

Kentucky Baptist Fellowship By-Laws

I. BASIC PRINCIPLES

A. Mission

1. The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship is a fellowship of churches and individuals who share a commitment to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to equip and empower Kentucky Baptist churches and Christians, cultivate partnerships, and engage in missions.

B. Membership

1. Membership is open to all Kentucky Baptists who subscribe to the statement of purpose, and who meet whatever other qualifications may be set forth by the Coordinating Council and approved by the membership.

C. Representation

1. Every member in good standing is entitled to vote on all matters at membership meetings of the FELLOWSHIP.

STRUCTURE

A. Annual Meeting of Members

1. The annual meeting of the members of the FELLOWSHIP shall be held at a time and place determined by the Coordinating Council. Notice of the time and place shall be delivered to each member at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.
2. At all meetings of the FELLOWSHIP, either regular or special, the people present shall constitute a quorum for the transacting of business, provided the terms of notifying members have been fulfilled.
3. The "Order of Business" for the annual meeting shall contain the following:
 - a. Reading and approval of the minutes
 - b. Reports of the Moderator and Treasurer
 - c. Reports of Committees and Ministry Groups as needed
 - d. Election of officers and Coordinating Council members
 - e. Unfinished business
 - f. New business

B. Special Meetings

1. Special meetings of the membership for the transaction of business may be called by a majority vote of the Coordinating Council, provided at least fourteen (14) days notice is delivered to members regarding date, time, place and nature of business.

C. Coordinating Council

1. The activities, affairs, property and staff of the FELLOWSHIP shall be managed, directed and controlled, and its powers exercised by, and vested in the Coordinating Council.
2. The Council will consist of thirty-six (36) persons elected from the membership at the annual meeting and will be balanced as equitably as possible among clergy and laity, men and women, and from the three geographical regions of the state: east, west, and central.
3. Council members shall be elected for four-year terms, with one-fourth of the Council being elected annually. Council members may be eligible for election to another four-year term after the lapse of at least one year.
4. The Nominating Committee, subject to Council approval, may fill vacancies that occur on the Council. Persons appointed to the Council in this manner may be elected to a full-term on the Council provided they will not serve a total of six consecutive years as a Council member.
5. The Coordinating Council will meet at least three times annually, with one of those meetings being held in conjunction with the annual meeting.
6. The members of the Coordinating Council present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business provided all members have been duly notified of the meeting.

7. A special meeting of the Council may be called by the Officers or by a majority of the Council members provided at least fourteen (14) days notice is delivered to members regarding date, time, place and nature of the meeting.
8. The Treasurer and the Kentucky Representatives on the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Coordinating Council shall be added to the Coordinating Council as full participating members during the terms of their office if they so choose.

D. Officers

1. Officers of the FELLOWSHIP will be elected at the annual meeting by the membership from among those elected to or serving on the Coordinating Council. They shall serve one (1) year terms. The Treasurer is not required to be a member of the Coordinating Council.
2. The Officers of the FELLOWSHIP are as follows: Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Immediate Past Moderator, Secretary, and Treasurer.
3. The duties of the Officers are as follows:
 - a. Moderator: presides at all meetings of the FELLOWSHIP and the Coordinating Council; appoints, subject to Council approval, chairpersons for all committees and Ministry Groups of the Council; and serves ex-officio as a member of all committees and Ministry Groups.
 - b. Moderator-Elect: chairs the program committee; performs other duties as assigned by the Moderator or the Council; in the absence of the Moderator shall perform his or her duties.
 - c. Immediate Past Moderator: chairs the nominating committee; performs other duties as assigned by the Moderator or the Council.
 - d. Secretary: keeps minutes of all meetings.
 - e. Treasurer: shall have charge of all receipts and monies of the FELLOWSHIP and the Council; shall ascertain that they have been properly deposited and dispersed; shall be sure that records are kept and submitted when requested and that a financial statement is given at all regular meetings of the FELLOWSHIP and the Council.
4. If a vacancy occurs among the officers, the unexpired term shall be filled by the Coordinating Council.
5. The Moderator and the Secretary or Treasurer shall, on being so directed by the Council, sign all leases, contracts or other instruments in writing.
6. The officers of the FELLOWSHIP along with the Ministry Group chairpersons shall form an Executive Committee and shall be empowered to conduct the business of the FELLOWSHIP subject to ratification by the Coordinating Council. The Executive Committee will serve as a personnel committee when securing new staff; however, the Administrative Ministry Group will handle other personnel matters during the year.

E. Committees and Ministry Groups

1. Committees will nominate board members, prepare programs for annual meetings, review by-laws and assume other responsibilities as needed.
2. Ministry Groups will reflect the FELLOWSHIP's purpose. Some of these may be (but are not limited to): Administrative, Baptist Principles, Church Resources, Communications, Missions, and Networking.
3. The Moderator shall appoint, subject to Council approval, the chairpersons of Committees and Ministry Groups.
4. Non-council members may serve on Committees and Ministry Groups but shall have no other official status with the Coordinating Council. The number of non-council members on a Committee or Ministry Groups shall not exceed the number of Coordinating Council members on any Committee or Ministry Group.
5. Committee and Ministry Group members shall serve one-year terms and may be reappointed as long as they are on the Council
6. Guidelines for Committees and Ministry Groups will be developed by the Coordinating Council.

III. COMPENSATION OF AND CONTRACTS WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

- A. Compensation of Council Members and Officers: Coordinating Council members shall serve as such without salary, but the Coordinating Council may authorize payment by the FELLOWSHIP of the reasonable expenses incurred by the Council members in the performance of their duties and of reasonable compensation for special services rendered by any Council member. The Coordinating Council shall fix the salary or other compensation of the Officers or other agents of the FELLOWSHIP. Except as provided in this section, no Council member or Officer of the FELLOWSHIP shall receive directly or indirectly, any salary, compensation, or gift from the FELLOWSHIP.
- B. Contracts: No Council members or Officer shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract for furnishing services or supplies to it, unless (a) such contract shall be authorized by an absolute majority of the Council members present and voting at a meeting at which the presence of such Council member is not necessary to constitute a quorum and the vote of such Council member is not necessary for such authorization; and (b) the fact and nature of such interest shall have been fully disclosed or known to the members of the Council present at the meeting at which such contract is authorized.

IV. INDEMNIFICATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Any person (and the heirs, executors, and administrators of such person) made or threatened to be made a party to any action, suit, or proceeding by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a Council member or Officer of the FELLOWSHIP shall be indemnified by the FELLOWSHIP against any and all liability and the reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees and disbursements, incurred by him or her (or by his or her heirs, executors, or administrators) in connection with any appearance therein, except in relations to matters as to which shall be adjudged in such action, suit, or proceeding that such Council member or Officer is liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his or her duties. Such right of indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such Council member or Officer (or such heirs, executors or administrators) may be entitled apart from this paragraph.

V. AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended by two thirds vote of the members present at a regular or special meeting of the FELLOWSHIP, provided notice of the purpose of the proposed amendment has been stated in the call for the meeting.

Adopted by the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship on September 21, 1991, in session held at Faith Baptist Church, Georgetown, Kentucky 40324.

Amended by the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship on April 8, 1995, in session held at First Baptist Church Winchester, Kentucky 40391.

Amended by the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship on April 24, 1999, in session held at First Baptist Church Shepherdsville, Kentucky 40165.

Amended by the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship on April 29, 2005, in session held at First Baptist Church Corbin, Kentucky 40701.

Amended by the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship on April 21, 2007, in session held at First Baptist Church, Winchester, Kentucky 40391