represent the best interest of each association and their cooperating work together under the leadership of the Director of Missions. The Administrative Committee shall also give oversight to the work of the Director of Missions.

**Section 2: Personnel Policies**

The Administrative Committee of Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana shall have the responsibility to maintain, review, and make changes to the Personnel Policies of the Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana.

**Section 2: BASELA Staff**

The Administrative Committee shall also have the responsibility to hire BASELA staff as needed and to oversee their work under the leadership of the Director of Missions. The Administrative Committee shall maintain, review and amend policies of hiring, supervising, and terminating personnel as needed.

**Section 3: BASELA Budget**

The Administrative Committee shall also have the responsibility of setting and administering the budget of the Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana. This annual budget will be provided at the annual meetings of each association.

**Section 4: Unity**

The Administrative Committee shall strive to maintain unity among our cooperating associations. It shall also promote that unity in every way possible.

**ARTICLE FOUR**

**BASELA OFFICERS**

The Administrative Committee of the Baptist Associations of Southeast Louisiana shall elect annually a Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Secretary.

**ARTICLE FIVE**

**CHANGES TO BYLAWS**

Changes to the Bylaws may be made with a two thirds vote of the Administrative Committee present at a regularly scheduled meeting or a called meeting when a two week written notice is mailed to each Administrative Committee member.