

PROPOSED AMMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA

The Board of Directors (Board) of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (Convention) will present six motions to amend the Convention's bylaws during the November 2021 annual meeting of the Convention. All six proposed changes address issues related to giving proper notice to churches of various items. The impetus of these changes are twofold. First, we operate in a digital age which depends more on electronic means of communication. Second, the change in the publication format of the *Biblical Recorder* to a monthly magazine makes it difficult to meet the publication deadlines required by the current bylaws. The leadership of the *Biblical Recorder* was consulted on the proposed changes.

The proposed amendments are included below with specific changes underlined. Should you have any questions regarding these proposed amendments to the bylaws, please feel free to contact J. Allen Murray, chairman of the Articles and Bylaws Committee, at jallenmurray1@gmail.com, or Seth Brown, director of Convention Relations, at sbrown@ncbaptist.org, for more explanation.

PROPOSED CHANGE #1: BYLAW I.A.2

Current Reading:

2. Notice. Notices of the meetings of the Convention shall appear (a) in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date more than thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention; and (b) on the Convention's website beginning at least thirty-five (35) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and to remain on such website through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention.

Proposed Reading:

2. Notice. Notices of the meetings of the Convention shall appear on the Convention's website beginning at least thirty-five (35) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and shall remain on such website through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention. Notice may also be available on the *Biblical Recorder* website. In addition, the Convention shall send notice to every cooperating church either electronically or by mail at least 30 days prior to the commencement of such meeting of the Convention.

PROPOSED CHANGE #2: BYLAW I.C.6.a.ii

Current Reading:

a. The Related Entities (and individually, a "Related Entity") are Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc. ("Children's Homes"), North Carolina Baptist Hospital ("Hospital"), Biblical Recorder, Inc. ("Recorder") and North Carolina Baptist Foundation, Inc. ("Foundation"). This committee shall invite in writing each Related Entity to submit recommendations for vacancies for its respective board occurring annually or between annual meetings of the Convention. The committee shall invite individuals through the *Biblical Recorder* and the Convention's website to submit recommendations for trustees and directors of Related Entities

and for terms on the Board; this invitation shall include a current list of how many persons are to be elected to the Board in that year from each region. All recommendations shall be accompanied by biographical material, including general assessments by personal and church references. Recommendations and supporting material shall be submitted early enough for the committee to acknowledge and carefully evaluate each recommendation and make an informed decision based upon character, churchmanship, and special skills required by the particular Related Entity. All such materials shall be kept by the chair of the committee during the period of active work up to and until the time of the Convention, and all such materials received from churches and individuals shall be shared upon receipt with the particular Related Entity involved. After this Convention has taken action on nominations, the chair will forward all biographical materials to the new chair of the committee.

Proposed Reading:

- a. The Related Entities (and individually, a “Related Entity”) are Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, Inc. (“Children’s Homes”), North Carolina Baptist Hospital (“Hospital”), Biblical Recorder, Inc. (“Recorder”) and North Carolina Baptist Foundation, Inc. (“Foundation”). This committee shall invite in writing each Related Entity to submit recommendations for vacancies for its respective board occurring annually or between annual meetings of the Convention. The committee shall invite individuals through the Convention’s website to submit recommendations for trustees and directors of Related Entities and for terms on the Board; this invitation shall include a current list of how many persons are to be elected to the Board in that year from each region. The invitation may also appear on the *Biblical Recorder* website. All recommendations shall be accompanied by biographical material, including general assessments by personal and church references. Recommendations and supporting material shall be submitted early enough for the committee to acknowledge and carefully evaluate each recommendation and make an informed decision based upon character, churchmanship, and special skills required by the particular Related Entity. All such materials shall be kept by the chair of the committee during the period of active work up to and until the time of the Convention, and all such materials received from churches and individuals shall be shared upon receipt with the particular Related Entity involved. After this Convention has taken action on nominations, the chair will forward all biographical materials to the new chair of the committee.

PROPOSED CHANGE #3: BYLAW I.C.6.a.viii

Current Reading:

- viii. The full report of the committee shall appear (a) in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date more than four (4) weeks prior to the annual meeting of the Convention; and (b) on the Convention’s website beginning at least thirty-five (35) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and to remain on such website through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention. If necessary, the committee, after prior consultation with and approval from the respective board of trustees or directors of any

applicable Related Entity, shall be allowed to amend its report to the Convention in session to replace any previously reported nominee who has been determined to be unable to serve following the publication of the report of the committee to the Convention.

Proposed Reading:

viii. The full report of the committee shall appear on the Convention's website beginning at least thirty-five (35) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and to remain on such website through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention. The report may also appear on the *Biblical Recorder* website. The report shall also be published in the Convention's full Book of Reports which shall be posted on the Convention's Annual Meeting website at least 14 days prior to the commencement of the meeting. If necessary, the committee, after prior consultation with and approval from the respective board of trustees or directors of any applicable Related Entity, shall be allowed to amend its report to the Convention in session to replace any previously reported nominee who has been determined to be unable to serve following the publication of the report of the committee to the Convention.

PROPOSED CHANGE #4: BYLAW I.C.6.c.

Current Reading:

When considering properly submitted resolutions, the committee and messengers shall observe the following procedures:

- (i) All resolutions proposed by individuals shall be submitted to the committee in writing no later than September 10 prior to the annual meeting of the Convention at which the proposed resolution is to be considered. The committee shall consider all resolutions submitted. Those resolutions to be presented to the Convention by the committee shall appear on the Convention's website and may also be available on the *Biblical Recorder's* website, beginning at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and to remain on such website(s) through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention. The committee shall provide notice in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date more than fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention of when and where the resolution(s) to be presented to the Convention will be available on the Convention's website and may also be available on the *Biblical Recorder's* website. Exceptions to prior publication by the committee may be made in the case of emergency resolutions dealing with matters such as national disasters, public tragedies, or late developments.
- (ii) The committee may:
 - a. reword resolutions for clarity,
 - b. combine like issues into one resolution, or
 - c. reject resolutions which have been previously addressed or are inappropriate.
- (iii) The committee shall notify those submitting resolutions of the disposition thereof no later than September 30.

- (iv) In the event that the committee rejects in whole a resolution proposed by an individual who is a member of a cooperating church, then such individual who had submitted the resolution to the committee may seek to present the resolution for consideration by the messengers at the meeting of the Convention provided the following requirements are met:
 - a. Such individual shall deliver to the Board Secretary the text of such resolution twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention so that it will be available on the Convention's website beginning at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and to remain on the website through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention. In addition, the text of the resolution may also be available on the *Biblical Recorder's* website.
 - b. Such individual, at their own expense, provides notice in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one issue with a publication date more than fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention that such resolution's text will be available on the Convention's website and may also be available on the *Biblical Recorder's* website.
 - c. Such individual is registered as a messenger and is recognized during Miscellaneous Business to move that such resolution be considered by the messengers.
 - d. By a vote of two-thirds of the messengers present and voting at the meeting, the messengers determine that such resolution should be taken up immediately contrary to the decision of the committee.
- (v) If a resolution was not properly submitted to the committee, a messenger shall not be allowed to present it from the floor of the Convention at the meeting.

Proposed Reading:

When considering properly submitted resolutions, the committee and messengers shall observe the following procedures:

- (i) All resolutions proposed by individuals shall be submitted to the committee in writing no later than September 10 prior to the annual meeting of the Convention at which the proposed resolution is to be considered. The committee shall consider all resolutions submitted. Those resolutions to be presented to the Convention by the committee shall appear on the Convention's website and may also be available on the *Biblical Recorder's* website, beginning at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and shall remain on such website(s) through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention. Exceptions to such notice by the committee may be made in the case of emergency resolutions dealing with matters such as national disasters, public tragedies, or late developments.
- (ii) The committee may:
 - a. reword resolutions for clarity,
 - b. combine like issues into one resolution, or
 - c. reject resolutions which have been previously addressed or are inappropriate.

- (iii) The committee shall notify those submitting resolutions of the disposition thereof no later than September 30.
- (iv) In the event that the committee rejects in whole a resolution proposed by an individual who is a member of a cooperating church, then such individual who had submitted the resolution to the committee may seek to present the resolution for consideration by the messengers at the meeting of the Convention provided the following requirements are met:
 - a. Such individual shall deliver to the Board Secretary the text of such resolution twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention so that it will be available on the Convention's website beginning at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and to remain on the website through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention. In addition, the text of the resolution may also be available on the *Biblical Recorder's* website.
 - b. Such individual is registered as a messenger and is recognized during Miscellaneous Business to move that such resolution be considered by the messengers.
 - c. By a vote of two-thirds of the messengers present and voting at the meeting, the messengers determine that such resolution should be taken up immediately contrary to the decision of the committee.
- (v) If a resolution was not properly submitted to the committee, a messenger shall not be allowed to present it from the floor of the Convention at the meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGE #5: BYLAW IV.C.2

Current Reading:

2. Notice of any motion involving proposed borrowing of money, guaranty of borrowing by a third party, or the encumbrance of Convention property requiring Convention approval shall appear in the *Biblical Recorder* in two (2) separate issues in advance of the meeting of this Convention during which it is proposed that action be taken on such motion and on the Convention's website at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention during which it is proposed that action be taken on such motion.

Proposed Reading:

2. Notice of any motion involving proposed borrowing of money, guaranty of borrowing by a third party, or the encumbrance of Convention property requiring Convention approval shall appear on the Convention's website at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention during which it is proposed that action be taken on such motion. Such notice may also appear on the *Biblical Recorder* website. In addition, the Convention shall send notice regarding such a proposal to every cooperating church either electronically or by mail at least 30 days prior to the commencement of such meeting of the Convention.

PROPOSED CHANGE #6: BYLAW IV.I

Current Reading:

I. Amendments To Bylaws: These Bylaws may be changed or amended by a majority vote of the registered messengers present and voting at any session during the annual meeting (other than the first session or the last session) or during a special meeting of the Convention, provided that notice of the amendment to the Bylaws (a) shall either appear in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date of more than ten (10) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken or be mailed to every cooperating church, as defined in the Articles, at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken; and (b) shall appear on the Convention's website beginning at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken and remain on such website through the conclusion of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken. In the event the required notice has not been given, these bylaws may be changed or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered messengers present and voting at such session of the annual meeting.

Proposed Reading:

I. Amendments To Bylaws: These Bylaws may be changed or amended by a majority vote of the registered messengers present and voting at any session during the annual meeting (other than the first session or the last session) or during a special meeting of the Convention, provided that notice of the amendment to the Bylaws shall appear on the Convention's website beginning at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken and remain on such website through the conclusion of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken. Notice shall also be mailed to every cooperating church, as defined by the Articles, at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken. In the event the required notice has not been given, these bylaws may be changed or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered messengers present and voting at such session of the annual meeting.