

Constitution and Rules of Order.

ARTICLE 1.—This Association shall consist of Delegates, representing the Churches of which it is composed, each of whom shall be a member of one of those Churches, and shall be styled the "Western N. E. Baptist Association."

ARTICLE 2.—The objects of this Association shall be the collection of statistics and other information from the Churches, the cultivation of mutual acquaintance and fraternal union, the promotion of individual godliness, and the spiritual prosperity of the Churches; and, in the use of scriptural means, the enlargement of the Redeemer's kingdom.

ARTICLE 3.—The Association shall meet annually, at 3 o'clock, p. m., on the fourth Tuesday in June at such place as they shall appoint; notice of which shall be given in the Minutes, and in the denominational paper. The meeting shall be opened with Social Conference; after which the Officers and Committees shall be appointed. Every meeting held by adjournment from time to time during the session of the Association, shall be opened and concluded by prayer.

ARTICLE 4.—Each Church shall have the privilege of sending one Delegate or more; but no church, however numerous, shall be entitled to a greater number than five, in addition to their Pastor.

ARTICLE 5.—At each meeting of the Association, the Delegates shall deliver to the Clerk of the preceding year, immediately on their arrival, the Letters from the Churches; a list of the Delegates having been prepared by the Clerk, their names shall be called, and they shall take their places. The Moderator of the preceding year shall call the vote for a Moderator by ballot, without nomination, and the person who shall be chosen by a majority of the members present, shall, upon his acceptance lead the meeting in all the transactions of a Clerk. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside in all the sessions of the meeting, and maintain due order among the members. The Association shall appoint two Committees—one on Arrangements, and one to nominate all other Committees. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a fair and impartial record of all the doings of the Association during the session and furnish a correct copy for the press.

ARTICLE 6.—It shall be the duty of each church to send by its Messengers a letter to the Association, giving an account of its state, particularly of the addition and diminution within the last year; and generally, of whatever relates to its peace and prosperity, together with the whole number of members in communion. It shall also forward money for the printing of the Minutes.

ARTICLE 7.—When any Church shall desire admittance into this body, application must be made by letter, and satisfactory evidence furnished of their faith and order; this being done, and a vote of acceptance taken, the Moderator shall, on behalf of the Association, give to one of their Messengers (if any be present) the right hand of fellowship.

ARTICLE 8.—When a Church shall neglect to make any communication to the Association for three years successively, it shall be considered as having withdrawn from us, and shall be dropped from the Minutes, unless two or more members request its continuance, and shall engage to enquire into its standing, and report at the next meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE 9.—Although as an Association we disclaim all power over the Churches, so far as respects any interference with their independence and discipline, yet we deem it our privilege to judge for ourselves of the propriety of continuing any Church or Minister in our connection, who to us shall appear to be unscriptural in principle, or irregular in practice. In order, however, that we may not withdraw our fellowship, without sufficient reason, from any Church or Minister against whom a complaint is made by two members of this body, it shall be the duty of the Association to appoint a committee to investigate the points of complaint, and report the result of their enquiries to the Association, that they may decide as duty shall appear.

ARTICLE 10.—Alterations and amendments may be made in this Constitution by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular session.

Rules of Order.

1. That each meeting be opened by prayer.
2. That motions be made and seconded according to parliamentary usage.
3. That no Delegate speak more than twice in the same motion.
4. That no Delegate be written out and handed to the Clerk.
5. That all questions which are lost be not recorded.
6. That all members enjoy the privileges of Delegates, except voting.
7. That the resolutions be read at each session.