



## Greater Atlanta Baptist Network Bylaws (*Approved September 7, 2021*)

### Articles of Faith

The “Articles of Faith” shall be “The Baptist Faith and Message” adopted in 2000 by the Southern Baptist Convention.

### Article I – Name

**Section 1.1** The Association shall be known as the Atlanta Association of Southern Baptist Churches.

**Section 1.2** The Association shall do business as Greater Atlanta Baptist Network (GABN or Network).

### Article II – Statement of Purpose

**Section 2.0** The purpose of the Network is to cooperate for the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) based on the foundation of God’s Word and doctrinal integrity. GABN is a theologically-driven network of local churches committed to the protection and proclamation of the gospel. It exists to encourage pastoral fellowship and faithful ministry.

### Article III – Members

**Section 3.1 Members.** The Network shall be composed of churches and church plants that are in friendly cooperation with and contributing toward the causes of the Network.

**Section 3.1.1 Cooperation and Contribution.** A cooperating church or church plant is one that affirms “The Baptist Faith and Message” (2000), participates in the missional enterprises of the Network, supports its bylaws, and financially supports the Network.

**Section 3.1.2 Church Autonomy.** Each church is a free and independent body under the lordship of Christ. Each church shall follow the lordship of Christ through His Spirit and authoritative Word. The Network shall have no authority over the local church.

**Section 3.1.3 Network Autonomy.** The Network is a free and independent body under the lordship of Christ. The Network shall have the authority to determine the requirements for membership in the Network as directed by the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures. The Network shall have the authority to determine which church or church plant shall become and remain a member of the Network.

**Section 3.1.4 Mutual Respect.** The churches, church plants, and the Network shall respect the autonomy of each body and work together to accomplish the purposes of the Network.

**Section 3.1.5 Church Definition.** A church is defined by Section VI of Baptist Faith and Message (2000).

**Section 3.1.6. Church Plant Definition.** A church plant is a group of persons committed to and in the process of becoming a church.

**Section 3.1.7. Temporary Membership.** The Administrative Team may grant temporary membership to qualifying church plants. A church plant shall have all the privileges of membership in GABN. Its membership will be considered temporary and revocable by the Administrative Team should the plant not mature into a church. Church plants that have constituted as a church shall be recognized at the Annual Meeting. A church plant that cannot financially contribute to the Network can still be considered a cooperating church plant.

**Section 3.2 Admission or Dismissal.** The requirements for admission or dismissal are in the Manual of Procedures under Administrative Team.

**Section 3.2.1 Admission.** The vote by the Network for admission of a church shall be a majority of the messengers present and voting.

**Section 3.2.2. Dismissal.** The vote by the Network for dismissal of a church shall be a majority of the messengers present and voting. A church plant's membership may be revoked by the Administrative Team.

## Article IV – Officers

**Section 4.1 Election.** The officers of the Network shall be nominated by the Administrative Team and elected at the Annual Meeting and shall assume office on the close of that meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor.

**Section 4.2 Moderator.** The Network shall have a Moderator. The Moderator will perform the duties usually assigned to this office, serve as an ex-officio member of all ministry teams, and serve as Chairman of the Administrative Team. The Moderator may not serve more than three consecutive terms.

**Section 4.3 Vice-Moderator.** The Network shall have a Vice-Moderator. The Vice-Moderator will perform the usual duties assigned to this office, and serve as Vice-Chairman of the Administrative Team. The Vice-Moderator will oversee membership and work closely with the Moderator in promoting the work of the Network. The Vice-Moderator may not serve more than three consecutive terms.

**Section 4.4 Treasurer.** The Network shall have a Treasurer. The duties of this position shall be listed in the Manual of Procedures.

**Section 4.5 Assistant Treasurer and Clerk.** The Network shall have an Assistant Treasurer and Clerk. These positions may be voluntary or paid as so designated by the Administrative Team. The duties of these positions shall be listed in the Manual of Procedures. The Assistant Treasurer and Clerk are non-voting members of the Administrative Team.

**Section 4.6 Officers at-Large.** The Network shall have no more than seven Officers-at-Large. A qualified Officer at-Large is a member in good standing of a GABN church.

**Section 4.7 Vacancies.** If the Moderator's office becomes vacant, the Vice-Moderator will assume the office of Moderator at least until the next Annual Meeting. The Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Clerk shall be filled in the same manner or as outlined in the Manual of Procedures. Any other officer vacancies after the Annual Meeting shall be filled by the Administrative Team.

**Section 4.8 Term of Service.** Officers shall serve for the term (one year) to which they have been elected or until a successor is elected.

## Article V – Meetings

**Section 5.1 Annual Meeting.** The Annual Meeting of the Network shall be held in September. The September date of the Annual Meeting of the Network may be changed by the Administrative Team provided that thirty days written notice is given to the churches and church plants.

**Section 5.2 Special Meeting.** Special meetings of the Network may be called by the Administrative Team or at the written request of twenty-five percent of the cooperating churches and church plants. Written notice of special meetings shall be sent to the churches at least thirty days prior to the meeting and shall state the purpose of the meeting in the notice. The business of any special meeting shall be limited to the scope of the notice. Special meetings resulting from the written petition of the churches and church plants shall be held within sixty days of the receipt of such petition by the Administrative Team.

**Section 5.3 Quorum.** The quorum shall be the number in attendance with the minimum being thirty-five messengers.

**Section 5.4 Parliamentarian.** The Network may secure the services of a Professional Parliamentarian from the National Association of Parliamentarians or the American Institute of Parliamentarians for the Annual Meeting and any special meetings of the Network. The Administrative Team shall be authorized to secure such services.

**Section 5.5 Presiding.** The Moderator, Vice-Moderator, or Parliamentarian may preside at the meetings of the Network. The Network by majority vote at the beginning of the meeting may elect another presider for that specific meeting.

**Section 5.6 Vote Requirement.** A decision of the Network shall be by a majority vote unless otherwise specified in these bylaws or the parliamentary authority.

**Section 5.7 Messengers.** The Annual and special meetings of the Network shall consist of the messengers from the churches and church plants. Any member in good standing of a GABN church is eligible to serve as a messenger. Any leader in good standing of a GABN church plant is eligible to serve as a messenger.

**Section 5.7.1 Number of Messengers.** Each church shall be entitled to up to five messengers. Each church plant shall be entitled to one messenger.

**Section 5.7.2 Stewardship Requirement.** Messengers may only be received from cooperating churches.

## Article VI – Network Missionary

**Section 6.0 Network Missionary.** The Network shall have a Network Missionary who shall be the Executive Officer of the Network. The Network Missionary may be the Moderator. The duties of the Network Missionary and procedures for the calling of a Network Missionary are in the Manual of Procedures. The Network Missionary shall be an officer of the Network.

## Article VII – Administrative Team

**Section 7.1 Members.** The Administrative Team shall consist of the officers.

**Section 7.2 Meetings.** The Administrative Team shall meet quarterly and at other times as called by the Moderator or Network Missionary.

**Section 7.3. Quorum.** A quorum shall be two-thirds of the voting members of the Administrative Team.

**Section 7.4. Duties.** The Administrative Team shall provide oversight for the Network and make recommendations to the Network. See the Manual of Procedures for additional duties.

**Section 7.5 Manual of Procedures.** The Administrative Team shall develop and maintain a Manual of Procedures which shall detail the responsibilities of the Administrative Team, officers and employees.

**Section 7.6 Annual and Special Meetings.** The Administrative Team shall plan the Annual and special meetings of the Network.

**Section 7.7 Personnel.** The Administrative Team may seek and employ such part-time staff members as shall be needed. The Administrative Team may recommend full-time employees to be hired by the Network. The Administrative Team shall keep a Personnel Policy Statement as a guide for employees and the Network regarding personnel policies.

**Section 7.8. Ministry Teams.** The Administrative Team may form ministry teams necessary to execute Administrative Team tasks.

## **Article VIII – Trustees**

**Section 8.1. Members.** The Network shall have three trustees with one trustee being elected each year. They shall be nominated by the Administrative Team and elected for a three-year term at the Network’s Annual Meeting and shall assume office at the close of the Annual Meeting. The trustees shall not be eligible for re-election until the lapse of one year.

**Section 8.2 Legal Representatives.** The trustees shall be the legal representatives of the Atlanta Association of Southern Baptist Churches. The buying and selling of property shall be authorized by the Network.

## **Article IX – Parliamentary Authority**

**Section 10.0. Parliamentary Authority.** The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Network in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Network may adopt.

## **Article X – Amendments**

**Section 11.0 Amendments.** These bylaws may be amended at the Annual Meeting or a special meeting of the Network by a two-thirds vote of those messengers present and voting, provided the proposed change has been presented to and given to the churches and church plants in writing thirty days prior to the meeting.