

Big Emory Baptist Association

Constitution

Article I – NAME

This Body shall be called The Big Emory Baptist Association.

Article II – PURPOSE

The Mission of the Big Emory Baptist Association is to assist Churches in fulfilling the Great Commission through Prayer, Evangelism, Discipleship, Ministry, Fellowship, and Worship.

Article III – POWERS

SECTION A. This Association shall have no ecclesiastical power or jurisdiction whatever over the churches represented in this body.

SECTION B. This Association shall have the power to provide rules for its own government and to determine the basis of representation in its body. ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER (Latest Edition) will be used as the parliamentary guide for all deliberations of the Association.

SECTION C. It shall also have power to seat by a majority vote messengers of affiliated churches whose practice and conduct are in keeping with the aims and objects of this body.

Article IV – REPRESENTATION

SECTION A. The Annual Session of this body shall be held on the fourth Thursday of October at a place and hour mutually agreed upon. The Moderator may call Special Meetings of the association by sending at least two weeks’ written notice to the churches, their pastors, and all Executive Board members. The letter must state the time, place, and purpose of the Special Meeting.

SECTION B. Any Baptist church whose practice, articles of faith, and policy are in accord with those of this association shall be entitled to representation in this body.

SECTION C. The basis of representation shall be two (2) messengers for every affiliated church plus one (1) additional messenger for every fifty (50) resident members or fractional part thereof, not to exceed ten (10) for any one (1) church. A quorum shall consist of those present from the cooperating churches at the Annual Meeting in order to transact business.

Article V – OFFICERS

The Officers of this body shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer; each of whom shall be elected annually. They shall assume their duties at the conclusion of the Association Annual Meeting. The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall serve no more than two (2) years in succession in their respective offices. The Director of Missions is an ex-officio officer of the association.

Article VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION A. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the Associational Annual Meeting, Special Meetings, and Executive Board meetings, to keep order, and to appoint special Committees as directed by the body.

SECTION B. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a record of the proceedings of The Association Annual Meeting, Special Meetings, and Executive Board Meetings, and to furnish the same to the Journal Committee for publication.

SECTION C. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep all funds of the Association and disburse the same upon the order of the body.

SECTION D. It shall be the duty of the Director of Missions to lead the Association in accordance to the approved job description. Whenever there is a vacancy in the Director of Missions position, the Associational officers shall meet to recruit and nominate a search Committee to be approved by the Executive Board. The Director of Missions Search Committee shall be responsible to recommend to the association an Interim Director of Missions (if needed) who shall be approved by the Executive Board. The search Committee shall seek out and recommend a suitable candidate to serve as Director of Missions. Election as Director of Missions requires a three-fourths vote of the association in its Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting of the Association called for this purpose.

Article VII – COMMITTEES AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS

All Committees are to function during the entire associational year in the areas assigned to them either by their job description or by special assignments given them by the Executive Board at any time during the year.

I. THE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES:

1. Shall consist of the Trustee Committee; Properties Committee; Nominating Committee; Administrative Committee; Program Committee; and the Church and Community Ministries Committee. The Director of Missions and the Moderator; Assistant Moderator; Clerk and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of each Committee with a voice and a vote.

2. Committee leaders are responsible to secure for their Committee the number of Committee members necessary to accomplish the Committee's task.

3. Committee Leaders shall be elected annually by the Messengers at the Association Meeting in October.

II. These Committees shall also consist of “subordinate Committee Leaders” as follows:

a. Administrative Committee (Association Moderator is Committee Leader)

- 1) Budget and Finance Committee
- 2) Personnel Committee
- 3) Minister Assistance Committee
- 4) Historical Committee
- 5) Journal Committee

b. Program Committee (DOM is Committee Leader)

- 1) Discipleship Committee
- 2) Evangelism Committee
- 3) Library Committee
- 4) Music Committee
- 5) Prayer Committee
- 6) Seminary Extension Committee
- 7) Sunday School Committee
- 8) Vacation Bible School Committee
- 9) Youth Evangelism Committee

c. Church and Community Ministries Committee (DOM is Committee Leader)

- 1) Baptist Collegiate Ministry Committee
- 2) Disaster Relief Committee
- 3) Men’s Ministry Committee (including RA’s and Challengers)

- 4) Missions Committee
- 5) Rebuild Ministry Committee
- 6) Storehouse Ministry Center Committee
- 7) WMU Committee

Committees:

- 1- Shall be responsible for developing and coordinating the basic ongoing programs of the association on both a short and long range basis.
- 2- Shall make assignments of program responsibilities to particular directors, groups, or Committees, which shall report to the Executive Board on progress and development; and, through the Executive Board, to the Association.
- 3- The DOM and the Moderator, in conjunction or consultation with the Committee leaders, shall be responsible for planning the Program for the Annual Meeting of the Association.
- 4- The Moderator at times of need shall appoint the Constitution Committee and the Credentials Committee.

SECTION A. THE ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES

- 1- The title to all property owned by the association is vested in three (3) trustees who are elected by the association in its Annual Session. The definition of a trustee is:
- 2- "...a person appointed...to execute a trust, one in whom an estate, interest, or power is vested...to administer or exercise it for the benefit or to the use of another. (He) is a person who holds the title and administers it for others' benefit."
- 3- The three (3) trustees for the association are entrusted with its property solely for its benefit. The transfer of the property of the association can be conveyed only by the trustees acting upon a motion duly made and adopted by the association or by the power delegated to its Executive Board.
- 4- The Trustees shall serve a three year term, with one Trustee rotating off each year.

SECTION B. THE PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall regularly inspect and give supervision to maintenance and upkeep of all properties owned by the association within prescribed budget guidelines.

2- Shall recommend to the Executive Board proposals for any major changes in structure, modernization of existing structures, or construction of additional facilities.

3- Shall have the responsibility for establishing guidelines for the use of, and changes in the use of, all properties owned by the Association.

SECTION C. THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1- Shall present to the Executive Board and/or Annual Session of the association the names of persons committed to serve for the new associational year in any office necessary to the orderly function of the association.

2- Shall present to the Executive Board recommendations for filling any vacancies in standing Committees occurring during the year.

NOTE: The offices of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and employed personnel shall be excluded from the above guidelines.

3- Two members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for the Nominating Committee shall be the responsibility of the Moderator and the DOM.

4- Shall consist of a six member Committee with two members rotating off every year (see #3 above). Each member will serve three full years, unless otherwise stated because of fulfilling an unexpired term.

Administrative Committees

SECTION D. THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

1- Shall have the Association Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer as two (2) of its members.

2- Shall present a proposed annual budget as an item of information to the Executive Board, no later than the Executive Board meeting before the Annual Meeting. After the budget has been adopted by the association in its Annual Meeting, any changes which are proposed to the adopted budget shall first be referred to this Committee and any changes shall be recommended to the Executive Board for approval.

SECTION E. THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

1- Shall serve as an advisory body to director of missions and as liaison between the Director of Missions and the Executive Board of the association.

2- Shall serve as an advisory body to the director of missions in giving supervision to all other personnel employed by the association.

3- Review annually the job performance of all Association employees and recommend proposed salaries to the Budget and Finance Committee.

4- Shall have the responsibility for recommending employment of all personnel other than the Director of Missions.

SECTION F. THE MINISTERS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

1- The Committee shall have the responsibility of receiving and giving consideration to requests for assistance to any person who had been serving in a paid, church related ministry position, in a church that is related to the Big Emory Baptist Association, and who has experienced forced termination or resignation.

2- All requests for such assistance shall be directed to or referred to this Committee.

3- The terminated person may be assisted with expenses to attend the Career Assessment Program at the LifeWay Christian Resources.

4- Funding for this assistance shall be through the association budget. Funding shall be cumulative with unused amounts being deposited in a savings account up to a maximum of \$6000. These funds shall be disbursed and accounted for through the normal financial processes of Big Emory Baptist Association.

SECTION G. THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

1- Shall seek and maintain an updated historical record of the association.

2- Shall seek to secure annually from the individual churches information concerning events, activities, and programs occurring during the year which might be of joint interest to all the churches; and to include such in a report to the Annual Meeting.

3- The Committee shall consist of the association administrative assistant, the director of missions, and the association clerk.

SECTION H. THE JOURNAL COMMITTEE

1- Shall study the draft of the Minutes of the Annual Sessions as prepared by the clerk, and agree upon the accuracy of these Minutes.

2- Shall organize the Proceedings of the Annual Sessions into booklet form and cause them to be published in as timely and economical a fashion as possible.

3- Shall have the association clerk as a member. In case the assistant clerk is responsible for recording the minutes of the Annual Meeting, he/she shall serve in place of the clerk.

Program Committees

SECTION I. THE DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall offer Discipleship Training events, clinics, and opportunities in the Association in conjunction with the Churches.
- 2- Shall encourage Churches to be involved in Discipleship Training.

SECTION J. THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall plan and promote annual evangelism conferences and events for the Association.
- 2- Shall seek to provide encouragement and aid to undergird evangelism efforts in all the churches throughout the year

SECTION K. THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall plan, implement, and promote the use of Church Media Libraries in the work of the Association and its individual Churches.
- 2- Shall offer assistance to Churches in organizing and operating Church Libraries and media resources.

SECTION L. THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall arrange for the provision of music at Associational functions according to the particular requirements of the function and/or the request of the organizing Committee of the meeting or the Moderator or Director of Missions.
- 2- Shall arrange for music for worship at the Annual Meeting of the Association

SECTION M. THE PRAYER COMMITTEE

- 1 – Shall be elected by the Association at the annual meeting.
- 2 – Shall consist of the Committee Leader, who will serve

a term of 3 years after which time a new Committee Leader shall be elected, and the number of Committee members deemed necessary for the Committee to accomplish its goals.
- 3 – The purpose of the Prayer Committee shall be to meet regularly, encourage Churches association wide to pray specifically for issues brought to its attention, and to encourage a deeper prayer life for the members of our association

SECTION N. THE SEMINARY EXTENSION COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall serve as coordinator for any program or activity involving the association and Seminary Extension of the SBC.
- 2- Shall plan, supervise, and promote any seminary extension program sponsored by the association.

SECTION O. THE SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall offer clinics in the Association with the aim of improving Sunday School attendance.
- 2- Shall assist the Churches of the Association in promoting the evangelistic work of the Sunday School as the primary evangelistic tool of the Churches.

SECTION P. THE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall support VBS by offering clinics and other appropriate activities.
- 2- Shall promote VBS in the Association and among the Churches of the Association, and shall plan, coordinate, and implement an annual VBS clinic in the Association.
- 3- Shall, at the conclusion of the VBS season, collect, and record information provided by the Churches in connection with their VBS attendance, offerings, and decisions.

SECTION Q. THE YOUTH EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall plan and promote the Annual Youth Evangelism Conference, and other events.
- 2- Shall be responsible for collecting and disbursing funds for the personalities and facilities of the Youth Evangelism Conference.

Church & Community Ministries Committees

SECTION R. THE BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall oversee the ministry of the BCM.
- 2- Shall promote BCM activities in the Association.
- 3- Shall encourage Churches to interact with and support College Students taking part in BCM ministries.
- 4- Shall encourage Churches to cooperate with BCM in outreach and evangelism to College Students.

SECTION S. THE DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall support the work of the Association by answering requests for assistance during disasters as requested by local or other appropriate authorities.
- 2- Shall organize and promote local relief efforts as occasion arises.
- 3- Shall organize and promote training events.

SECTION T. THE MEN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall be responsible for promoting the Men's Ministry organizations including Royal Ambassadors and Challengers.
- 2- Shall promote, encourage, and assist in the development of Men's Ministries in the Churches of the Association.
- 3- Shall provide ministry training and service opportunities and shall publicize said activities.

SECTION U. THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall call churches to be on mission.
- 2- Provide resources and services to churches and leaders.
- 3- Train, develop, and encourage church and ASSOCIATION WORKERS.
- 4- Provide opportunities for growing together in missions, ministry, growth and evangelism.
- 5- Establish and maintain appropriate communications and relationships with the community and the denomination.

SECTION V. THE REBUILD MINISTRY COMMITTEE

1. Shall oversee requests for home repairs.
2. Shall be responsible for disbursing funds given for the ministry, and
3. Shall encourage others to be involved in this ministry.

SECTION W. THE STOREHOUSE MINISTRY COMMITTEE

- 1- Shall oversee the work of the Storehouse Ministry and its administration.

2- Shall assist in the promotion and development of Church resources for the advancement of the ministry of the Storehouse.

3- Shall encourage Church participation in the work of the Ministry by encouraging Churches to participate monetarily and with volunteer personnel.

SECTION X. THE WMU COMMITTEE

1- Shall be responsible for the ministries of the WMU, including Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Children in Action, Acteens, and Youth on Mission.

2- Shall promote WMU activities including The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, WMU Scholarships, and The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in the Churches of the Association.

3- Shall assist Churches with organizing and promoting WMU activities in their own area.

Committees Pro Tem

SECTION Y. THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

1- Shall be appointed by the Moderator when necessary and shall consist of no less than three members.

2- Shall receive and report on any requests of churches, new or old, desiring to be affiliated with the association.

3- Shall, upon request and approval of the Executive Board, investigate and report on the status of churches presently affiliated with the association when questions arise as to either doctrinal, or other practices, within a particular congregation which may affect the fellowship of the association. No church may be received into or rejected from the fellowship of the association without prior consideration

SECTION Z. THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

1- Shall be appointed by the Moderator when necessary and shall consist of no less than three members.

2- Shall study the needs of the association Constitution and make needed recommendations for revisions to the Annual Meeting of the association.

3- Shall serve as a clearing Committee for recommended changes to the constitution: but, at no time shall this be construed to mean that needed revisions cannot be brought to the floor by any messenger in The Annual Sessions of the association. The Committee has the freedom of time – not to exceed two (2) years – to present a recommended change, and is not bound to present changes brought to it by members.

4- Shall meet periodically, at the request of the Moderator or Director of Missions, to review the various procedures and practices of the association, and make regular reports to the Executive Board.

5- Shall give advance notice which is as far reaching and wide ranging as possible of any/all constitutional changes which are recommended. However, recommended revisions which are presented to the Executive Board no later than its September meeting shall be construed as “advance notice” which is to be given to the Annual Meeting of the association. by this Committee.

Article VIII – DUTIES OF CHURCHES

SECTION A. Churches represented in this association shall report to the association by completing the (ACP) Annual Church Profile and making every effort to meet the requested date.

SECTION B. It shall be the duty of each church represented in the association to pay a reasonable part in supporting the ministries of the association.

Article IX – THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall be composed of all elected officers of the association plus two (2) messengers from each cooperating church that is in fellowship with the association (as well as the Pastor of those cooperating churches, who shall have voting privileges as ex-officio representatives of their respective churches). All messengers from the churches shall be elected by the church of which they are members. They shall be elected to serve for one (1) year, and their names shall be reported to the association on the (ACP) Annual Church Profile. Changes in the names of messengers from the churches can be made by official church action and notification to the Executive Board, subject to the criteria given above.

The Executive Board shall be subject to the orders of the association; and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the association in either its Annual Meeting or Special Meetings.

The presence of elected Executive Board members shall constitute a quorum in conducting business. Regular meetings shall be held at a time, place, and date set by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board shall have the responsibility of the work of the association between Annual Sessions. The minutes of each meeting shall be presented to the association in each Annual Meeting.

The Executive Board shall not usurp the authority given by the Constitution or the association in session to any Committee, program body of personnel, including the DOM.

Article X – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may not be amended at any time until the amendment is read at an Executive Board meeting prior to the Annual Meeting, with the vote being taken in the Annual Meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present and voting is required to adopt any/all changes to this Constitution.

October 23, 2014

An Earlier edition of the constitution follows:

Article I – NAME

This Body shall be called The Big Emory Baptist Association.

Article II – PURPOSE

The Mission of the Big Emory Baptist Association is to assist Churches in fulfilling the Great Commission through Prayer, Evangelism, Discipleship, Ministry, Fellowship, and Worship.

Article III – POWERS

SECTION A. This Association shall have no ecclesiastical power or jurisdiction whatever over the churches represented in this body.

SECTION B. This Association shall have the power to provide rules for its own government and to determine the basis of representation in its body. ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER (Latest Edition) will be used as the parliamentary guide for all deliberations of the Association.

SECTION C. It shall also have power to seat by a majority vote messengers of affiliated churches whose practice and conduct are in keeping with the aims and objects of this body.

Article IV – REPRESENTATION

SECTION A. The Annual Session of this body shall be held on the fourth Thursday of October at a place and hour mutually agreed upon. The Moderator may call Special Meetings of the association by sending at least two weeks’ written notice to the churches, their pastors, and all Executive Board members. The letter must state the time, place, and purpose of the Special Meeting.

SECTION B. Any Baptist church whose practice, articles of faith, and policy are in accord with those of this association shall be entitled to representation in this body.

SECTION C. The basis of representation shall be two (2) messengers for every affiliated church plus one (1) additional messenger for every fifty (50) resident members or fractional part thereof, not to exceed ten (10) for any one (1) church. A quorum shall consist of those present from the cooperating churches at the Annual Meeting in order to transact business.

Article V – OFFICERS

The Officers of this body shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer; each of whom shall be elected annually. They shall assume their duties at the conclusion of the Association Annual Meeting. The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall serve no more than two (2) years in succession in their respective offices. The Director of Missions is an ex-officio officer of the association.

Article VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION A. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the Associational Annual Meeting, Special Meetings, and Executive Board meetings, to keep order, and to appoint special Teams as directed by the body.

SECTION B. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a record of the proceedings of The Association Annual Meeting, Special Meetings, and Executive Board Meetings, and to furnish the same to the Journal Team for publication.

SECTION C. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep all funds of the Association and disburse the same upon the order of the body.

SECTION D. It shall be the duty of the Director of Missions to lead the Association in accordance to the approved job description. Whenever there is a vacancy in the Director of Missions position, the Associational officers shall meet to recruit and nominate a search team to be approved by the Executive Board. The Director of Missions Search Team shall be responsible to recommend to the association an Interim Director of Missions (if needed) who shall be approved by the Executive Board. The search team shall seek out and recommend a suitable candidate to serve as Director of Missions. Election as Director of Missions requires a three-fourths vote of the association in its Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting of the Association called for this purpose.

Article VII – TEAMS AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS

All teams are to function during the entire associational year in the areas assigned to them either by their job description or by special assignments given them by the Executive Board at any time during the year

I. THE ASSOCIATION TEAMS:

1. Shall consist of the Trustee Team; Properties Team; Nominating Team; Administrative Team; Program Team; and the Church and Community Ministries Team. The Director of Missions and the Moderator; Assistant Moderator; Clerk and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of each Team with a voice and a vote.

2. Team leaders are responsible to secure for their team the number of team members necessary to accomplish the team's task.

3. Team Leaders shall be elected annually by the Messengers at the Association Meeting in October.

II. These Teams shall also consist of “subordinate Team Leaders” as follows:

a. Administrative Team (Association Moderator is Team Leader)

1) Budget and Finance Team

2) Personnel Team

3) Minister Assistance Team

4) Historical Team

5) Journal Team

b. Program Team (DOM is Team Leader)

1) Discipleship Team

2) Evangelism Team

3) Library Team

4) Music

5) Prayer

6) Seminary Extension Team

7) Sunday School

8) Vacation Bible School Team

9) Youth Evangelism Team

c. Church and Community Ministries Team (DOM is Team Leader)

1) Baptist Collegiate Ministry Team

2) Disaster Relief Team

3) Men's Ministry Team (including RA's and Challengers)

4) Missions Team

5) Rebuild Ministry Team

6) Storehouse Ministry Center Team

7) WMU Team

Teams:

- 1- Shall be responsible for developing and coordinating the basic ongoing programs of the association on both a short and long range basis.
- 2- Shall make assignments of program responsibilities to particular directors, groups, or teams, which shall report to the Executive Board on progress and development; and, through the Executive Board, to the Association.
- 3- The DOM and the Moderator, in conjunction or consultation with the team leaders, shall be responsible for planning the Program for the Annual Meeting of the Association.
- 4- The Moderator at times of need shall appoint the Constitution Team and the Credentials Team.

SECTION A. THE ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES

- 1- The title to all property owned by the association is vested in three (3) trustees who are elected by the association in its Annual Session. The definition of a trustee is:
 - 2- "...a person appointed...to execute a trust, one in whom an estate, interest, or power is vested...to administer or exercise it for the benefit or to the use of another. (He) is a person who holds the title and administers it for others' benefit."
- 3- The three (3) trustees for the association are entrusted with its property solely for its benefit. The transfer of the property of the association can be conveyed only by the trustees acting upon a motion duly made and adopted by the association or by the power delegated to its Executive Board.
- 4- The Trustees shall serve a three year term, with one Trustee rotating off each year.

SECTION B. THE PROPERTIES TEAM

- 1- Shall regularly inspect and give supervision to maintenance and upkeep of all properties owned by the association within prescribed budget guidelines.
- 2- Shall recommend to the Executive Board proposals for any major changes in structure, modernization of existing structures, or construction of additional facilities.
- 3- Shall have the responsibility for establishing guidelines for the use of, and changes in the use of, all properties owned by the Association.

SECTION C. THE NOMINATING TEAM

1- Shall present to the Executive Board and/or Annual Session of the association the names of persons committed to serve for the new associational year in any office necessary to the orderly function of the association.

2- Shall present to the Executive Board recommendations for filling any vacancies in standing Teams occurring during the year.

NOTE: The offices of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and employed personnel shall be excluded from the above guidelines.

3- Two members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for the Nominating Team shall be the responsibility of the Moderator and the DOM.

4- Shall consist of a six member team with two members rotating off every year (see #3 above). Each member will serve three full years, unless otherwise stated because of fulfilling an unexpired term.

Administrative Team

SECTION D. THE BUDGET AND FINANCE TEAM

1- Shall have the Association Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer as two (2) of its members.

2- Shall present a proposed annual budget as an item of information to the Executive Board, no later than the Executive Board meeting before the Annual Meeting. After the budget has been adopted by the association in its Annual Meeting, any changes which are proposed to the adopted budget shall first be referred to this team and any changes shall be recommended to the Executive Board for approval.

SECTION E. THE PERSONNEL TEAM

1- Shall serve as an advisory body to director of missions and as liaison between the Director of Missions and the Executive Board of the association.

2- Shall serve as an advisory body to the director of missions in giving supervision to all other personnel employed by the association.

3- Review annually the job performance of all Association employees and recommend proposed salaries to the Budget and Finance Team.

4- Shall have the responsibility for recommending employment of all personnel other than the Director of Missions.

SECTION F. THE MINISTERS ASSISTANCE TEAM

1- The Team shall have the responsibility of receiving and giving consideration to requests for assistance to any person who had been serving in a paid, church related ministry position, in a church that is related to the Big Emory Baptist Association, and who has experienced forced termination or resignation.

2- All requests for such assistance shall be directed to or referred to this Team.

3- The terminated person may be assisted with expenses to attend the Career Assessment Program at the LifeWay Christian Resources.

4- Funding for this assistance shall be through the association budget. Funding shall be cumulative with unused amounts being deposited in a savings account up to a maximum of \$6000. These funds shall be disbursed and accounted for through the normal financial processes of Big Emory Baptist Association.

SECTION G. THE HISTORICAL TEAM

1- Shall seek and maintain an updated historical record of the association.

2- Shall seek to secure annually from the individual churches information concerning events, activities, and programs occurring during the year which might be of joint interest to all the churches; and to include such in a report to the Annual Meeting.

3- The Team shall consist of the association administrative assistant, the director of missions, and the association clerk.

SECTION H. THE JOURNAL TEAM

1- Shall study the draft of the Minutes of the Annual Sessions as prepared by the clerk, and agree upon the accuracy of these Minutes.

2- Shall organize the Proceedings of the Annual Sessions into booklet form and cause them to be published in as timely and economical a fashion as possible.

3- Shall have the association clerk as a member. In case the assistant clerk is responsible for recording the minutes of the Annual Meeting, he/she shall serve in place of the clerk.

Program Teams

SECTION I. THE DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING TEAM

1- Shall offer Discipleship Training events, clinics, and opportunities in the Association in conjunction with the Churches.

2- Shall encourage Churches to be involved in Discipleship Training.

SECTION J. THE EVANGELISM TEAM

- 1- Shall plan and promote annual evangelism conferences and events for the Association.
- 2- Shall seek to provide encouragement and aid to undergird evangelism efforts in all the churches throughout the year

SECTION K. THE LIBRARY TEAM

- 1- Shall plan, implement, and promote the use of Church Media Libraries in the work of the Association and its individual Churches.
- 2- Shall offer assistance to Churches in organizing and operating Church Libraries and media resources.

SECTION L. THE MUSIC TEAM

- 1- Shall arrange for the provision of music at Associational functions according to the particular requirements of the function and/or the request of the organizing team of the meeting or the Moderator or Director of Missions.
- 2- Shall arrange for music for worship at the Annual Meeting of the Association

SECTION M. THE PRAYER TEAM

- 1 – Shall be elected by the Association at the annual meeting.
- 2 – Shall consist of the Team Leader, who will serve

a term of 3 years after which time a new Team Leader shall be elected, and the number of Team members deemed necessary for the team to accomplish its goals.
- 3 – The purpose of the Prayer Team shall be to meet regularly, encourage Churches association wide to pray specifically for issues brought to its attention, and to encourage a deeper prayer life for the members of our association

SECTION N. THE SEMINARY EXTENSION TEAM

- 1- Shall serve as coordinator for any program or activity involving the association and Seminary Extension of the SBC.
- 2- Shall plan, supervise, and promote any seminary extension program sponsored by the association.

SECTION O. THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAM

- 1- Shall offer clinics in the Association with the aim of improving Sunday School attendance.
- 2- Shall assist the Churches of the Association in promoting the evangelistic work of the Sunday School as the primary evangelistic tool of the Churches.

SECTION P. THE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TEAM

- 1- Shall support VBS by offering clinics and other appropriate activities.
- 2- Shall promote VBS in the Association and among the Churches of the Association, and shall plan, coordinate, and implement an annual VBS clinic in the Association.
- 3- Shall, at the conclusion of the VBS season, collect, and record information provided by the Churches in connection with their VBS attendance, offerings, and decisions.

SECTION Q. THE YOUTH EVANGELISM TEAM

- 1- Shall plan and promote the Annual Youth Evangelism Conference, and other events.
- 2- Shall be responsible for collecting and disbursing funds for the personalities and facilities of the Youth Evangelism Conference.

Church & Community Ministries Teams

SECTION R. THE BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY TEAM

- 1- Shall oversee the ministry of the BCM.
- 2- Shall promote BCM activities in the Association.
- 3- Shall encourage Churches to interact with and support College Students taking part in BCM ministries.
- 4- Shall encourage Churches to cooperate with BCM in outreach and evangelism to College Students.

SECTION S. THE DISASTER RELIEF TEAM

- 1- Shall support the work of the Association by answering requests for assistance during disasters as requested by local or other appropriate authorities.
- 2- Shall organize and promote local relief efforts as occasion arises.
- 3- Shall organize and promote training events.

SECTION T. THE MEN'S MINISTRY TEAM

- 1- Shall be responsible for promoting the Men's Ministry organizations including Royal Ambassadors and Challengers.
- 2- Shall promote, encourage, and assist in the development of Men's Ministries in the Churches of the Association.
- 3- Shall provide ministry training and service opportunities and shall publicize said activities.

SECTION U. THE MISSIONS TEAM

- 1- Shall call churches to be on mission.
- 2- Provide resources and services to churches and leaders.
- 3- Train, develop, and encourage church and ASSOCIATION WORKERS.
- 4- Provide opportunities for growing together in missions, ministry, growth and evangelism.
- 5- Establish and maintain appropriate communications and relationships with the community and the denomination.

SECTION V. THE REBUILD MINISTRY TEAM

1. Shall oversee requests for home repairs.
2. Shall be responsible for disbursing funds given for the ministry, and
3. Shall encourage others to be involved in this ministry.

SECTION W. THE STOREHOUSE MINISTRY TEAM

- 1- Shall oversee the work of the Storehouse Ministry and its administration.
- 2- Shall assist in the promotion and development of Church resources for the advancement of the ministry of the Storehouse.
- 3- Shall encourage Church participation in the work of the Ministry by encouraging Churches to participate monetarily and with volunteer personnel.

SECTION X. THE WMU TEAM

1- Shall be responsible for the ministries of the WMU, including Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Children in Action, Acteens, and Youth on Mission.

2- Shall promote WMU activities including The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, WMU Scholarships, and The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in the Churches of the Association.

3- Shall assist Churches with organizing and promoting WMU activities in their own area.

Teams Pro Tem

SECTION Y. THE CREDENTIALS TEAM

1- Shall be appointed by the Moderator when necessary and shall consist of no less than three members.

2- Shall receive and report on any requests of churches, new or old, desiring to be affiliated with the association.

3- Shall, upon request and approval of the Executive Board, investigate and report on the status of churches presently affiliated with the association when questions arise as to either doctrinal, or other practices, within a particular congregation which may affect the fellowship of the association. No church may be received into or rejected from the fellowship of the association without prior consideration

SECTION Z. THE CONSTITUTION TEAM

1- Shall be appointed by the Moderator when necessary and shall consist of no less than three members.

2- Shall study the needs of the association Constitution and make needed recommendations for revisions to the Annual Meeting of the association.

3- Shall serve as a clearing Team for recommended changes to the constitution: but, at no time shall this be construed to mean that needed revisions cannot be brought to the floor by any messenger in The Annual Sessions of the association. The Team has the freedom of time – not to exceed two (2) years – to present a recommended change, and is not bound to present changes brought to it by members.

4- Shall meet periodically, at the request of the Moderator or Director of Missions, to review the various procedures and practices of the association, and make regular reports to the Executive Board.

5- Shall give advance notice which is as far reaching and wide ranging as possible of any/all constitutional changes which are recommended. However, recommended revisions which are presented to the Executive Board no later than its September meeting shall be construed as “advance notice” which is to be given to the Annual Meeting of the association. by this Team.

Article VIII – DUTIES OF CHURCHES

SECTION A. Churches represented in this association shall report to the association by completing the (ACP) Annual Church Profile and making every effort to meet the requested date.

SECTION B. It shall be the duty of each church represented in the association to pay a reasonable part in supporting the ministries of the association.

Article IX – THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall be composed of all elected officers of the association plus two (2) messengers from each cooperating church that is in fellowship with the association (as well as the Pastor of those cooperating churches, who shall have voting privileges as ex-officio representatives of their respective churches). All messengers from the churches shall be elected by the church of which they are members. They shall be elected to serve for one (1) year, and their names shall be reported to the association on the (ACP) Annual Church Profile. Changes in the names of messengers from the churches can be made by official church action and notification to the Executive Board, subject to the criteria given above.

The Executive Board shall be subject to the orders of the association; and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the association in either its Annual Meeting or Special Meetings.

The presence of elected Executive Board members shall constitute a quorum in conducting business. Regular meetings shall be held at a time, place, and date set by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board shall have the responsibility of the work of the association between Annual Sessions. The minutes of each meeting shall be presented to the association in each Annual Meeting.

The Executive Board shall not usurp the authority given by the Constitution or the association in session to any Team, program body of personnel, including the DOM.

Article X – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may not be amended at any time until the amendment is read at an Executive Board meeting prior to the Annual Meeting, with the vote being taken in the Annual Meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present and voting is required to adopt any/all changes to this Constitution.

Updated: October 16, 2008