

Five CSBC Bylaw and Constitution Amendments to be considered at the 2018 CSBC Annual Meeting

Five recommendations to amend the California Southern Baptist Convention Constitution and/or Bylaws were approved by the CSBC Executive Board Sept. 13.

The amendments came out of a special Executive Board committee appointed by Chairman Don Fugate.

Two recommendations related to Bylaws will be considered at the CSBC annual meeting Oct. 23-24 at Clovis Hills Community Church in Clovis. Bylaw changes must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote for approval.

The other three recommendations are related to the CSBC Constitution and will be submitted this year and considered at the 2019 annual meeting in El Cajon. Two of those recommendations also have Bylaw implications which also will be considered in 2019 so the guiding documents remain in agreement with one another.

CSBC Bylaw Amendment

Transfer of Responsibilities for CSBC Church Membership

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the responsibility of vetting congregations seeking affiliation with California Southern Baptist Convention be transferred from the Committee on Resolutions, Credentials and Membership to the CSBC Executive Board.

To accomplish this, several sections in the CSBC Bylaws need to be amended.

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

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
- E. Committee on Board Nominations
- F. Committee on Convention Operations
- G. Committee on Resolutions; **and** Credentials ~~and Membership~~

ARTICLE III. COMPOSITION AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Section 5. The Committee on Resolutions; **and** 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. Throughout the year the Executive Board shall confer to make decisions regarding membership status of churches wishing to affiliate with the Convention, reporting its actions to the Convention annually.

Section 6 7. 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 8. 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 9. An ex officio member shall have full privileges unless otherwise designated.

Background:

Currently the task of vetting congregations seeking affiliation with California Southern Baptist Convention is assigned to the Committee on Resolutions, Credentials and Membership. This Bylaw change would transfer the responsibility to the CSBC Executive Board.

Currently, the procedure requires churches to apply for membership through the Committee on Resolutions, Credentials and Membership. This is a committee of nine people, one from each of the nine regions, elected for a single, three-year term of service. After a lengthy vetting process of churches seeking affiliation, the committee presents their recommendations to either the Executive Board or to messengers at the CSBC Annual Meeting for membership consideration. The Committee on Resolutions, Credentials and Membership's recommendations presented to the Executive Board are processed through the Board Operations Committee and then presented to the full board for consideration.

Assigning affiliation requirements directly to the Executive Board would reduce the duplication of review by both the Committee on Resolutions, Credentials and Membership and an Executive Board committee before consideration by the full Board. Because of a longer term of service by Executive Board members versus Convention committee members, the Executive Board would offer greater continuity, strength and experience to the task of vetting churches seeking membership. A cost savings also would be experienced with this duty assigned to the Executive Board.

The Committee on Resolutions, Credentials and Membership would become the Committee on Resolutions and Credentials and would function accordingly.

Action:

Approved by Executive Board – September 13, 2018

CSBC Bylaw Amendment

Tenure of Board Officers

Recommendation:

It is recommended that all CSBC agencies (Executive Board, The Baptist Foundation of California and California Baptist University) be permitted to elect officers to serve for up to three, consecutive, one-year terms.

To accomplish this, several sections in the CSBC Bylaws need to be amended.

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

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Section 12. The term of ~~office~~ **service** for officers of standing committees ~~and boards~~ of this Convention shall be one (1) year with the option of election to one additional ~~year term~~, not to exceed two (2) successive ~~years~~ **terms**. **The term of service for officers of boards of this Convention shall be one (1) year with the option of election to two, additional, one-year terms, not to exceed three (3) successive terms.**

Background:

This change would provide all CSBC agencies (Executive Board, The Baptist Foundation of California and California Baptist University) the opportunity to elect officers for up to three, consecutive, one-year terms. The term of service for officers of standing committees will not be affected by this recommendation.

A need exists for greater continuity of leadership in executing the strategic initiatives of each agency. Currently, agency officers can be elected to one-year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.

This proposed change is supported by the leadership of California Southern Baptist Convention, The Baptist Foundation of California and California Baptist University.

Action:

Approved by Executive Board – September 13, 2018

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.

Action:

Approved by Executive Board – September 13, 2018

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.

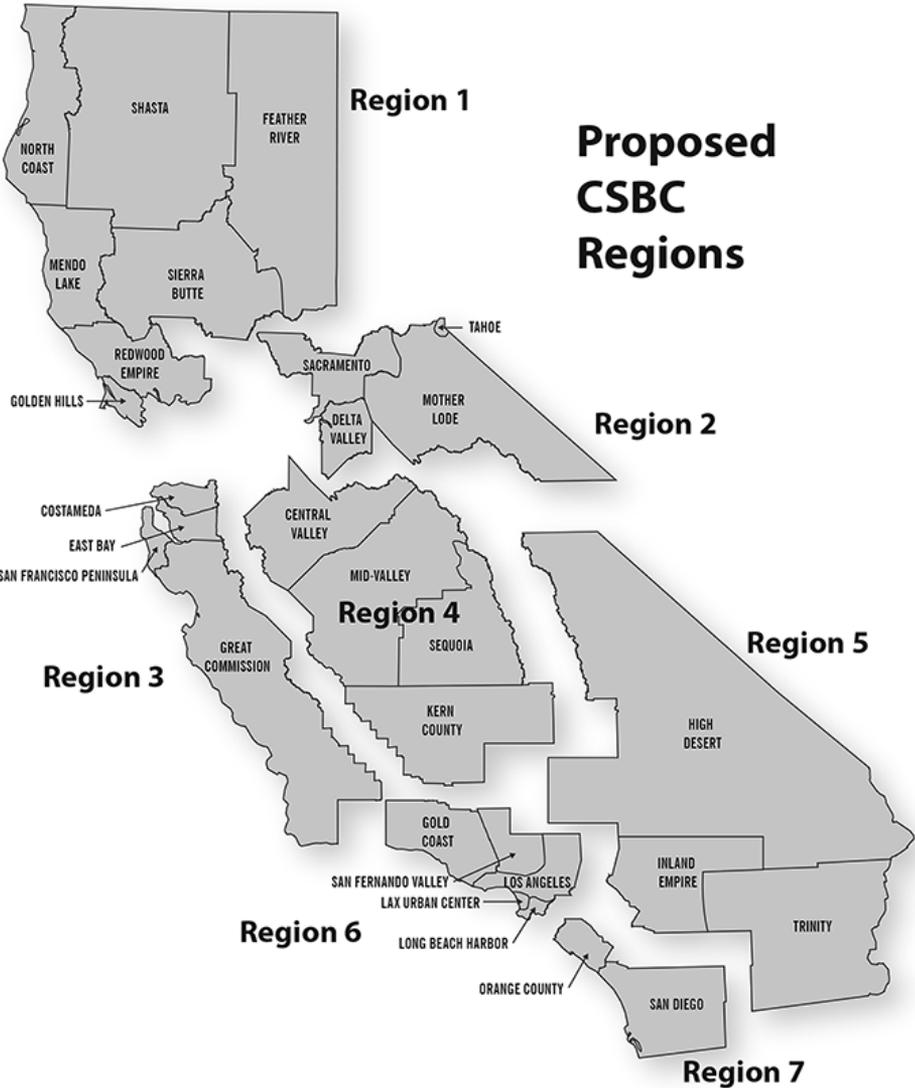
The Executive Board and Convention committees have had good geographic representation in the past, and would continue to have good representation under the proposed changes. Diversity on the Executive Board and Convention committees is not only geographic, but also includes diversity by gender, ministerial/layperson,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

Action:

Approved by Executive Board – September 13, 2018



Proposed CSBC Regions



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.

Action:

Approved by Executive Board – September 13, 2018