BYLAWS of the
STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN INDIANA

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this body is the STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN INDIANA, INCORPORATED.

ARTICLE II – INCORPORATION

The STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN INDIANA, INCORPORATED, hereafter known as SCBI, shall be incorporated as a corporation, not for profit, under the laws regulating such corporations in the State of Indiana. This Convention shall have no other corporations except as may be duly authorized by this body and its Executive Board.

ARTICLE III – NATURE

Section 1. This Convention is, and shall ever remain, only and solely a medium through which Southern Baptist churches may work harmoniously and cooperatively with each other, promoting the work and objects set forth in these Bylaws. This Convention does not have, nor shall it ever have, any ecclesiastical authority over any association, church or the messengers of the churches as to limit the autonomy of the local association and church, nor does it act as a legal arbitrator in case of differences between the churches or associations; nor does it interfere with the constitution/bylaws of any church or association.

Section 2. This Convention shall maintain a cooperative relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention in all its work and agencies.

ARTICLE IV – PURPOSE

The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana exists to

- Exalt Jesus
- Encourage Pastors
- Equip Churches

ARTICLE V – DOCTRINE

The STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN INDIANA adopts as its own expression of faith, THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE 2000, as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in annual session.

Section 1. Statement on Marriage, Sex, and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man from birth and one woman from birth in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25).

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4).

We believe that God has commanded that no sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, transgender, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the SCBI, it is imperative that all persons employed by the State Convention of Baptist in Indiana in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Sex, and Sexuality (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior (words or actions) directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture.

Section 2. Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life
We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged and every other stage of condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect and value all human life (Psalm 139).

Section 3. Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct
Our Statement of Faith, Statement on Marriage, Sex, and Sexuality, and Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life do not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of the SCBI's faith, doctrine, practice, and policy, our Executive Board is the SCBI's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Requirements
Members of the Corporation shall be autonomous, cooperating Southern Baptist churches located in the State of Indiana and adjoining states. The following criteria must be met to qualify as a cooperating church with the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana:

(1) The church shall contribute annually through the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana Cooperative Program Budget and/or the State Mission Offering of the State Convention of

Baptists in Indiana. These gifts must have been received within the last year, no later than the month ending prior to the annual summit.

(2) The church shall submit basic Annual Church Profile data.

(3) The church shall either be affiliated with a cooperating Indiana association or have been credentialed as an at-large church.

If a church fails to meet the criteria of a cooperating church, they will not be able to seat messengers at the State Convention annual summit.

Section 2. Credentialing Requirements

The Credentials Committee, as later defined in Article VII, PART B, Section 3 (6), shall be responsible to make recommendations to the Executive Board concerning any church requesting at-large standing.

Section 3. Membership Exclusion

(1) The Credentials Committee, SCBI, shall be assigned the task of determining any church who, by their actions and/or doctrine, has ceased to be a "Cooperating Southern Baptist Church."

(2) The Administrative Committee of the SCBI Executive Board shall make an effort to reconcile with each church deemed to no longer be a cooperating church as defined in Section 1 above.

(3) Should a church in affiliation with SCBI, after efforts to reconcile, choose not to cooperate with SCBI/SBC, the SCBI Credentials Committee shall bring a recommendation to the Administrative Committee of the SCBI Executive Board for release.

(4) The SCBI Executive Board shall report all actions for release to the Annual SCBI summit, as part of the Executive Board Report, as well as to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII – ANNUAL SUMMIT PROCEDURES

PART A – GENERAL GUIDELINES

Section 1. The Convention shall hold its summits annually at such time and place as it may determine.

Section 2. The Officers of the Convention may change the time and meeting place with the consent of the Executive Board.

Section 3. The number of sessions of the Annual Summit shall be determined by the Order of Business Committee. Reports and business shall be distributed throughout the sessions.

Section 4. Each session shall be opened with Scripture and prayer.

Section 5. Each member church shall be entitled to send messengers to the annual summit according to the formula below:

1-150 members	–	4 messengers
151-300 members	–	8 messengers
301-500 members	–	12 messengers

500 + members – 16 messengers

Each messenger present shall have one vote on any action taken at the annual summit. All responsibilities of elected messengers shall cease upon the adjournment of such summit.

Section 6. No person addressing the Convention may speak more than twice on the same subject of no more than three minutes each until all others have spoken, unless by consent of the Convention.

PART B – OFFICERS OF THE CONVENTION

Section 1. Election of Officers

(1) The elected officers of the Convention shall be a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President and a Recording Secretary. The Executive Director and the Treasurer shall serve as ex-officio officers of the convention. In case of the Convention President's death, disability, resignation or relocation out of state, the First Vice President shall automatically succeed to the office of President and the Second Vice President shall automatically succeed to the office of First Vice President. The Executive Board shall fill any other vacancies, which may occur between the Annual Summits of the Convention.

(2) The President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President may not serve more than two elected terms in the same office, and this will end their service for SCBI in this role which encourages others to participate in the future. All elected officers shall be nominated separately and elected separately. Election shall be by secret ballot or taken via voice when there is a single nominee for an office. On such an occasion, the President shall instruct the Secretary to cast one unanimous ballot for that particular nominee. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election to any office. If a runoff election becomes necessary, only the names of the two persons receiving the most votes on the first ballot shall be eligible for election on the second ballot.

(3) The time for election of officers of this Convention shall be determined by the Order of Business Committee. Nominations will be received from the floor from among the duly certified messengers to the Convention. The newly elected officers shall be installed at the closing session of the Annual Summit, and they shall hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed.

(4) Each elected officer of the Convention must meet the following criteria:

a. must be a member of a cooperating Southern Baptist church with the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana as determined by Article six (6).
b. must have been a member of the church for at least one year.

c. the church must be giving at least 3% of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program budget of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.
d. must be present in attendance at the Annual Summit when they are nominated.

(5) Anyone receiving compensation directly or indirectly from SCBI or any institution or board of the Convention or any other SBC entity shall be ineligible for these elected offices.

(6) (6) Persons or their spouses who receive regular remuneration directly or indirectly from this Convention or any institution or Board of this Convention or any other SBC entity shall be ineligible to be an officer of this convention.

(7) A former employee of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and a spouse of former employees shall be eligible to serve as an officer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana only after a minimum of three years from the end of SCBI employment.

(8) A Parliamentarian shall be appointed or if necessary contracted by the President in an advisory capacity and shall not be considered an officer of the convention.

Section 2. Duties of Officers

(1) The President of the Convention
a. shall preside over the Annual Summit.
b. shall be an ex officio member of all Convention committees and boards with voting privileges.

(2) The Vice Presidents, in order, may, in the absence of the President or when requested by the President, preside over the Annual Summit, and shall perform other duties requested by the President.

(3) The Recording Secretary shall keep accurate minutes during the Annual Summit and any meetings of the elected officers when necessary.

Section 3. Committees

(1) Each Convention committee, board and commission shall attempt to include ministers and laypersons as members. Every attempt shall be made to reflect the diversity of our state.

(2) The members of the committees of the Convention shall be elected by the Convention for a one-year term unless otherwise specified. Interim vacancies on Convention committees may be filled by presidential appointment. This appointment will prevail only until the next Annual Summit.

(3) Each convention committee shall furnish the President and Executive Director copies of all its reports, activities, official minutes or other publications. The Executive Director shall maintain these records in such fashion that they are available to all interested Indiana Baptists.

(4) **The Committee on Order of Business** shall be composed of the President as Chairman, the Vice-Presidents, the Recording Secretary, the Chairman of the Executive Board, the Executive Director, a local site coordinator and others as assigned by the Convention President. The committee shall meet early in the year for its first meeting and as many times as necessary for the complete planning and confirming of the annual program. This committee shall provide time for all business, for reports of the general phases of the work of the Convention and for full discussion of each report.

(5) **The Registration Committee** shall be chaired by the Executive Director or his designee who will be charged with providing for an effective registration process for the Annual Summit. This committee shall enroll all messengers duly qualified according to Article VII of these Bylaws and certify the number of messengers and visitors at each Annual Summit. All necessary materials shall be supplied by the Executive Director.

(6) **The Credentials Committee**

a. The committee shall be composed of the Second Vice President and six committee members. The committee members shall be appointed by the President or his designee 60 days prior to the Annual Summit, three persons being appointed annually. Committee members shall serve two-year terms with any vacancies filled by appointment of the President. The Second Vice-President shall chair the committee.

b. The committee shall be responsible to make recommendations to the Executive Board concerning any church requesting at-large standing. The committee shall determine any church who, by their actions and/or doctrine, has ceased to be a "Cooperating Southern Baptist Church" and report to the Executive Board.

c. The committee shall also decide any questions concerning the eligibility of any messenger to the Annual Summit in keeping with the provisions of these Bylaws. Any contention arising on the floor concerning the seating of messengers shall be referred to this committee for consideration and the committee shall report back to the Convention.

(7) **The Tellers Committee** consisting of five persons shall be appointed by the President or his designee 60 days prior to the Annual Summit. It shall be responsible for the tabulation of all ballots.

(8) **The Nominations Committee** shall consist of at least ten (10) people from different associational areas across Indiana with a maximum of 14 people. The President shall appoint the committee at least 120 days prior to the Annual Summit. Its duties shall be to nominate members for the Executive Board, Convention committees, the Indiana Baptist Foundation Board and other nominations as may be referred to it by the Convention.

(9) The Convention may create other special committees as needed.

Section 4. Parliamentary Authority
Any question that is not provided for by the foregoing rules shall be decided according to Roberts' Rules of Order, latest revised edition, in all sessions of the Convention and all sessions of bodies related to this Convention.

Section 5. New Enterprises
(1) Proposals from the floor of the Annual Summit for the launching of new institutions, movements or other enterprises calling for expenditures of money shall be referred to the Executive Board for study and a report given at the next Convention.

(2) No institution, agency or employee of this Convention shall launch any move or enterprise calling for the raising or expenditure of money until same has been approved by the Convention and/or the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII - EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Membership
(1) The Executive Board of this Convention shall be determined by the following criteria, based on number of churches and church plants in an associational area:

- 1-15 churches shall have 1 board member
- 16-30 churches shall have 2 board members
- 31-60 churches shall have 3 board members
- 61+ churches shall have 4 board members
- At-large churches shall have the same number as above, based on the total number of At-large churches.

(2) The President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President of the Convention shall also be members of the Executive Board, if not already, when elected.

(3) The Executive Director and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Board.

(4) Board members shall be selected because of their ability to make a maximum contribution to the objectives of this Convention and their special ability to assist the needs of a specific committee of the Executive Board.

(5) In the event a member of the Board is absent from two consecutive meetings without prior notice being given, his/her membership shall be declared vacant and the vacancy filled according to Article VIII, Section 2 (2).

Section 2. Election
(1) Members of the Executive Board shall be elected by the Convention in its Annual Summit at the time designated by the Committee on Order of Business.

(2) If vacancies occur between Annual Summits, replacements may be selected by the Executive Board to serve until the next Annual Summit. They shall be called "Board elect."

Section 3. Term of Service
Board members shall be divided into three groups. Terms shall be for three years unless filling an unexpired vacancy. At least one-third of the Board members shall be elected at the Annual Summit of the Convention. Vacancies shall also be filled. The terms of service will begin at the conclusion of the Annual Summit and will continue through the conclusion of the next Annual Summit. The elected members shall be known as the Executive Board of the STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN INDIANA, INCORPORATED.

Section 4. Eligibility of Executive Board Members
The following shall govern eligibility for membership on the Executive Board:
(1) Persons or their spouses who receive regular remuneration directly or indirectly from this Convention or any institution or Board of this Convention shall be ineligible for membership on the Board, excluding retirement benefits.

(2) The reimbursing of expenses incurred by committees in performance of duties or Board members in attendance at Board meetings or honorarium of clerkship in compiling and editing of the minutes shall not be construed as making one ineligible for service on the Board.

(3) No person shall be eligible for membership until he or she shall have had membership for one year in a church cooperating with this Convention.

(4) A husband and wife shall be ineligible for membership on the Board at the same time.

(5) The Board shall have no more than one member from any one church, except when one is an elected Convention officer.

(6) After serving a full three-year term or partial term (two years) on the Board, a member is eligible for re-election to a three-year second term after which one full year must elapse before being eligible for re-election. After serving an unexpired term of one year or less, a member can be elected for two additional terms.

(7) If an Executive Board member moves outside the bounds of his or her associational area, membership on the Executive Board ceases and replacement shall proceed according to Section 2 (2) of this Article.

(8) A former employee of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana or his/her spouse shall be eligible to serve on the Executive Board only after a minimum of three years from the end of SCBI employment.

Section 5. Duties of the Executive Board
(1) The Board shall be the fiduciary, fiscal and executive agency of the Convention in all of its affairs not specifically committed to another board or committee. It is empowered to act for the Convention in all areas of the Convention's work between sessions of the Convention but may not act contrary to or reverse any action of the Convention.

(2) The Board shall make full report of the work of the Convention at the Annual Summit.

(3) The Board shall elect for an indefinite term an Executive Director to administer the work of the Convention, and he shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer for the Convention. The Board is responsible for the supervision of the Executive Director in administering the work of the Convention.

(4) The Executive Director shall have such authority as the Executive Board shall authorize for the normal operations of the Convention.

(5) The Executive Board, in the absence of an Executive Director, may elect an interim Executive Director who may serve as Chief Executive Officer for the Convention.

(6) The Board shall approve all salary ranges and duties of all Convention employees.

(7) Upon recommendation of the Executive Director, the Board shall approve all other SCBI Team Leaders and a Treasurer.

(8) The Board shall recommend to the Convention the annual program of its work, supporting budget and calendar.

(9) The Chairman of the Executive Board shall serve with the Executive Director as a search committee for SCBI Team Leaders and a Treasurer. Their recommendation shall be presented to the Administrative Committee and the appropriate committee of the Executive Board. They shall then recommend the Team Leaders and a Treasurer to the entire Executive Board for a final vote of approval to call. The Treasurer shall serve as the Chief Financial Officer for the Convention.

Section 6. Officers of the Executive Board
(1) The officers of the Executive Board shall be the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and the Executive Board Recording Secretary. They shall be elected by the Executive Board in the last session of the regularly scheduled meeting prior to the convention annual summit. The terms of service will begin at the conclusion of the Annual Summit and will continue through the conclusion of the next Annual Summit. They shall serve one year terms for no more than two

consecutive years, and one year shall elapse before they are eligible to serve again in the same office.

(2) Should a vacancy occur in the offices of the Executive Board, the Board shall, from its membership, elect such officers to serve until the next annual Convention.

Section 7. Meetings of the Executive Board
(1) The Board shall hold at least two meetings each year. The dates shall be determined by the Executive Board Chairman and the Executive Director.

(2) Special meetings may be called by the Executive Board Chairman or at the request of one-sixth of the Board. Written notice (including email) of the same is to be given to all members of the Board two weeks before the meeting.

(3) Members present and voting at a duly noticed and called meeting shall constitute a quorum of the membership for the transaction of the business.

Section 8. Audit of the Financial Records
The Board shall have all financial records audited annually by an independent auditor and shall make a full report of the audit at the Annual Summit. A copy of the audit shall be printed in the Convention Book of Reports.

Section 9. Committees of the Executive Board
(1) The Board shall organize itself into standing committees as needed to fulfill the scope of the Executive Board's work between the Annual Summit.

(2) The Convention President will be ex-officio member of all committees with voting privileges.

(3) If the Convention's other officers (First Vice President and Second Vice President) are not already members of the Board, they will be assigned by the Nominating Committee to meet with any of the committees as needed. They will have the privilege of being voting members.

(4) Committees shall be responsible to the Board for the recommendation of policies, review of staff proposals and evaluation of the area of ministry of the Convention assigned to them. Committees may meet as often as needed to accomplish their tasks. They may meet in connection with meetings of the Board but need not limit their meetings to those times.

(5) The Chairman of the Board is an ex-officio member of all committees with voting privileges.

(6) **Nominating Committee** of the Executive Board

a. The members of the Nominating Committee shall be the Chairman of the Board, the Vice Chairman of the Board, the Board Recording Secretary, and three at-large members chosen by the Chairman of the Board. The Executive Director shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee of the Board.

b. The Nominating Committee of the Board shall recommend to the Board annually the officers of the Board, the chairperson of each standing ministry committee, and the membership of each standing ministry committee. Nominations may also be received from the floor of an Executive Board meeting.

c. In order to maintain balance on each committee, the Nominating Committee of the Board may move Board members annually. The intent of the Nominating Committee is to allow a Board member, when possible, to remain on a standing ministry committee for the length of his or her term.

(7) **Administrative Committee** of the Executive Board

a. The Board shall have an Administrative Committee composed of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Recording Secretary of the Executive Board, the President of the Convention and the Chairmen of all standing ministry committees. The Executive Director and Treasurer shall serve as ex-officio members of the Administrative Committee of the Executive Board.

b. In order to maintain continuity between out-going and in-coming presidents of the Convention, the Convention President shall remain an ex-officio member of the Executive Board and the Administrative Committee with voting privileges for one year after his term of office as president has expired.

c. The Chairman of the Board shall serve as Chairman of the Administrative Committee.

d. The Administrative Committee shall be authorized to act for the Board in interim of its sessions except as restricted and/or directed by the Board. The Administrative Committee shall not have authority to lease, mortgage, sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of or purchase any of the real property for the Convention unless specifically authorized and directed to do so by vote of the Board as provided in Article IX.

e. Meetings of the Administrative Committee may be called by the Chairman at his discretion or upon the request of three members of the Committee. Due notice of the meetings shall be given to all members of the Administrative Committee. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

f. The Administrative Committee shall have all doctrinal disputes arising on the convention floor referred to it for study. It is required that anyone with a doctrinal concern should indicate the same in writing two months prior to the convention and given to the Executive Director and Convention President so that the Administrative Committee may be alerted. This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Administrative Committee. Unsettled disputes will be reported to the Convention.

g. The Administrative Committee shall coordinate the work of the standing and any special committees of the Board and carry out any other duties assigned to it by the Executive Board.

h. The Administrative Committee shall function as the personnel and finance committee of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and should there be a vacancy of the Executive Director position, they will serve as a Search Committee.

i. The Chairman of the Administrative Committee shall form a sub-committee from its members to serve as a Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee will be responsible for reviewing and recommending the compensation, including benefits, for the Executive Director and/or any other employee who has powers similar to those of an officer that would qualify him as a "Disqualified Person" under Internal Revenue Code section §4958. As part of its review and recommendation, it must obtain comparability compensation data from external sources.

(8) **Audit Committee** of the Executive Board

An audit committee consisting of no fewer than three and no more than seven persons shall annually recommend an auditor to the Executive Board. The chairman of the Executive Board, the chairman of the Baptist Foundation of Indiana and one independent member with financial expertise shall serve on this committee. The charter of the audit committee is to oversee the annual audit and ensure the Convention has a reliable system of internal controls.

ARTICLE IX – ASSETS AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

All the assets and property of this Convention shall be owned by the STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN INDIANA, INCORPORATED. The Executive Board by vote of two-thirds majority of those present and voting may acquire, lease, mortgage, sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of any of the real property for the STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN INDIANA, INCORPORATED.

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of the Convention, the Executive Board, after paying or making provision for payment of all of the liabilities of the Convention, shall dispose of all remaining assets by distributing them to another organization or organizations, qualifying as tax-exempt under Section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any corresponding section of any future Federal codes and organized and operated exclusively for the same or similar purposes as the Convention. Preference will be given to Southern Baptist organizations for distribution of assets.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

Any amendments to these bylaws should be presented in writing at an Annual Summit and voted upon at the following Annual Summit. Amendments will be accepted by three-fourths of the messengers present and voting in favor. Member churches will be notified of any proposed changes at least two weeks prior to the Annual Summit. Amendments shall be presented for

discussion in the first session and the time for voting to be determined by the Order of Business Committee.

Approved by the Convention
October 28, 2025