

2018 Recommendations from the CSBC Executive Board

The following recommendations were introduced at the 2018 annual meeting in Clovis. At this year's annual meeting in El Cajon, the constitution and/or bylaws amendments will be considered and voted on by Messengers. It will take a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Messengers present and voting to approve each recommendation.

CSBC Constitution and Bylaw Amendments Reducing CSBC Regions and Executive Board Membership

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the number of California Southern Baptist Convention regions be reduced from nine to seven and that Executive Board membership be reduced from 40 to 28.

To accomplish this task, several sections of the CSBC Constitution and Bylaws will need to be amended.

(~~Strikethrough~~ denotes deletion; **bold face** denotes addition)

CSBC Constitution Amendments

ARTICLE VI. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE CONVENTION

Section 2. There shall be at least ~~nine~~ **seven** geographic regions from which Executive Board membership shall be determined. The messengers to the convention shall determine the number and boundaries of regions.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall consist of ~~forty (40)~~ **twenty-eight (28)** members, elected at the annual meeting. There shall be two members on the Executive Board from each region of the state. The remaining board members will be selected from **throughout the state at-large**. ~~the regions based on the ratio of churches within each region compared to the total number of churches in the convention.~~ One fourth (1/4) of the Board shall retire each year. A member elected to serve a full term on the Executive Board shall be eligible for reelection to a second full term on the Board. A member elected for two successive terms on the Executive Board shall not be eligible to succeed himself until one (1) year has passed. In the event a member moves within the state, he shall serve out his full term. The president of the Convention shall be an ex officio member of the Executive Board. The members of the Executive Board shall be the directors of the Convention.

CSBC Bylaws Amendments

ARTICLE III. COMPOSITION AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Section 2. The Committee on Committees shall be composed of nine (9) members, one from each region **and two selected at-large**, with one-third appointed annually by the president in consultation with the vice president. It shall nominate to the Convention all members of standing committees of the Convention and may nominate the membership of special committees if so directed by the Convention.

Section 3. The Committee on Board Nominations shall be composed of nine (9) members, one elected from each region **and two selected at-large**. It shall nominate to the Convention all members of the Executive Board of the Convention, the Board of Trustees for the California Baptist University, and the Board of Directors for the California Baptist Foundation. No member of this committee may begin service on any board or the Committee on Convention Operations until one year has passed following his term of service on the committee.

Section 4. The Committee on Convention Operations shall be composed of nine (9) members, one elected from each region **and two selected at-large**. The vice president and the music director shall be members ex officio of this committee. It shall present to the opening session of the Convention for adoption a recommended agenda for the Convention session. It shall enlist parliamentarians for annual sessions and shall guard jealously the schedule adopted by the Convention. It shall recommend the preacher and alternate for the Convention. It shall recommend the music director for the Convention. It shall recommend date and place for each Annual Meeting.

Section 5. The Committee on Resolutions, Credentials and Membership shall be composed of nine (9) members, one elected from each region **and two selected at-large**. It shall be responsible for initiating, reviewing, commenting on, and recommending Convention action on all resolutions. It shall be responsible for accreditation of Messengers to the Convention. It shall recommend action to the Convention concerning disputes as to status of Messengers. Throughout the year, the committee shall confer to make decisions regarding membership status of churches wishing to affiliate with the Convention, recommending actions to the Executive Board or Convention.

Background:

Currently the membership of the CSBC Executive Board and the four Convention committees is determined, in part, by the nine geographic regions of California. The 40-member Executive Board has two members from each region, with the remaining selected from regions based on the ratio of churches within each region compared to the total number of churches within the Convention. Convention committees have nine members, one from each region.

These bylaw changes would enact the following:

1. Reduces the current number of Executive Board members from 40 to 28
2. Redraws current regional boundaries, resulting in seven regions (maps attached)

Under these bylaw changes, representation on the Executive Board will now be two persons from each of the seven regions, and the remaining 14 members selected at-large from throughout the state. Convention committees will still have nine members, one from each region and two selected at-large from throughout the state.

The reduction in the size of the Executive Board provides a manageable number of members to conduct Convention business. Fewer members will result in higher levels of participation and accountability as the Board fulfills its role and responsibilities. The Convention will continue to have geographical representation for members of the Executive Board. Fourteen at-large members provides new and greater flexibility in finding the best possible people to serve. This change in board size also will result in a reduction in operating costs for the Executive Board.

Convention committees also will continue to have geographical representation with one member from each of the seven regions, with increased flexibility by having two members selected at-large from throughout the state. In recent years the Committee on Committees has experienced difficulty in finding persons willing to serve on Convention Committees. Having two at-large members for Convention Committees will help address this situation.

In recent years the merger and dissolution of associations has created a need to redraw region boundaries along association boundaries. The attached maps help illustrate that need and demonstrate the recommended boundaries for seven regions.

The Executive Board and Convention committees have had good geographic representation in the past, and would continue to have good representation under the proposed changes. Diversity on the Executive Board and Convention committees is not only geographic, but also includes diversity by gender, ministerial/layperson, age, ethnicity and experience. These proposed changes will not negatively impact representation or diversity on the Executive Board and Convention committees.

CSBC Constitution and Bylaws Amendments

Merging Committee Duties to Form a Nominating Committee

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the duties of the Committee on Committees and Committee on Board Nominations be merged to form the Committee on Nominations to select nominees for CSBC Committees and Boards.

To accomplish this, the CSBC Constitution and Bylaws need to be amended.

(~~Strikethrough~~ denotes deletion; **bold face** denotes addition)

CSBC Constitution Amendment

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES AND BOARDS OF THE CONVENTION

Section 3. The members of all standing committees (except the Committee on ~~Committees~~ **Nominations**) and the permanent boards of the Convention shall be elected by the Convention. Interim vacancies on all boards may be filled only by the Executive Board of the Convention. Interim vacancies on committees may be filled by presidential appointment and in either case, such appointments will prevail only until the next annual session.

CSBC Bylaws Amendments

ARTICLE II. PERMANENT PLAN OF ORGANIZATION OF THE CONVENTION AND ITS COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

The permanent organization of the Convention shall be as follows:

- A. Executive Board
- B. Board of Trustees, California Baptist University
- C. Board of Directors, The Baptist Foundation of California
- ~~D. Committee on Committees~~
- ED.** Committee on ~~Board~~ Nominations
- FE.** Committee on Convention Operations
- GF.** Committee on Resolutions, Credentials and Membership

ARTICLE III. COMPOSITION AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Section 1. The composition and duties of boards of trustees of agencies and institutions of this Convention shall be clearly set forth in the Convention actions authorizing their establishment and included subsequently in appropriate form in their respective corporate charters. All corporate charters and amendments thereto shall be expressly approved by the Convention or by the Executive Board of the Convention.

Section 2. The Committee on ~~Committees~~ **Nominations** shall be composed of nine (9) members, one from each region, **and two members selected at large.** ~~with e~~ **One-third shall be** appointed annually by the president in consultation with the vice president. It shall nominate to the Convention all members of standing committees of the Convention and may nominate the membership of special committees if so directed by the Convention. **It shall nominate to the Convention all members of the Executive Board of the Convention, the Board of Trustees for California Baptist University, and the Board of Directors for The Baptist Foundation of California. No member of this committee may begin service on any board or the Committee on Convention Operations until one year has passed following his term of service on the committee.**

~~**Section 3.** The Committee on Board Nominations shall be composed of nine (9) members, one elected from each region. It shall nominate to the Convention all members of the Executive Board of the Convention, the Board of Trustees for the California Baptist University, and the Board of Directors for the California Baptist Foundation. No member of this committee may begin service on any board or the Committee on Convention Operations until one year has passed following his term of service on the committee.~~

Section 4 3. The Committee on Convention Operations shall be composed of nine (9) members, one elected from each region. The vice president and the music director shall be members ex officio of this committee. It shall present to the opening session of the Convention for adoption a recommended agenda for the Convention session. It shall enlist parliamentarians for annual sessions and shall guard jealously the schedule adopted by the Convention. It shall recommend the preacher and alternate for the Convention. It shall recommend the music director for the Convention. It shall recommend date and place for each Annual Meeting.

Section 5 4. The Committee on Resolutions, Credentials and Membership shall be composed of nine (9) members, one elected from each region. It shall be responsible for initiating, reviewing, commenting on, and recommending Convention action on all resolutions. It shall be responsible for accreditation of Messengers to the Convention. It shall recommend action to the Convention concerning disputes as to status of Messengers. Throughout the year, the committee shall confer to make decisions regarding membership status of churches wishing to affiliate with the Convention, recommending actions to the Executive Board or Convention.

Section 6 5. The financial transactions of all standing and special committees of the Convention shall be conducted only in accordance with policies and procedures established by the Executive Board of the Convention. The Executive Board shall retain authority over the custody and disbursements of all funds made available for expenses of committees of the Convention and the Convention itself.

Section 7 6. Trustees of corporate boards established under authority of the Convention shall be responsible for initiating charter amendments whenever such action is necessary to make charter provisions consistent with actions of the Convention.

Section 8 7. An ex officio member shall have full privileges unless otherwise designated.

Background:

There is a growing need to create a single committee to nominate Convention leadership for election by messengers during the annual meeting. Currently the Committee on Committees meets to select nominees to serve on the three Convention Committees: Committee on Board Nominations, Committee on Convention Operations and Committee on Resolutions, Credentials and Membership. The membership of the Committee on Committees is appointed by the Convention president. Term of service is three years, with terms expiring for three members each year.

The Committee on Board Nominations meets to select nominees to serve as directors for the three agencies of the Convention: CSBC Executive Board; The Baptist Foundation of California; and California Baptist University. Membership of the committee is nominated by the Committee on Committees and affirmed by messengers. Term of service is three years, with terms expiring for three members each year.

Currently the Committee on Board Nominations and the Committee on Committees each complete their business in a matter of hours. Their meetings involve travel, lodging and meals for nine members, one from each region, to conduct business. The expense of doing so is costly and involves a significant time commitment by committee members, at least one-third of whom are laypersons.

By combining the Committee on Committees and the Committee on Board Nominations into a new Committee on Nominations, better stewardship of committee members' time will be accomplished and mission dollars will be saved. The Committee on Nominations will be able to efficiently perform the duties of the two existing committees.

The membership of the new Committee on Nominations will be appointed by the Convention president. Each year the president will appoint three person to the committee, with terms expiring for three members each year.

If this change is approved by messengers, the existing Committee on Committees will become the new Committee on Nominations. The membership of the Committee on Board Nominations will be dissolved with the thanks of the Convention.

CSBC Constitution Amendment – Article III. Membership, Section 2 Defining a Cooperating Baptist Church

Recommendation:

It is recommended the CSBC Constitution, ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP, Section 2. be amended to allow the California Mission Offering to be an option in defining a cooperating Baptist church.

(~~Strikethrough~~ denotes deletion; **bold face** denotes addition)

Section 2. As an independent Baptist Group, the Convention reserves the right to determine what constitutes a cooperating Baptist church. Churches shall be considered cooperating which are in sympathy with the purpose of this Convention, having contributed financially to the work of the Convention through the Cooperative Program **and/or the California Mission Offering** during the 12 months previous to the month of the annual meeting, and who are in agreement with The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention. The Convention shall be the final judge of the qualifications of its members.

Background:

The CSBC Constitution currently defines a cooperating church, in part, as having given through the Cooperative Program in the 12 months preceding the annual meeting. This amendment to include the California Mission Offering also would allow a church to be defined as cooperating, and thus be eligible for seating messengers at the CSBC annual meeting. Gifts to the Cooperative Program and the California Mission Offering directly support CSBC ministries. This action would allow for greater participation.

2019 Recommendations from the CSBC Executive Board

This CSBC Bylaws recommendation will be presented to Messengers attending the 2019 annual meeting in El Cajon for their consideration. It will take a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Messengers present and voting to approve the recommendation.

Composition of California Baptist University Trustees

Recommendation:

It is recommended that CSBC Bylaws (ARTICLE IV, Section 1) be amended to allow up to four (4) positions for California Baptist University evangelical trustees. These trustees shall be active members of an evangelical church and in agreement with the Baptist Faith & Message. It also is recommended that the number of trustees for CBU be increased from 36 to 40.

Changes in the Bylaws would be as follows (~~strike through~~ denotes deletion; **bold type** denotes addition):

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS Section 1. All members of committees and boards shall be members of Baptist churches cooperating with the California Southern Baptist Convention, with the exception of up to three (3) Baptist Foundation of California directors; ~~and~~ up to eight (8) California Baptist University global trustees who shall, however, be members of Southern Baptist churches within the United States or churches cooperating with their respective Baptist Conventions outside the United States; **and up to four (4) positions reserved exclusively for California Baptist University evangelical trustees, who shall be active members of an evangelical church and in agreement with the Baptist Faith & Message.** The total number of authorized members on the board of California Baptist University shall be ~~36~~ **40**. The total number of authorized members on the board of The Baptist Foundation of California shall be 16.

Background:

The primary effect of this proposed amendment is to allow up to four (4) non-Southern Baptist Christians who are members of churches that are evangelical in doctrine and practice to serve in a new category of California Baptist University trustees. These four (4) positions shall be reserved exclusively for evangelical trustees and shall remain vacant unless filled by persons qualified to serve in this specific category. The four (4) positions will be selected and approved using the same process as all other trustees. Further, the proposed amendment increases the total of authorized trustees to a maximum of 40 from the current cap of 36, thus preserving the number of CBU trustees now elected from California Southern Baptist churches.

CBU enrolls and graduates a substantial number of individuals who do not identify as Southern Baptist but nevertheless embrace doctrinal convictions and values consistent with the university and CSBC. Many of these graduates experience success and influence in their careers that could benefit their alma mater. Approval of this recommendation would provide increased opportunities for alumni to contribute as CBU trustees.

Additionally, among the seven- and eight-figure financial gifts received by CBU in the past five years, virtually all were given by evangelical Christians who are not Southern Baptists and are thus ineligible to serve on the Board of Trustees. Permitting service on the Board of Trustees by such demonstrated supporters of CBU would enhance the University's ability to recruit qualified nominees capable of strengthening the institution's donor base.

California Baptist College (CBC) was founded in 1950 by the Los Angeles Southern Baptist Association without financial support from the Southern Baptist General Convention of California (SBGCC). Forty-two students enrolled the first semester.

The college opened on Sept. 18, 1950. The following year, the SBGCC dissolved the board of trustees it had created in 1948 to seek funding and a suitable site to establish a Baptist college in California. In a separate action, messengers to the 1951 SBGCC annual meeting voted to guarantee CBC \$8,000 from convention funds in the coming year.

In 1952, the SBGCC elected a 12-member advisory board to the CBC Board of Trustees to consider the possibility of the convention accepting the college as its own.

The SBGCC voted in 1953 to assume control of CBC effective June 1, 1954 and elected 14 trustees for the college. Those trustees elected as their chairman Dr. Byron F. Todd, pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church of El Monte, where CBC operated in borrowed space from 1950 through 1954.

CBC graduated its first class of eight seniors on May 31, 1954. Later that year, the SBGCC approved the purchase of a 75.6 acre property in Riverside, California from the Neighbors of Woodcraft for \$800,000.

In January 1955, CBC relocated from El Monte to the newly acquired site in Riverside. Fall enrollment that year totaled 229 students. In FY 1955, CBC revenue of \$123,480 included \$32,431 from the SBGCC—25.9 percent of the total operating revenue.

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges first granted CBC full regional accreditation in 1961. SBGCC provided CBC \$87,514 for operations in FY 1961, or 18 percent of the \$485,424 CBC operating budget.

After assuming control of CBC, the SBGCC periodically conducted or authorized fundraising efforts for college operations and capital improvements. The convention, later renamed the California Southern Baptist Convention (CSBC), began providing the college annual allocations from the Cooperative Program (CP), funded by undesignated monetary gifts from churches affiliated with the CSBC.

During the 1970's, the convention eventually fixed the college's allocation at 16.438 percent of CP receipts from CSBC churches. As CP receipts increased, so did the dollar amount the college received.

In FY1995, the CP allocation provided 8.5 percent of the CBU operating budget of \$11.3 million.

In 1998, the year CBC transitioned to university status, the CP allocation provided \$1.07 million for the institution. That represented less than 5 percent of the university's operating budget.

In FY 2006, the CSBC Cooperative Program allocation peaked at \$1.29 million for California Baptist University, 2.01 percent of the institution's corresponding annual operating budget of \$61.11 million.

California Southern Baptist Convention CP giving totals steadily contracted in the decade following the Great Recession. From 1995 to the present, CBU operating budgets dramatically increased. Consequently, the CP allocation represented a diminishing percentage of CBU operating budgets.

Funding cuts enacted by the convention further diminished the impact of CP allocations on California Baptist University. The decreases began in 2008, when CSBC reduced the CP allocation for CBU from 16.438 percent to 13 percent.

In 2009, the CP allocation was reduced from 13 percent to 10 percent.

In 2012, California Southern Baptist Convention reduced its CP allocation for CBU from 10 percent to 7.5 percent.

In 2013, CSBC reduced its CP allocation for CBU from 7.5 percent to 5 percent.

The CP allocation for CBU remained at 5 percent for 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

In 2018, CSBC reduced its CP allocation from CBU from 5 percent to 2 percent.

The CP allocation resulting from the 2018 reduction represents \$132,000 or 0.0004 percent (1/2500th of 1 percent) of the current FY19 budget of \$321,453,637.

If this recommendation is approved by the Executive Board, it would be included in recommendations to messengers at the 2019 CSBC Annual Meeting, Oct. 22-23 at Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon. Passage of the amendment would take an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the messengers present and voting in accordance with Article VIII of the CSBC Bylaws.