

I. FULL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Process for Recognition of Churches: Any church desiring affiliation with the Association shall present, at least sixty (60) days prior to the date for consideration, a letter of petition to the Administrative Leadership Council providing the following information:

- A. A brief history of its organization. To be accepted as a member of the Mid-South Baptist Association, a church must be officially aligned with no denominational body other than the Southern Baptist Convention and a Southern Baptist State Convention. Churches aligned with denominational bodies other than the Southern Baptist Convention and a Southern Baptist State Convention are welcome to participate in any Mid-South Baptist Association programs or ministries, other than financial assistance programs, that may be helpful to them.
- B. Evidence of cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention and statement of intention of cooperation with the Mid-South Baptist Association through financial contributions.
- C. A statement indicating acceptance of Articles of Faith which demonstrate theological harmony with the most recently adopted *Baptist Faith and Message*.
- D. A brief record of the achievements of the church to the date of petition. The Administrative Leadership Council shall investigate the petitioning church and shall bring its recommendation as provided in the *Bylaws* to the Executive Board at a scheduled quarterly meeting. The approval of a two-thirds majority of those representatives present and voting shall be required for the admittance of a church into the Association.

Section 2. Process for Addressing Non-Participation: In the event that a church holding full membership fails to participate in the programs of the Association, and fails to submit annual church reports, the church shall be sent a letter of concern by the Associational Clerk and shall also be contacted personally by the Executive Director of Missions of the Association. If a church does not respond during the first Associational year after initial contact, the Moderator shall send a letter of concern and also the Moderator, Vice-Moderator and the Executive Director of Missions will personally counsel with the church. If the church has not responded by the end of the second Associational year, the church will no longer be recognized as holding full membership, but Associate Member status.

Section 3: Process for Dismissal/Removal of Membership: The Association reserves the right to withdraw membership from any church or mission that ceases to be in conformity with the doctrine, policy and practice of the Association, as expressed in the most recently adopted *Baptist Faith and Message*, and the *Constitution* and *Bylaws* of the Association. Such action is to be taken with care and concern for both the Association and the church. The following procedure will be followed:

- A. When a concern with a church is made known, the Administrative Leadership Council will ascertain the facts of the matter.
- B. Should the Administrative Leadership Council find an area of concern, they will report such to the Executive Board and will seek to work with the church to reconcile the problem.

- C. Should reconciliation fail, the Administrative Leadership Council may bring to the Executive Board a recommendation that the church be removed from the membership rolls.
- D. A paper ballot will be cast, with a two-thirds vote of those present and voting required to remove a church.
- E. If the vote is to remove the church, the moderator will notify the church of the action of the Association by letter. All privileges of membership will be withdrawn as of the date and time of the vote.
- F. If a church removed from membership in the Association shall desire reinstatement of membership, the church shall petition the Association for membership in accordance with qualifications and processes stipulated in the *Constitution* and *Bylaws* of the Association.