

# **Christian Life Commission of The Missouri Baptist Convention Bylaws**

(Revised November 2003)

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITY**

Section 1. The Christian Life Commission shall assist Missouri Baptists in the propagation of the Gospel by challenging them to be Salt & Light in accordance with Mathew 5:13-16.

Section 2. The purpose and the responsibility of the Christian Life Commission shall be to educate and to encourage the churches of the Missouri Baptist Convention to challenge their memberships to the ideal of maximum Christian living as outlined in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

Section 3. The Christian Life Commission of the Missouri Baptist Convention shall assume responsibility for the study and the promotion of materials and information regarding, but not limited to, the following issues: (1) Family Life, (2) Human Rights, (3) Economics, (4) Moral Concepts, (5) Citizenship, and (6) Religious Liberty. The Christian Life Commission shall cooperate with the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in areas of mutual agreement.

Section 4. In accordance with the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Missouri Baptist Convention, the Christian Life Commission shall propose resolutions, and/or other statements related to the Commission's scope of responsibilities, to the annual Convention Resolutions Committee or other agencies in furtherance of the Commission's purpose.

## **ARTICLE I – Membership**

Section 1. *Members* - The twelve members of the Christian Life Commission of the Missouri Baptist Convention shall be elected by the Convention in accordance with the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Section 2. *Qualification of Members* - All members of the Commission shall be active members of Southern Baptist churches cooperating with the Missouri Baptist Convention and shall be residents of the State of Missouri. Each member shall be chosen with particular reference to his qualifications for the special work of this Commission, in accordance with the manner and the qualifications required by the Missouri Baptist Convention for the members of its Commissions, boards, and other agencies.

Section 3. *Attendance* - Attendance at all meetings is expected of all members. Members who miss should notify the chairman at the earliest possible time, in advance of the meeting. Members who miss four regular meetings in one year shall resign from the commission for the remainder of their term, unless they are able to show good cause for such absence and can demonstrate a reasonable expectation for further participation.

Section 4. *Ex Officio Members* - The President and the Executive Director of the Missouri Baptist Convention shall be ex officio members of the Commission. The Commission may, from time to time, request the heads of various departments of the Missouri Baptist Convention to meet with it and serve as consultants to the Commission for the purpose of maintaining proper coordination in the total effort of Missouri Baptists.

## **ARTICLE II – Meetings**

Section 1. *Regular Meetings* - The Commission shall hold at least four regular meetings each year.

Section 2. *Called Meetings* - Called meetings may be held upon the call of the chairman, the Executive Director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, or upon the request of any seven members of the Commission made to the chairman or the Executive Director. Ten (10) days' notice of time and place of each meeting shall be given each member of the Commission by mailing a copy of such notice to each member of the Commission at the member's last known address.

Section 3. *Quorum* - A quorum of the Commission shall consist of those members present and all matters properly coming before the Commission shall be determined by a majority of those present.

## **ARTICLE III - Officers and Their Duties**

Section 1. *Election* - Officers of the Commission shall be elected annually by the Commission at its first regular business meeting following the annual meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention and shall consist of a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary. Other offices or positions may be established by the Commission, as such offices are deemed beneficial to the furtherance of the Commission's endeavors. Any additional officers not herein named shall be elected by the Commission.

Section 2. *Chairman* - The chairman of the Commission shall preside at all meetings of the Commission and shall perform all other duties as ordinarily pertain to that office.

Section 3. *Vice-Chairman* - The duty of the vice-chairman shall be to act for the chairman in his absence; and in case of the resignation or death of the chairman, he shall assume all of the duties of the chairman until the vacancy is filled by the Commission.

Section 4. *Secretary* - The duty of the secretary shall be to keep full and accurate minutes of each meeting of the Commission, to preserve all records of the Commission, to carry on such correspondence as may be directed by the chairman of the Commission, and to perform such other duties as are usually related to the office of secretary.

## **ARTICLE IV - Committees**

At the discretion of the Commission, the chairman of the Commission shall appoint such committees from among the members of the Commission as may be necessary and proper to carry out the policies, programs, and business of the Commission. The chairman of the Commission shall be an ex officio member of all committees. The Commission may authorize the appointment of ad hoc committees, as needs may arise, which may include Missouri Baptists other than Commission members.

## **ARTICLE V - Governing Instruments**

The Constitution and the Bylaws of the Missouri Baptist Convention shall be considered the governing instruments of this Commission; and all procedures, policies, and programs of the Commission shall be in harmony with and subject to the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Missouri Baptist Convention and its policies and programs. In accordance with Article I of these Bylaws, the Christian Life Commission of the Missouri Baptist Convention is not and shall not operate as a self-perpetuating board.

## **ARTICLE VI - Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Commission or at a called meeting after ten (10) days' notice has been given in writing, with the purpose of the meeting stated in the notice, by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Commission present.

Bylaw revisions adopted:

September 2, 1999

Quorum revision from two thirds to simple majority adopted

February 7, 2002

Article 3, Section 2 was revised to delete the last sentence which read "The Chairman shall also act as liaison between the Commission and the Word and Way."

November 13, 2003 Meeting

Changed Article II Section 1 from "...six regular meetings..." to "...four regular meetings..."

Changed Article II Section 3 from "A quorum of the Commission shall consist of a simple majority of the members..." to "A quorum of the Commission shall consist of those members present..."