

**CONSTITUTION
OF
NEUSE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, INC.**
(Revised October, 2022)

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this body is “Neuse Baptist Association, Inc.”

ARTICLE II – OUR PURPOSE

The Neuse Baptist Association, Inc., exists to be a catalyst to encourage and support Baptist churches to be Great Commission and Great Commandment churches.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Neuse Baptist Association is vital, healthy churches networking to transform lives in fulfilling the Great Commission and Great Commandment.

OUR VALUES

1. **We value** the historical fact that the Association was created by and for the churches.
2. **We value** and respect the autonomy and diversity of each individual church.
3. **We value** innovation by seeking to create an environment where creative thinking and continuous learning is possible. The stability needed to face our challenges is found in our relationship to Jesus Christ rather than our familiarity with a particular method or approach.
4. **We value** cooperation, believing that we can and must learn from one another under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We seek to build stronger relationships among the churches through networking.
5. **We value** the support and participation provided by each individual church.
6. **We value** the privilege of individual churches to cooperate in mission support endeavors beyond the Neuse Baptist Association.
7. **We value** people. It is our belief that the most significant need of any person is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
8. **We value** the Holy Bible as the Word of God, the source of life and our direction.

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. To **Resource** churches to better fulfill their mission/vision.
2. To **Encourage** churches, pastors, church staff, and laity in their ministry.
3. To **Mobilize** the church toward the glory of the Lord.
4. To **Train** churches, pastors, church staff, and laity toward excellence to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Association shall consist of affiliated churches and those later accepted into the Association through action at the annual Association session.

Section 2. The Association shall have the power, upon given written notice of nine (9) months and by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of messengers present and voting at an Annual Meeting to withdraw fellowship from any affiliated church in the Association that it deems necessary.

ARTICLE IV – AFFILIATED CHURCHES AND MISSIONS

Section 1. A church desiring affiliation in the Neuse Baptist Association, Inc. must submit in writing said request to the Leadership Council at least thirty (30) days prior to the Executive Board Meeting or Annual Session. Upon recommendation of the Leadership Council, said church may be received provisionally at any Executive Board Meeting and be received as a member by two-thirds (2/3) vote at the Annual Meeting of members in attendance.

Once received as a member, a church continues perpetually as an affiliate. Churches in good standing maintain some level of financial partnership, submits an Annual Church Profile (ACP), and participates in the Executive Board Meetings as possible. Churches may submit a notice of withdrawal in written form. Dismissal from the Association shall be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the duly qualified Messengers in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. A Church Plant sponsored by affiliated churches in the Association, upon constituting as a church shall request, subject to approval and recommendation of the Leadership Council, acceptance as a member church at the next Annual Meeting of the Association.

Section 3. Church Plants sponsored by affiliated churches are a part of the sponsoring church's membership. Church Plant members are entitled to serve as Messengers to the Association as a part of the delegation of the sponsoring church. The sponsoring church determines its own Messengers but is encouraged to include Church Plant members as a part of their total delegation of Messengers.

ARTICLE V – ASSOCIATION OFFICERS and MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Section 1. The Association Officers are:

1. President (Moderator),
2. Vice-President (Vice-Moderator),
3. Secretary (Clerk),
4. Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer

Each officer shall be elected for a two-year term. The President (Moderator) and Vice-President (Vice-Moderator) shall not serve more than two (2) terms in succession.

Section 2. The Ministry Team Leaders are:

1. Administration Ministry Team
2. Church Strengthening Ministry Team
3. Impacting Lostness Ministry Team
4. Prayer Ministry Team
5. Missions and Ministry Team

Each Ministry Team Leader is to lead and administer their team and shall be elected for a two-year term, and shall not serve more than two terms in succession. Various committees of the Association shall operate under the various Ministry Teams.

Section 3. Nominations for Association Officers, Ministry Team Leaders and various committee members will be voted on in the Annual Meeting. The term for Association Officers, Team Leaders, and Committees will begin on January 1st. Between the Annual Meeting and the beginning of their term, they will work with the outgoing Association Officers, Ministry Team Leaders, and Committees to ensure continuity.

Section 4. All Association Officers, Ministry Team Leaders, and Committee members shall be members of churches that are affiliated with Neuse Baptist Association.

ARTICLE VI – LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

A Leadership Council shall consist of the Ministry Team Leaders, the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and the Association Mission Strategist (AMS). The Leadership Council, under the leadership of the Association Mission Strategist, shall coordinate the work of the Association under the direction of the Messengers' defined parameters and protocols. The Leadership Council may bring recommendations to the Messengers in session.

ARTICLE VII – ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Section 1. The Association's Annual Meeting will convene annually in a single session on the fourth (4th) Sunday night in October and churches will host this meeting on a rotating schedule.

Section 2. The time of the Annual Meeting of the Association may be changed, or special meetings called, by the Executive Board and/or Leadership Council upon notice to the cooperating churches with at least twenty-one (21) days' notice to the cooperating churches.

Section 3. The voting membership of the Annual Meeting of the Association shall consist of duly elected Messengers who are members of affiliated churches as follows:

- a) Five (5) Messengers from each affiliated church. Churches having more than one-hundred (100) members shall be entitled to an additional Messenger for every additional one-hundred (100) members or a major fraction thereof, up to a maximum of twelve (12) Messengers per affiliated churches;
- b) The Pastors/Interim Pastors of all affiliated churches;
- c) The elected officers of the Association;
- d) Ministry Team Leaders.

Section 4. The voting membership of the Executive Board will consist of pastors and/or interims, the staff ministers of each cooperating church, Association Missions Strategist, the immediate past Moderator, Officers of the Association, Ministry Team Leaders, and two (2) lay members from each cooperating church or their alternates, which are to be elected by the church. The names of the lay members and their alternates will be duly certified by including their names in the Annual Church Profile (ACP) or by otherwise notifying the Association office.

Section 5. The Officers of the Association will serve as the Officers of the Executive Board.

Section 6. The Executive Board will meet four times annually – in February, April, June, and September. The time and place will be announced in advance by the Neuse Baptist Association office. Special meetings may be called by the Leadership Council when a need arises.

Section 7. The Executive Board will act for the Association in the interim between Annual Meetings. It will carry out the policies and will of the Association and will make reports to the Association at the Annual Meeting. The Executive Board has the power to fill vacancies among the Officers, Ministry Team Leaders, and various committees of the Association that may occur during the year.

Section 8. The Messengers present at the Annual Meeting or Executive Board Meeting shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of conducting the business of Neuse Baptist Association.

Section 9. The official transaction of business in all regular meetings of the Association and the Executive Board will be by a simple majority vote of those members present and voting.

Section 10. Matters pertaining to the Constitution, the admission of new churches or admission of Church Plants, the withdrawal of fellowship from any cooperating church, approval of the upcoming year's budget, and recommendations from the Nominating Committee for the upcoming year shall be reserved for the Annual Meeting.

Section 11. When the need arises to call an Association Mission Strategist (AMS), it shall be conducted in a special called meeting for that purpose as outlined in Article IX.

Section 12. All questions of parliamentary procedures will be decided by *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 13. When possible, all new business shall be presented to the members of the Executive Board prior to the next Executive Board Meeting and/or Annual Meeting of the Association to give opportunity to pray and seek God's will.

ARTICLE VIII – MINISTRY AND FISCAL YEAR

The ministry and fiscal year of the Association will begin on January first (1st) and end on December thirty-first (31st) of each year.

ARTICLE IX – ADMINISTRATION

The Association Mission Strategist (AMS) will fulfill those specific duties as outlined in the Organization Manual and will be responsible for the promotion of all programs of the Association, state convention, and denomination. When it becomes necessary to fill the office of the Association Mission Strategist, the Nominating Committee will name a specified committee of five (5) members to be approved by the Executive Board for the purpose of filling this vacancy.

This committee will bring one person at a time before the Executive Board for consideration, and no nomination will be made except that of the special committee. Election will be made by ballot, with an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) vote of those present and voting necessary for a call. Should the one recommended by the committee fail to receive three-fourths (3/4) vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another nominee for the office of the Association Mission Strategist.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENT

The Constitution may be amended through a special Constitution Committee, once the amendment has been read in the September Executive Board Meeting, and ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at the Annual Meeting. The amendment is to be distributed to the affiliated churches at least two weeks prior to the September Executive Board Meeting.

ARTICLE XI – ADOPTION

This Constitution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall supersede any and all Constitutions and conflicting rules previously adopted.