Baptist Network Northwest Constitution

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be Baptist Network Northwest.

Article II - Purpose

Baptist Network Northwest exists to advance the cause of Christ in the Northwest through supporting and establishing Bible-believing Baptist churches and partnering with likeminded ministries.

Article III - Organization

Baptist Network Northwest exists to advance the cause of Christ in the Northwest through supporting and establishing Bible-believing Baptist churches and partnering with likeminded ministries.

Section 1: Biblical Basis

This association is organized as a network of Baptist churches in covenant relationship. These churches have committed themselves to promote the cause of Christ throughout the world by fulfilling God's Great Commission priorities (Matthew 28:19-20) empowered by Great Commandment love (Matthew 22:36-40). The precedent of churches associating in this way is found in early church practice (Acts 15; 2 Corinthians 8:18-24; Galatians 1:2, 22; Colossians 4:13-18). It is also warranted by Christ's prayer for visible unity (John 17:20-23) and by the church's identification (locally and universally) as the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 2:20-22).

Section 2: Membership

The association of churches known as Baptist Network Northwest, as part of the Body of Christ, acknowledges our God-ordained covenantal relationships as a fellowship of independent, interdependent Baptist churches. Membership in BNN, therefore, is open to any church in the Northwest who is in agreement with the Constitution and Articles of Faith of BNN, and who agree to a relationship expressed in dependence upon, responsibility for, and accountability to each other by God's grace.

Article III - Organization Continued

Section 3: Controlling Power
The controlling power of this Network shall be vested in a Council comprised of pastors and laymen from the member churches of Baptist Network Northwest.

Section 4: Formation of the Council
A meeting shall be held for the transaction of business and election of officers annually. The Council shall be formed at this meeting and shall consist of messengers appointed by member churches. Each church shall be entitled to four voting messengers, including its pastor. Each voting messenger must be authorized by his local church to act in this capacity.

Section 5: Election and Organization of the Executive Board
The Council shall elect an Executive Board of up to fifteen men from member churches of Baptist Network Northwest who shall direct the work of the Network. These directors shall be elected to three year terms each, with as many as deemed necessary by the Executive Board to be elected annually. The Executive Board shall organize itself, electing annually a Team leader, secretary and treasurer. Eight members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of business. In cases of the board not being able to meet a quorum because of members vacating the office between annual meetings; the board may appoint temporary qualified members, and after notification of the network churches, conduct the business of the fellowship.

The Board shall be elected in the following manner. Each member church in the Network may nominate up to five individuals for the Board. The Board shall determine the appropriate number of nominees needed for the upcoming year and shall propose a ballot of nominees who are both qualified and willing to serve for approval at the Annual Meeting. All nominations must be in the secretary's hands three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Only authorized church messengers will have voting privileges.

The office of a Board member shall be forfeited should he cease to be a member of a network member church. Any exceptions to this rule will be made by the Board.

Any Board member completing two consecutive terms of three years shall be ineligible for election for at least one year.

Article III - Organization Continued

Section 6: Duties of the Executive Board
It shall be the duty of the Board to make recommendations to the Network for the furtherance of its work, and to implement all actions and policies. The Board shall secure the services and set the salaries of such personnel as shall be required to carry on the work, only as authorized by the Network, and any or all of its actions may be called up for review at any Annual Meeting, if so desired.

The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the home missions program of the Network (Northwest Baptist home Mission), including surveying prospective fields, examining missionary candidates, supervising missionaries, mission churches and mission property, and the sending out of reports of finances, needs and progress to supporting churches and Network members.

The Board shall appoint a chairman or chairmen to moderate at public meetings of the Network.

All new members of the Board shall be presented at the closing session of the Annual Conference and shall assume their Board duties as of that session.

Article IV - Cessation of Fellowship

Section 1: Voluntary Withdrawal
It should be clearly understood that this is a voluntary network of churches and any church may withdraw at any time and for any reason sufficient to itself.

Section 2: Dismissal
Any church which is known to be no longer in agreement with the Constitution or Articles of Faith or has failed to maintain interest may be removed from the rolls by recommendation of the Board and a majority vote of the members of the Network.

Article V - Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any Annual Meeting by a two-thirds vote of elected messengers present and voting providing a written notice has been sent to each fellowshipping church at least thirty days prior to the time of voting. A recommendation for amendment must come either from the Executive Board or from two or more Network churches.

Article VI - Articles of Faith

The Articles of Faith exist as a separate document but is a shared common statement of faith and practice for fellowshipping BNN churches and officers. Amendments or changes to these Articles will be approved in the same prescribed manner as changes to this Constitution as put forth in Article V but will require a three-fourths majority vote.