



CENTRAL COAST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION

2015

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Please read the whole document and fill all the spaces that apply with clear, printed letters.
 - 2) Please attach supporting documents as requested.
 - 3) If you have any questions, call 408-748-3500 for help.
 - 4) Make a copy of completed application for your files.
 - 5) Send application and all documents to:
Central Coast Baptist Association
2005 De La Cruz Blvd. Suite 120
Santa Clara, CA 95050
 - 6) Or email all files to: office@ccbministries.org
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AFFILIATION PROCESS DUE DATE FOR 2015

In order to complete the membership affiliation process at CCBA for 2015, complete application and all support documents must be submitted to the office before or by the due dates below:

Application Due Date	1 / 19 / 2015	5 / 31 / 2015	9 / 19 / 2015
Online Review	2 / 1 / 2015	6 / 1 / 2015	10 / 1 / 2015
Administrative Council Interview	3 / 19 / 2015	7 / 30 / 2015	11 / 19 / 2015
Executive Board Review	5 / 9 / 2015	8 / 22 / 2015	1 / 29 / 2016
Annual Meeting	10 / 3 / 2015	10 / 3 / 2015	October, 2016

- *Upon completion of the Executive Board review, the petitioning church can be granted a provisional membership.*
- *Final membership approval is granted by the Annual Meeting of the churches of CCBA.*

Part 1. OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP

“We, the members of (name of church) _____
request membership in the Central Coast Baptist Association (CCBA) for the purpose of spreading the
Gospel of Jesus Christ, support mission work and work together to strengthen our churches. “The
congregation approved to seek Membership into CCBA by majority vote during our Business Meeting
held on ____ / ____ / 20 ____.

“We have instructed the following person(s) to fill this application and to serve as the church contact
with CCBA during the application process:

a) Name _____ official position in church _____
phone _____, cell _____, e-mail _____

b) Name _____ official position in church _____
phone _____, cell _____, e-mail _____

“By action of the church:

(signature) _____ (print name) _____
Pastor
(signature) _____ (print name) _____
Church leader

Part 2. ORGANIZATION

We are: (mark only one):

___ An independent church with no official sponsoring congregation. We constituted as a church
on (date) _____.

___ A Mission Congregation of (name of Sponsor Church) _____

Since: ____ / ____ / 20 ____

Part 3. ASSERTIONS

(fill in the blanks, or put a initial to indicate agreement with the statements)

1. We desire fellowship with CCBA for the following reasons:

2. How can the Central Coast Baptist Association be helpful to your ministry?

3. Incorporation:

a) Is the New Church Incorporated in the State of California? _____. *** If yes, submit a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation.**

b) If the New Church/ Mission is operating under the sponsorship of an established church, is the Sponsoring Church Incorporated in the State of California? _____. *** If yes, (1) submit a copy of the Sponsoring Church's Certificate of Incorporation, and (2) submit a copy of the Sponsoring Church Official Minutes indicating the vote to create or adopt your congregation as a Mission).**

4. Have you adopted Bylaws? _____ *** If so, please submit a copy with this application.**

5. _____ We have read and are in major agreement with "The 10 Principles of Baptist Bylaws" (attached)

6. _____ We have read and are in agreement with 'CCBA Statement of Faith' (CCBA Bylaws Article 4.06, and 6.05, a copy of the Statement of Faith is attached).

7. _____ If accepted as a Member of CCBA, we agree to cooperate with and contribute to the work of the Central Coast Baptist Association with **at least 3% of the undesignated offerings** of our congregation as required by the Bylaws of CCBA (CCBA Bylaws, Article 4.03: "Newly-affiliated churches shall agree to contribute at least three percent (3%) of their undesignated receipts to the general budget of the Association.") Churches may request a three year donation schedule beginning with 1% the first year, 2% the second year and 3% in the third year in order to meet this requirement. These resources fund the mission work of the association in this region from new work, pastoral training and ministry support.

8. _____ We understand that as a 501(c)3 corporation under IRS regulations, in the event of dissolution of the church at any time in the future, all assets will be distributed for the benefit of another 501(c)3 such as the Central Coast Baptist Association or other Southern Baptist organizations as directed by the church.

Part 4. CHURCH INFORMATION

1. NAME OF CHURCH _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

Meeting address if different from above _____

Church meeting site: Church owns this facility _____ or Church rents/leases facility _____

CHURCH PHONE _____ FAX _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ WEBSITE _____

2. PASTOR'S FULL NAME _____

PASTOR'S MAILING ADDRESS _____

Is the Pastor: _____ Bi-vocational? _____ Full-time?

PASTOR'S PHONE NUMBERS:

WORK _____ HOME _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ CELL _____

3. Church Mission Support for Southern Baptist ministries:

A) Did church vote to put Associational Missions in its budget? _____

If so, enter the percentage of Undesignated Receipts that you will contribute if accepted into membership in CCBA: _____% (3% minimum requirement)

Undesignated receipts are the general budget offerings for the church and do not include special offerings, building offerings, etc.

We will send these contributions to the CCBA offices: _____ monthly _____ quarterly

B) Did church vote to put the Cooperative Program in its budget? _____

If so, enter the percentage of Undesignated Receipts that you will contribute to the Cooperative Program _____% (These contributions are separate from contributions to CCBA. They should be sent directly to the California Southern Baptist Convention offices in Fresno, go to www.csbc.com for more information.)

Part 5. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

1. At present our church has _____ official members. Our average weekly attendance is _____.
2. Officers of the Church: (Fill out only those that apply)

Sunday School Director or Education Minister
(If church has both, please provide the
additional information below under "other...")

Address

Phone

E-mail

Youth Director or Minister

Address

Phone

E-mail

Children's Director or Minister

Address

Phone

E-mail

Treasurer

Address

Phone

E-mail

Chairman of Deacons/Elders

Address

Phone

E-mail

Other leadership / directors in your church:

Name/Title

Address

Phone

E-mail

Name/Title

Address

Phone

E-mail

Name/Title

Address

Phone

E-mail

Person responsible for filling this application: "I hereby declare that I filled this form under official instruction of our church and its elected leadership."

Signed: _____ Print your name: _____

Title _____ phone _____ cell _____ e-mail _____

CCBA Statement of Faith

6.05 The statement of faith of Central Coast Baptist Association:

Below is a summary of some of our basic beliefs:

1. **GOD** is the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the Universe. There is one God who reveals himself to us as the Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit. This mystery is commonly called the Trinity: each “person” of the Trinity exists simultaneously and has distinct personal attributes, but there is no division of nature, essence, or being in God.
2. **THE SCRIPTURES** were written by those who were divinely inspired. The Bible is the written Word of God, revealing God’s will for humanity. It is the basis for our faith and practice as individual Christians, as churches, and as an association of churches. The life and teachings of Jesus Christ are the criteria by which we interpret the Scriptures.
3. **MANKIND** was created in the image of God. All people sin; therefore, mankind is “fallen” from the position that God designed for it. God’s grace (gift of salvation) in Jesus Christ allows mankind to come back into fellowship with God. Because mankind is created in God’s image, and because Christ died for all, then all people are to be given dignity and respect.
4. **SALVATION** is the gift of God, which we receive by faith in Jesus Christ who died for our sins. It involves fellowship with God and eternal life, beginning at the moment one entrusts himself to Jesus as Lord of his life and continuing on past this life, without end. God patiently seeks the salvation of all people, not desiring for any to perish. The “security of the believer” teaches that salvation, once received, cannot be lost; the believer is safe in the Father’s hand. However, a disobedient believer will be disciplined by the Heavenly Father.
5. **HEAVEN AND HELL** are eternal dwelling places. Heaven—the place where God’s people live with him forever—is a gift to the believer. Heaven is also a place where rewards are received. Salvation itself is a gift from God, and not a reward. Heaven’s rewards vary and are based on individual faithfulness in this life. Those who do not receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior in this life will spend eternity apart from the loving presence of God in hell. Hell is a place of suffering where the devil and his followers dwell.
6. **THE CHURCH** is a term that is used in two ways in the Scriptures. In the broadest spiritual sense, the Church is the body of Christ which includes all Christian believers of all ages. In a more tangible sense, the New Testament most often speaks of the church as a local body of baptized believers. All believers are members of the Church, and should express this through participation in the local church family of faith. Baptist churches are accountable to the membership under the Lordship of Christ and as each member has a voice and vote in the life of the church. All members of the local church family of faith are to be treated with dignity and respect according to the principles of the Scriptures. All members, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or national origin are gifted by God to participate in building up the church. The local church should encourage the giftedness of the members.
7. **BAPTISM** is an ordinance of the church: Jesus set it aside (“ordained” it) as a reminder and as an act of obedience. Baptism is by immersion in water and is a statement of one’s faith in Jesus who died, was buried, and rose again. It is also a statement that one has died to sin and is raised to a new life in Christ, looking forward some day to the resurrection from the dead. Baptism portrays a faith already held within the person, and has no saving power in itself.

8. **THE LORD’S SUPPER** is the other “ordinance” of the church. In taking the Lord’s Supper (sometimes called “communion”), we remember especially the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross: the fruit of the vine reminds us of his blood that was shed, and the bread reminds us of his body that was given for us. Taking the Lord’s Supper together regularly as a church body also reminds us that we are united together by our common faith in Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross.

9. **THE KINGDOM OF GOD** is the Lord’s spiritual reign over the lives of all who give allegiance to him, whether they be living on earth or in heaven. It includes all who are in the Church, but also includes believers in God prior to the coming of Jesus Christ and the establishment of his Church.

10. **LAST THINGS** refers to those things that will happen near the end of time. The Bible tells us that Jesus will come again visibly to receive his followers to himself. The evil forces of Satan and this world will be ultimately defeated and cast into hell, and God’s kingdom shall prevail forever.

11. **EVANGELISM** is every Christian’s privilege. We are all called to share personally with others how they may be saved by faith in Jesus Christ. By faithful giving, we also support the evangelistic efforts of our local churches, as well as the missions efforts of our denomination in the United States and around the world.

12. **THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER**, or “soul competency,” means that every believer prays directly to God and may read the Bible to better understand the will of God. Other believers may help our understanding, but each one of us is able to stand before God without any intermediary other than Jesus Christ.

13. **SERVANT LEADERSHIP** is exemplified by the true nature of Jesus Christ. Jesus commanded that the Christian leader should not seek to rule over others, but rather to be the servant of all. The cross mandates laying down our rights for the good of others.

I hereby declare that our church, _____, has read and reviewed and are in agreement with the CCBA Statement of Faith.

Pastor’s Signature

Date

Rational for the 10 Principles of Baptist Bylaws

Dr. Mike Stewart

2015

Bylaw - from the middle English “byrlaw” which means the local law or custom.

Bylaws for a Baptist congregation are their own local rules for making important decisions. They are a tool to create unity and fairness in the direction of the church. Good bylaws will guide the church at crisis moments and ensure the best outcomes possible. They also communicate what we really believe about the nature of the church.

Who is the Church?

Bylaws portray the true theology of what the church or its leaders believe about the church. Baptists have taught that every pastor and member are equally endowed with the Holy Spirit upon confession of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. They readily confess that Jesus is Head of the Church and that no person should usurp His authority by seeking to control the body through title or office. The church is a body with many parts and every part has equal value. For the body is not one member, but many. *1 Corinthians 12:14*

This theology of the church means that fellow brothers and sisters in Christ are given equal right to be heard in church matters. This is why congregationalism and democratic practices are the norm in Baptist churches. It reflects the theology of who is the church. It is not one member, one leader or even one faction. Baptist bylaws place high value on the body of believers sharing with each other and being responsible together for the direction of the church.

In contrast to the congregational model is the hierarchical model. All power is placed in the hands of a few people. It is very controlled. This model is seen in the Catholic Church. The church has two classes of believers, the laity and the clergy. The clergy have special revelation from God. The laity must rely upon the clergy to truly hear from God. The laity’s ministry is to follow the clergy. When the Pope speaks there is no debate. This is the same theology in practice when we state that only the pastor should be heard on any church matter. This model has been historically rejected by Baptists. The role of every member of the body of Christ is to follow the Lord. Setting our eyes upon man for our direction is not biblical.

Spiritual Leadership in Baptist Churches

There are three New Testament words used to describe the work of the spiritual leaders of the church. The term elder in the New Testament is from the Greek word presbuteros. The Greek word for shepherd is poimen and the Greek word episkopos is translated as bishop. “Therefore, I exhort the elders [presbuteros] among you, as your fellow elder [presbuteros] and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd [verb form of poimen] the flock of God among you, exercising oversight [episkopos] not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness”

(1 Pet. 5:1-2). *Peter does not describe this as three different offices in the church but three functions of godly church leadership.*

Baptists teach that there are two biblically recognized leadership roles which require a calling from God and the church body and they are pastors and deacons. There are not separate New Testament roles for elders as opposed to pastors. It is the same role, just a different way to describe it. A church may have multiple pastors/elders that help govern the affairs of the church but all of them must meet the required biblical qualifications.

Who Has the Authority in the Baptist Church?

Jesus Christ has all authority in heaven and earth. He is the head of the church, His body. The Greek word for authority is *exousia*. It comes from a verb that means (1) to do something without hindrance, and/or (2) the right to do something or the right to be over something. When someone has authority, it means that they wield influence and lead others in the accomplishment of a purpose. The word *exousia* is never used in the New Testament to grant ruling authority of one person or office over any other believer in the church.

“The scriptural model for Church life is one of gifted people, anointed by the Spirit and recognized by the people, functioning as a gift to the whole body, teaching and equipping ALL in the body to do the work of ministry as described in Ephesians 4:11-13. This is far different than a few office holders doing the work of ministry and all the people doing what they are told by those in office. The biblical model of the church moves one from viewing the church as an organization or institution to seeing her as an organism or a body, properly called the Body of Christ.”¹

The New Testament and Democracy

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 calls for Southern Baptist church to use democratic processes to make their ministry decisions. Democracy is the highest form of social decision-making and brings the best long-term results. This is what our country is founded on (it is indigenous to our culture) and it is also biblical.

Democracy is practiced in the New Testament as the church selects its deacons in Acts 6. Acts 15 is an incredible meeting of opposing positions with major ramifications for the church. This is a textbook case for how churches can make difficult and at the same time, God honoring decisions. The leaders don't duck the meeting for fear of creating division. They lead the meeting and listen to both points of view to seek God's will and create a unified direction. If the apostles had the authority to make and enforce the decisions by themselves why have the meeting? When James gives his recommendation to the church the Bible says it was met with approval by all of them. I have led large meetings and the only way to know you have agreement is to ask for a response from the gathering.

Using democratic processes allows the church and its leadership to fully gage its own unity before making a significant ministry decision. *Democracy is not about having the votes to get what we want.* That is a secular understanding of it. In the church, it is a valuable tool to measure how unified the church is, in its understanding of God's will, in that moment. A church decision being considered, with substantial sincere opposition may communicate to the church body that God is not ready for them to proceed.

¹ ‘Authority in the Church’ by Paul and Wade Burlison p. 24

The 10 Baptist Principles of Baptist Bylaws

1. Bylaws should have real protection to guard against and remove ungodly leaders and members. Bylaws that assume that wolves will never appear are unbiblical as they reject the teaching of Christ as to this reality. They should state how the church will discipline, restore or remove church leaders and members in the cases of verifiable scriptural disobedience.
2. Bylaws should truthfully state who you are and who you are related to. It should state that the church is organized as a Southern Baptist church so that new members understand the doctrinal position and affiliation of the church from the very beginning. If you don't want anyone to know that you are affiliated with Southern Baptists then why are you really affiliating with them? This is an integrity question.
3. Bylaws should make membership real and meaningful. It should be very clear how to become a member of the church, which should include a public profession of faith in Christ, and baptism by immersion as a believer and approval by the church body. (Accepting infant baptism as a valid form of baptism for church members or leaders is not permitted in churches wishing to be affiliated with Southern Baptists.) Church bylaws that grant no voting membership status to the body are not inherently Baptist and are in contradiction to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.
4. Bylaws should undergird the truth that all leaders serve the church as a whole. They should state that the calling and removal of pastors/elders/deacons and other church offices such as treasurer, trustees, etc., will be ultimately reviewed and determined by the members of the church. Church leadership will often make recommendations for some of these officers to the body for their consideration. The local church leaders are to be accountable to the local church body for their ministry.
5. Bylaws should make openness and transparency the operating norm. They should allow the church members to have free access to church bylaws, articles of incorporation, church business meeting minutes, etc., as requested.
6. Bylaws should foster a spirit of teamwork and partnership among the whole church. They should allow the church to vote annually on a church budget and ministry plan that authorizes church to invest God's provision in the work of ministry. A ministry plan is the goals and proposed directions of the church in the upcoming year that are proposed by church leadership to the body for their review and determination.
7. Bylaws should make financial and ministry integrity open to regular review. The church members should be provided to them, at least on a quarterly basis, a financial report and update on their ministry plan progress. Church members will review and consider the reports for their final approval or amendment. The bylaws should clearly state when the church business meeting are held. For example the second Sunday of the first month in the quarter.
8. Bylaws need to have the ability to be flexible when needed. They should state how to have a special called congregational ministry meetings and who is allowed to call one. This should require proper notice to the church body that the meeting will be held and the agenda of the meeting.

9. Bylaws should communicate that the church is always ready to hear sincere issues of the body. They should state clearly how members may scripturally bring concerns or agenda items to be heard by the church. It is wise to have church members submit these items in writing at least seven days in advance of the meeting to the appropriate person. This allows church leadership to have the needed information prepared for the meeting.

10. Bylaws should reveal a very high level of ethics being met by church leadership. The bylaws should not allow church officers or members to vote on any business items that they have a conflict of interest in. Bylaws should also include protection of church assets and properties to be used for future ministry work should the church not be able to continue in the future.

I hereby declare that our church, _____, has read and reviewed, and are in *major* agreement with the 10 Baptist Principles of Baptist Bylaws.

Pastor's Signature

Date