

Bylaws Committee
Joel Ainsworth, Chair
Chris Dewease, Vice-Chair

2024 Bylaws Committee

Joel Ainsworth
Jeremy Creech
Chris Dewease
Brian Henderson

Bobby James
Benji Ladd
Greg Somers
Ben Winn

The Bylaws Committee presents amendments to the Bylaws, Part I, as a first reading in 2024. A vote to incorporate these amendments will be taken at the annual meeting in 2025. The changes update the term 'affiliated' to 'in friendly cooperation' in places it was overlooked in earlier updates. These changes are found in Part 1, Article VI. Proposed changes are indicated in **bold font** and ~~strikethroughs~~.

B. Membership

1. The membership of the Executive Board shall include two (2) members from each of twelve (12) geographic regions as determined by the Bylaws Committee (Bylaws Part II, Article III, Section F, Item 2) with ~~at least one (1) of the two (2) members in each region coming from a church with fewer than 200 in worship attendance and four (4)~~ **six (6)** at-large members selected by the Nominations Committee. Only one (1) person from a church **affiliated in friendly cooperation** with the Convention may serve as an elected member of the Board at a given time. No region shall have more than three (3) members. ~~Members may come from unassigned churches within a given region and not participating in an association but affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention within that region.~~ At the time of the member's election, the member shall have been a member for at least one (1) year of a church in the area of the region from which the person is elected. The Convention President is a voting member of the Executive Board completing a ~~twenty-nine (29)~~ **thirty-one (31)** member Board. Membership of the Executive Board shall also include the following non-voting ex officio members: Convention officers, **and** the state president of the Woman's Missionary Union, ~~and the state president of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries~~. No member of the Executive Board, except ex officio members, shall serve simultaneously on a board of trustees of a South Carolina Baptist Convention-sponsored institution.
2. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Executive Board, who also serves as Treasurer of the Convention, shall serve as an ex officio, non-voting member

of the Executive Board, and aid by furnishing information, printed material, and needed guidance for the work of the Executive Board.

- ~~3. The elected members of the Executive Board shall be divided into two (2) groupings: one (1) grouping shall be comprised of ordained ministers and laity church employees, and one (1) group comprised of others. No more than eighty (80) percent of the members of the Board shall be drawn from either grouping. The Board will include, within the two (2) groupings this grouping, persons with business expertise, women, and ethnically diverse people to provide a capable and inclusive membership. The second grouping shall be comprised of members from churches in friendly cooperation with the Convention with an average worship attendance of 199 or fewer or 200 or more. No more than sixty (60) percent of the members of the Board shall be drawn from either grouping. Only one (1) person from an affiliated a church in friendly cooperation may serve as an elected member of the Board at a given time. At the time of the member's election, the member shall have been a member for a least one (1) year of a church in the region from which the person is elected.~~
- 3. All members shall come from churches that are in friendly cooperation with the Convention. The elected members of the Executive Board shall be divided into two (2) groups.**
 - a. The first group shall be divided between ordained ministers and laity. No more than eighty (80) percent of the members of the Board shall be drawn from either category.**
 - b. The second group shall be divided between members from churches in friendly cooperation with the Convention that have an average worship attendance of less than 200 and an average worship attendance of 200 or more. Average worship attendance is based on the annual church profile report from the previous year at the time of election. No more than sixty (60) percent of the members of the Board shall be drawn from either category.**
 - c. The Board should reflect the diversity that exists within our convention of cooperating churches.**
4. The term of office of elected members of the Executive Board shall be four (4) years. Terms commence on January 1 following election by the messengers. Members of the Board shall not succeed themselves, except in the case of the Convention President serving one (1) year or a member who has first been elected to fill ~~less than~~ one-half (1/2) **or less than one-half (1/2)** of an unexpired term. The terms of approximately one-fourth (1/4) of the membership of the Board shall expire annually. One (1) year shall elapse before a member may be returned to the Executive Board or be elected to any other board of the Convention.

5. No member of the Executive Board, except ex officio members, shall have any official connection with any of the institutions of the Convention, nor shall the member be an employee of the Convention or an institution of the Convention.

6. Any member of the Executive Board who moves church membership to another region in the state shall remain on the Board until the Convention fills that vacancy. Any member of the Board who becomes a member of a church in another state shall thereby terminate membership on the Board. Any vacancy occurring on the Board shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the Convention's nominating and election process. The Board may temporarily fill the vacancy pending the Convention's election.

Bylaws Part I last amended November 14, 2023

Committee Recommendation

Regarding the motion from the 2023 Annual Meeting stating, "The SCBC amend the bylaws to allow churches to qualify for Messengers through other means than the traditional Cooperative Program giving," this committee wants to ensure that a decision like this is given the weight of study that it deserves.

We make a motion that the current President-elect appoint a study committee to explore the complex issue of how the Convention receives gifts and seat messengers to report back to the Bylaws Committee.

Information

The Bylaws Committee reviewed, studied, and discussed the resolution process challenged at the 2023 annual meeting. This committee affirms the decision of the chair and parliamentarians that our bylaws clearly state that the "Resolutions Committee shall report the title, name of presenter, and disposition of every resolution received." Our bylaws also state that the Resolutions Committee is responsible for recommending to the Convention any resolutions it may deem wise.