

**Constitution and Bylaws of the  
New Mexico Native American Southern Baptist Partnership**

Adopted April 30, 2011

**CONSTITUTION**

We establish this constitution to preserve the principles of our faith and govern our partnership of churches in an orderly manner. We do now, in the presence of God, this partnership and the entire body of Christ, joyfully enter into a covenant with one another, to walk together in Christian love, for the advancement of Christ's kingdom among Native American people and those we love.

**ARTICLE ONE: NAME**

This body shall be known as the New Mexico Native American Southern Baptist Partnership, hereafter referred to as the Partnership.

**ARTICLE TWO: PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES**

To establish a working relationship among Native American congregations that unites and enables them to develop healthy Southern Baptist churches within our state and neighboring states.

**ARTICLE THREE: STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for our statement of faith. This Partnership subscribes to the doctrinal statement of "The Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14, 2000.

**ARTICLE FOUR: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

This constitution may be changed, added to, or amended by a vote of more than 75% of the registered representatives of churches who are members of the Partnership at any regularly scheduled business meeting of the Partnership.

**BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE 1: MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1: General**

This is a sovereign and democratic Southern Baptist body under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of its life.

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of the body and the conditions of such membership.

**Section 2: Candidacy**

- (a) Any Native American Southern Baptist Church/Mission or any established Native American Ministry of a Southern Baptist Church/Mission in New Mexico or its border states may submit a letter requesting membership in this body. All candidates shall receive a copy of the Partnerships' Constitution

and By-laws when they make their request and upon their acceptance into the Partnership affirm they are in agreement with it.

- (b) Churches shall submit their letter requesting membership to the *Administrative* leadership team (See Article 1, Section 2, Letter (a) for consideration and recommendation for membership.
- (c) Membership shall be dependant upon a majority (75%) vote by the body at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Partnership.

### Section 3: Rights of Membership

- (a) Every member church shall be entitled to register up to 3 representatives with the *Administrative* leadership team upon arrival. The Administrative Team will receive representatives in good faith as members of their representative church or mission. The Partnership will keep a written record of member churches and their registered representatives to each meeting of the Partnership.
- (b) Every member church or mission is entitled to vote on all elections and questions submitted to the Partnership through their registered representatives present at each respective meeting.
- (c) Any member in good standing, of a member church is eligible to be nominated for leadership positions within the Partnership.
- (d) When the Partnership determines a Church or Missions' faith and practice is no longer consistent with the faith and practice of the Partnership, the Partnership may remove their name from membership by a majority (75 %) vote.

## ARTICLE II: LEADERSHIP

The leadership elected by the Partnership will be given the privilege and responsibility of leading the Partnership to carry out the objectives that will enable the Partnership to fulfill its purpose. Therefore, the responsibilities of the leadership will be directly related to each of the objectives the Partnership establishes. The Partnership may establish additional objectives at any time. The leadership will consist of *Teams*, each led by a *Team Leader*.

### Section 1: Objective Teams

- A: Administrative
- B: Communication
- C. Stewardship
- D: Growth
- E: Missions

### Section 2: Election & Terms of Service

#### A. Team Leaders & Team Members

- (1) *One* team leader and *two* team members will be elected at the first meeting of the Partnership on every odd numbered year to serve for a *two year* term.

### Section 3: Team Meetings

- A. All Team Leaders and necessary Team members shall have "Combined Team Meetings" no later than 1 month prior to each general meeting of the Partnership to prepare the upcoming quarterly meeting of the Partnership. They shall prepare 1) A progress report of the partnership to present; 2) An agenda of actions being recommended by the Objective Teams.
- B. All Objective Teams will meet at least once during the first month immediately following each quarterly meeting of the Partnership. This will ensure the teams have time to do their work well in advance of the "Combined Team Meetings" and quarterly Partnership meetings.

### Section 4: Team Objectives and Duties

#### A. Administrative Team

- (1) Objective: Provide primary leadership for the Partnership through oversight and coordination of the work of the Partnership and the remaining teams.
  - (a) Duties
    - [1] Prepare and conduct business meetings of the Partnership and all combined team meetings that take place.
    - [2] Set all Partnership meeting Agendas in collaboration with remaining objective teams.
    - [3] Prepare printed agendas for each Partnership meeting and combined team meetings.
    - [4] Register representatives of member churches upon arrival at all Partnership meetings.
    - [5] Record number in attendance for all Partnership meetings.
    - [6] Present the "Rabbit Skin" High Attendance Award at each Partnership meeting to the Partnership church with the greatest number of registered representatives. The host church is not eligible for this award.
    - [7] Work with the Southern Baptist organizations to fulfill their objective.

#### B. Communication Team

- (1) Objective: Insure communication between the Partnership and its member churches and provide for all other communication needs of the Partnership.
  - (a) Duties
    - [1] Keep written and digital files of minutes for all Partnership meetings and all combined team meetings.
    - [2] Store written and digital file copies at the offices of the BCNM.
    - [3] Provide a written and digital copy of minutes of all Partnership meetings and combined team meetings for immediate distribution to member churches for public viewing after each meeting.
    - [4] Send notification of all Partnership meetings to all member churches
    - [5] Carry out all publicity for Partnership
    - [6] Work with the Southern Baptist organizations to fulfill their

objective.

C. Stewardship Team

(1)Objective: Insure the proper handling of all financial and physical resources of the Partnership.

(a) Duties

- [1] Receive a love offering for the benefit of the Partnership at every scheduled meeting.
- [2] Keep accurate printed and digital records of all income and expenses of the Partnership and give a complete printed financial report at every regular meeting of the Partnership and all combined team meetings.
- [3] Promote the financial support of the Partnership to member churches.
- [4] Promote the financial support of the Partnership to organizations and individuals.
- [5] Work with the Southern Baptist organizations to fulfill their objective.

D. Growth Team

(1) Objective: Provide inspiration, opportunities and resources for both leadership development and church development to help them develop in their ability to be examples to other Christians.

(a) Duties

- [1] Prepare and lead worship and teaching/preaching portions of the Partnership meetings.
- [2] Schedule "age appropriate break out training times" during the Partnership meetings.
- [3] Work with the Southern Baptist organizations to fulfill their objective.

E. Missions Team

(1) Objective: Lead Partnership to participate in outreach and service efforts.

(a) Duties

- [1] Identify and prioritize efforts
- [2] Recommend efforts to the Partnership
- [3] Organize efforts
- [4] Work with the Southern Baptist organizations to fulfill their objective.

## ARTICLE III: PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

### Section 1: Frequency

The Partnership shall have regular meetings every 3 months. The best dates will be determined on a yearly basis at the first quarterly meeting of the Partnership.

### Section 2: Location

The location of the meetings will be held in Partnership churches and scheduled on a yearly basis at the first quarterly meeting of the Partnership.

### Section 3: Special Called Meetings

Special meetings of the Partnership may be called and held at a specified location providing at least *four* weeks notice is given.

## ARTICLE V: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

### Section 1: Governing Document

The governing document shall be the most recent and simple version of Robert's Rules of Order.

### Section 2: Quorum

A quorum shall consist of *twenty-five percent* of member churches being present at a regularly scheduled meeting or one that has been properly called.

## ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be changed, added to or amended by a 75% majority vote of church representatives present at any regularly scheduled meeting of the partnership or at a special meeting called for that purpose as specified in Article IV, Section 3, Special Called Meetings.