Constitution of the Black Creek Baptist Association

Preamble

Whereas we believe it to be of great advantage for churches of the same faith and practice to be associated together for mutual support and assistance, the Black Creek Baptist Association, is organized for the purpose of creating such a union to facilitate the cooperation of associating churches in carrying out our Lord's Great Commission. This association is recognized as the basis of practical cooperation between the churches and shall not be vested with any ecclesiastical power.

Article I – Name and Purpose

This body shall be known as the "Black Creek Baptist Association, Inc." The association shall consist of those Southern Baptist churches of like faith and order who freely enter into covenant relationship with one another under the Lordship of Christ. The process by which such churches covenant together and by which such association can be terminated is set forth in more detail in the Black Creek Baptist Association Bylaws.

Being led, as we believe, by the Holy Spirit, to enter into covenant as an association of churches, we join ourselves together through this larger fellowship:

- To watch over one another in love and to nurture the spiritual welfare and fellowship of all churches in the association.
- To provide a forum for the consideration of our Christian faith and the evaluation of those points of doctrine and policy which affect our life together.
- To assist the churches in planning, conducting, evaluating, and improving their programs of work designed to reach their objectives.
- To carry out the Great Commission of our Lord (Matthew 28:18-20) within and beyond the bounds of the association through biblical principles of personal and corporate evangelism and discipleship.
- To facilitate the exchange of information and assistance between associated churches, the Florida Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention, their agencies, and other Christian bodies.
- The purpose of the Black Creek Baptist Association (BCBA) shall be to promote unity and Christian love among Southern Baptist churches within the area of the BCBA. The BCBA shall be composed of churches which may be included by the consent of the churches and the BCBA. It shall cooperate with other associations, the Florida Baptist Convention

(FBC) and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) to encourage support of the Great Commission through the Cooperative Program.

- The objective of the BCBA shall be to support, promote, and participate in evangelism, discipleship, missions, Christian education, and fellowship.

Article II - Statement of Faith

The Black Creek Baptist Association statement of faith is The Baptist Faith and Message (2000) of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Article III – Membership

The membership of the Black Creek Baptist Association is voluntary and shall be comprised of Southern Baptist Churches that have fulfilled the requirements to become members of the Black Creek Baptist Association. The admission process for a church into the Black Creek Baptist Association is outlined in the Bylaws **Provision I – Membership Section A** of this corporation.

Article IV – Meetings

The Black Creek Baptist Association shall hold an annual meeting each year. Other meetings of committees, ministry teams, pastors, staff, members, and volunteers will meet regularly as needed.

Article V – Officers of the Corporation

Officers and Trustees: The Moderator, the Vice Moderator, Treasurer, and Clerk, will be Trustees of the Association, who shall have the authority to sign and execute all legal documents authorized by the Association. They shall meet as necessary to fulfill their respective obligations.

The Black Creek Baptist Association shall elect four (4) Officers:

1. The Moderator
2. The Vice Moderator
3. The Clerk
4. The Treasurer

Article VI – Money Matters

1. The Black Creek Baptist Association shall have authority to receive funds by voluntary contributions for carrying out its purposes. The Treasurer shall be ultimately responsible to oversee all contributions to, and expenses of the Association, and shall issue a report regarding such income and expenses to the member churches of the Association at the Annual Meeting. The duty to oversee use of the Association funds and other resources is delegated to the Associational Mission Strategist, Leadership Team, Treasurer, and Association Office Staff.

2. The Black Creek Baptist Association is non-profit organization. In the event of liquidation or dissolution of the association, all assets and property of every nature and description whatsoever shall be paid over and transferred at the direction of the trustees, to the BCBA churches that are financially contributing at the time of the liquidation or dissolution of the association.

Article VII – Revision or Amendment of this Constitution

The Constitution may be altered or amended by consent of three-quarters (3/4) of the Executive Committee present at any meeting called for that purpose. Prior notice of the proposed changes to this Constitution (such notice to include the specific verbiage to be voted upon) shall be given to all churches of the Association, no less than sixty (60) days prior to any vote on such alteration or amendment at an Executive Committee meeting called for that purpose.

Article VIII – Parliamentary Law

1. The Black Creek Baptist Association shall be governed by the most recent version of *Robert's Rules of Order.*