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# CONSTITUTION

OF THE

## S. Central Baptist Association.

- ARTICLE 1st.—This Association shall consist of Delegates representing Churches of which it is composed, each of whom shall be a member of one of those Churches, together with Delegates from Corresponding Associations, not exceeding five from any one Association, and such other brethren as the Association may see fit to invite to sit in Council.
- Art. 2nd.—This Association shall meet at such time and place as may be determined upon by the body.
- Art. 3rd.—Each Church shall have the privilege of sending one Delegate to the Association, more, but no Church shall be entitled to send more than five in addition to their Pastor.
- Art. 4th.—At each meeting of the Association the Moderator of the preceding year shall preside till his successor is chosen. The choice of Moderator shall take place by ballot, as soon as a list of Delegates has been prepared hereinafter provided. No brother shall be chosen Moderator two years in succession. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside in all the transactions of the Association, and nominate Committees, unless otherwise ordered by the Association. A Secretary shall be chosen, whose duty it shall be to record the transactions of the Association, and to furnish a correct copy of the same for the press; he is also to remain in office till his successor is chosen.
- Art. 5th.—It shall be the duty of each Church to send by its messengers to the Association giving an account of its state, particularly of the members and diminutions within the last year, and generally of whatsoever respects to its peace and prosperity.
- Art. 6th.—At each annual Meeting the letters from the Churches shall be handed in, from which the Secretary shall immediately make out a list of Delegates. The election of Moderator and Secretary shall then take place, which the letters shall be read. Committees nominated by the Moderator shall not consist of more than five brethren, of whom three shall constitute a quorum. When large committees are judged desirable they shall be appointed by the Association, and two-thirds of the members appointed shall be competent to act.
- Art. 7th.—When any Church shall desire admittance into this body, application must be made by letter, and satisfactory evidence furnished of its good order; this being done and a vote of acceptance taken, the Moderator shall, in behalf of the Association, give to one of its messengers present a sign of fellowship.
- Art. 8th.—When any Church shall neglect to make communication for two years successively it shall be considered as having withdrawn from us, and shall be dropped from the Minutes, unless two or more members shall petition its continuance and shall engage to enquire into its standing, and report at the next meeting of the Association.
- Art. 9th.—Although as an Association all power over the Churches is vested, so far as respects any interference with their independence and self-government; yet it is deemed a privilege belonging to the Association to judge of the propriety of receiving or retaining any Church in its membership.