Credentials Committee
Rules and Procedures

1. The Credentials Committee shall be made up of six individuals. Members shall serve three year terms and shall be nominated by the Committee on Convention Committees and submitted for vote on the final day of the annual meeting of the convention. Initially, two members shall be nominated and elected for a one year term each, two members nominated and elected for a two year term each and two members nominated and elected for a three year term each. Thereafter, two shall be nominated and elected each year on the final day of the annual meeting of the Convention.

2. Members elected to fill an unexpired term shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

3. The Credentials Committee shall be a standing committee of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

4. The committee shall have the right and responsibility to review and make recommendations upon all questions regarding cooperation of churches with the MBC or enrollment concerning the credentials of messengers. This includes churches which are petitioning the convention for membership and member churches questioned on the basis of faith, polity and practice. The committee may make this recommendation by evaluating the church based on origin, character, doctrine and practice.

5. The Committee shall have the right and responsibility to review and make recommendation upon all questions which may arise regarding cooperation of Churches or enrollment concerning the credentials of Messengers.

6. The Committee shall be guided by such rules and procedures as the Convention may adopt from time to time. In addition, the Annual Meeting may give direction and guidance to the Committee by its resolutions and votes while in session.

7. Any church which:
   a. has adopted a doctrinal statement which is consistent with and not in contravention of accepted, historical Southern Baptist faith, polity and practice,
   b. contributes financially to the work of the Southern Baptist Convention, and
   c. has not voted to elect:
      (1) send representation or messenger(s) to, 
      (2) to financially support the work of, or 
      (3) budget funds to send to any other national convention or organization which serves and/or acts as a national convention shall be considered a Southern Baptist Church.

8. Any organization which independently sends and ordains ministers to the United States military services shall be considered a national convention.

9. Any church which:
   a. contributes to the work of the Missouri Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program on at least an annual basis, and
   b. does not belong to or contribute financially to the work of any other state convention or organization which serves and/or acts as a state convention in the State of Missouri shall be “singly aligned” with the Missouri Baptist Convention.

10. A church shall be considered as belonging and/or contributing financially to the work of another state convention or organization in the State of Missouri if the church votes to:
    a. send representation or messenger(s) to, 
    b. financially support the work of, or 
    c. budgets funds to send to any other state convention or organization which serves, and/or acts as a state convention in the State of Missouri.

11. The Committee may investigate the qualifications of a Church to continue cooperation with the Convention or the qualifications of any person(s) to sit as messenger(s) to the Annual Meeting upon a challenge from a Church or Messenger or upon receipt or discovery of any information which causes the Committee to believe that, if true, the Church no longer meets the qualifications to continue cooperation with the Convention or the Messenger(s) do/does not meet the qualifications to serve as Messenger(s) to the Annual Meeting on personal grounds or by reason of the character or attitude of the church from which such Messenger(s) shall come, or because of failure to have obtained proper credentials as Messenger(s) from a Southern Baptist Church singly aligned with the Convention.

12. Where the Committee is required to give notice to messenger(s), a church or others regarding the Committee’s recommendation, such notice may be given orally or in writing, including telephonic or
electronically by the most efficient means deemed appropriate by the Committee chair or his designee.

13. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit cooperation with the Convention by those Baptist churches with racial, ethnic, or cultural relations or other organizations, conventions, associations and affiliations so long as no part of those relations are contrary to the Missouri Baptist Convention’s Constitution, Bylaws and Business and Financial Plan and do not violate accepted Southern Baptist faith, polity and practice.