

**CONSTITUTION
AKRON AREA ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES**

**ARTICLE I
NAME AND AFFILIATION**

- SECTION 1 The name of this organization shall be Akron Area Association of American Baptist Churches (hereinafter known as AAA/ABC).
- SECTION 2 The AAA/ABC shall be a religious society and affiliated with American Baptist Churches of Ohio (hereinafter known as ABC/OHIO) and with American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. (hereinafter known as ABC/USA).

**ARTICLE II
MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE**

MISSION STATEMENT

- SECTION 1 The purpose of this Association shall be to help churches in fulfilling the Great Commission. The Association shall carry out this purpose by assisting churches in beginning new works; supporting the work of its local churches; promoting fellowship and encouraging cooperation in ministries such as missions, camping, etc.

ADDITIONAL PURPOSES

- SECTION 2 We shall affirm the mission statement of ABC/OHIO: “American Baptist Churches of Ohio is an expression of the Body of Christ in this world, called to provide a network of resources, support and fellowship, and to enable member congregations to implement shared ministries in faithful witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

**ARTICLE III
CONSTITUENCY**

- SECTION 1 The membership of this Association shall be Baptist churches cooperating with the AAA/ABC; and which have been or shall be received into the Association in accordance with procedures outlined in the Bylaws Rule 3.
- SECTION 2 Churches desiring to unite with the AAA/ABC shall proceed according to the guidelines as stated in Bylaw 3.1.
- SECTION 3 In the spirit of Christian cooperation, member churches shall be expected to actively participate in the activities of the Association and provide financial support in accordance with the guidelines as stated in Bylaw 3.2.

ARTICLE IV
OFFICERS

- SECTION 1 The officers of the AAA/ABC shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the Board of Trustees and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the AAA/ABC.
- SECTION 2 The officers shall be elected annually for a one (1) year term by the majority of the representatives present at the Fall meeting of the Association Board of Trustees. The office of Moderator shall be limited to two (2) consecutive terms. Insofar as possible and practical, the office of Moderator shall alternate between clergy and laity. All officers shall serve their elected terms until their successors are elected. Terms of office shall begin on January 1 following the election at the Fall Meeting of the Board of Trustees and the installation at the Fall Trustees' Meeting or at the Fall Rally.
- SECTION 3 As per Article II, Paragraph 2 of the Koinonia Camp and Conference Center Constitution, the Vice Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer of the Association shall be Association representatives with voting authority at the Koinonia Camp and Conference Center Annual Meeting; however, the Association Moderator is empowered to appoint alternate representatives should one (1) or more of these three (3) officers be unable to attend the Koinonia Camp and Conference Center Annual Meeting.
- SECTION 4 The officers shall perform the duties as prescribed in the Bylaws Rule 4.
- SECTION 5 When a mid-term vacancy occurs in any elective office of the Board of Trustees of the Association, other than Moderator, or the Association Koinonia Trustees, it shall be filled by appointment of a qualified person by the Executive Leadership Team until the next Association Board of Trustees Fall meeting. The position of Moderator, if vacant, shall be filled by the Vice-Moderator.

ARTICLE V
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- SECTION 1 The Board of Trustees (hereinafter known as the Board) shall be the governing body of the AAA/ABC.
- SECTION 2 The Board shall be comprised of:
- a. Church representatives consisting of all Pastoral staff (a lay representative may be sent when there is a vacancy in the Pastoral staff); two (2) other representatives from each church with a resident active membership of up to two hundred (200) persons; plus one (1) additional representative for

each additional one hundred (100) members or a major fraction thereof. Representatives shall serve terms at the discretion of their local church.

- b. All elected officers of the Board.
- c. All Chairpersons of the Ministry Teams and Standing Committees.
- d. One (1) representative (preferably the President) of all auxiliary organizations.

SECTION 3 The Board shall meet in the Spring and for its Annual Business meeting in the Fall and/or at such other times during the year as necessary upon the call of the Moderator, Vice Moderator, or Clerk.

SECTION 4 Roberts Rules of Order shall prevail at all meetings.

SECTION 5 A quorum of the Board shall consist of those in attendance, provided that adequate notification of such meeting and its purpose shall have been given at least thirty (30) days in advance.

SECTION 6 The Board shall make its own Bylaws.

SECTION 7 The Board shall establish an Executive Leadership Team.

SECTION 8 The Board shall appoint such task groups as it deems necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Board.

SECTION 9 The Board shall devise and implement policy for the AAA/ABC in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws and shall administer the business affairs.

SECTION 10 The Board shall approve an annual budget.

SECTION 11 It shall be the duty of the local church representatives to:

- a. Attend all meetings of the Board.
- b. Report concerns and needs of the local church and assist the Ministry Teams in the development of programs specifically designed to meet the needs expressed. Report the actions and activities of the Board to their local Churches.

ARTICLE VI

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

SECTION 1 The Executive Leadership Team shall consist of the officers of the Association; chairpersons of all Ministry Teams and Standing Committees; one (1) representative (preferably the President) from each of the auxiliary organizations,

the ABC/OH Northeast Regional Minister, and the Executive Director of the Koinonia Camp and Conference Center.

SECTION 2 The Executive Leadership Team shall perform the duties as outlined in the Bylaws, Rule 7 and shall serve as the AAA/ABC's legal agent upon the authorization of the Board.

ARTICLE VII

MINISTRY TEAMS

SECTION 1 The Association shall have the following ministry teams: Missions and Outdoor. These ministry teams are responsible for developing and implementing appropriate programs to meet the needs of the member churches including participation in program offerings of ABC/OHIO.

SECTION 2 The Chairperson of each ministry team shall be elected at the Annual Trustees' Meeting in the Fall and shall serve as a member of the Executive Leadership Team and of the Board. Terms of office shall begin on January 1 following the election at the Fall Meeting of the Board of Trustees and the installation at the Fall Trustees' Meeting or at the Fall Rally.

SECTION 3 The Ministry Teams shall perform the duties as outlined in Rule 7 in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII

STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 The Association shall have the following standing committees: Church/Pastoral Relations, Finance, and Nominating.

SECTION 2 The chairperson of each Standing Committee shall be elected at the Annual meeting of the Board of Trustees in the Fall and shall serve as a member of the Executive Leadership Team and of the Board. Terms of office shall be for one (1) year and shall begin on January 1 following the election at the Fall Meeting of the Board of Trustees and the installation at the Fall Trustees' Meeting or at the Fall Rally.

SECTION 3 OTHER COMMITTEES – Such other Task Committees as may be needed shall be appointed by the Moderator with the advice and consent of the Board or its Executive Leadership Team.

SECTION 4 The Standing Committees shall perform the duties as outlined in Rule 8 of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

- SECTION 1 There shall be two (2) auxiliary organizations: American Baptist Women's Ministries and the Ministers Council. The Presidents shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Leadership Team and the Board.
- SECTION 2 The responsibilities of these Auxiliary organizations shall be carried out as outlined in the Bylaws Rule 9.

ARTICLE X

DISPOSITION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION OF THE AKRON AREA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES

- SECTION 1 The Akron Area Association of American Baptist Churches ("AAA/ABC") intends to ensure that the work of Christ continues even if the Association does not.
- SECTION 2 Upon functional cessation or dissolution of this Ohio Corporation known as the Akron Area Association of American Baptist Churches ("AAA/ABC"), or disaffiliation of this Corporation with the American Baptist Churches of Ohio and/or American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., its assets remaining after payment of, or provision for payment of, all debts and liabilities of the organization, and all property and interests, including any devise, bequest, gift or grant contained in any will, trust or other instrument, made before, during or after such dissolution, shall be transferred as follows:
1. Ninety-five percent (95%) to the AAA/ABC member churches which have been received into the Association in accordance with procedures outlined in the AAA/ABC Bylaws Article III Rule 3.1 and are active member churches as defined in the Bylaws Article III Rule 3.2 and are current in their membership dues, distributed in proportion to the number of church resident congregational members upon which their individual dues amounts are based according to the Bylaws Article III Rule 3.2.2.
 2. Five percent (5%) to the AAA/ABC functioning church camp wholly or partially owned by the Association member churches.
 - a. If the AAA/ABC no longer has any ownership interest in a church camp, or if the camp has ceased functioning as an AAA/ABC church camp, then this five percent (5%) shall revert to the active member churches to be transferred according to the above point number 1.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENT

SECTION 1 This Constitution may be altered or amended at any meeting of the Board by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the representatives present, written or electronic notice having been given to the Churches and the Representatives at least two (2) months in advance.

ARTICLE XII
BYLAWS

SECTION 1 Bylaws and standing resolutions may be adopted or amended and included as part of the Constitution as the Board may deem necessary by a simple majority vote of the representatives present, written or electronic notice having been given to the Churches and the Representatives at least thirty (30) days in advance.

Amendments adopted 05/07/06
Amendments adopted 10/06/13
Amendments adopted 10/10/21
Amendments adopted 05/19/24

BYLAWS
AKRON AREA ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES

Introductory note: The format of the Bylaws is designated to symbolize their correlation with the Association's Constitution and provides the possibility of one (1) or more standing rules for each Article of the Constitution: Rule 1 of the Bylaws corresponds to Article I of the Constitution. Rule 2, to Article II, etc. Where the word reserved appears in the text of the Bylaws, this means no standing rule is currently called for regarding that section of the Constitution. The number position for a rule is simply being reserved for possible future use.

ARTICLE I
NAME AND AFFILIATION

Rule 1.1 (Reserved)

Rule 1.2 (Reserved)

ARTICLE II
MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

Rule 2.1 (Reserved)

Rule 2.2 (Reserved)

ARTICLE III
CONSTITUANCY

Rule 3.1 **Procedures for Membership** – A Church desiring to unite with the AAA/ABC shall proceed as follows:

1. Submit a written application requesting affiliation with the AAA/ABC to the Moderator of the Association.
2. The candidate church shall send delegates appointed by the church to a meeting of the Church/Pastoral Relations Committee of the Association. These delegates shall present a satisfactory statement as to the faith and practice of the candidate church and its intention to actively participate in the Association and denominational activities.
3. The candidate church then shall enter into a period (one [1] year) of acquaintanceship while the application is being processed. During this period, the candidate church shall participate actively in the Association by:
 - a. Sending representatives from the church to the AAA/ABC meetings.

- b. Supporting AAA/ABC activities through attendance, providing leadership and financial support.
 - c. Supporting AAA/ABC, ABC/OHIO and ABC/USA through participation in the denominational mission support process.
4. After the period of acquaintance, the Church/Pastoral Relations Committee of the Board will meet with the delegates of the candidate church to review the relationship that has been established and clarify any area of concerns that may exist.

The Church/Pastoral Relations Committee shall report its findings to the Executive Leadership Team of the Board for review and recommendation to the Board. Upon a majority vote of the Board, the candidate church shall be received into membership and its representatives given the right hand of fellowship by the Moderator on behalf of the Association.

Rule 3.2 Expectations for Member Churches – In the spirit of Christian Cooperation, member churches shall be expected to maintain an active participation in the life of AAA/ABC. The following criteria shall determine member participation:

- 1. Contribution of a percentage of the Church's budget to the ministry and mission of ABC/OHIO.
- 2. Payment of the suggested donation of at least one dollar (\$1.00) per resident member to the AAA/ABC.
- 3. Attendance of the allowed number of representatives or their alternates at each Board meeting.
- 4. Active participation in the AAA/ABC rally and programs.
- 5. Completion of the annual church reports requested by the ABC/OHIO.

Rule 3.3 Inactive Members – Recognizing the church's autonomy to make its own decision as to involvement in the life of AAA/ABC as well as the Association's need for participation from said churches, a policy statement on maintaining membership in the Association is required.

If a member church chooses not to participate, this procedure shall be followed:

- 1. A Church not participating in the life of the AAA/ABC for a period of one (1) year shall be listed as an Associate Member Church as affirmed by the Executive Leadership Team.
- 2. By definition, an Associate member church would retain all rights and privileges of a member church with the following exceptions:

- a. They shall not have voting privileges for any Association event, including approval/disapproval of an Ordination Candidate or the receiving of a new church into membership.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Leadership Team to nurture and counsel an Associate Member Church with the goal of returning said church to a status of Member Church in the AAA/ABC.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Rule 4.1 (Reserved)

Rule 4.2 **Duties of Officers**

1. The Moderator shall preside at all meetings of the Board and of the Executive Leadership Team and shall determine the time and place of such meetings, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office. The Moderator shall be an ex-officio member of all ministry teams and standing committees, an ex-officio non-voting trustee of the Koinonia Camp and Conference Center board, and shall convene the Ordination Council. The Moderator shall appoint other members to the ministry teams and standing committees.
2. The Vice Moderator shall assist the Moderator in all duties, preside at meetings in the absence of the Moderator, and shall perform the duties of the Moderator in case of disability or resignation, holding office until the Association Board of Trustees shall fill the vacancy by election at the next Association Board of Trustees Fall meeting; and shall serve on the Rally Planning Team for the Association Rally.
3. The Clerk shall send out notices of meetings to each representative and church; record all proceedings of the Executive Leadership Team, of the Board and/or Association rallies; prepare the annual report of the Association; maintain a current listing of names and addresses of the church representatives to the Board making an updated listing available to the Executive Leadership Team in April; and perform such other duties as may be required from time to time.
4. The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the Association, keeping an accurate account and record the sources from which they may accrue. The Treasurer shall disburse funds when duly authorized to do so and present a written statement of receipts and expenditures of the Association to the Executive Leadership Team and to the Board at their regular meetings. The Treasurer shall be custodian of all legal papers of the Association.

Rule 4.3 The Vice Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer of the Association shall be Association representatives with voting authority at the Koinonia Camp and Conference Center Annual Meeting; however, the Association Moderator is empowered to appoint alternate representatives should one (1) or more of these three (3) officers be unable to attend the Koinonia Camp and Conference Center Annual Meeting. The Association Moderator shall be an ex-officio non-voting trustee.

Rule 4.4 (Reserved)

Rule 4.5 (Reserved)

ARTICLE V

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rule 5.1 (Reserved)

Rule 5.2 (Reserved)

Rule 5.3

1. Meetings – Remote Participation

- a. Any or all members may participate in a meeting of the Board, of the Executive Leadership Team, or of a Committee of the Board by any remote communications option that permits all persons participating in the meeting to effectively communicate simultaneously with one another. A person participating in a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.

Any person participating in a meeting pursuant to this section who is entitled to vote at that meeting may vote, in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, by means of any telephone, electronic, video conference or other remote communication method that the Association has deemed appropriately available for that purpose.

2. Fall Rally

- a. In addition to the meetings of the Board, the AAA/ABC Fall Rally shall be held on the first or second Sunday in October unless determined otherwise by the Executive Leadership Team. The Rally is open to all members and friends of its churches for the purpose of inspiration, instruction in things of God, and for Christian Fellowship.
- b. A special Rally Planning team comprised of at least the Vice Moderator, Treasurer, Pastor(s) of the host church, and a representative from the host church shall be convened at least three (3) months prior to the rally.

- c. Promotional materials shall be distributed in a timely manner to all the Association churches.

Rule 5.4 (Reserved)

Rule 5.5 (Reserved)

Rule 5.6 (Reserved)

Rule 5.7 (Reserved)

Rule 5.8 (Reserved)

Rule 5.9 (Reserved)

Rule 5.10 (Reserved)

Rule 5.11 (Reserved)

ARTICLE VI

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rule 6.1 (Reserved)

Rule 6.2 **Duties of the Executive Leadership Team**

1. It shall be the duty of the Executive Leadership Team to direct the work of the Association between meetings of the Board.
2. It shall see that a correlated program including the work of the Ministry Teams, the Standing Committees and the Auxiliary Organizations shall be developed and promoted, based upon the needs of the AAA/ABC churches.
3. It shall set the date and place for all rallies.
4. It shall acquire, accept, hold or dispose of property or trust funds in the name of the AAA/ABC subject to the approval of the Board and in conformity with the laws of the State of Ohio.
5. If any Church shall fail to participate actively during an Association year, the Executive Leadership Team shall make a sincere effort to restore the church to fellowship and full cooperation.
6. The Executive Leadership Team shall meet at the call of the Moderator, Vice Moderator, or Clerk.

ARTICLE VII

MINISTRY TEAMS

Rule 7.1 (Reserved)

Rule 7.2 **Duties of the Ministry Teams**

1. **MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM** – This team, through its Chairperson and any members asked to serve, shall:
 - a. Encourage the Churches of the AAA/ABC to respond to the command of our Lord to go into all the world to proclaim the Gospel by sacrificial giving of self and substance, and promote a Biblical and theological understanding of stewardship.
 - b. The team shall interpret the total mission enterprise of the ABC/OHIO and ABC/USA to the churches of the Association, through missionary deputation, conferences and other resources.
 - c. The team shall encourage the setting of goals by the local churches in support of the United Mission program of the ABC/USA, the four (4) special offerings, the In-State Ministries Program of ABC/OHIO and other ABC/OHIO programs. It shall encourage support of institutions approved by the Institutional Support Program of the ABC/OHIO.
2. **OUTDOOR MINISTRY TEAM** – This ministry team shall be comprised of four (4) elected members, one (1) of whom shall be nominated to serve as chairperson and shall serve on the Executive Leadership Team. Its duties shall be as follows:
 - a. Make available information concerning a year-round program of camps, conferences and retreats to Association churches.
 - b. Promote camp, conference and retreat programs of Koinonia Camp and Conference Center, the ABC/OHIO and to encourage attendance.
 - c. Represent the AAA/ABC on the Koinonia Camp and Conference Center Board of Trustees.
 - d. Be available to consult with groups planning retreats and conferences in order that they may maximize the benefits of such programs.
 - e. Develop and implement a plan of leadership recruitment and training to be used by program committees of the camps.
 - f. Develop and implement a camper scholarship fund.

- g. Provide programs and resources to the churches of the Association which will assist them in raising the funds necessary to meet the AAA/ABC obligations for the operation of the Koinonia Camp and Conference Center.

Rule 7.3 (Reserved)

ARTICLE VIII

STANDING COMMITTEES

Rule 8.1 (Reserved)

Rule 8.2 (Reserved)

Rule 8.3

Ordination Council

1. The Ordination Council will be convened by the Moderator as necessary. Ordination of ministers in the Association shall follow the ABC-USA “Recommended Procedures for Ordination, Commissioning, and Recognition for the Christian Ministry in the American Baptist Churches”.

Rule 8.4 **Duties of the Standing Committees**

1. CHURCH PASTORAL RELATIONS

- a. To conduct preliminary and private examinations of all candidates for licensing or ordination in the Association. It shall report to the local Church, the State Advisory Committee and any subsequently called Ordination Councils.
- b. To examine the credentials of all Ministers seeking certification in the Professional Leadership Registry and submit a report to the Board.
- c. To give assistance, when requested, to local churches that develop special concerns.
- d. To review the application of any churches seeking membership in the Association.
- e. To carefully review matters of participation of member churches in Association activities and financial support for local, state and world missions of the ABC/USA. A report of its findings shall be made to the Executive Leadership Team of the Board for further action.
- f. To look into any special matters of denominational interest that may be assigned to it by the Executive Leadership Team of the Board.

2. **FINANCE** – The Finance Committee shall serve in the following areas:
 - a. In consultation with the Treasurer, prepare annually a budget of expenditures with anticipated sources of income for the Association. It shall secure program proposals from the Committees and this report shall be presented to the Executive Leadership Team and Board at the Fall Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
 - b. Annually submit a written request to the Churches for the suggested donation of one dollar (\$1.00) per resident member to the Association budget.
 - c. Request an independent third-party review of the financial records of the treasurer within ninety (90) days of the close of the fiscal year (the fiscal year shall be the same as the calendar year). A report of its findings shall be made to the Board.
3. **NOMINATING** – This standing committee shall consist of persons serving on the Executive Leadership Team.
 - a. The committee shall prepare a list of candidates for the following positions of the Association for election at the Fall Meeting of the Board of Trustees: Officers – Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer; a chairperson for each of the Ministry Teams and Standing Committees.
 - b. The Nominating Committee shall secure proof of the nominees' willingness to serve prior to its report to the Board at its October meeting. The Nominating Committee shall present names to the Executive Leadership Team or appoint persons for any vacancies occurring between annual meetings and will report said appointments at the next scheduled Trustees' meeting.
 - c. The Nominating Committee shall remind the Association body each year that the voting representatives to the Koinonia Camp and Conference Center Annual Meeting shall be the Vice Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer of the Association, along with one (1) representative from each Association church represented in person as designated by the pastor thereof; however, the Association Moderator is empowered to appoint alternate representatives should one (1) or more of these three (3) officers be unable to attend the Koinonia Camp and Conference Center Annual Meeting. The Association Moderator shall be an ex-officio non-voting trustee.

ARTICLE IX

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 9.1 (Reserved)

Rule 9.2 The responsibility of the Auxiliary Organizations shall be:

1. To study local church needs and seek to develop programs to meet them.
2. To strive for a ministry to their particular group in every local church regardless of its size or completeness of organization.
3. To cooperate with and seek to correlate their programs as much as possible with the program of the Association Committees.
4. To cooperate with and promote the state and national programs of their particular group in the Churches insofar as they meet Church local needs.

ARTICLE X

DISPOSITION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION OF THE AKRON AREA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES

Rule 10.1 (Reserved)

Rule 10.2 (Reserved)

ARTICLE XI **AMENDMENTS**

Rule 11.1 (Reserved)

ARTICLE XII **BYLAWS**

Rule 12.1 (Reserved)

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