



ELECTION PROTOCOL 2006

**General Baptist State Convention of
North Carolina, Inc.**

603 South Wilmington Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2338

CONSTITUTIONAL GUIDANCE

1. **The Constitution provides for a Nominating Committee.** (*“This Convention shall have ... Nomination [Committee].”*) **Article III, Section 2, Sub-section B)**
2. **The Constitution provides for specific officers.** (*“The officers of this Convention shall be: President, Vice President At-Large, Four Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, an Assistant to the Recording Secretary, Statistician, Historian, Parliamentarian, seven (7) Trustees, and any other officers the Convention deems necessary to carry out its work.”*) **(Article V)**
3. **The Constitution sets the terms of office.** (*“All officers of this Convention and its auxiliaries shall be elected to serve a four-year term in office. All officers shall be elected to serve no more than four (4) consecutive years in office without having vacated that office for at least one (1) year.”*) **(Article V, Section 1.)**
4. **The Constitution sets the tenure of office.** (*“Tenure of office shall consist of four (4) one (1) year consecutive terms and shall expire at the end of the fourth (4th) year in office.”*) **(Article V, Section 2)**
5. **The Constitution prescribes a method of election.** (*“Officers of this Convention shall be elected by a majority vote of the voting delegates, and on recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Before any election is conducted, the presiding officer shall give opportunities for nominations to be made from the floor. The voting shall be conducted by means of a standard secret ballot; with four (4) delegates elected by the Convention to serve as tellers, provided that no candidate for office shall be qualified to serve as a teller. A ballot shall be distributed to each delegate who shall then cast his or her ballot for the candidate of his or her choice. The Nominating Committee shall prepare the ballot. Each candidate will be allowed to run for only one office. Each person running as a candidate for an office in the General Baptist State Convention shall announce his candidacy in the Baptist Informer at least three months prior to the date of election.”*) **(Article V, Section 3)**
6. **The Constitution stipulates when elections are to be held.** (*“The Convention shall hold its annual election on the afternoon of the second full day of the Convention.”*) **(Article V, Section 4)** (*“The Annual Session of this Convention shall be held the last Tuesday in October.”*) **(Article XI, Section 1)**
7. **The Constitution provides for the election of the General Board by the Convention.** (*“The General Board shall be made of one hundred twenty-seven (127) members from each auxiliary, moderators of associations, and from the Convention. The President of each auxiliary shall be an ex-officio voting member of the Board.”*) **(Article VI, Section 2)** (*“The members of the General Board shall be elected every four (4) years at the annual meeting of the Convention when the Convention elects its officers.”*) **(Article VI, Section 3)**

8. **The Constitution provides for the election of the Executive Committee.** (*“The General Board shall elect an Executive Committee each year at the annual meeting of the Convention. The Executive Committee shall consist of forty (40) members. The General Board shall supervise the work of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may do the work of the Convention during the interim of the General Board sessions. The Executive Committee shall report annually to the Convention and regularly to the General Board on its work during the interim.”*) **(Article VIII, Section 1)** (*“THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall be made up of forty (40) elected by constitutional stipulation in addition to past Presidents of the parent body. Past Presidents of the parent body shall be ex-officio, voting members of the Executive Committee.”*) **(Article VIII, Section 2)**

9. **The Constitution provides for the election of a Board of Trustees.** (*“THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES shall be elected by the Convention. The number of Trustees shall be seven (7), with two (2) being elected by the Woman’s auxiliary and five (5) by the Convention. The members of the Trustee Board shall be associate members of the Executive Committee without a vote.”*) **(Article VIII, Section 3)**

10. **The Constitution provides who is eligible to vote in elections.** (*“The General Baptist Convention of North Carolina shall be composed of regular organized Missionary Baptist Churches and Baptist Associations cooperating with this Convention, all cooperating Missionary Baptist organizations such as district and state organizations and messengers from cooperating churches.”*) **(Article IX, Section 1)**

11. **The Constitution stipulates the fees to be paid by Churches in elections based upon the size of the congregation.** (*“Churches with membership of 1-50 shall enroll with \$20.00. Churches with membership of 51-100 shall enroll with \$35.00. Churches with membership of 101-250 shall enroll with \$50.00. Churches with membership of 251-500 shall enroll with \$75.00. Churches with membership of 501-750 shall enroll with \$100.00. Churches with membership of 751-1000 shall enroll with 125.00. Churches with membership of 1001 and up shall enroll with \$150.00.”*) **(Article X, Section 1)**

12. **The Constitution stipulates the number of voting persons eligible to vote from each congregation based on the size of the congregation.** (*“Churches with membership of 1-50 shall be entitled to two (2) voting messengers. Churches with membership of 51-100 shall be entitled to three (3) voting messengers. Churches with membership of 101-250 shall be entitled to four (4) voting messengers. Churches with membership of 251-500 shall be entitled to five (5) voting messengers. Churches with membership of 501-750 shall be entitled to six (6) voting messengers. Churches with membership of 751-1000 shall be entitled to seven (7) voting messengers. Churches with membership of 1001 and up shall be entitled to eight (8) voting messengers.”*) **(Article X, Section 2)**

DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

Nomination Committee

- Constitutionally stipulated Committee appointed by General Board
- Composed of thirteen (13) members with area representation
- Shall work in conjunction and cooperation with the Baptist Headquarters
- Shall receive letters of interest from persons seeking offices
- Shall determine the eligibility of persons seeking office (i.e., person is affiliated with a General Baptist Church)
- Shall insure that only one person is running for one office
- Shall certify that persons running for office shall have announced in the *Baptist Informer*
- Shall prepare numbered ballots and turn the same over to the Election Committee
- Shall recommend four (4) delegates to be elected by the Convention to serve as tellers. No candidate for office may serve as a teller
- Chairman shall preside over Convention prior to elections: to allow nominations from the floor prior to elections
- Shall recommend a slate of persons to serve on the General Board
- Shall recommend a slate of persons to serve on the Board of Trustees
- Shall certify the results of the election, determine if a majority and announce the results to the Convention

Election Committee

- Non-Constitutionally stipulated Committee appointed by President
- Shall work in conjunction and cooperation with the Baptist Headquarters
- Shall determine and secure the means of “secret” ballot (i.e., voting machines or paper ballots) based on the need of the parent body and the auxiliaries
- Shall secure necessary voting equipment and personnel required to conduct election and tally votes
- Shall determine the physical location for actual voting and counting of votes as well as the beginning and ending time for voting
- Shall train and supervise the work of elected tellers during elections
- Shall conduct, supervise, and oversee the actual election process
- Shall report results of election to Nominating Committee
- Shall inspect ballots once printed and provide for ballot security before, during, and after election

Registration Committee

- Non-Constitutionally stipulated Committee appointed by President
- Shall work in conjunction and cooperation with the Baptist Headquarters
- Shall determine that pre-registrations and on-site registrations from Churches are accurate for fees and number of voting persons
- Shall determine what the physical identification for voting persons
- Shall certify any alternates from pre-registrations or on-site registrations on election day
- Shall physically cancel badges after persons have voted
- Shall receive and decide any challenges to registration during Convention

LAYMEN'S LEAGUE ELECTION

Wednesday Afternoon, July 19, 2006

Bear Creek Association Headquarters
Goldsboro, North Carolina

1. Persons interested for office in the Laymen's League shall mail or hand deliver a letter of interest to the Baptist Headquarters (c/o The Executive Secretary-Treasurer) stating the position sought and the name and address of the Church of affiliation.
2. The EST will acknowledge receipt of the letter of interest and pass the same along to the Nomination Committee. When acknowledging the letter of intent, the EST shall forward an information form requesting additional contact information from the candidate.
3. Candidates shall also submit a one-page announcement and a photograph for the *Baptist Informer* along with the letter of interest. The initial announcement will be published free of charge. Subsequent announcements/advertisements in the *Baptist Informer* must be pre-paid by the candidates.
4. The deadline for submitting letters of interest and *Baptist Informer* announcements is June 1. In the interest of time, the Nominating Committee may waive the deadline for candidates upon request.
5. The Baptist Headquarters will provide mailing addresses for Churches in the Convention to candidates upon request. If the list can be provided electronically, there is no charge. If mailing labels are requested, the candidates will be charged the cost of producing the labels.
6. The method of election will be by paper ballot prepared by the Nomination Committee. The person receiving the majority of the votes cast will be declared elected. If no majority is achieved by a candidate on the first ballot, a run-off will be held until a candidate has a majority.
7. An opportunity will be afforded for nominations from the floor. Persons nominated from the floor will not have their names to appear on the ballot, but space on the ballot will be afforded for write-in candidates. The Election Committee will only count the write-in names for persons who were properly nominated from the floor.
8. Persons elected will be invited to an orientation meeting conducted by the Baptist Headquarters following election to office. Attendance is mandatory.

CONGRESS ELECTION

Thursday Afternoon, July 20, 2006

Bear Creek Association Headquarters
Goldsboro, North Carolina

1. Persons interested for office in the Congress of Christian Education shall mail or hand deliver a letter of interest to the Baptist Headquarters (c/o The Executive Secretary-Treasurer) stating the position sought and the name and address of the Church of affiliation.
2. The EST will acknowledge receipt of the letter of interest and pass the same along to the Nomination Committee. When acknowledging the letter of intent, the EST shall forward an information form requesting additional contact information from the candidate.
3. Candidates shall also submit a one-page announcement and a photograph for the *Baptist Informer* along with the letter of interest. The initial announcement will be published free of charge. Subsequent announcements/advertisements in the *Baptist Informer* must be pre-paid by the candidates.
4. The deadline for submitting letters of interest and *Baptist Informer* announcements is June 1. In the interest of time, the Nominating Committee may waive the deadline for candidates upon request.
5. The Baptist Headquarters will provide mailing addresses for Churches in the Convention to candidates upon request. If the list can be provided electronically, there is no charge. If mailing labels are requested, the candidates will be charged the cost of producing the labels.
6. The method of election will be by paper ballot prepared by the Nomination Committee. The person receiving the majority of the votes cast will be declared elected. If no majority is achieved by a candidate on the first ballot, a run-off will be held until a candidate has a majority.
7. An opportunity will be afforded for nominations from the floor. Persons nominated from the floor will not have their names to appear on the ballot, but space on the ballot will be afforded for write-in candidates. The Election Committee will only count the write-in names for persons who were properly nominated from the floor.
8. Persons elected will be invited to an orientation meeting conducted by the Baptist Headquarters following election to office. Attendance is mandatory.

USHER'S ELECTION

Friday Afternoon, July 21, 2006

Bear Creek Association Headquarters
Goldsboro, North Carolina

1. Persons interested for office in the Ushers Convention shall mail or hand deliver a letter of interest to the Baptist Headquarters (c/o The Executive Secretary-Treasurer) stating the position sought and the name and address of the Church of affiliation.
2. The EST will acknowledge receipt of the letter of interest and pass the same along to the Nomination Committee. When acknowledging the letter of intent, the EST shall forward an information form requesting additional contact information from the candidate.
3. Candidates shall also submit a one-page announcement and photograph for the *Baptist Informer* along with the letter of interest. The initial announcement will be published free of charge. Subsequent announcements/advertisements in the *Baptist Informer* must be pre-paid by the candidates.
4. The deadline for submitting letters of interest and *Baptist Informer* announcements is June 1. In the interest of time, the Nominating Committee may waive the deadline for candidates upon request.
5. The Baptist Headquarters will provide mailing addresses for Churches in the Convention to candidates upon request. If the list can be provided electronically, there is no charge. If mailing labels are requested, the candidates will be charged the cost of producing the labels.
6. The method of election will be by paper ballot prepared by the Nomination Committee. The person receiving the majority of the votes cast will be declared elected. If no majority is achieved by a candidate on the first ballot, a run-off will be held until a candidate has a majority.
7. An opportunity will be afforded for nominations from the floor. Persons nominated from the floor will not have their names to appear on the ballot, but space on the ballot will be afforded for write-in candidates. The Election Committee will only count the write-in names for persons who were properly nominated from the floor.
8. Persons elected will be invited to an orientation meeting conducted by the Baptist Headquarters following election to office. Attendance is mandatory.

TRUSTEE BOARD ELECTION

Wednesday Afternoon, November 1, 2006

M. C. Benton Convention Center

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

1. The Nomination Committee will prepare a slate of persons to be presented to the Convention for election as Trustees. Voting persons will find a place to vote YES or NO for the slate. Should a majority of persons vote for the slate, the Trustees will be duly elected.
2. Persons interested in serving as a Trustee shall mail or hand deliver a letter of interest to the Baptist Headquarters (c/o The Executive Secretary-Treasurer) stating the position sought and the name and address of the Church of affiliation.
3. The EST will acknowledge receipt of the letter of interest and pass the same along to the Nomination Committee. When acknowledging the letter of intent, the EST shall forward an information form requesting additional contact information from the candidate.
4. The Nomination Committee shall publish its recommended slate in the August 2006 issue of the *Baptist Informer*.
5. The deadline for submitting letters of interest is July 1, 2006.
6. An opportunity will be afforded for nominations from the floor. Persons nominated from the floor will not have their names to appear on the ballot, but space on the ballot will be afforded for write-in candidates. The Election Committee will only count the write-in names for persons who were properly nominated from the floor.
7. Persons elected will be invited to an orientation meeting conducted by the Baptist Headquarters following election to office. Attendance is mandatory.

GENERAL BOARD ELECTION

Wednesday Afternoon, November 1, 2006

M. C. Benton Convention Center
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

1. The Nomination Committee will prepare a slate of persons to be presented to the Convention for election as General Board members. Voting persons will find a place to vote YES or NO for the slate. Should a majority of persons vote for the slate, the Board will be duly elected.
2. Persons interested in serving as a General Board member shall mail or hand deliver a letter of interest to the Baptist Headquarters (c/o The Executive Secretary-Treasurer) stating the position sought and the name and address of the Church of affiliation.
3. The EST will acknowledge receipt of the letter of interest and pass the same along to the Nomination Committee. When acknowledging the letter of intent, the EST shall forward an information form requesting additional contact information from the candidate.
4. The Nomination Committee shall publish its recommended slate in the August 2006 issue of the *Baptist Informer*.
5. The deadline for submitting letters of interest is July 1, 2006.
6. An opportunity will be afforded for nominations from the floor. Persons nominated from the floor will not have their names to appear on the ballot, but space on the ballot will be afforded for write-in candidates. The Election Committee will only count the write-in names for persons who were properly nominated from the floor.
7. Persons elected will be invited to an orientation conducted by the Baptist Headquarters following election to office. Attendance is mandatory.

GBSC ELECTION

Wednesday Afternoon, November 1, 2006

**M. C. Benton Convention Center
Winston-Salem, North Carolina**

1. Persons interested in an office in the General Baptist State Convention shall mail or hand deliver a letter of interest to the Baptist Headquarters (c/o The Executive Secretary-Treasurer) stating the position sought and the name and address of the Church of affiliation.
2. The EST will acknowledge receipt of the letter of interest and pass the same along to the Nomination Committee. When acknowledging the letter of intent, the EST shall forward an information form requesting additional contact information from the candidate.
3. Candidates shall also submit a one-page announcement and photograph for the *Baptist Informer* along with the letter of interest. The initial announcement will be published free of charge. Subsequent announcements/advertisements in the *Baptist Informer* must be pre-paid by the candidates.
4. The deadline for submitting letters of interest and *Baptist Informer* announcements is July 1, 2006.
5. The Baptist Headquarters will provide mailing addresses for Churches in the Convention to candidates upon request. If the list can be provided electronically, there is no charge. If mailing labels are requested, the candidates will be charged the cost of producing the labels.
6. The method of election will be by voting machines. The person receiving the majority of the votes cast will be declared elected. If no majority is achieved by a candidate on the first ballot, a run-off will be held until a candidate has a majority.
7. An opportunity will be afforded for nominations from the floor. Persons nominated from the floor will not have their names to appear on the ballot, but space on the ballot will be afforded for write-in candidates. The Election Committee will only count the write-in names for persons who were properly nominated from the floor.
8. Persons elected will be invited to an orientation meeting conducted by the Baptist Headquarters following election to office. Attendance is mandatory.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION

Thursday Afternoon, November 2, 2006

**Mount Zion Baptist Church
Winston-Salem, North Carolina**

1. Following the close of the 139th Annual Session, the General Board will meeting to elect an Executive Committee. The Nomination Committee will prepare a slate of persons to be presented to the Board for election as Executive Committee members.
2. Because Executive Committee is a committee of the General Board, letters of interest shall not be received by the Nomination Committee.
3. The method of voting will be by ballot. Persons in favor of the slate presented will vote YES; person opposed will vote NO.
4. An opportunity will be afforded for nominations from the floor.
5. Persons elected will be invited to an orientation meeting conducted by the Baptist Headquarters following election to office. Attendance is mandatory.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Sample ballots for auxiliary elections will be available by July 1. Sample ballots for General Convention elections will be available by August 1. Requests for sample ballots should be made to the Baptist Headquarters.
2. Only persons certified by the Registration Committee will be allowed into voting areas. Only certified persons will be allowed to cast ballots.
3. Registration for auxiliary elections in July will be on-site only. No pre-registration will be conducted for auxiliary elections.
4. Pre-registration forms for the General Convention elections will be available beginning July 15, 2006. The deadline for pre-registration for the General Convention election is Monday, October 16, 2006. Pre-registrations received after October 16 will be processed on-site at the Convention.
5. Pre-registration forms must be completed in full. An official signature will need to appear on all pre-registration forms along with complete contact information should the Registration Committee have questions.
6. Pre-registration forms will include space for the name, address, city, state and zip code for each voting messenger and up to three (3) alternates.
7. Pre-registration forms must be accompanied by the appropriate fee. Forms submitted without the proper fees will be returned to the Churches. Churches whose forms are returned for non-payment of fees will need to return the forms with the proper fees or register on-site.
8. On-site registration will be conducted from Monday, October 30 at 9:00 a.m. through Wednesday, November 1 at 12:00 noon.
9. If a ballot is spoiled, a voter may request another ballot. All spoiled ballots will be placed in a locked box and not counted as an official ballot.
10. No lost registration badges will be re-issued.
11. Voters needing assistance in voting will receive assistance from persons certified by the Election Committee and from persons elected by the Convention as Tellers.
12. Appropriate accommodations and equipment will be made available for the physically impaired.

13. Campaigning is not allowed in the voting area. Candidates and their supporters may not enter the voting area for campaigning purposes.
14. Special areas will be made available for campaigning.