

Articles of Incorporation proposed Changes for 2022

Current Reading – Article VI of Articles of Incorporation

Article VI. Members: Composition

The Convention shall be composed of the following members described in Sections A. and B. below (which members shall be referred to either as “members” or “messengers” in the Articles and Bylaws of the Convention):

- A. Those messengers who have been duly elected by cooperating churches, have been duly registered, and are in attendance at the annual meeting or special meeting of the Convention. The number and criteria for messengers shall be as follows:

1. The number of messengers to which a cooperating church is entitled may be determined on either a numerical or financial basis:

a. On a numerical basis: every cooperating church shall be allowed two (2) messengers and one (1) additional messenger for every one hundred (100) members or fraction thereof, beyond the first one hundred (100) members; provided that to have more than two (2) messengers, the cooperating church financially supports the Cooperative Program of the Convention by giving at least one percent (1%) of undesignated budget gifts through the Cooperative Program of the Convention; for the purposes of this calculation, funds used as matching funds for the expanded annuity shall not be considered.

b. On a financial basis: every cooperating church giving five percent (5%) of undesignated budget gifts through the Cooperative Program shall have two (2) messengers and one (1) additional messenger for every one percent (1%) beyond the initial five percent (5%).

2. Messengers shall be members of a cooperating church, as defined below.

3. A cooperating church shall be one that financially supports any program, institution, or agency of the Convention, and which is in friendly cooperation with the Convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work. Among churches not in friendly cooperation with the Convention are churches which knowingly act to affirm, approve, endorse, promote, support or bless homosexual behavior. The Board of Directors shall apply this provision. Any decision by the Board of Directors shall be final; provided that a church has a right to request the Convention in annual session to reconsider the Board of Directors’ decision that such church is not in friendly cooperation with the Convention.

4. No cooperating church shall be entitled under any circumstances to elect more than ten (10) messengers.

5. No one who is a messenger pursuant to a position described in Section B is eligible to be elected as a messenger from a cooperating church.

- B. The officers of the Convention, the members of the Board of Directors, the editor of the Biblical Recorder, the President of the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, the President of the North Carolina Baptist Men, and the President of the North Carolina Baptist Associational Missions Conference.

Proposed Reading – Article VI of Articles of Incorporation

Article VI. Members: Composition

The Convention shall be composed of the following members described in Sections A. and B. below (which members shall be referred to a “members” or “messengers” in the Articles and Bylaws of the Convention):

- A. Those messengers who have been duly elected by churches who are in friendly cooperation (also referred to as cooperating churches) with the Convention, having been duly registered, and in attendance at the annual meeting or a special meeting of the Convention. The following subparagraphs describe the Convention’s standards and method of determining the maximum number of messengers the Convention will recognize for any Convention meeting from each church in friendly cooperation:
1. A church in friendly cooperation shall be one which financially supports the Cooperative Program of the Convention. A church which fails to contribute to the Cooperative Program through the Convention for 3 consecutive calendar years, beginning with calendar year 2022 or later, shall be removed from the Convention’s list of cooperating churches, will no longer be eligible to elect messengers to the annual meeting or special meetings of the Convention, and will no longer be eligible for any other benefits afforded cooperating churches by the Convention. The Convention shall be responsible for notifying any church that fails to contribute to the Cooperative Program in the prior calendar year.
 2. A church in friendly cooperation must have a faith and practice that closely identifies with Baptist beliefs and distinctives. The Board of Directors shall apply this provision. Any decision to declare a church as not in friendly cooperation by the Board of Directors shall be final, provided that a church has a right to request the Convention in annual session to reconsider the Board of Directors’ decision that such church is not in friendly cooperation with the Convention.
 3. Among churches not in friendly cooperation with the Convention are: 1) churches which knowingly act to affirm, approve, endorse, promote, support, or bless LGBTQ+ lifestyles; 2) churches which affirm, approve, endorse, promote, or support discriminatory behavior on the basis of race or ethnicity; or 3) churches which affirm, approve, endorse, promote, or support behavior inconsistent with Biblical teachings regarding sexual abuse. The Board of Directors shall apply this provision. Any decision to declare a church not in friendly cooperation pursuant to these standards by the Board of Directors shall be final, provided that a church has a right to request the Convention in annual session to reconsider the Board of Directors’ decision that such church is not in friendly cooperation with the Convention.
 4. Each church in friendly cooperation with the Convention shall be allowed to elect and register two (2) messengers. Churches which fill out an Annual Church Profile (or an equivalent document approved by the Board of Directors) at least ninety (90) days prior to an annual or special called meeting of the Convention shall be eligible to elect and register five (5) more messengers than were elected by the church and registered as messengers at the previous annual or special called meeting of the Convention, up to a maximum of ten (10) messengers.
 5. No cooperating church shall be entitled under any circumstance to elect more than ten (10) messengers.
 6. No one who is a messenger pursuant to a position described in Section B below is eligible to be elected as a messenger from a cooperating church.
- B. The officers of the Convention, the members of the Board of Directors, the Editor of the Biblical Recorder, the President of Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina, the President of North Carolina Baptist Men (also referred to as Baptists on Mission) and the President of the North Carolina Baptist Associational Missions Conference.