

Constitution Of The Motor Cities Metro Baptist Association

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this body shall be the Motor Cities Metro Baptist Association (formed by the joining together, and therefore dissolution of the Oakland County Baptist Association and the Blue Water Association, the operating name of the former Macomb Baptist Association). This body will incorporate as required by the laws of the State of Michigan.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The Motor Cities Metro Baptist Association exists to assist its churches in fulfilling The Great Commission by —

- A. Strengthening the work of its local churches.
- B. Mobilizing its churches in evangelism and mission involvement.
- C. Assisting local churches in planting new works.
- D. Promoting fellowship among its churches.
- E. Encouraging cooperative ministries among its churches.

ARTICLE HE RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1— The doctrinal guidelines for this association shall be "The Baptist Faith and Message" adopted in 2000. Churches affiliating with this association shall be in agreement with either the 1963 or the 2000 version of this statement of faith.

Section 2— This association shall cooperate with, but not be governed by, the Baptist State Convention of Michigan and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Section 3 — This association shall exercise no ecclesiastical authority over its member churches but may provide counsel to member churches upon their request.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

Section 1 - Churches desiring membership in the Motor Cities Metro Baptist Association would begin by petition through either letter or by application as specified by the association.

Section 2— All petitioning churches agree to —

- A. Submit an Annual Church Profile each year at the appropriate time
- B. Financial support of both the Motor Cities Metro Baptist Association and the Cooperative Program.
- C. Participate in a series of discussions with a credentials committee that enable the association to evaluate the doctrine, polity and practice of the petitioning church.

Section 3 — When all the above conditions have been met, the church can be presented at the next annual meeting or at an executive board meeting. Membership in the association will be approved upon a 2/3 majority of all messengers present.

Section 4— Messengers representing member churches and thereby empowered to express opinion and vote at all regular and special called meetings will be allotted according to these guidelines. Four (4) for fifty (50) resident members or less and one (1) for every additional fifty resident members. No member church shall have more than twelve (12) messengers. Each new work start sponsored by a member church shall be allowed two (2) messengers. Only elected messengers may vote and messengers may only be seated at the annual meeting if their Annual Church Profile has been submitted to the clerk.

Section 5 — Churches may be dropped from membership after two years demonstrating no financial support to the association or submission of the Annual Church Profile. Said church will be contacted in writing and personally by associational appointed leadership to inquire as to the church's status. Churches making no change from this status will be considered to have withdrawn from the Motor Cities Metro Baptist Association and will be notified of this in writing. Any church may leave the association of its own volition by submitting a letter to the annual meeting expressing their desire to do so.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS AND GENERAL

Section 1 - Any article of this constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the messengers present at an annual meeting of the association. The recommended amendment must be presented in writing at the preceding annual meeting and a copy mailed to the association's member churches at least forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting where it will be considered by vote.

Section 2 — The association will begin its calendar year and fiscal year on January 1.

Section 3 — The parliamentary authority for the association shall be the latest edition of Roberts ' Rules of Order.

Section 4 — The association will hold one annual meeting for fellowship and to transact its business. The time and place of the meeting lies at the discretion of the association. Should the need arise; an emergency meeting may be called by the moderator with two weeks' notice. A minimum of one-fourth of member churches of the association must be present to constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1 - The messengers shall elect at the annual meeting four (4) general officers: moderator, vice-moderator, clerk, and treasurer. The moderator and vice-moderator shall be nominated by messengers from the floor with the nominee having been contacted prior to nomination and present at the meeting. The clerk and treasurer shall be nominated by the nominating leadership of the association. For a two year period culminating at the annual meeting in 2015, these four officers cannot all be entirely elected from either the former Blue Water or Oakland Associations. After the first two years of associational life, this temporary provision will not apply.

Section 2 — The moderator may serve two consecutive elected terms and is eligible to be elected again after remaining out of office for a year. Other officers may succeed themselves. If the office of moderator is vacated, the vice-moderator will assume responsibility for the duration of the moderator's term.

Section 3 — The newly elected officers will assume responsibility at the close of the annual meeting where they have been elected.

Section 4 — The officers of the association will represent the association in any matter of litigation.

ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1— The Executive Board of Motor Cities Metro Baptist Association will consist of the senior pastors of the member churches (pastor-less churches may send one representative), the church strengthener/mobilizer, the general officers of the association and the members of the associational council. The board will act on behalf the member churches in business affairs needing to be resolved in-between annual meetings.

Section 2 — The Executive Board will meet on an "as needed" basis in-between annual meetings. The moderator may convene a meeting with two weeks notice in writing/email to board members. One-third of member churches must be present to make up a quorum.

BYLAWS

Article 1— Associational Council

1. The association shall have a council composed of the church strengthener/mobilizer, the general officers of the association and the members of each ministry team (see Article 2). Other associational leaders may attend as needed.
2. The moderator shall serve as chairperson of this council.
3. The purpose of this council is to coordinate the overall program of the association and prepare a calendar of events for adoption by the association.

Article 2 — Ministry Teams

The association shall be organized into four (4) ministry teams in keeping with the stated purpose of the association (Constitution, Article II). The associational council will prepare a slate of nominees for all the teams to be voted on at the annual meeting. Team members will be elected to one year terms. The church strengthener/mobilizer and the moderator shall serve as ex-officio members of the ministry teams. Other members may be added to ministry teams as needed by the associational council.

1. Administrative Ministry Team — Composed of the moderator, vice-moderator, clerk, chairman of trustees, personnel leader, Church Strengthening Team leader, Church Planting Ministry Team leader and Fellowship Ministry Team leader. The moderator will conduct meetings of this team except when dealing with the following:
 - a. Budget — When preparing the proposed budget for the association, the treasurer will conduct meetings of the Administrative Team. The treasurer and the trustees will be bonded as a condition to their serving.
 - b. Personnel/nominating — When dealing with personnel/nominating issues, including annual evaluations, the personnel leader will conduct meetings of the Administrative Ministry Team.
2. Church Strengthening/Mobilizing Ministry Team — Composed of the Church Strengthening Team leader and at least four (4) other members, this group will resource churches in the areas of evangelism, Bible study, senior adult ministries, discipleship, music/worship, youth/singles ministries, preschool/ children's ministries and other areas relating to church growth and strengthening.
3. Church Planting Ministry Team — Composed of the Church Planting Ministry Team leader and at least four (4) other members, this team will resource the member churches in planting new Anglo and ethnic churches. They will coordinate with the newly appointed church growth specialists working with NAMB (North American Mission Board) in our area.
4. Fellowship Ministry Team — Composed of the Fellowship Ministry Team leader and at least four (4) other members, this group will resource the churches in providing opportunities for fellowship among churches, fellowship ministries to pastors/staff and spouses and other areas related to fellowship.

Article 3 — Trustees

1. The association shall have three (3) trustees. Each trustee will serve (3) years, with terms rotating so that the term of one will expire each year. New trustees shall be elected at the annual meeting. No two (2) trustees shall be elected from any one (1) church.

2. The trustee serving in the third year of his/her term shall act as chairman. This trustee shall also serve on the Administrative Ministry Team.
3. The trustees shall have the full power and authority to transact the legal business of the association as instructed by either the messengers at an annual meeting or by the executive board.
4. All trustees shall be bonded as a condition of their serving.

Article 4— Personnel Team and procedures

1. The Personnel Team will consist of the moderator and four (4) others selected by the board who will meet with the church strengthener/mobilizer at least annually. Three fifths of the team will be needed to conduct business.
2. This team will recommend policies and procedures for selecting, supervising and terminating associational personnel. A manual will be maintained and updated annually if needed for this purpose. This includes job descriptions and financial packages.
3. This team will work with the church strengthener/mobilizer in recruiting, interviewing and recommending new additional personnel.
4. This team will work with the church strengthener/mobilizer and other staff on approaches to continuing education and development.
5. This team will handle all grievances regarding personnel including conditions of termination of staff. Conditions of termination may and will include moral/spiritual failure or professional dereliction or incompetence in exercise of duties described in the job description. Any and all grievances must be put in writing and signed.
6. In the event that the church strengthener/mobilizer's office becomes vacant, the association, either in the annual meeting or in a called meeting of the executive board, shall elect a search committee composed of the chairperson of the personnel team and four (4) members. These four (4) members shall not be other members of the personnel team; the moderator and the vice-moderator shall also serve as members of this committee.
7. The association, either in an annual meeting or a called meeting of the executive board, may elect an interim church strengthener/mobilizer if they so desire.

Article 5 — Amendments

The bylaws of this association may be amended by a majority vote of the messengers during any annual or executive board meeting provided that the proposed amendment(s) were presented with 30 days notice.