

Florida East Coast
Baptist Association, Incorporated



Revised Constitution

Approved

One Day Session – May 19, 2021

Rev. T. T. Philpart, Moderator

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1. This organization shall be styled and known as the Florida East Coast Missionary Baptist Association, Inc. Also referred to in this document as FECBA.

ARTICLE II – MISSION STATEMENT

Section 1. The mission of the Florida East Coast Missionary Baptist Association, Inc., is to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ through empowering, informing, and encouraging constituent entities to be engaged in realizing the Kingdom of God on earth through mission, evangelism, discipleship development and social justice.

ARTICLE III – OBJECTIVES AND CORPORATE PURPOSES

The purpose and objectives of the Florida East Coast Missionary Baptist Association, Inc., shall be to promote and provide the member churches the following:

Section 1. Develop disciples of Jesus Christ through robust general Christian education program.

Section 2. Support and increase involvement in home and foreign missions.

Section 3. Organize and foster new churches in the bounds of the Association, support the weak ones and form a more solid union between the ministries and Christian workers.

Section 4. Recognize Florida Memorial University, Miami, Florida, as the Association's school and provide all possible financial support for its sustenance and progress. Full support of all the local member churches shall be encouraged.

Section 5. Engage in education, stewardship and any other endeavors deemed fitting and proper to advance the cause of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

ARTICLE IV. – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. This body shall be composed of properly organized Missionary Baptist Churches certified by the credential committee and approved by the FECBA. There are two categories of membership in the FECBA – Unified Membership and Annual Membership.

Unified Membership. Unified Membership entities are churches that give three percent (3%) of their annual church budget with a minimum of Eighteen Hundred Dollars (\$1,800.00) a year, that is sent monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually to FECBA Headquarters.

Annual Membership. Annual Membership representations are churches that register at the annual session with a minimum Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) a year.

Section 2. Churches approved by FECBA must be under the pastorate of males.

Section 3. Churches, pastors, or preachers participating in, encouraging, or validating the acceptance of the licensing and ordaining of homosexual preachers and pastors shall not be acceptable to this body

Section 4. Termination. Member churches can be terminated from membership in FECBA when they are determined to be in noncompliance by the Board of Directors or by their designee.

ARTICLE V. – OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of FECBA shall be as follows

Moderator/President
Vice Moderators (Up to 6)
Recording Secretary
Assistant Recording Secretary (2)
Board of Directors Chairman
Mission Board Chairman
Secretary of Mission Board
Administrative Assistant
Assistant Administrative Assistant
Treasurer
Historian
Parliamentarian
Financial Secretary
Benefit Board Chairman
Benefit Board Secretary
FECBA Northern Fellowship Presidents
FECBA Southern Fellowship Presidents
Congress of Christian Education President
Women's Auxiliary President
Laymen/Men's Auxiliary President
Youth and Young Adult Auxiliary President

ARTICLE VI. – ELECTION AND TENURE

Section 1. The electable officers for FECBA are Moderator/President, Northern Fellowship Presidents (Parent body and Women), Southern Fellowship Presidents (Parent Body and Women), Congress of Christian Education President, and Women's Auxiliary President

Section 2. Eligible Candidates (see Sections 3 through 5 of this Article) shall be elected by the member churches through designated messenger delegates of the FECBA. No potential candidate shall be eligible to serve in any office if they are not a pastor or member in good standing with a member church.

Section 3. The Moderator/President of FECBA and Presidents of the FECBA's auxiliaries shall have been members of FECBA for (at least) four (4) consecutive annual sessions.

Section 4. Moderators and Presidents (including Vice Moderators and Presidents of FECBA Fellowships, Congress, who are men) shall be pastors of good report and having the esteem of their brethren. The presidents of the Layman and Women's Auxiliaries shall be of the laity, be of good report and have the esteem of the brothers and sisters.

Section 5. All Lay Offices shall be filled by messengers of member churches which are of good report and standing with their pastor and church. All officers and Lay workers of FECBA, Northern Fellowship, Southern Fellowship, and Congress Elected or appointed must have their pastor's approval, in writing signed and dated by the pastor of their church.

Section 6. Election/Nomination Committee. The Moderator shall appoint a chair and committee members to operate as the Election/Nomination Committee. The Election/Nomination committee shall prescribe with Board of Director's approval the election campaign, its process and shall be the preliminary arbiter of any election questions, disputes, or controversies. FECBA shall reserve the right to final judgment on such matters.

Section 7. The election results shall be reported on the final day of each Annual Session set aside for that purpose by the Election/Nomination Committee.

Section 8. All other officers shall be appointed, upon his election, by the Moderator or the elected Auxiliary Presidents with the Moderator's approval having been certified by the Election/Nominations Committee. All appointed officers shall be affirmed annually by FECBA on Friday of each Annual Session.

Section 9. No one shall hold more than one constitutional office within the FECBA.

Section 10. Moderator's Tenure. The moderator may serve ten (10) years, (equaling two (2) terms of five (5) years each). At the end of the first five (5) year term, he must be re-elected. If someone runs against him, the voting must be by secret ballot(s). At the end of the tenth (10th) year his tenure ends, and he must vacate/leave the office. The new Moderator must be elected by

secret ballot(s). A former moderator must remain out of that office for at least five (5) years (one term), after which he becomes eligible to be elected to the office again.

Section 11. Auxiliary Presidents Tenures. All elected Presidents of auxiliaries may serve for five years. At the end of the fifth (5th) year, his/her tenure ends, and he/she must vacate/leave the office. The new president(s) must be elected by secret ballot(s). A former president must remain out of that office for at least five (5) years (one term), after which he/she becomes eligible to be elected to the office again.

Section 12. Consistent with and pursuant to this provision, the person serving as the outgoing Moderator/President, and all other officers of FECBA and its auxiliaries, boards, commissions, subsidiaries, and other entities, shall immediately initiate transfer of authority for the work of FECBA upon the election of the new Moderator/President, and shall complete that transfer of authority no later than thirty (30) days following the election of the new Moderator/President. By this procedure, it is the explicit intent of the FECBA that the work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through FECBA will in no way be hindered, compromised, or otherwise prejudiced due to the change in leadership.

Section 13. An Installation Service shall be held, and all elected officers shall be installed at a place and time selected by the newly elected Moderator.

Section 14. In the case of vacancy between Annual Sessions or the end of a term, the Moderator shall appoint such person(s) to fill them. In the case of vacancy between Annual Sessions or the end of a term of the Moderator, the highest-ranking Vice Moderator shall succeed to the office of Moderator.

ARTICLE VII. – THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of brethren and sisters of FECBA and twenty-one (21) judicious brethren. Judicious means that the church where the board member holds membership is enrolled financially in FECBA.

Section 2. The Moderator shall appoint the person who shall serve as the Chairman of the Board.

Section 3. Quorum. Eighteen (18) members shall constitute a quorum with full power to act, using all means at their disposal, to transact all unfinished business, devise plans, ways and means, and make such recommendations as they think best to carry out the purpose of FECBA during recess.

Section 4. Notice of Meeting. A seven (7) day written notice of meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given by the Chairman through the Administration Assistant with the consent of the Moderator/President, as to time, place and objective of meeting.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall make full itemized annual reports of its transactions during the interval of the meeting of FECBA, giving the conditions of educational and missionary work of our district and state.

ARTICLE VIII. – AUXILIARIES AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Section 1. The FECBA shall have Auxiliaries and subsidiary bodies. to aid in the effective accomplishments of its objectives. Such are to work with FECBA in harmony with the Moderator, his vision for FECBA and the Board of Directors to contribute to the overall success of FECBA's mission, fulfillment of its needs, and attainment of its corporation purposes. These entities, to include their future successors in identity, purpose, or interest, and all other entities or bodies of such nature or similarly situated, whether specifically identified in this Constitution or not, are hereby recognized and designated as subsidiary or auxiliary bodies of FECBA:

- Northern Fellowship (member churches from Pompano north to Cocoa Beach)
- Southern Fellowship (member churches from Ft. Lauderdale south to Florida City)
- Congress of Christian Education
- Women's Convention/Auxiliary
- Laymen's/Men's Auxiliary
- Youth and Young Adult Auxiliary
- Mission Board
- Benefit Board
- Music/Arts Auxiliary
- Usher's Auxiliary
- Health and Wellness Auxiliary

Section 2. All such entities are subordinate to FECBA and subject to the governance, jurisdiction and control of the FECBA.

Section 3. Auxiliary and subsidiary entities and bodies shall submit regular reports of their activities, revenues, and all assets, expenditures, and operations to FECBA. These reports shall be subject to approval by FECBA.

Section 4. Missionaries appointed by FECBA or by any of its auxiliary or subsidiary entities shall, before said appointment, demonstrate evidence of genuine piety, fervent zeal in the Master's cause, and talent befitting them for the service to which they are appointed.

Section 5. All foreign, state and home missions' monies shall be turned over to the proper sources in the parent body.

Section 7. Auxiliaries that utilize their own separate letter blanks shall give the Minister's Benefit Board a place on their form.

ARTICLE IX – ANNUAL SESSION AND MEETINGS

Section 1. FECBA shall meet annually after the second Sunday in February at such place as the body may appoint.

Section 2. There shall be a one-day session held each year in the month of May at such place as the body may appoint.

Section 3. The Moderator/President may call FECBA into special session at his discretion.

ARTICLE X. – INDEBTEDNESS OR LIABILITY

Section 1. The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which said corporation shall at any time subject itself to shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and FECBA as a whole

ARTICLE XI. – FINANCIAL AUDITS

Section 1. FECBA shall hire an external auditor. Audits shall be conducted annually or at the request of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII. – REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS

Section 1. This corporation shall be entitled to hold real estate of a value not exceeding an amount as determined by the Board of directors and the Association as a whole.

ARTICLE XIII. – AMENDMENT

Section 1. Amendment of Constitution. This constitution may be amended at any session by a majority vote.

Section 2. Any session where an amendment will be voted on must be preceded by a notice in the previous Session of FECBA.

ARTICLE XIV. – CORPORATION DURATION

Section 1. The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual.