

**SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST CONVENTION**  
**BYLAWS**  
**PART II**

**ARTICLE I**  
**Convention Procedure**

**A. Order of Business**

1. Time shall be provided throughout the Convention for devotional exercises.
2. As the first order of business the Convention shall organize itself by enrolling messengers upon recommendation of the Enrollment and Credentials Committee.
3. New associations shall be recognized upon recommendation of the Executive Board.
4. Periods of time during the Convention shall be provided for the introduction of all matters requiring a vote not scheduled on the agenda. Such matters shall have time for consideration scheduled by the Order of Business Committee. The time set for consideration shall be announced from the floor of the Convention and action taken thereon at a subsequent meeting during that session of the Convention unless the Convention gives its consent by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the messengers present and voting for immediate consideration.
5. Reports from the South Carolina Baptist Convention Ministry Partners (institutions) shall be provided.

**B. Minutes**

1. Minutes of Convention proceedings shall be kept by the Recording Secretary and made available at the request of the Convention.
2. The South Carolina Baptist Convention Annual shall include the minutes of the Convention proceedings.
3. Any requests made regarding the dedication of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Annual in memory or in honor of someone shall be brought to the Executive Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention no later than October 1. The Executive Board shall have the responsibility of presenting to the convention any requests for dedication of the Annual as it may deem wise. Exceptions may be made in the case of an emergency or by a two-thirds vote of the convention messengers present and voting.

**C. Convention Bulletin**

A Convention bulletin shall be provided for messengers during each session of the Convention.

**D. Parliamentarian**

The President shall appoint two Convention Parliamentarians, whose duties shall be those

described in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

#### E. Elections

1. The President-Elect, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Registration Secretary shall be elected at the second session of the annual Convention. Election of officers shall proceed in order without waiting for report of tellers from one office before making nomination for the next office. The President each year shall be the President-Elect who was in office immediately before the election of officers; provided, however, that in the event the office of the President-Elect has been vacated prior to the election of officers, a President shall be elected at the time provided in this paragraph and prior to the election of the other officers.

2. Election shall be by ballot following nomination from the floor. A written ballot may be waived in the event of only one nominee. In the event no one receives a majority of votes cast, a second ballot shall be taken on the two (2) nominees receiving the highest number of votes. A second ballot shall become the next order of business. The person receiving the second highest number of votes in one election may not be elected to another office without regular nomination and ballot for that office.

#### F. Voting Procedures

In order to cast a ballot, a messenger must be present in the meeting room(s) at the time a ballot is taken. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

#### G. Resolutions

1. The parliamentary authority adopted by this Convention shall be used to differentiate between a motion and a resolution.

2. All resolutions to be offered to the Convention shall be submitted to the Committee on Resolutions in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention. Individuals desiring to speak to a resolution shall have the right to appear before the Committee.

3. Exceptions may be made in the case of emergency resolutions dealing with developments such as national disasters or public tragedies. The rules may be suspended and a resolution considered if the Convention directs by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the messengers present and voting. Exceptions must be introduced during the first session of the Convention and made available to messengers in print prior to voting on the resolution.

4. The Committee on Resolutions shall report the title, name of presenter, and disposition of every resolution received. The report of the Committee on Resolutions shall be printed in the "Convention Bulletin" prior to the time of its first report.

#### H. Nominations

Whenever nominations are made by committees, other individuals may be nominated from the floor, with the exception of nominations for institutional trusteeships, which shall be made

solely by the Nominations Committee according to the procedures set forth in Article III (C)(4)(d) below.

#### I. Quorum

Twenty-five (25) percent of the registered messengers shall constitute a quorum.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **Committee on Committees**

A. The President, in consultation with the Vice Presidents and Secretaries, shall appoint at each Convention fifteen (15) persons, each from different associations, to act as a Committee on Committees to function from the close of the annual session in which they are appointed through the next annual session. The fifteen (15) persons shall be made up of no less than one (1) from churches with 500 in worship or more, no less than three (3) persons from churches with 200 – 499 in worship, no less than three (3) from churches with less than 200 in worship, and no less than three (3) from churches that are new works (church plants), which have been in existence one (1) to five (5) years. Worship attendance shall be based on the latest published Annual Church Profile Report. The President is strongly encouraged to seek people who accurately reflect the ethnic diversity of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

B. The duty of the Committee on Committees shall be to nominate at the next Convention the Standing Committees and, unless otherwise provided for, any special committees authorized by the Convention. At least thirty (30) days prior to the annual session of the Convention, the names of those nominated shall be released to the Baptist Courier for publication in one (1) of the following three (3) ways: (i) in a print edition; (ii) in an electronic edition; or (iii) on its web site. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year, with the first meeting for orientation purposes. The Committee shall organize its work and seek suggestions from Baptist individuals and churches in such ways, including the use of the Baptist Courier, as to provide the various committees with membership which is best suited to represent the Convention in providing the type of leadership required and meeting the special needs of each standing committee.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Standing Committees**

Unless otherwise specified, all terms on Standing Committees shall be for one (1) year, and no person shall serve two (2) consecutive terms on the same committee. However, for committees with specified terms of more than one (1) year, a person first elected to fill less than one-half (1/2) of an unexpired term may be re-elected to a full term without waiting a year. No person shall serve on more than one standing committee at the same time by election or appointment. Terms commence January 1 following election by the Convention. If a member of a standing committee has been absent for three consecutive meetings of the committee, the member shall

be deemed to have resigned, and the position to be declared vacant. The chairman of the standing committee shall notify the committee member that the position is declared vacant, and notify the Committee on Committees for a new member to be nominated to the Convention to serve on the standing committee.

A person must serve at least one year on a standing committee before being elected as its chairperson with the exception of one-year committees.

There shall be the following Standing Committees:

A. Order of Business

1. This committee shall be composed of seven (7) members, one (1) of whom shall be the President of the Convention and six (6) other members, two (2) of whom shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years.

2. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to formulate the agenda for the annual Convention and submit it to the Convention for approval at the opening meeting. It shall also schedule the time for consideration of all matters of business not scheduled on the agenda unless the Convention directs immediate consideration as outlined above in Article I.

3. This committee shall also recommend the time and place for convention sessions three (3) years in advance. It shall also recommend the Convention preacher and alternate preacher for the next Convention.

B. Enrollment and Credentials

1. This committee shall be composed of seven (7) members, one (1) of whom shall be the Registration Secretary of the Convention.

2. This committee shall be available at all times at the Convention to address any problems that arise concerning the seating of messengers. The decision of this committee may be appealed to the Convention by any person whose eligibility to be seated as a messenger is questioned.

C. Nominations

1. This committee shall be composed of one (1) member from the area of each association. The committee shall be divided into two groupings: one group comprised of church employees, and one group comprised of others. No more than eighty (80) percent of the committee shall be drawn from either grouping. A member shall serve a term of three (3) years. The terms of approximately one-third (1/3) of the members shall expire annually. A member who moves church membership from the area of one association to the area of another association within the state shall remain on the committee until the next annual session of the Convention. A member who moves church membership from the state shall, thereby, terminate membership on the committee. Vacancies occurring on this committee shall be filled by action of the

Convention at its next annual session. No member of this committee may serve or be nominated as a member of the Executive Board or a board of trustees of any institution of the Convention while serving on the Committee on Nominations.

2. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to nominate members of the Executive Board and boards of trustees of institutions of the Convention. The committee shall organize its work and seek suggestions from Baptist individuals, churches, and chief executive officers, and trustee chairpersons of institutions in such ways, including the use of the Baptist Courier, as to provide the various boards with membership which is best suited to represent the Convention in providing the type of leadership required and meeting the special needs of institutions. The committee shall endeavor to provide that representation from every segment of Baptist constituency is afforded participation in Convention life. The committee should seek people who accurately reflect the ethnic diversity of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

3. Thirty (30) days prior to the annual session of the Convention the names of those nominated and of those the Executive Board will recommend for removal shall be released to the Baptist Courier for publication in one (1) of the following three (3) ways: (i) in a print edition; (ii) in an electronic edition; or (iii) on its web site.

4. a. Nominations Committee Process. The first annual meeting of the Nominations Committee shall be given to a thorough orientation process. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall be responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring the orientation efforts.

A member shall have served at least one year in the current term to be eligible to serve as chair of the committee.

The Nominations Committee shall strive to consider nominees from as many different churches in various parts of the state as possible. Deliberations by the committee on prospective nominees to serve on boards shall be substantive in nature. Records of the Nominations Committee meetings shall be kept in the office of the Executive Director-Treasurer.

b. Qualifications of Prospective Trustees. The Nominations Committee shall consider the criteria developed by the respective institutions of the Convention in making nominations for trustees to serve those institutions. The criteria shall not be inconsistent with existing requirements in the Convention Bylaws and the Expectations of Prospective Trustees and Executive Board Members.

c. Expectations of Prospective Trustees and Executive Board Members. Written expectations for the respective positions of service shall be submitted to prospective candidates considered by the Nominations Committee. All prospective candidates must commit in writing to these expectations before they are approved by the Nominations Committee for presentation to the Convention for election. These expectations are that the nominee and the nominee's Southern Baptist Convention Church of membership must: 1.) affirm and reflect in practice the vision and mission of the South Carolina Baptist Convention; 2.) affirm and reflect in practice the *Baptist Faith & Message 2000*; and 3.) affirm and reflect in practice sacrificial support for Great Commission giving, including the Cooperative Program.

d. Special Procedures for Institutional Trustee Nominations. The following procedures

shall be followed in electing institutional trustees.

The Nominations Committee shall be subdivided into seven subcommittees – one for each institution. A committee member may serve on no more than two subcommittees.

Each subcommittee shall, together with the CEO of its designated institution, select the nominees for the offices of trustee of the designated institution, which nominees shall have affirmed the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. The agreement of both the subcommittee and the CEO of the designated institution shall be required to advance a nomination to the full Nominations Committee no less than two (2) weeks prior to the full Nominations Committee meeting. Only one nomination shall be advanced for each trusteeship.

The full Nominations Committee shall separately consider each nomination advanced by the subcommittees. The committee shall vote whether to advance each nomination to the Convention, which shall require a majority vote. If a nomination does not receive the required votes for advancement to the Convention, such nominee shall not be eligible for renomination to the trusteeship then under consideration, and the process described in subpart (ii) above shall be repeated until the Nominations Committee has voted to advance a nominee to the Convention for each trusteeship to be filled.

The full Convention, in session, shall separately consider each nomination advanced by the Nominations Committee. The Convention shall vote whether to confirm each nomination, which shall require a majority vote. If a nomination does not receive the required votes for confirmation, the process shall proceed in accordance with subpart (vi) below.

No person shall be eligible for nomination or appointment to an institutional trusteeship whose previous nomination to any institutional trusteeship failed to receive the votes necessary for confirmation by the Convention in session during its current or most recent annual meeting.

If a nominee for an institutional trusteeship is not confirmed by the Convention in session and the Executive Board, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, certifies that there is a critical need to fill the vacant trusteeship before the next annual meeting of the full Convention, the Executive Board shall require subparts (ii) and (iii) to be repeated, and shall, subject to subpart (v) above, have the full authority of the Convention to confirm, by majority vote, the nominee advanced by the Nominations Committee.

#### D. Resolutions

1. This committee shall be composed of seven (7) members.
2. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to receive written resolutions and review, comment on, draft, and recommend to the Convention any memorials or resolutions it may deem wise. The procedure for receiving/reporting resolutions is given in Bylaws Part II, Article I, G. Resolutions.

#### E. Christian Life and Public Affairs

1. This committee shall be composed of ten (10) members, two (2) to be elected each year to serve for five (5) years.
2. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to study moral, social and cultural conditions of society and bring reports and recommendations to the Convention as it may deem advisable. It shall report actions of the Convention in the realm of Christian life and public affairs to the public and seek to assist churches and associations in educational programs to inform Baptists on moral issues and Christian citizenship responsibilities.

#### F. Bylaws

1. This committee shall be composed of nine (9) members, three (3) to be elected each year to serve for three (3) years.
2. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to review periodically the Convention's procedures, to study matters concerning the corporation's Articles of Incorporation (charter) and these Bylaws, Part 1 and Part 2, and to report its findings and/or recommendations to the Convention.

#### G. History

1. This committee shall be composed of six (6) members, two (2) to be elected each year to serve for three (3) years.
2. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to:
  - a. provide general oversight for the S.C. Baptist Convention Historical Room and archives room located in the S.C. Baptist Convention Building;
  - b. maintain contact with the curator of the S.C. Baptist Historical Collection housed at Furman University;
  - c. inform S.C. Baptists of their Southern Baptist heritage in various ways including an annual report to the Convention;
  - d. encourage churches to maintain their church histories;
  - e. develop appropriate recognition of the Convention's anniversaries in 25 year increments; and
  - f. relate to the S.C. Baptist Historical Society on behalf of the S.C. Baptist Convention as needed.

### **ARTICLE IV**

### **Amendments**

Part 2 of these Bylaws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the messengers present and voting at any meeting of the Convention, provided that:

- A. an amendment shall have been submitted in writing during the first session, and
- B. no amendment may be considered after the second session of the Convention, and
- C. an amendment shall have been printed in the “Convention Bulletin” or made available to the messengers in print prior to voting, and
- D. an amendment shall have been submitted to the Baptist Courier for publication in one (1) of the following three (3) ways: (i) in a print edition; (ii) in an electronic edition; or (iii) on its web site and to the Bylaws Committee and to the Executive Board not less than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the session.

(Bylaws Part II last amended November 2020)