

Steps in the Affiliation Process

*The following suggested steps are provided to assist the church family as it considers joining the Association and also highlights the processes required by the Association's governing documents with an asterisk *. You may need to add additional steps to conform to your own church documents.*

Step 1 – Discovering what it means to be part of the TEBA

- Review the included materials regarding the ministries and purpose of the TEBA
- Review the included materials regarding the Cooperative Program
- Invite a TEBA Ministry Team Member to come and talk with the church leadership or church family
- Visit the TEBA and meet the Associational Staff Team
- You and the church are encouraged to participate in the training and fellowship opportunities of the TEBA
- Attend as a guest at the Pastor's Conference / Executive Board meetings

Step 2 – Deciding to be part of the TEBA family

- Prayerfully consider the involvement of the church with the TEBA
- Understand the Association is a partnership of SBC Churches joining together to do what we can not do alone
- Realize you are expected to bless as well as receive blessings in serving together
- Commit to the purposes and ministries of the TEBA by your participation and financial support of its ministries

Step 3 – Enter into a Watchcare Relationship with a Member Church *

- The Petitioning Church will enter into a Watchcare Relationship with a Member Church of the TEBA
- The Member Church will serve as a liaison and support to the Petitioning Church
- The purpose of the Watchcare Relationship is to foster cooperation and fellowship with the ministry staff and church congregations

(Please note that Steps 3 and 4 may be accomplished concurrently)

Step 4 – Petitioning to be part of the TEBA family*

- In a business session of the church vote to become part of the Tryon Evergreen Baptist Association
- Complete and return the Petitionary Letter and meet with the Petitionary Letters Committee of the TEBA
- Actively participate in the Association and to financially support the TEBA

Step 5 – Joining the TEBA family*

- The pastor and representative members of the church need to be present at the Annual Meeting of the TEBA
- The church will be presented for admission during the business session of the Annual Meeting of the TEBA

Step 6 – Participating in the TEBA family*

- Be a regular part of the Associational ministry by your participation and support
- Enjoy the many benefits of the TEBA membership

PETITIONARY LETTER

Petitionary Letter to Tryon Evergreen Baptist Association

We, the members of _____,
located at _____ request the privilege of entering into affiliation
and fellowship with the Tryon Evergreen Baptist Association. Our intent is to cooperate with other churches
in the Association to promote worship, education, proclamation, ministry, fellowship and spiritual growth.

We concur with the doctrinal statement as set forth in the Baptist Faith and Message adopted by
the Southern Baptist Convention, May 9, 1963, or later.

As long as we are a part of the Association, we pledge ourselves to abide by the Constitution of the
Tryon Evergreen Baptist Association and all subsequent amendments and revisions approved by the
Association meeting in Annual Session.

As evidence of our spirit of cooperation, our church as adopted a financial plan that incorporates
the monthly giving from the undesignated receipts of _____% to the Cooperative Program and
_____ % to the Association or \$ _____ per month to the Cooperative Program and
\$ _____ per month to the Association.

The request has been adopted by our church in business conference on the
_____ day of _____ 20_____.

Moderator

Clerk

CONSTITUTION

TRYON EVERGREEN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this body shall be Tryon Evergreen Baptist Association.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

SECTION A. The purpose of this Association is to relate to and assist the member churches individually and cooperatively in carrying out the fulfillment of the Great Commission through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

ARTICLE III. ASSOCIATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Association will cooperate in the work of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention.

ARTICLE IV. AUTHORITY

This Association is under the authority of Jesus Christ. While independent and sovereign in its own sphere, the Association does not claim and will never attempt to exercise any authority over any other Baptist body.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A. The Association shall be composed of churches cooperating to carry out the purposes identified in this constitution, giving financial support to the Association, and in doctrinal harmony with the historic faith and practice expressed in "The Baptist Faith and Message."

SECTION B. Cooperation in the Association involves participation in the various meetings and ministries of the Association; contributing financially to support the purpose of the Association; and submitting information to the Association called for in the annual reporting system.

SECTION C. Application for membership is to be made in accordance with the procedures outlined in the by-laws.

ARTICLE V. ANNUAL MEETING

SECTION A. The Association shall have an Annual Meeting at such a time and place agreed upon at the previous Annual Meeting for the purpose of receiving reports, considering recommendations, authorizing the work of the Association for the coming year, and speaking the mind of the churches to the contemporary scene.

SECTION B. Messengers from member churches will be seated at the Annual Meeting of the Association in business session by vote of the Associational messengers. If there is a challenge to the seating of a messenger, it shall be referred to the Credentials Committee who will report back to the next business session.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

The officers of the Association shall be Moderator, Moderator-elect, and Clerk/Treasurer. The Moderator shall serve as Chairman of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII. TRUSTEES

Three (3) Trustees shall be elected by the Association at its Annual Meeting. As directed by the Executive Board, Trustees are to acquire and dispose of real estate property, and to make necessary financial arrangements to borrow or sell for capital improvement.

ARTICLE VIII. EXECUTIVE BOARD

The work of the Association shall be conducted between Annual Meetings by an Executive Board. The Executive Board shall have power to act for the Association but shall do nothing contrary to the purpose of the Association.

ARTICLE IX. STAFF

A Director of Missions shall be called and elected by the Executive Board and shall hold office as long as mutually agreeable. He shall maintain an Associational office and employ such personnel under the direction of the Executive Board as may be necessary for the functioning of the Association.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

SECTION A. The Constitution may be amended according to Article VIII of the By-laws and only at an Annual Meeting of the Association by a three-fourths majority of those messengers present and voting.

SECTION B. The By-laws may be amended according to Article VIII of the By-laws and only at an Annual Meeting of the Association by a simple majority of those messengers present and voting.

ARTICLE XI. BY-LAWS

By-laws shall be kept current by which the regular operation of the Association is guided.

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the corporation or the conclusion of its affairs, the assets of the corporation shall be distributed exclusively to Southern Baptist affiliated charitable, religious, or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulation.

Tryon Evergreen Baptist Association

A Church Driven Association " Helping churches fulfill the Great Commission"

BY-LAWS OF TRYON EVERGREEN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A. Churches desiring membership in the Tryon Evergreen Baptist Association shall:

1. Present a petitionary letter to the Credentials Committee at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting.
2. The Credentials Committee may recommend fellowship or watch-care; or may decline to place the petition before the messengers. The Association in Annual Meeting, will vote on the recommendation of the Credentials Committee of each church desiring membership.
3. Petitionary churches must be in compliance with Article V of the Constitution.
4. Petitionary churches shall be in cooperation with Southern Baptist Convention, Baptist General Convention of Texas, or Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.
5. When a unanimous vote has not been received for the acceptance of a church, the matter shall be referred back to the Credentials Committee without discussion, for further investigation. The resultant report of the Committee shall be either to recommend the church be placed under watch-care for one year, giving time to resolve the issue, or to recommend the church be reconsidered for membership, requiring a three-fourths majority vote of the messengers to the Annual Meeting.

SECTION B. Churches are encouraged to participate in the Association by:

1. Filing an Annual Church Profile report.
2. Participation in the work and services of the Association.
3. Sending messengers to the Associational Annual Meeting.
4. Representation in the Executive Board Meetings.

SECTION C. In the event a church exceeds two years in non-participation in any activities of the Association, the Credentials Committee will initiate communication with the church as to its intent to remain identified with the Association.

SECTION D. Upon written complaint of unsound doctrine by a member church regarding another member church, the Credentials Committee, after counsel with the church with a goal of redemption, may recommend at the Annual Meeting to withdraw fellowship from the offending church. The letter of complaint must be filed with the Credentials Committee at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting. A three-fourths majority vote by the messengers is required.

ARTICLE II. ANNUAL MEETING

Each church of the Association shall be entitled to two messengers and one additional messenger for each 25 resident members up to 200 resident members, and one additional messenger for each 200 resident members thereafter. There shall be a maximum of 20 messengers from each church.

ARTICLE III. EXECUTIVE BOARD

- SECTION A. The Executive Board shall consist of the officers of the Association, the pastor of each church, or mission church, additional full time ministry staff of the churches, and one lay person from each church nominated by the church and elected by the Association in its Annual Meeting. Vacancies may be filled by a majority vote of members present.
- SECTION B. The Executive Board shall meet at a time determined by the vote of the Executive Board itself, and this time shall be publicized through the Association.
- SECTION C. Those members present shall constitute a quorum.
- SECTION D. The officers elected at the Annual Meeting shall serve as the officers of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV. RULES OF ORDER

The latest edition of [Roberts Rules of Order](#) will be the authority for the parliamentary rules of procedure for all meetings pertaining to the work of the Association.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

- SECTION A. The Association in Annual Meeting shall elect a Moderator-elect and Clerk/Treasurer. Officers shall assume their responsibility at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they are elected. The Moderator-elect will become Moderator after the next Annual Meeting. The Moderator-elect shall succeed the Moderator in case of a vacancy.
- SECTION B. The Moderator will preside at all meetings of the Annual Meeting. He may request the Moderator-elect to preside. The Moderator-elect shall preside in the absence of the Moderator.
- SECTION C. The Clerk/Treasurer shall keep accurate minutes of the Annual Meeting.
- SECTION D. Officer vacancies shall be filled between Annual Meetings by the Executive Board upon recommendation from the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE VI. STAFF

- SECTION A. It shall be the duty of the Director of Missions to give leadership to the purpose of the Association as stated in Article II of the Constitution. He shall be an ex-officio member of all Boards, Ministry Teams, and committees with power to make recommendations and to enter into discussion of all matters, but without the power to vote except as otherwise stipulated.
- SECTION B. For the employing or discharging of the Director of Missions, a two-week notification to all Executive Board members will be given, and a three-fourths

majority vote of those present is required.

SECTION C. Each staff member will be designated as Ministerial Staff or Ministry Assistant. All other ministerial staff members will be recommended by the Administration Ministry Team of the Association in cooperation with the Director of Associational Missions. All Ministerial Staff will be voted upon by the Executive Board. All Ministry Assistants will be employed by the Director of Missions.

ARTICLE VII. TRUSTEES

SECTION A. Trustees shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and serve on a three year rotating term.

SECTION B. Trustees who serve on the Pinewoods Encampment and Hospitality House Boards of Trustees shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee to serve term according to the directives of the Constitution of that institution.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

SECTION A. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws may be introduced in writing by messengers at any business session of an Annual Meeting, by Executive Board members at any Executive Board Meeting, or by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

On motion and second all amendments will be referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to guide the amending process.

SECTION B. Proposed amendments to the Constitution will be:

1. Mailed to the churches at least 30 days in advance of the Annual Meeting.
2. Discussed in two Executive Board Meetings on a schedule previously communicated in writing to all Executive Board members.
3. Approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

SECTION C. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be presented in writing in the first business session of an Annual Meeting, referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and voted on in the last business session.

SECTION D. All amendments will become effective immediately upon adoption by the messengers at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IX. ORGANIZATION AND POLICY

An Organization and Policy Manual will be kept current by which the purpose of the Association will be administered. The Associational Council will be responsible for maintaining the Organization and Policy Manual.

CHECKLIST FOR JOINING TEBA

Step 1:

Participate in the monthly Ministry Network Meals (Minister's Conferences).

Step 2:

Send the following documents to the TEBA office:

- Copy of the Constitution and Bylaws
- One or two Newsletters or Bulletins from your church
- Affirmation from the Sponsor Church Pastor (letter/email)
- Demonstrated commitment to support of the Association
- Minutes from your church meeting voting to join the Association
- Completed Petitionary letter

These documents need to be returned to TEBA so they can be submitted to the Leadership Council.

Step 3:

Once approved by the Leadership Council, the Pastor and representatives of the church need to be present at a future Executive Board Meeting where they will be presented for admission and voted upon by the Executive Board.