

Proposed Bylaws

Valley Rim Southern Baptist Association

Article I - Name

This nonprofit corporation shall be called the Valley Rim Southern Baptist Association (The Association), an Arizona nonprofit.

Article II - Objects

Section 1

The object of the association is to foster relationships among the churches of the Association for greater kingdom impact.

Section 2

Recognizing that the association is in no sense an ecclesiastical one, the Association shall under no circumstances attempt to exercise any legislative or ecclesiastical authority over or interfere with the right and autonomy of the churches. The Association shall embrace Baptist churches now in cooperation with it and such others as may hereafter be admitted to this body. The basis of operation in the Association shall stem solely from the voluntary cooperation of the churches constituting this organization. The Association may, however, provide advisory counsel and support upon invitation.

Section 3

The Association may acquire property both personal and real, and shall have power to sell or encumber the same.

Article III - Membership

Section 1

The Association shall be composed of messengers of such Baptist Churches within its membership as shall have applied for affiliation and have been accepted by the Association at an Annual Meeting. Churches wanting to make such an application shall have adopted Articles of Faith acceptable to the Association, and shall have subscribed to these By-laws. Churches which desire membership may be accepted into a Watch Care relationship at any Administrative Team meeting until a decision is made at the annual meeting. Existing Southern Baptist Churches may be accepted for full membership at any Administrative Team meeting in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.

Section 2

Churches desiring representation with this body shall petition by letter and representation. The Administrative Team shall consider the petition or petitions and report its findings to the Association for final action at its Annual Meeting.

Section 3

It shall be the responsibility of each cooperating church to make an annual report to the Association, giving names of the messengers, the statistics and financial condition of

the church and any other helpful information as called for in the Annual Church Profile sent out by the Arizona Mission Network of Southern Baptist or as required by the Association.

Section 4

If any church fails to report as required by the Association for two (2) consecutive years, the Administrative Team shall investigate their standing and report to the Association at its next annual meeting.

Section 5

When any church fails to report to the Association for three (3) consecutive years, the church shall enter a probationary period until such time that they report to the Association. When a church is under a probationary status they cannot request or receive Association funds.

Section 6

While the Association does not assume any authority over the churches in its fellowship, it does reserve the right to withdraw or withhold the hand of fellowship from any church which has become corrupt in faith or practice as determined by a vote at any Annual or Special called meeting of the Association.

Section 7

Each church recognized by the Association shall be entitled to five (5) messengers, and one (1) additional messenger for every twenty-five (25) resident members in excess of fifty (50) provided that no church shall have more than fifteen (15) messengers.

Article IV - Officers

The officers of the Association shall be the President, the Vice President, the Clerk, the Treasurer, and three (3) Trustees.

Section 1

Election of officers shall take place at the Annual Associational Meeting. They shall take office on January 1st that immediately follows the Annual Meeting in which they were elected and they shall serve for an annual term. No President shall succeed himself more than once. When a vacancy occurs in between Annual Meetings for the offices of Clerk, Treasurer, or Trustee, the Administrative Team may appoint someone to serve the remainder of the term.

Section 2

The President shall preside over all annual and special called meetings of the Association and Administrative Team Meetings. The Vice President shall preside when the President is absent or at the request of the President. In the absence of both the President and Vice President, a Trustee shall preside over the meeting.

Section 3

The Clerk shall send out notices of meetings, keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Association and the Administrative Team, and shall be custodian of any documents belonging to the Association, and shall file a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the Association and Administrative Team for perpetuity.

Section 4

The Treasurer of the Association shall receive and keep a strict account of all Association funds and shall make a monthly report to the Administrative Team and an annual report to the Association at the Association's annual meeting.

Section 5

Trustees shall act as the signers for any properties purchased or obtained by the Association. Trustees shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without a vote by the Administration Team or the Association authorizing each action.

Article V - The Administrative Team

Section 1

All work of the Association shall be under the supervision of the Administrative Team consisting of the officers of the Association and the Associational Staff.

Section 2

Any member church may attend Administrative Meetings and may participate in discussions, ask questions, make suggestions and receive documents of the meeting. Only Administrative Team members shall make motions, amend motions, and/or vote.

Section 3

The Administrative Team shall transact any and all business of the Association in between annual meetings, with the exception of special called meetings, provided that nothing shall be done by the Administrative Team contrary to these By-Laws or to the expressed will of the Association. The Administrative Team shall be responsible for preparing an annual budget to present to the Association at the Annual meeting, for receiving and evaluating nominations for Ambassador positions of the Association, and for overseeing the Associational Mission Strategist.

Section 4

The Administrative Team shall write and keep current, subject to the approval of the Association, an Operations Manual of the Association.

Section 5

The Administrative Team shall make an annual report to the Association of all work done by the Administrative Team, a financial report and such matters as pertaining to the business of the Association, with such recommendations the Administrative Team approves.

Article VI - Ministry Areas

Section 1

The following ministry areas are hereby established to strengthen and unify relationships, trust, and collaboration among the churches of the Association to fulfill the Great Commission: Care, Connections, and Collaboration

Section 2 - Ambassadors

Ambassadors will serve by appointment of the AMS and approved annually by the Administrative Team. Ambassadors must be a member in good standing of a church in the Association. Ambassadors serve as a connection point, seeking to strengthen established relationships and develop new relationships among the churches and leaders of the Association.

Article VII - Meetings

Section 1

The Association shall meet annually for worship, the transaction of business, and celebration of the work. All of the ministries will work in conjunction with the Administrative Team to organize and prepare all aspects of the annual meeting.

Section 2

Special meetings may be called and the time and place of the annual meeting may be changed by the Administrative Team in case an emergency arises deemed sufficient to justify such action. A group of messengers representing at least seven (7) of the

Association congregations may request a Special Associational Meeting which the Administrative Team is mandated to call. A quorum shall consist of those present.

Section 3

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the guide in all matters pertaining to the conduct of business sessions of the Association. The preferred means of making decisions within this form of polity shall be "consensus".

Section 4

The Association shall notify members of the date, time and place of each annual meeting, at least 60 days before the meeting date. The Association shall notify members of the date, time and place of each special meeting, at least 10 days before the meeting date. Regular meetings of the Administrative Team may be held without notice of the date, time, place or purpose of the meeting.

Article VIII - Associational Staff

The Association is led by an Associational Mission Strategist (AMS) and such other staff as are needed and for which funds are available to support. The AMS reports directly to the Administrative Team. The AMS is responsible for the oversight of association staff.

The AMS shall implement and direct the ministry focuses in collaboration with the Administrative Team.

Article IX - Budgeting & Funds

Section 1

The Fiscal year for the Association shall be January 1 - December 31.

Section 2

The annual budget of the Association may be changed at any Annual or Special Meeting of the Association or by the Administrative Team. When funds exceed the present budget the Administrative Team may choose to pass these funds along to the Ministry Teams as needed with a full report being made to the Association. Personnel salaries can only be adjusted by a vote at an Annual or Special Meeting of the Association.

Section 3

Designated funds shall be administered by the AMS per financial policies adopted by the Administrative Team. The AMS will administer these funds with a full report being made to the Administrative Team and the Association.

Article X - Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended upon recommendation of the Administrative Team at any Annual Meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. Written notice of the proposed amendment and a full copy of the By-laws with the proposed amendment shall be given to the churches at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting of the Association. When titles and program ministry names change in Southern Baptist Life, these changes may be reflected in the next typing of the By-laws.

Article XI - Dissolution

The Association can dissolve and cease to function as association upon recommendation by Administrative Team and voted on at the annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. The property rights and all remaining assets shall be transferred to Arizona Mission Network of Southern Baptist. If Arizona Mission Network of Southern Baptist is no longer functioning as an entity it will be transferred to another gospel-centered entity to enable said entity to renew the work or use the values thereof for further Gospel enterprises.

These bylaws were approved by the Administrative Team on 13 July 2023 for presentation at the Annual Meeting on 10 Oct 2023