CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

This body shall be known as the Duck River Association of Missionary Baptists, Inc.

ARTICLE II – Offices

The principal office of the corporation shall be located at 11145 Tullahoma Highway, Tullahoma, TN 37388 in Franklin County, Tennessee. The membership may change the corporation's principal office as necessary.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Our purpose as a body of churches is to cooperate together

in order to accomplish what cannot be done separately

to strengthen our churches and impact lostness, both locally and globally.

(An expanded explanation of this statement is found in the document:

"The Mission and Vision of the Duck River Baptist Association".)

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

A The two-fold nature of an Association, and the two-fold sense in which the terms are used, shall be recognized as follows:

1. The group of churches that constitute this common fellowship shall be Southern Baptist Churches that are in harmony and cooperation with the objectives set forth in this Constitution and shall be in doctrinal harmony with the historic faith and practice of Baptists, substantially as set forth in the Baptist Faith and Message, a statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14, 2000 and consistent with the Bible, God's Holy Word, which is our authority for faith and practice.

2. The organized body known as the Association, when authoritatively assembled, shall be composed of messengers, also known as members of the corporation, duly elected by the churches and missions, and reported by letters from the churches and missions. Such messengers from each church shall be received on the following basis: Five messengers from each church and one additional messenger for every 25 members over 100 but in no event shall any church have more than twelve messengers. Churches may elect an alternate for each messenger. Mission churches may only have messengers as included in the messengers from the mission's sponsor church. If a member church has a satellite campus (a congregation meeting in a separate location but operated by the mother church), the satellite campus does not have associational representation independent of their mother church.

B A church or mission may apply for membership in the Association by verifying that the congregation has:

1) Affirmed their desire to seek membership in the Association.
2) Affirmed the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.
3) Affirmed their intent to support the Association financially.
4) Affirmed their intent to actively participate in the programs and activities of the Association.
5) The applicant church will provide copies of their constitution and other documents as deemed necessary.

The Associational Leadership Team (which serves as the Credentials Committee) or a task force which they appoint, will:

1) review the applicant church's petition,
2) interview the pastor and other church leaders as deemed necessary,
3) and review other supporting documents as noted above in (5).

Upon the recommendation of the Leadership Team:

1) The applicant's petition may be presented at any meeting of the Executive Board or at the Annual Meeting.
2) Upon approval by a 2/3 majority vote, the applicant church will then enter into a period of watchcare for a minimum of one year.
3) During the watchcare period, the applicant church will have all privileges of membership except the right to be seated on the Executive Board, vote on business matters, or have a member seated on the Associational Leadership Team.
4) After the period of watchcare, upon review and approval of the Leadership Team, the church may be recognized as a full member church without further action.

If a church petitions for membership in the Association which has been birthed by, and previously existed as a mission of a member church of the Association, the watchcare period will be waived.

Persons who are members of a mission congregation of a member church are considered members of the sponsor church until such time as the mission congregation constitutes as a church. Therefore, while the members of the mission congregation may serve on the Associational Executive Board or as messengers to the Annual Meeting, they may only do so as members of the sponsor church. A mission congregation does not have associational representation independent of their sponsor church.

Persons who are members of a satellite campus of a member church are considered members of the mother church. Therefore, while the members of the satellite campus may serve on the Associational Executive Board or as messengers to the annual session, they may only do so as members of the mother church. A satellite campus does not have associational representation independent of their mother church.

C. The Association shall have no right or power to exercise ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the churches. It may advise, give counsel, and propose measures, but cannot enforce them upon the churches. However, the Association retains the right to refuse to recognize messengers from any church which departs from the objectives of this body, or which persists in disorderly practices.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

A. **Annual Meeting**: The Association shall meet annually unless providentially hindered at such time and place as it shall designate at its preceding Annual Meeting.

The Executive Board of the Association may, in case of grave emergency,
cancel the Annual Meeting,
change the place and time,
or change the means of conducting the meeting (in-person, virtual, or both).
In the event the Annual Meeting is cancelled, the Executive Board shall have the power and authority to act on behalf of the Association regarding any and all matters which could have been acted upon by the messengers to the Annual Meeting, excluding amendments to the Constitution and By-laws.

B. Special: Special meetings of the Association may be called at any time by action of the Executive Board. The member churches shall be notified by U.S. Mail or by electronic communication at least one week before the called meeting. The purpose of the special meetings shall be stated, but other necessary items of business may be transacted.

C. Government: The Association, when convened, shall conduct its business according to parliamentary rules as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, as most recently revised.

D. **Quorum**: The messengers (members of the corporation) present at the Annual Meeting or a duly called special meeting of the messengers (members of the cooperation) shall constitute a quorum at that meeting.

E. Method: While gathering in person is always to be preferred, certain circumstances may dictate the need for meeting virtually (electronically). When circumstances make gathering in person difficult or unadvisable, the Annual Meeting, as well as meetings of the Executive Board, Associational Leadership Team, and any other duly appointed bodies within the Association may meet electronically and conduct business with all appointed authority.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS

A. Election:

The officers of the Association shall be elected annually and shall take office as such immediately upon adjournment of the Annual Meeting at which elected and shall hold office until immediately upon adjournment of the next Annual Meeting.

The officers of the Association are to be nominated by the Nominations Group, approved by the Associational Leadership Team for submission to the Executive Board, approved by the Executive Board and nominated for election by the messengers attending the Annual Meeting.

The floor shall be open for additional nominations and if more than one person is nominated for any position, the vote shall be by written ballot. The one receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be elected.
Vacancies that occur are to be filled by the Executive Board of the Association upon the recommendation of the Associational Leadership Team.

B. Officers Elected Shall Be:

Moderator: The Moderator, also known as the President of the corporation, shall preside over all meetings of the Association with the exception that he may ask the Vice-Moderator to preside at given times. He shall be an ex-officio member of all teams and groups. He shall have the prerogative to refer any issue presented from the floor to the appropriate team or group for study and recommendation. He shall perform such other duties as he may be charged with by the Association.

Vice-Moderator: The Vice-Moderator shall assist the Moderator in all the work, as he may direct, and shall automatically, in the event of his removal by death or otherwise, become Moderator.

Clerk: The Clerk, who shall also be known as the Secretary of the corporation, shall keep a record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Annual Meeting and the Executive Board, keep a file of the minutes, and have the minutes printed and distributed.

Treasurer: The Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall keep a full and correct record of all money received and disbursed by them under the instruction of the Association and report same to the Executive Board each time it meets and annually to the Association. Should a Financial Secretary be employed by the Association to assist the Treasurer (either an individual or accounting firm), they shall be bonded.

Assistant Treasurer: The Assistant Treasurer shall be kept informed of the financial affairs of the Association. In the absence of the Treasurer, he shall be authorized to perform all functions of the Treasurer.

Trustees: The Moderator, the Vice Moderator and the Treasurer shall serve as the Trustees of the Association and these three will also serve as the Directors of the Association. The Trustees shall serve as legal custodians of the property of the Association and shall perform such duties as assigned to them by the Association. In all matters they are subject to the Association.

ARTICLE VII – CORPORATE RECORDS

The corporation shall keep at its principal office minutes of all meetings; adequate and correct books and records of account, including accounts of its properties, assets, liabilities, receipts, and disbursements; and a copy of the corporation's Charter and Constitution and Bylaws as amended to date.

ARTICLE VIII - EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. Membership: The Executive Board of the Association shall be composed of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, the pastor and one lay member of each of the member churches In addition, members of the Associational Leadership Team and the Director of Missions shall also be members of the Executive Board.

B. Officers: The Officers of the Executive Board shall be the duly elected Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Clerk of the Association.

C. Authority and Duties: The Executive Board, during the interim between the Annual Meetings of the Association, shall have all the power of the Association and shall promote all phases of the work of the Association consistent with this Constitution and By-laws and the express actions of the Association.

D. Quorum: The members of the Executive Board present at any regular or special meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at that meeting.

E. Meetings:

1. Regular: Regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at least three (3) times annually unless providentially hindered. The Associational Leadership Team has the authority, under special circumstances, to cancel a regularly scheduled meeting or to change the meeting from in-person to virtual or a combination of both means.

2. Special: Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called at any time by the Moderator or any three officers of the Association by giving one week notice thereof by U.S. Mail or by electronic communication to the membership.

ARTICLE IX – DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

The daily, ongoing ministries of the Association and the work of the office and staff shall be under the leadership and supervision of a full-time employee known as the Director of Missions and funded through the Association's annual budget. His responsibilities shall be printed on the Annual Book of Reports of the Association.

ARTICLE X. - BY-LAWS

The Association may adopt such by-laws, not in conflict with the Constitution, as it may deem advisable. These by-laws may be amended at any meeting of the Annual Meeting by a two-thirds majority of the messengers present and voting provided the changes have been presented in writing to the Executive Board no later than the Executive Board meeting immediately prior to the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE XI. - AMENDMENT

The Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Association provided notice in writing of the proposed amendment has been presented to the Executive Board no later than the Executive Board meeting immediately prior to the Annual Meeting. A two-thirds majority vote of the messengers present, and voting shall be required to amend this Constitution.

ARTICLE XII – DISSOLUTION

In the event that this Association should disband or in any fashion cease to exist in a manner consistent with this Constitution, all property, and assets of the Association, after payment of debts and obligations, will be transferred to the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

BY-LAWS

I. COLLECTIONS: No collection of money or pledges for any purpose shall be taken during any Annual Meeting of the Association except by permission granted by a two-thirds majority vote of the messengers present and voting.

II. NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCESS

A. Nominations Network Group – The Moderator will annually appoint a "Nominations Group" consisting of three (3) members including the Vice Moderator, one other member of the Associational Leadership Team (ALT) and one at-large member who is not a member of the ALT. The Vice Moderator shall serve as the Nominations Group Leader. The Director of Missions will serve as a resource person for the group.

B. Officers - The officers of the Association (Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer) shall be nominated by the Nominations Group, approved by the Associational Leadership Team for submission to the Executive Board, approved by the Executive Board and nominated for election by the messengers attending the Annual Meeting.

C. Associational Leadership Team – The nomination and election process for the officers is stated in paragraph (A.) above and the process for the additional Team Leaders is stated in paragraph (D.) below. The nomination and election process for the five (5) regional cluster representatives of the Associational Leadership Team shall be as follows: Regional cluster representatives of the Associational Leadership Team will be recommended by the Nominations Group, approved by the Associational Leadership Team for submission to the Executive Board, and nominated for election by the messengers attending the Annual Meeting. Every reasonable attempt shall be made to nominate a representative from each regional church cluster. Should a qualified and willing nominee not be found from any cluster, a member-at-large may be nominated without regard to their church cluster membership.

D. The Strengthen Team Leader and the Share Team Leader shall be recommended by the Nominations Network Group, approved by the Associational Leadership Team for submission to the Executive Board, and nominated for election by the messengers attending the Annual Meeting. Team Leader vacancies will be filled by the Associational Leadership Team.

III. BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY

The association will elect members to serve on the Board of Directors of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries of South-Central Tennessee, Inc. which oversees the Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) at Motlow State Community College and the University of the South.

The Board of Directors is comprised of elected members and the Directors of Missions from New Duck River Baptist Association and William Carey Baptist Association as well as the Duck River Association on a varying ratio based on the percentage of financial support to the BCM from each of the associations.

Board members will serve rotating three-year terms.

The Board will be responsible for:

a) Hiring and supervising the BCM Director and any other staff,
b) Oversight of the ministry and missions programs of the BCM,
c) Oversight of the upkeep of the BCM physical facilities.

These responsibilities are more fully detailed in the constitution and by-laws of the BCM Board.

IV. TEAMS

The following teams shall serve the Association: Associational Leadership Team, Strengthen Team, and Share Team. The functions, membership and responsibilities of each team are outlined in the Organization Structure adopted by the Association.

Team members, other than those elected by the Association as delineated above, shall be volunteers who have a desire to serve on a particular team. The Team Leaders have the prerogative of recruiting team members in addition to those who volunteer on their own. These individuals shall serve indefinite terms but may be asked to step down from service if not serving faithfully, become contentious or uncooperative.

The Associational Leadership Team may, at its discretion, form Groups and Networks to perform certain responsibilities so as to accomplish the mission of the Association. Dissolution of these groups shall occur when their responsibility has been completed or by action of the Associational Leadership Team.

V. DUTIES OF MEMBER CHURCHES: It shall be the duty of each member church to send the Associational Clerk such statistical matters as may be required by the Association in time for it to be processed for the annual session of the Association. Member churches are encouraged to participate in the activities and programs of the Association, to contribute financially to the work of the Association, to mutually care for each other, and to encourage individual members of the churches to volunteer to be available for service in the kingdom of God through the Association.

VI. EXPENDITURES: The Executive Board of the Association shall be given a two-week prior written notice on any expenditure over $5,000.00 from the general fund to be proposed at any given Executive Board meeting. In case of emergency and such notice is not possible, the Associational Leadership Team is authorized to make such expenditures and report to the Executive Board at its next meeting. This provision does not apply to expenditures previously approved as a part of the budget. Neither does this provision apply to the expenditure of designated funds for their designated purposes.

VII. THE DRBA and BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

We accept the Holy Bible, as interpreted by the DRBA Executive Board, as the final arbiter of faith and practice in all matters. The DRBA understands marriage as defined by the Bible to be only between one man and one woman who are not blood related. No other relationships can meet the Biblical picture of marriage which is meant to picture the love that Christ has for His bride. We fully endorse the Scriptural concept of marriage expressed in Section XVIII of the “2000 Baptist Faith and Message”. The use of association assets, staff, or physical facilities for any activity or service which is not consistent with this Scriptural view of marriage is expressly forbidden. The Associational Leadership Team will serve as final arbiter as to whether any situation or circumstance meets these criteria.