

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME:

The name of this body is NORTH ROANOKE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Association shall be to promote Christian fellowship and cooperation among affiliated churches as we seek to establish a culture of trust and a unified witness for the glory of God. This association will uphold the doctrines and principles of our Baptist faith and encourage the churches to be loyal to and practice these doctrines and principles; and promote the preaching and teaching of God's Word. This association will seek to assist every affiliated church in its endeavor to be a healthy, disciple-making congregation which is seeking to fulfill its God-given vision to advance the work of the kingdom. This association will strive to establish a positive ministry environment in which churches can be serving on mission together within the local community and to the ends of the earth. This association will work in cooperation with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Southern Baptist Convention and encourage churches to support mission work through the Cooperative Program.

Section 1. Values

We value the glory of God in all things through: (1) Adherence to and belief in the Bible as the Word of God and our source for doctrine and practice; (2) Cooperation that accomplishes more together with each member church bringing her uniqueness and giftedness; (3) Gospel mission that meets needs, makes disciples, and evangelizes the lost; (4) Prayer which acknowledges our dependence on God.

Section 2. Vision Statement

We long to see God glorified through kingdom-focused churches working together, under God's anointing, toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Section 3. Mission Statement

The Association exists to assist churches in fulfilling the Great Commission for the glory of God.

ARTICLE III. AUTHORITY:

The Association has full authority for carrying on its work to fulfill provisions of these bylaws including the right to receive and disburse funds, own property, and carry on any other activities necessary for implementation of its purpose.

The Association has no authority over any member church or the right to interfere with the rights and autonomy of the member churches, recognizing that each member church is sovereign and independent in all its matters. Therefore, the Association is not responsible for individual decisions of its member churches. The basis for operation in the Association is in the spirit of voluntary cooperation in work and fellowship.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING:

Section 1. Members

The membership of the Association shall consist of those churches (a) that have been identified as members as of the adoption of the Articles, these bylaws, and any amendment of these bylaws, having satisfied the requirements for membership at such times, and (b) churches that meet the requirements of Article V, Section 1.

Section 2. Voting

The Association shall receive votes on issues before the membership through messengers. Messengers shall consist of (a) persons who are members of the member churches, and who shall be chosen to serve as such by the member churches, (b) the pastor of each member church, (c) the duly elected officers of the association as identified in Article VI, (d) those persons, in addition to the Moderator and Vice-Moderator, serving on the Leadership Team as identified in Article IX, Section 2. Each messenger shall be entitled to one vote on any issue for which a vote is called. Each member church shall be allowed to choose one messenger, and one additional messenger for each one hundred resident members of said member church and any fraction thereof, up to a maximum of seven (7) messengers for any member church. Votes may be taken by such means as are determined by the moderator at his discretion.

ARTICLE V. MEMBER CHURCHES:

Section 1. Membership Receiving

Autonomous Baptist churches within the geographical area of the North Roanoke Baptist Association which request membership in the Association shall have their credentials examined by the Leadership Team. Credentials to be presented are:

1. **Organizational:** The church requesting membership shall have a written constitution or foundational governing document that establishes the legal form of the church, and sets forth its means of governance and final authority regarding the operation and management of the affairs of said church. The church should have an annual budget listing the general items of expenditures to be met by the church and maintain a record of giving by its members and others. The church should give a financial statement showing solvency of the church. The statement should be in sufficient detail to clearly define the financial resources and obligations that are upon the church.
2. **Statement of Faith:** The church requesting membership should have adopted a statement of faith expressing the conviction concerning the basic affirmation of Christian faith. While it should be left entirely to the individual church to adopt or even write its own statement of faith, the Association would commend for their study such works as the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.
3. **Denominational Cooperation:** The church should indicate its wholehearted desire to partner with the Association, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the Southern Baptist Convention together on mission. This desire may be indicated in the church's statement of faith, organizational documentation (e.g., by-laws or articles of incorporation) or record of official church action. Additionally, the budget of the church should indicate support of both North Roanoke Baptist Associational missions and the Cooperative Program.
4. **Membership Approval:** Churches requesting membership will have given evidence of the aforementioned credentials to the Leadership Team, as well as present a completed Annual Church Profile and a financial contribution to the work of the Association by the Meeting in which they will be voted on. As the church gives evidence of being in sympathy and in cooperation with the purposes and programs of the Association it may be received as a cooperating member upon recommendation of the Leadership Team, elected by a two-thirds vote of the messengers at a duly convened meeting of the North Roanoke Baptist Association.

Section 2. Membership Maintenance

Within twelve months, member churches must: Complete an Annual Church Profile; Contribute financially to the work of the Association; Have representation at Annual Meeting(s). Failure to meet these minimum requirements will result in a forfeiture of voting privileges at the discretion of the Leadership Team until these criteria are met. The Leadership Team will seek to assist churches in complying with these requirements.

Section 3. Membership Withdrawal

A member church may withdraw its membership in the Association at any time by written notification to any officer of the Association of church withdrawal, stating in such notification that the withdrawal was authorized by all action required by the governing documents of the member church.

Section 4. Membership Disassociation

The Association may revoke the membership of a member church in the event that its course of conduct and/or practice is uncooperative or inconsistent with the mission and values of the Association. Should this process become necessary, it shall be conducted under the guidance of the Leadership Team in a spirit love and grace (Matthew 18:15-20). A revocation of membership shall require a recommendation by the Leadership Team, and a two-thirds vote of the messengers.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS:

The officers of the Association shall be the Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer. These officers shall be elected in the Fall Meeting, following the report of the Leadership Enlistment Sub-Team. The officers will take office at the close of the Fall Meeting.

- A. **MODERATOR:** The Moderator shall preside at all meetings of the Association. He shall promote fellowship within the Association. He may serve up to two one year terms.
- B. **VICE MODERATOR:** The Vice Moderator shall preside at meetings of the Association when the Moderator is absent or when asked to do so by the Moderator. He may serve up to two one year terms.
- C. **CLERK:** The Clerk shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Association, and shall make this information available upon request. There is no limit on tenure in this responsibility.
- D. **TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds of the Association, shall disburse them according to order and present a written report to the Association. Reports shall also be made to the Leadership Team at each regularly scheduled meeting. There is no limit on tenure in this responsibility.

ARTICLE VII. PROCEDURE:

The business of the Association shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, where not otherwise provided by these bylaws. Any action by the members shall be taken by a vote of the messengers at a duly convened and properly noticed meeting where a quorum is present. Unless otherwise provided in these bylaws, the vote of a majority of messengers at a meeting where a quorum is present shall be sufficient. A quorum shall be present when not less than one-fourth of the member churches are represented by one or more messengers at a meeting. All member churches are encouraged to attend the annual meeting(s).

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS:

There shall be a Fall Meeting during the month of September and a Spring Meeting during the months of March or April as determined by the Leadership Team. Special or called meetings of the Association may be held when deemed appropriate by the Officers of the Association. The Fall Meeting shall be considered the "Annual Meeting." All regular and called meetings shall require a minimum of two weeks' notice to member churches.

ARTICLE IX. ASSOCIATIONAL LEADERSHIP:

Section 1. The Leadership Team

The Leadership Team shall serve whenever appropriate or necessary as the Board of Directors of the corporation as set forth in the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act subject to the limitations of their powers as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of this Association.

Section 2. Leadership Team Members

The Leadership Team shall consist of the Director of Missions, Moderator, Vice Moderator, the team leaders from each of the four standing teams of the Association (Church Life Team, Community Ministry Team, Impacting Lostness Team, Prayer Team), Sub-team leaders as described in Article X, Section 2, A.a-d, and two members at large. Persons serving on the Leadership Team (other than Officers) shall be nominated by the Leadership Enlistment Sub-Team, and elected by a majority vote of the messengers at the Fall Meeting. All members of the Leadership Team shall serve based on the tenure of the elected position held with the exception of the two members at large. The two members at large shall be nominated by the Enlistment Sub-Team. They shall serve a three-year term and will be ineligible for re-election for a period of one year.

Section 3. Leadership Team Duties

The Leadership Team will give oversight to the Ministry Teams and shall coordinate the work of the Association under the direction of the messengers. The Leadership Team may bring recommendations and will give regular ministry reports to the messengers in session. The Leadership Team shall perform such other tasks and make such recommendations to the Association, the member churches, and the messengers as set forth in these bylaws.

ARTICLE X. STANDING MINISTRY TEAMS:

The members of the Standing Ministry Teams shall be nominated by the Leadership Enlistment Sub-Team, and elected by a majority vote of the messengers.

- A. **Leadership Sub-Teams:** The leadership sub-teams shall consist of the following teams as described in a-d. Each sub-team shall consist of a minimum of three members who shall serve a three year rotating term. Members rotating off of the Leadership sub-teams will be ineligible for re-election for a period of one year.
- a. Personnel Sub-Team: Will handle all matters relating to Associational Staff and will make recommendations to the messengers in session for any actions relating to Staff. In the event the Personnel Sub-Team serves as a search committee to recommend persons for staff positions, the Personnel Sub-Team shall be augmented by the team leader of Standing Ministry Teams B-E of Article X.
 - b. Financial Sub-Team: Will handle all matters relating to finances and will recommend to the messengers in session an annual budget. The Treasurer will be an ex-officio member of the Financial Sub-Team.
 - c. Assets Sub-Team: Will handle all issues related to the assets of the Association such as the building, properties and contents, etc.
 - d. Enlistment Sub-Team: Will be responsible for seeking, recruiting, and recommending appropriate leaders for the various positions of service in the association for approval by the messengers in session.
- B. **Church Life Team:** The Church Life Team will be comprised of a minimum of three persons demonstrating a passion and giftedness in the area of assisting churches to be healthy and in pursuit of their God-given vision. The Church Life Team's mission is intentionally assisting churches toward developing and following God's vision and mission. In addition, this team will assist churches with creative, customized development of leaders to enable church health and vitality.
- C. **Impacting Lostness Team:** The Impacting Lostness Team will be comprised of a minimum of three persons demonstrating a passion and giftedness in the area of evangelism development and church planting. The Impacting Lostness Team's mission is to assist churches to plant relevant, reproducing churches and to assist existing churches to be engaged in evangelistic efforts both locally and around the world (Acts 1:8).
- D. **Community Ministries Team:** The Community Ministries Team will be comprised of a minimum of three persons demonstrating a passion and giftedness in the area of recognizing and developing methods of ministry to meet human needs in the local community. The Community Ministries Team's mission is to assist churches to explore and engage in ministry and mission to the community and to assist churches to network with other churches for the outward expression of the gospel.

E. **Prayer Team:** The Prayer Team will be comprised of a minimum of three persons demonstrating a passion and giftedness in the area of prayer. The team will lead in maintaining ongoing prayer for the churches and members of the churches in the specific area of kingdom needs. The team will engage in and also encourage people to pray for renewal and revival and for the impacting of Lostness in Eastern North Carolina. The Prayer Team will also encourage and enable the development of prayer ministries in all North Roanoke Baptist Association churches.

Members of the Standing Ministry Teams B-E shall serve three year terms and may serve two consecutive terms. Team members rotating off after serving two consecutive terms will be ineligible for re-election for a period of one year.

Standing Ministry Teams may request assistance from the Leadership Team in matters they consider appropriate or necessary. For special projects, Ministry Teams may enlist additional volunteers.

ARTICLE XI. PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Moderator, at his discretion, may appoint a Parliamentarian, which is not an elected office and shall serve at the pleasure of the Moderator. The principal duty of the Parliamentarian is to advise the Moderator.

ARTICLE XII. VISITORS

At the discretion of the Moderator, fraternal nonvoting visitors, including but not limited to representatives from church seeking membership, may be allowed to participate in discussions only with regard to matters of the Association.

ARTICLE XIII. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS:

The Woman's Missionary Union is an autonomous entity that exists as a partner to the North Roanoke Baptist Association for the purpose of challenging, preparing and equipping Christian believers to be radically involved in carrying out the Great Commission through promoting missions education, leading churches to pray for missions causes and involving churches in mission/ministry activities.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS:

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote. Proposed amendments shall be made available at least thirty days in advance. All amendments shall be effective at the close of the meeting at which they are adopted. No resolution adopted by the Association shall become part of these bylaws.

*Unanimously approved during the Annual Meeting on Oct. 4, 2016

**Revised during the Association Fall Meeting on Oct. 28, 2021

