



REEDY RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, INC.

107 Fleming Street • Greenville, South Carolina 29607

www.rrbai.org

Constitution

Article I – Name

The body shall be known as Reedy River Missionary Baptist Association, Inc.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the Association shall be to promote the unity, growth, and outreach of its member churches, and to foster whatever else may serve to promote the interest of Christ in the world.

Article III – Membership

- Section 1: The membership shall be composed of only those who are enrolled in churches of the Reedy River Associational Field.
- Section 2: Each church as such, shall be entitled to three delegates and one additional delegate for every 50 members over one hundred.
- Section 3: Any Baptist church approving the design and object of the Association holding the principles of doctrines and the ordinance of Christ as generally held and practiced by churches of this body, may upon application, be admitted into membership, provided the church has been organized a minimum of three years.

- Section 4: The Association may correspond and form a Christian relation with any Baptist organization holding similar views of doctrine and duties with those held by this body.
- Section 5: The Association holds the right of withdrawing from any church in the Association that abandons its articles, principles, or objectives of this organization. Any church in this organization shall, at her own request, have the liberty of withdrawing from the Association.
- Section 6: Membership in this Association requires a \$5.00 doorway fee per member, payable by the end of the Annual Session. Additionally, in order to maintain Associational membership, each church must register during the Annual Session with a minimum of \$100.00 and complete total assessment by July 31 of the following year. Any church failing to meet this obligation shall receive a membership intent letter from the moderator. No response to this letter within an ensuing 90 -day period will be evidence of the church's voluntary withdrawal from the Associational membership.

Article IV – Officers

- Section 1: The officers of the Association shall be moderator, first and second vice moderators, secretary, assistant secretary, financial secretary, historian, chairperson of the finance committee, assistant finance chairman, treasurer, and minister of music.
- Section 2: All officers shall be elected annually. No officers shall remain in any given office for more than five years in succession. Officers may be removed from office for neglect of duties, abuse of authority and for conduct unbecoming the office elected to in the Association, up to and to include behavior deemed detrimental to the Christian values and beliefs of the Reedy River Baptist Association.
- An officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote or a majority vote with proper notice being given to the member churches of a date set after two consecutive Sundays announcing a Special Called meeting of the Reedy River Baptist Association. The two-thirds vote applies if no notice has been sent to member churches. The majority vote applies if notice has been sent. The first or second vice moderator shall be authorized to call special meetings.
- Section 3: The moderator of the Reedy River Baptist Association shall be a pastor of a properly registered church in the Reedy River Baptist Association. Persons

being nominated for Associational or Auxiliary positions shall be members of churches having registered a year prior to the election. Nominees of the Parent Body and Auxiliary positions shall have demonstrated consistent attendance and support to the Parent Body.

Section 4: The moderator shall preside at all meetings of the Association and Executive Board. He shall validate with his signature all orders made to the associational treasurer. He shall appoint all standing and special committees except the Nominating Committee whose members shall be named by the executive committee. The moderator shall receive and approve check request forms; shall ensure that all checks written for staff travel expenses are for reimbursements only, and that two signatures be required for each check written; and that the person who writes checks shall not sign them. Neither the moderator nor the vice moderators shall write or have checks in their possessions. The moderator shall provide a 30-day resignation notice and/or shall plan for a 30-day resignation notice and shall plan for a 30-day transition period at the end of his tenure.

Section 5: The first vice moderator shall preside in the absence of the moderator. He/ She shall also assist the moderator when requested; be in attendance at both the quarterly meetings and the Annual Session; and serve as the drive director for Morris College.

Section 6: The second vice moderator shall preside in the absence of the first vice moderator and the moderator. He/ She shall also assist the moderator when requested; be in attendance at both the quarterly meetings and the Annual Session; and serve as the drive director for Benedict College.

Section 7: It shall be the duties of the secretary to keep an accurate account of all proceedings of the association; compile and distribute the minutes; record and distribute the enrollment blanks, and report the minutes to the Executive Board and the Association as requested.

Section 8: The assistant secretary shall perform the duties of the secretary due to absence, resignation or death of the secretary. He/she shall assist the secretary when requested, and discharge all obligations imposed by the Association.

Section 9: The treasurer shall receive and deposit all monies and be accountable for such other valuables as may be entrusted to him/her by the Association. He/she shall

pay out of the treasury only such funds as drawn by an order of the Association and validated by the signature of the moderator and financial secretary. He/she shall also sign checks and shall be bonded.

Section 10: The financial secretary shall write checks and receipts, keep an accurate report of monies received from churches and auxiliaries, and submit a written report at the Executive Board meeting, the Quarterly Session, and an itemized report for the Annual Session.

Section 11: The finance committee chairman shall sign checks, receive finances, and make an accurate report to the treasurer of the amount collected.

Section 12: The historian shall keep an account of all recorded events and accomplishments that have taken place since the last Annual Session, and make an annual report, after which the information shall be stored.

Section 13: The title *moderator-emeritus* shall be bestowed upon the outgoing moderator who meets the following criteria: *completion of a five - year tenure and the demonstration of balanced Associational leadership skills which include vision, integrity, and commitment*. The Executive Committee shall make the recommendation to the Parent Body. This status shall be conferred during the first quarterly meeting immediately following the annual meeting of the completed tenure.

Section 14: Under normal circumstances, the moderator-emeritus should not seek another term as moderator. However, those selected for the honor of moderator-emeritus may serve again as moderator provided the term is not consecutively following the conclusion of his/her original term as moderator.

Section 15: All incoming officers shall attend required training or orientation sessions needed in order for them to understand their job descriptions.

Article V – Standing Committees

- Section 1: Audit – The Audit Committee shall conduct an annual financial audit.
- Section 2: Benevolence – The Benevolence Committee shall extend courtesies and sympathy to immediate families of present officers and past moderators.
- Section 3: Budget – The Budget Committee shall plan the annual budget.
- Section 4: Executive Committee – The Executive Committee shall consist of Associational officers, pastors and presidents of associational auxiliaries. This committee shall plan programs for the Annual and Quarterly Sessions and make decisions in the best interest of the Association.
- Section 5: Moderator’s Recommendations and Message – The Moderator’s Recommendations and Message Committee shall examine the merits of the Moderator’s recommendations and message.
- Section 6: New Churches – The committee for New Churches shall investigate the doctrinal polity of churches requesting membership in the Reedy River Baptist Association; extend welcome, and hold an orientation for pastors of new churches.
- Section 7: Nominating – The Nominating Committee shall select qualified nominees to fill positions and strive for Associational integrity.
- Section 8: Time and Place – The Time and Place Committee shall recommend churches to host the Annual Session.
- Section 9: The Constitution Committee shall update the constitution as needed. It shall also receive proposed amendments in writing. After a review of these proposed amendments, the Constitution Committee shall present them to the Parent Body.

Article VI – Annual Meeting

- Section 1: The Association shall have an annual meeting which shall convene and shall end on the Thursday following the fourth Sunday in September at 6:30pm and after enrolling delegates, shall be organized by electing a moderator, first and second vice moderators, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, financial secretary, historian, chairperson of the finance committee, assistant finance chairperson, and minister of music. Quarterly meetings shall be held every fifth Saturday before the fifth Sunday **except** when quarterly meetings are scheduled during the same week in which the Annual Session is held.
- Section 2: The Annual Session shall include the following: Youth, Brotherhood, Congress of Christian Education, Ushers, YWA's, Women's Auxiliary, and Parent Body.
- Section 3: Officers, ministry presidents, and standing committee chairmen shall present yearly reports on Wednesday during the Business Luncheon which shall begin at noon.
- Section 4: The fiscal year shall begin on the Friday at the end of each Annual Meeting.

Article VII – Parliamentary Authority

In rules or matters not addressed by this constitution, the Reedy River Baptist Association shall be governed by the latest edition of the *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

Article VII – Amendments to the Constitution

- Section 1: The constitution shall be amended by a two-thirds vote of bona fide delegates to the Association. Voting shall be done during either a quarterly or an annual meeting.
- Section 2: Each church shall receive a copy of the proposed amendment 30 days prior to voting.

Section 3: The Constitution shall show a date of revision each time an amendment is added.

Article VII – Ordination of Ministers

Section 1: The ordination of ministers is an associational event.

Section 2: The moderator shall appoint an Ordaining Council consisting of seven members of the Executive Board. Any applicant who comes before the Ordaining Council must be called to a church either to serve as pastor or in a church related job that requires ordination. A letter of ordination request, which may be mailed or emailed, must be submitted to the moderator by the applicant's pastor or the church's appointed designee.

Section 3: The Ordination Council shall make certain that the candidate for the ordination knows the Words of Institution for the two ordinances of the Baptist Church: **Baptism** and **the Lord's Supper**.

Section 4: The ordination fee for one candidate shall be \$400 and \$300 each for two or more candidates from the same church. Checks shall be made payable to the Reedy River Baptist Association.

Section 5: The chairman of the Ordination Committee shall set the date for catechism classes, as well as the date, time, and place of the ordination service.

Section 6: The ordination fees shall be used to compensate the speaker, ordination chairman, council members, secretary, and musician, as well as defray the cost of the programs and the certificates.

Article IX – Real Estate

- Section 1: The Executive Board must authorize the act or acts involving real estate of the Association.
- Section 2: The moderator shall inform members of the purpose of the Executive Board meeting regarding real estate.
- Section 3: Any question brought before the meeting must have a favorable vote of a majority present in order to pass.

Revision: December 4, 2019