

# Recommended Bylaw Amendments

## **Recommendation 1: Amendment of Bylaw II, Section 2: Messengers**

*Provision for churches to submit a church summary.*

*(Deletions are denoted with ~~strike through~~; additions are denoted with **underlined bold**.)*

### Section 2: Messengers

Each member church, having financially contributed undesignated gifts to the association for the work of associational causes during the previous calendar year and submitted a completed Annual Church Profile **or a Church Summary**, shall be entitled to (3) three messengers. A church shall be entitled to (1) one additional messenger for every \$1000 contribution to the association after the first \$1000. Or a church shall be entitled to (1) one additional messenger for every (1) one percent of the church's undesignated receipts contributed to the association after the first (2) two percent. In no case shall any church be entitled to more than (10) ten messengers.

#### Sub-section 1: Executive committee members

Each church shall submit to the association, with their Annual Church Profile **or a Church Summary**, the name of their pastor, and (2) two additional church members whom the church has elected to serve as executive committee members. Executive committee members shall be counted as part of the total number of messengers entitled to a church but beyond duties specific to the executive committee shall have no special privileges or powers not otherwise afforded to messengers. Churches may amend their elected executive committee members at any time by written notice to the association.

The final amended version would read as follows:

### Section 2: Messengers

Each member church, having financially contributed undesignated gifts to the association for the work of associational causes during the previous calendar year and submitted a completed Annual Church Profile or a Church Summary, shall be entitled to (3) three messengers. A church shall be entitled to (1) one additional messenger for every \$1000 contribution to the association after the first \$1000. Or a church shall be entitled to (1) one additional messenger for every (1) one percent of the church's undesignated receipts contributed to the association after the first (2) two percent. In no case shall any church be entitled to more than (10) ten messengers.

#### Sub-section 1: Executive committee members

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## **Recommendation 2: Amendment of Bylaw II, Section 3: Church Admission**

*Empowerment of the credentials committee to act once appointed, reduction of required review time for the credentials committee, and clarification that provisional membership is non-voting.*

*(Deletions are denoted with ~~strike through~~; additions are denoted with **underlined bold**.)*

### Section 3: Church admission

Churches desiring membership in the association shall submit a letter of request to the associational missions strategist or moderator. Upon receipt of the letter, the moderator ~~will~~ **shall** appoint a credentials committee, **of which he will serve as chairman.** ~~At the next regular meeting,~~ **the moderator, or his designee, shall identify the church requesting membership and the members appointed to the credentials committee.** **The credentials committee will be empowered to act once appointed.** ~~The chairman of the credentials committee will provide to the church documents related to the governance and mission of the association. The credentials committee will review the church's ~~doctrinal~~ **doctrinal** and missional statements and governing documents. After reviewing these documents, the credentials committee will meet with the church pastor and other church leadership to determine if the church is in agreement with the faith, doctrine, and practice of the association. The credentials committee shall report at the association's annual meeting, provided the time of the review process has not been less than ~~(8) eight months~~ **(30) thirty days**, a recommendation as to whether the church should be received in the association for a (1) one-year period of ~~watch-care~~ **provisional membership**. Receiving a church into ~~watch-care~~ **provisional membership** requires a two-thirds vote of the messengers. **Provisional membership has no voting rights.**~~

During the period of ~~watch-care~~ **provisional membership**, a church should demonstrate financial support of associational work and evidence of being in friendly cooperation. Following the period of ~~watch-care~~ **provisional membership**, the credentials committee shall report to the association at the annual meeting their recommendation concerning receiving the church as a member church. Receiving a church into membership requires a two-thirds vote of the messengers.

The final amended version would read as follows:

### Section 3: Church admission

Churches desiring membership in the association shall submit a letter of request to the associational missions strategist or moderator. Upon receipt of the letter, the moderator shall appoint a credentials committee, of which he shall serve as chairman. At the next regular meeting, the moderator, or his designee, shall identify the church requesting membership and the members appointed to the credentials committee. The credentials committee will be empowered to act once appointed. The credentials committee will provide to the church documents related to the governance and mission of the association. The credentials committee will review the church's doctrinal and missional statements and governing documents. After reviewing these documents, the credentials committee will meet with the church pastor and other church leadership to determine if the church is in agreement with the faith, doctrine, and practice of the association. The credentials committee shall report at the association's annual meeting, provided the time of the review process has not been less than (30) thirty days, a recommendation as to whether the church should be received in the association for a (1) one-year period of provisional membership. Receiving a church into provisional membership requires a two-thirds vote of the messengers. Provisional membership has no voting rights.

During the period of provisional membership, a church should demonstrate financial support of associational work and evidence of being in friendly cooperation. Following the period of provisional membership, the credentials committee shall report to the association at the annual meeting their recommendation concerning receiving the church as a member church. Receiving a church into membership requires a two-thirds vote of the messengers.

### **Recommendation 3: Amendment of Bylaw II, Section 5: Church removal**

Additional provision for removing a non-cooperating church after three consecutive years.

(Deletions are denoted with ~~strike through~~; additions are denoted with **underlined bold**.)

#### Section 5: Church removal

A church may be removed from membership in the association in the following ways:

1. A church sends a letter to the associational missions strategist or moderator stating their desire to withdraw from the association.
2. A church disbands or dissolves.
3. A church is found to conflict with the faith, doctrine, or practice of the association. When such a situation arises, the moderator shall task the administrative committee or appoint a credentials committee to consider the matter. The committee will make a determination and report their findings and recommendations at the next regular meeting. In matters where severity necessitates urgency, the moderator may call a special meeting to consider the matter. Removal of a church requires a two-thirds vote of the messengers.
4. **A church fails to demonstrate evidence of friendly cooperation indicated by not meeting any of the listed expectations in Section 4: Church Expectations for (3) three or more consecutive years. When such a situation arises, the moderator may appoint a credentials committee to consider the matter. The committee will report their findings and recommendations at the next annual meeting. Removal of a church requires a two-thirds vote of the messengers.**

The final amended version would read as follows:

#### Section 5: Church removal

A church may be removed from membership in the association in the following ways:

1. A church sends a letter to the associational missions strategist or moderator stating their desire to withdraw from the association.
2. A church disbands or dissolves.
3. A church is found to conflict with the faith, doctrine, or practice of the association. When such a situation arises, the moderator shall task the administrative committee or appoint a credentials committee to consider the matter. The committee will make a determination and report their findings and recommendations at the next regular meeting. In matters where severity necessitates urgency, the moderator may call a special meeting to consider the matter. Removal of a church requires a two-thirds vote of the messengers.
4. A church fails to demonstrate evidence of friendly cooperation indicated by not meeting any of the listed expectations in Section 4: Church Expectations for (3) three or more consecutive years. When such a situation arises, the moderator may appoint a credentials committee to consider the matter. The committee will report their findings and recommendations at the next annual meeting. Removal of a church requires a two-thirds vote of the messengers.

## **Recommendation 4: Amendment of Bylaw IV**

A new section to clarify the creation and empowerment of other committees and removal of unneeded language.

(Deletions are denoted with ~~strike through~~; additions are denoted with **underlined bold**.)

Article IV: Committees

~~The association shall have such committees as necessary for doing the work of the association.~~

The association shall have the following standing committees:

- Executive committee
- Administrative committee

~~The association may create other committees as needed to carry out the work and mission of the association.~~

### **Section 3: Other committees**

**Such other committees, standing or special, may be established by the association as it shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on its work. Their membership shall be appointed by the Moderator and empowered to act once appointed unless this rule is suspended by a two-thirds vote before their appointment.**

### Section 3 4: Committee meetings held electronically

The final amended version would read as follows:

Article IV: Committees

The association shall have the following standing committees:

- Executive committee
- Administrative committee

Section 3: Other committees

Such other committees, standing or special, may be established by the association as it shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on its work. Their membership shall be appointed by the Moderator and empowered to act once appointed unless this rule is suspended by a two-thirds vote before their appointment.

### Section 4: Committee meetings held electronically

## Notes

Requirements for amending the bylaws.

- Proposed bylaw amendments must be submitted in writing at the April regular meeting.
- Motions to amend the bylaws that were submitted in writing in the April regular meeting may be made at the October annual meeting.
- Adoption requires a 2/3 vote.

Church Summary document

- Three options for approval of the document:
  1. Add to the motion to amend Bylaw II, Section 2: Messenger.
  2. Adopt it as a standalone motion.
  3. Adopt a motion empowering a person or persons to create it.