

Williamson Baptist Association
CONSTITUTION
 (Revised May 25, 2023)

ARTICLE I – NAME

The legal name of this non-profit Christian organization shall be Williamson Baptist Association (WBA).

**ARTICLE II – PURPOSE, MISSION, VISION and
CORE VALUES**

Purpose:

To be a Christ centered network committed to the Glory of God, Leadership of the Holy Spirit and Work of Jesus Christ.

Mission:

Your Partner in Ministry

Vision:

Vibrant Churches with Healthy Servant Leaders
 Impacting the World for Jesus Christ.

Core Values:

- Collaborative Community
- Diversity
- Innovative Thinking
- Servant Leadership

ARTICLE III – PARTNERSHIP

Section 1

A partner is defined as a Christ-honoring individual, church or organization. While the roots and heritage of this organization's foundation has been and will remain true to the freedoms found in the Baptist Distinctive, request to become a Partner is open to all Christian people, churches and organizations.

Section 2

Partners will be supportive of the mission, vision and core values as identified by this Constitution. Except in rare cases for known reasons and for reasonable lengths of time, each partner shall contribute financially to this partnership on a regular and consistent basis.

Section 3

The Partners shall be in harmony with and affirm the following confession of faith:

God

There is one and only one living and true God. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

God the Father

God as Father reigns with loving providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace.

God the Son

Christ is the only eternal Son of God, fully divine. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience and sinless life. In His substitutionary death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of humanity from sin. He arose from the dead, ascended to the right hand of the Father and is coming again.

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He exalts Christ. He convicts humanity of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He enlightens, enables and empowers the believer and the church in transformation, worship, evangelism, and service.

The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to humanity. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.

Man and Woman

Man and Woman is the special creation of God, in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. However, humanity sinned and lives in a fallen state. As a result, they are separated from God and need spiritual salvation.

Article III - Section 3 cont.**Salvation**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person, and is offered freely to all who repent of their sin and place their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, by grace through faith and not good works. Heaven (with God) and Hell (Separation from God) are eternal destinations. By His own blood sacrifice on the cross and resurrection, Jesus Christ obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel. In addition, the universal Church is the body of Christ, made up of all believers in Jesus Christ from all ages.

Marriage

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Marriage is a picture of the relationship between Jesus Christ, the Groom, with His Bride, the Church. God designed sexual intimacy exclusively for a marriage relationship between a man and a woman, and Scripture does not condone it in any other context.

Sanctity of Human Life

All human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally-challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are, therefore, called to defend, protect, and value all human life.

Section 4

Partners, when duly assembled, shall be the sole judge regarding adding new partners upon the recommendation of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT). It claims as inherent and indispensable the power to accept or reject any request for partnership. Article V, Section 4

Section 5

In justice and propriety, Partners when duly assembled, claim the power to withdraw partnership from any partners, upon the recommendation of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), that are not in harmony with Article III, sections 1-3 of this constitution. This right shall be recognized as inherent and indispensable.

Approved 5/25/2023

ARTICLE IV – LEADERSHIP/OPERATIONS**Section 1**

Williamson Baptist Association shall employ a Director who shall lead out and direct the strategy and operations of this organization within the boundaries of this Constitution and other policies* as approved by the Executive Leadership Team. (ELT)

Section 2

The Director shall hire other employees and/or enlist volunteers as deemed necessary and within budget allocations for total personnel costs. The Director shall be responsible for maintaining job descriptions, organizational charts and keeping the ELT informed of staffing changes.

Section 3

The Nomination Task Force, as appointed annually in May by the Moderator in consultation with the Director, shall be responsible to nominate people for all Offices and the ELT. This recommendation must be approved by a majority affirmative vote at the Fall meeting of Partners.

Section 4

The officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and 3 Trustees. Officers may serve consecutive terms, but elected annually. The trustees shall be the legal signatories of WBA.

Section 5

The Partners shall elect a 5-9 member ELT in the fall meeting of the Partners. Two members **may** be from outside partner churches. Any ELT member not connected to a partner must agree with the mission, vision, core values, core belief, and constitution. The Director, Moderator, Vice Moderator and Treasurer will serve as ex-officio, non-voting members. The ELT in conjunction with the Director may act according to approved policies and procedures with such things as:

- Strategy and Policy making
- Decision making between WBA meetings
- Fundraising
- Stewardship and budget development
- Supervision of the Director
- External relations

In addition,

- The ELT will meet a minimum (2-3) times annually. (Usually in the spring, summer, and fall.)
- The ELT members will be elected annually, but may serve consecutive terms.
- The ELT term is January through December of each year.

Teams may be appointed by the ELT and members may serve consecutive terms. Temporary Task Forces may be appointed by the Director in accordance with approved policies/procedures.

ARTICLE V- REGULAR and CALLED SPECIAL MEETINGS

Section 1

Partners with full status shall comprise the governing body of Williamson Baptist Association as outlined in this Constitution. Each Partner shall be entitled to one vote.

The Partners will meet two times per year for its regular meetings in the Fall and Spring, (usually in May and November) to conduct business, provide fellowship and celebrate God's work. Partners shall vote on the proposed budget, election of the Officers and ELT, the hiring of a Director, sale of property/buildings, major new construction, new joining partners, loans, terminating partnerships, amendments to this constitution and other major items of concern as determined by the ELT.

The Executive Leadership Team with the Moderator may call Special Meetings. Notice of Special Meetings must be provided to every partner two weeks in advance. Notice may be given by email, text, FaceBook, WEB page, regular mail, telephone and/or other means commonly used at the time. The agenda for called meetings is restricted to the topic(s) distributed in the notification of the meeting.

The Director in conjunction with the ELT shall set the agenda for all regular or called special meetings. Any new business brought up at any regular or called meetings not on the agenda shall be referred to the ELT for consideration prior to coming back to the Partners for possible action.

Section 2

A quorum for any regular or duly called Special Meetings of the Partners will consist of those partners present and voting.

Section 3

Robert's Rules of Order shall be used as a "general guide" more so than a "strict mandate" in regular and special called meetings. The Moderator or in his/her absence the Vice Moderator shall moderate. In the case that neither is available, the Director or his appointee shall serve as Moderator for that meeting only.

Section 4

In rare and unusual instances due to such things as pandemics, epidemics, natural disasters, emergency situations, local emergency/crisis laws/mandates or other major similar circumstances and if approved by the WBA Moderator and Executive Leadership Team, appropriate options to conduct necessary Williamson Baptist Association business may be adopted such as remote meetings via technological means, computers/video, email, USPS mail and so forth. (Otherwise, Article V, Sections 1 & 2 will be considered the norm and primary manner for regular and special called meetings.)

ARTICLE VI — ADMISSION and WITHDRAWAL OF PARTNERS

Section 1

Requests and/or written petitions to join this organization shall be made to the Director.

Section 2

The Executive Leadership Team shall prayerfully counsel with the petitioner and conduct any research needed to determine agreement and alignment (FIT) with the Constitution and current strategy.

Section 3

At a regular meeting, the Executive Leadership Team shall bring its report and recommendation in regards to the requests/petition for partnership, including any special requirements or exceptions. A two-thirds majority of representatives present and voting shall bring the petitioner into full partnership with Williamson Baptist Association.

Due to timing issues, the ELT may approve a "provisional" membership to a petitioner in between regular meetings. Any provisional members must be

voted on at the next regular meeting of partners to gain full membership.

Section 4

All sponsored Church Plants will be automatically accepted into full membership when they constitute as a church. This change in status will be announced at a regular meeting of the Partners.

Section 5

Should the need arise to withdraw partnership with any partner for any reason, a similar process to the one above in sections 1-3 of Article V shall be followed. In such cases, grace, redemptive attitudes and patience shall permeate the process.

The ELT must bring a recommendation to a regular or special called meeting of partners and a two thirds affirmative vote is required to withdraw partnership.

Any individual, church or organization that experiences this withdrawal of partnership may request partnership in the future via sections 1-3 of Article V.

ARTICLE IX — AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be amended by the following procedure:

Any proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to the Partners in a Regular Meeting by the Executive Leadership Team.

Partners must be apprised of amendments in writing no less than two weeks before the meeting where they are to be introduced. If the amendment receives a two thirds approval of the partners present and voting it becomes a part of the Constitution.

*The Director is responsible for maintaining an up to date compilation of approved "Policies and Procedures" notebook. Any Partner may request a copy of this notebook.

(Note: Critical time sensitive issues that arise in between Partner Meetings that may not be addressed in this Constitution or the Policies and Procedures Book, may be acted upon by the ELT and Director, but only in rare cases.)