

New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.

Constitution and Bylaws

Article I. Name of the Organization

The name of this organization shall be the New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.

Article II. Purpose-Mission Statement

The New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. shall be a Baptist State Convention that allows its membership churches and agencies to do their ministry better through cooperative efforts. To do this, we commit ourselves to:

1. *The New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, scientific and/or educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3), or corresponding sections of any future federal tax code. The New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. is further authorized to receive and to make contributions in furtherance of these purposes, and to make distributions to organizations that may exist in carrying out those purposes and to organizations that qualify under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).*
2. Providing a medium of cooperation for Baptist Churches of Georgia in their divinely commissioned work of missions, Christian Education, evangelism, and benevolence.
3. Prayer, fellowship, support, enrichment and forums on issues affecting the spiritual and religious life of the State of Georgia.
4. Provide a unified Baptist voice to speak to and for the needs and concerns of the citizens of this state.
5. Seek to have open dialogue with other faith-based communities within and outside of the state.
6. Maintain a positive affiliation with the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.

Article III. Membership

Section 1.

This Convention shall be composed of delegates from its membership and other Baptist Associations in harmony with the work and objections of this body.

Section 2.

This Convention shall have no power (authority) or attempt to exercise any authority over any local church within its membership. The Convention shall seek always to recognize and sustain the independence and autonomy of the local church.

Section 3.

Each delegate shall be certified at the time of registration on the Registration Form.

Article IV. Basis of Cooperation

Section 1.

Each church shall be assessed annually a membership fee. This assessment is to be established once each four years. It is to be set in the fourth year of the presidency of the Convention and shall be announced and published no later than at the mid-year session of the Convention.

Section 2.

The amount of the assessment paid by each church will constitute its church and individual representation due the Parent Body (The Convention), the Congress, Women's Department, Laymen's Department, Young Adult and Youth Departments. Each agency of the Convention shall develop means to support its budgetary responsibility to the Convention.

Section 3.

Each church shall communicate the total amount it shall contribute to the Convention by the 15th day of September of each year. A form shall be sent from the Finance Ministry to each church for such reporting. This form shall be returned to the Finance Ministry Chairperson, and a copy to the Budget Committee chairperson.

Section 4.

One-third of the church's annual assessment may be remitted at the meeting of the Adjourned Session, one-third at the Meeting of the Congress of Christian Education, and one-third at the Annual Meeting of the Convention.

Section 5.

The Finance Ministry shall report early during the meeting of each session to the churches which have met their obligation to the Convention, and therefore have proper credentials.

Section 6.

The registration fees shall be determined and established every four years as specified in Section 1 of this article.

Article V. Organizational Structure

1. The officers of the Convention (Parent Body) shall be President, three (3) Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Statistician, Director of Public Relations, Historian, Financial Secretary, Assistant Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Parliamentarian who shall be elected to serve a four-year term of office.
2. A term of office shall be four years with the election to be held at the Annual Meeting of the Convention. New officers are to be installed at this Annual Meeting.

3. All elections shall be by majority vote: by ballot, roll call, or standing of the duly qualified delegated present and voting.
4. The President shall be the official spokesperson for the Convention. When speaking for the Convention, prior consultation with the officers and members shall have taken place.
5. The elected officers, presidents of departments and agencies of the Convention shall serve as the Executive Committee of the Convention with the immediate past president as an ex officio member of this Committee. This Committee shall be authorized to carry out the policy decisions of the Convention.
6. In the year prior to the elections of Convention officers, a Nomination Committee shall be appointed by the President whose task shall be to find qualified candidates for the offices of the Convention (See paragraph 1 above).
7. All departments and agencies of the Convention shall work cooperatively with other state and national bodies of similar nature with prior approval of the Convention.
8. All officers of the Convention shall perform duties with said office unless otherwise specified by this Constitution and Bylaws.
9. The parliamentary procedures for the conducting all meetings of this Convention shall be in accordance with the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise specified within this Constitution and Bylaws.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1.

This Convention shall hold an Annual Session during each calendar year. The time and place shall be determined by the Convention or the Executive Committee and communicated to all the constituencies of the Convention in a most timely manner.

Section 2.

An Adjourned Session of the Convention shall be held each calendar year but no later than the end of the first quarter of the year.

Section 3.

Departments, boards and all agencies of the Convention shall meet at designated times throughout the year.

Section 4.

Special meetings of the Convention may be held from time to time upon call of the President, the Executive Committee, or a majority of the incumbent members by oral or the appropriate means of communication to each member church not less than two weeks before such meeting.

Article VII. Boards, Commissions, and Departments

Section 1.

This Convention shall maintain the following standing boards, ministries, departments, and commissions: Missions, Evangelism, Education, Social Services, Registration Ministry, Congress of Christian Education, Women's Department, Laymen's Department, Moderator's Department, Commission on Education, Pastor's Work Shop, Executive Committee, Youth and Young Adult Departments, and a Budget Committee, additional Board/Ministry appointments may be made by the President of the Parent Body.

Section 2.

The presidents of various departments, chairs of boards and commissions shall establish ministries as appropriate in order to accomplish their tasks.

Section 3.

The Bylaws and guidelines of each board, commission, department, and agency of the Convention shall be submitted to the Parent Body, through its Executive Committee, for its approval. Any changes made to the Bylaws shall be submitted to the Parent Body prior to implementation of such changes.

Article VIII. Agencies of the Convention

Section 1.

The Convention shall from time to time establish auxiliary agencies to conduct specific affairs. Each agency shall have its Board of Directors; establish its own Bylaws and Rules of Operation.

Section 2.

Each agency shall have no less than one-third of its Board of Directors who represent the interest of the Convention.

Section 3.

Each agency shall have its own director/administrator. The director shall provide semi-annual printed reports of its activities to the Convention. An annual printed report shall be submitted to the Convention prior to its Annual Session.

Article IX. The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the general officers of the Convention (see Article V.5), the presidents and chairpersons of the several departments, boards, commissions, directors of agencies, and one member from the territory of each cooperating association. All members of the Committee must be approved by the Convention.

Section 2.

The Executive Committee shall meet at least 30-45 days prior to each annual session of the Convention to provide a budget for the Convention and all of its departments. The Committee shall have charge and control of all activities of the several departments, boards, and commissions in the interim between sessions of the Convention, and shall fill all vacancies occurred by death or resignation.

Section 3.

Ten members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, provided that a quorum shall in no case be considered without the presence of at least one of the Vice Presidents of the Convention. If at any meeting of the Committee there is less than a quorum present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting from time to time, without notice, other than an announcement at the meeting, until a quorum shall be present. The actions of the Committee present and voting, shall determine any action taken by the Committee except as may be otherwise specifically provided by statute, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by any contract or agreement to which the Convention is a party.

Section 4.

The Executive Committee shall have the authority to act on any unforeseen emergency that occurs in any of the interests it controls which, in the judgement of the Committee requires action before the next session of the Convention. All parties shall be bound by its action provided that it must report to the next session of the Convention all the facts and transactions taken in each case. No other action of the Committee shall be final until approved by the Convention.

Section 5.

The President of the Parent Body shall appoint, with ratification by the body of the Committee, a chairperson, assistant chairperson, secretary, and assistant secretary of the Executive Committee who will perform the usual duties of such officers.

Section 6.

The President shall call the Executive Committee in regular or emergency sessions to transact such business of the Convention as may be necessary for its welfare and advancement.

Section 7.

An officer of the Convention may be removed from office for cause, at a meeting of the Committee, provided that the proposed removal is set forth in the notice of the meeting. Should an officer of the Convention become dysfunctional for any reason, the Executive Committee of the Convention will at the written request of the involved department or agency, or if it becomes

obvious to the Convention, the Executive Committee will consider removal. If the department fails to act, the President of the Convention shall take the appropriate action.

Section 8.

Should it become necessary to remove an officer of the Convention, his/her replacement will follow the guidelines of succession. This “new” person shall complete the tenure of the lowest ranking officer of the department, agency or entity of the Convention. This is to assure the continuity of the work of the Convention with the least disruption to its agenda as possible. A replacement of this nature will serve only to complete the tenure of office of the replaced person.

Article X. Departments

There shall be three (3) Individual Departments of this Convention: Laymen, Women, and Youth and Young Adults. Each shall have the following:

1. Officers for the Laymen and Women’s Departments – President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Financial Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and such other appointed officers and ministries necessary to expedite the work efficiently.
2. The officers of the Youth and Young Adult Departments shall be: Adult Advisors, appointed by the President of the Parent Body; a department President, First and Second Vice President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, and other officers necessary to facilitate ministry in the departments.
3. The duties of the officers of each department shall be those commonly performed by such officers except where otherwise specified.
4. All department officers must be certified delegated from membership churches. The election to office and tenure in office shall be governed by the stated procedure given in Article V.2 and 3 of this Constitution.
5. Each department shall hold an Annual Session co-jointly with the Parent Body under one theme and shall work cooperatively to promote the goals of the Convention.
6. Each department shall provide appropriate study courses and lectures at each annual session for the cultural and spiritual development of all delegates who attend its sessions.
7. Each department, through its president, shall provide an Annual Printed Report to the Convention following the stated guidelines of the Convention.
8. Departmental membership shall be opened to registered delegates who are in agreement with the purpose of the specific department.

Section 1.

The purpose of the Laymen’s Department shall be to promote brotherhood and cooperative work among Laymen of the Convention. It shall strive to enlist all laymen of the church in the work of the Convention.

Section 2.

The purpose of the Women's Department shall be to promote Christian work among the women of the Convention's bounds and to seek to improve the missionary work in church through cooperative programs of Christian training and devotional life.

Section 3.

The purpose of the Youth and Young Adult Departments shall be to promote the Christian training and involvement of youth and young adults in the local, state, and national conventions with strategies from the Scriptures which develop their love for the Lord and their willingness to participate in and be of service to humanity, through their Christian endeavors both in the Church and in the world.

Article XI. Congress of Christian Education

Section 1.

The Congress of Christian Education shall promote religious educational leadership training for local church workers. It shall maintain its accreditation with the Progressive National Baptist Convention and shall strive to work cooperatively with the same in order to increase its efficiency for service.

Section 2.

The Congress officers shall be: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Finance Secretary, Music Director, Dean and Assistant Dean who shall administer its general activities.

Section 3.

The Dean shall be responsible for the selection of instructors, accreditation of all courses and for assembling the faculty in order to provide a curriculum for conducting courses of study and seminars for pastors, missionary workers, Sunday School and Baptist Training Union works, teachers, laymen and other church workers.

Section 4.

The Congress shall provide ministries and programs necessary to expedite its work efficiently. Representation and enrollment in the Congress by churches and District Congresses shall be governed by the rules of the Parent Body.

Section 5.

The Congress shall make an Annual Report to the Parent Body each year and work cooperatively with the Parent Body to promote its general program and work.

Section 6.

The Congress shall work with other District, State, and National bodies of similar nature with the approval of the Convention.

Article XII. Boards and Commissions

To enhance and further the work of the Convention, when appropriate, there shall be Boards and Commissions with specific responsibilities assigned by the Parent Body. Each of these shall have the appropriate officers to conduct its appropriate ministry.

Each Board and Commission of the Convention shall prepare and present to the Parent Body an Annual Report outlining its activities, expenses, and recommendations for future work that will enhance the goals of the Convention.

Section 1.

The Home Mission Board shall have as its duties: to conduct Bible Institutes (during the year), emphasizing a better knowledge of the Bible and its relevance to spiritual growth. It shall emphasize also the doctrines and practices of the Missionary Baptist Church.

This Board shall work with hospitals, nursing homes, hospice care facilities, jails, prisons and other such institutions to render spiritual service to the shut-ins, and inmates.

Section 2.

The Board of Evangelism shall emphasize soul-winning as its special work and the care of souls after they are won.

The Board shall conduct meetings wherever they can be arranged at churches. In its Annual Report to the Convention, it will point out methods, plans, and suggestions that might be helpful to the churches of the Convention in the great work of soul-winning.

Section 3.

The Education Commission shall have as its duties to: study the trends of education and observe these as they are promoted by both private and public institutions and particularly Christian schools, colleges, universities and seminaries and make reports and recommendations to the Convention as to what course of action it deems wise to take as a denominational body.

- a) This Commission shall receive and disburse the Student Aid Fund provided by the Convention, and under its supervision, and shall promote the work of the fund.
- b) This Commission shall recommend to the Convention, no later than during its Annual Adjourned Session, the number of students who will receive scholarship aid and the amount.
- c) Students receiving scholarship aid from this fund must be members of the cooperating churches of the Convention and in good and regular standing and shall be recommended by the pastors of said cooperating churches.
- d) It shall be the duty of this Commission to develop methods for funding the scholarship aid to be provided. The Commission shall seek ways and means whereby the Convention's designated fund for education might be invested in order to bring in the greatest possible return for student-aid purposes.

Section 4.

The Social Service Commission shall be to observe and study the current economic, political and social trends of the nation and the world to show the relevancy of the Christian faith to such trends and problems. It shall make reports and recommendations to the Convention as to what course of action it deems wise for a denominational body.

Section 5.

The Badge, Paraphernalia and Transportation Commission shall have as its duties: to prepare the official badge, or ribbon for the officers and delegates of the Convention and all other duties directed by the Convention or Executive Committee.

Section 6.

The Global Mission Commission shall have as its duty to promote in the Convention, the work of foreign (global) missions. The Commission shall encourage regular monthly contributions in all the cooperating churches; sponsor and conduct special drives and rallies for the work.

- a) The Commission shall work with other global mission agencies in the U.S.A. and with the foreign mission field. It shall be prepared to recommend to the Convention what agencies and fields it should direct its special attention and support.

Section 7.

The Commission on Extension shall be concerned specifically with work in rural churches and a cooperative program with pastors in rural areas. It shall sponsor programs and activities in areas where churches have not affiliated with any convention.

- a) It shall provide and distribute literature that will be helpful in promoting the work of Baptist churches in these areas, with the view of bringing them into the full fellowship and work of the Convention.
- b) The officers shall be the Vice Presidents of the Parent Body and other officers as needed for regional operations.

Article XIII. Moderator's Department

Section 1.

The Moderator's Department shall have the duty to correlate the work of the moderators of the operating associations of the Convention. It shall strive to bring other associations into the cooperating fellowship of the Convention

Section 2.

It shall strive also to promote the program and the work of the Convention in each of the cooperating associations.

Article XIV. Public Relations/Media Communications Committee

It shall be the responsibility of this Committee, under close general supervision of the Parent Body, to provide Convention related information to the press and general public. It is to prepare news releases, set up news/press conferences, and respond to inquiries from the general public and the media. It is to participate in marketing and public relations projects; and Convention meetings and special events. It is to develop, edit and print Convention Newsletters, Informational Brochures or other Promotional materials; and assist in Convention briefings and audio-visual productions.

Section 1.

There shall be a Director of Public Relations, appointed by the President of the Parent Body, who shall coordinate and promote the general program of the Convention in cooperation with the President and other officers of the Convention.

Section 2.

Under the supervision of the Director of Public Relations, the correspondence pursuant to the work of the Convention, all of its departments and constitutional offices shall be published through appropriate media as widely as necessary.

Article XV. The Budget

Section 1.

This Convention shall conduct all of its fiscal affairs using the unified budget system. In preparing the general budget, all departments, boards, commissions, and agencies, shall be considered and their needs carefully noted. The amount designated within the total budget shall be determined by the objectives of each.

Section 2.

The Annual Budget shall be prepared by the Budget Ministry and presented in itemized form to the Convention for its approval. This shall be prepared at least twelve months in advance and shall be presented to the Executive Committee prior to its distribution for approval by the Parent Body.

Section 3.

All departments, boards, commissions and agencies participating in the budgetary process shall exercise reasonable effort in securing the financing to meet the Budget. It shall be understood by all that although something has been approved for the budget, it does not guarantee funding for it.

Section 4.

No expenses shall be incurred by anyone on behalf of the Convention in excess of the approved budgetary appropriation with the understanding that even if something has been approved, the expenditure is to be submitted through the appropriate channel prior to being made.

Section 5.

The Convention shall provide the necessary forms (pledge cards, letters, blanks) required to develop the Convention's Budget.

Section 6.

Copies of the Approved Budget shall be given to each cooperating church, pastor, and department head.

Section 7.

The Convention shall provide the necessary arrangement for the periodic gifts (monthly or otherwise) and offerings to be sent during the Convention year to be applied to the budget with due credit given each donor.

Section 8.

A special ministry on budget pledges shall be appointed at each annual session whose duty it shall be to secure the pledges from churches and associations.

Article XVI. The Disbursement of Funds

Section 1.

The Convention shall establish a depository in a regular FDIC approved bank or banks in Georgia. All disbursements shall be made by checks.

Section 2.

The Treasurer and any other officers of the Convention, departments, and agencies who work with the finances of the Convention shall be bonded. Department heads and others shall submit budgetary requests in writing to the Treasurer of the Convention in a timely fashion.

Section 3.

Appropriate literature and supplies shall be prepared and provided to expedite the business of the Convention.

Section 4.

Guidelines for donations and honorariums for services rendered to the Convention shall be presented by the Executive Committee to the Convention for approval. The Budget shall reflect a specific amount for such.

Article XVII. Financial Procedures

Section 1.

There shall be at each session of this Convention a Finance Ministry whose duty shall be to oversee the financial reports and enrollment of the officers and delegated of this Convention. The Finance Ministry shall keep accurate records of all finances and report the same to this Convention.

Section 2.

The Treasurer shall receive and deposit all funds from the Finance Ministry and disburse funds as provided for in Article XVI of this Constitution.

Section 3.

The Convention President shall appoint the chairperson of this ministry who shall direct the individual delegate's enrollment phase of the ministry's work. There shall be a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary of this ministry whose duties shall be to keep accurate records of all its transactions. The authorized signatories shall be members of the Finance Ministry.

Section 4.

Churches, associations, attendees to the Congress of Christian Education, and individual delegates shall register promptly with this ministry and receive official badges and receipts for the same.

Article XVIII. Qualification and Duties of Officers

Section 1.

The duties of all officers of this Convention shall be in general those responsibilities and duties suggested by the terminology of the office they hold with such duties and responsibilities as may be required of them by this Convention (see Bylaws).

Section 2.

Each officer elected within this Convention shall serve for one full term. No one can hold more than one office within the Convention during a term of office. Such person to seek the same office again, must not do so for a full term of that office.

Section 3.

Officers of this Convention and of its departments, commissions and agencies, prior to their election or appointment shall furnish evidence of genuine Christian character, fervent zeal in our Lord's cause and talent which fits them for the service for which they offer themselves.

Section 4.

This Convention shall publish minutes of each Annual Session giving an account of all of its activities including reports of all the boards, commissions, departments and agencies.

Article XIX. Bylaws

Section 1. Office of the President.

The President of the Convention shall preside over all sessions, or delegate this responsibility to one of the Vice Presidents of the Convention, and shall appoint all ministries except those otherwise specified. Vice-Presidents of the Parent Body shall be elected with regards to the major geographical boundaries of the Convention when such is appropriate and in the best interest of the work of the Convention. Each Vice-President shall promote the work of the Convention in his/her respective territory under the direction of the President of the Convention. Presidents of the departments shall be governed by this law.

Section 2. Responsibilities of All Agencies of the Convention.

All boards, commissions, departments, and other agencies of this Convention shall include in their financial report a statement of their income and expenditures for the current calendar year and an estimated budget of income and expenditures when requested by the Budget Ministry.

Section 3. Audit of Financial Records.

The Executive Committee shall develop guidelines for employing a Certified Public Accountant to audit all financial records, Treasurer's accounts, and reports on the validity of their bond. A time table for said audit is to be established by this Committee. Whenever there is a change of Treasurer or persons responsible for the finances of the Convention, the Executive Committee shall immediately employ a CPA for the purpose of auditing the financial records of the Convention.

Section 4. Appointment of Ad Hoc Committees/Ministries.

The President shall appoint in each Annual Session the following committees/ministries to expedite the work of the Convention: Time and Place, Application for Members, Resolutions, Public Offerings, Ushers, Agenda, and Order of Business and Worship. The duties and responsibilities of these committees/ministries shall be those implied by the title of each committee/ministry.

Section 5. Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

The President shall appoint a Constitution and Bylaws Committee that shall be tasked with maintaining the legal documents of the Convention, reviewing these on a regular basis to determine their clarity and functionality. This Committee shall solicit and suggest changes to the Constitution as directed by the President or the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Books and Records.

All official records of the Convention are to be maintained by the Convention's Historian. Each President of the Convention and all of its departments and agencies shall turn over immediately to their successor, the minutes from their area of responsibilities. This transfer of records shall occur no less than thirty (30) days of an election or appointment.

Section 7. Dissolution of Assets.

Should it become necessary to dissolve this Convention, all of its assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code, or shall be distributed to the Federal Government, or state or local government for public purpose. If after five years after the dissolution of the now New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. no new convention has been organized, then the assets are then to be distributed to the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. or some similar non-profit religious organization within the state of Georgia.

Section 8. Articles of Amendment

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended, added to or replaced at any annual session of this Convention by a majority vote of delegates present and voting provided notice of proposed change has been given in writing during a previous session of the Convention.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned, constituting the Incorporators of this, the New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., have executed this Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation on this the 26th day of December 2024.

By: _____
Incorporator

**The End of the Constitution and Bylaws of
New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.**

Amended March 1997
Amended November 1998 (Athens, GA)
Amended November 2011
Amended December 2024 (Executive Board Members)

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee Appointed in 2024:

Deacon Timothy Wallace, Chair
Reverend Karen Kelley
Sister Selethia D. Smith
Sister Barbara Morris
Sister Joyce W. Davis
Sister Carolyn Trimble-Price
Brother William Cobb