

A COMPARISON OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION AND THE AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION BASED ON THEIR RESPECTIVE YEAR BOOKS OF 1957: CONVENTION BOOK, PAGES 26-28; ASSOCIATION BOOK, PAGES 96-99.

COMMENT BY A. L. P.: Compare ABSENCE of respect for the LOCAL CHURCH in the Convention citations and the RESPECT for the LOCAL CHURCH in the Association citations.

The American Baptist Association Articles of Agreement contain a sound set of doctrinal statements while NO REFERENCE TO THE SCRIPTURES is found in the Convention Constitution.

(Use of bold-face type and parenthesis for emphasis by A. L. P.)

FROM THE CHARTER OF THE CONVENTION

An act to incorporate five men named with others, their associates and successors, to constitute the SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION was approved by Georgia Senate and House of Representatives Dec. 27, 1845.

PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION

FROM CONVENTION CHARTER: for the purpose of eliciting, combining and directing the energies of the **Baptist Denomination of Christians**, for the propagation of the gospel, **any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.**

FROM INTRODUCTION TO CONSTITUTION: Messengers from **Missionary Societies, Churches and other religious bodies of the Baptist Denomination** . . . for the purpose of eliciting, combining and directing the energies of the **denomination.**

ARTICLE III OF CONSTITUTION: It is the purpose of the Convention to provide a general organization **for Baptists** . . . for the promotion of Christian missions . . . and any other objects such as Christian education, benevolent enterprises, and social services which **it** (the Convention) may deem proper and advisable.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

Article III. The Convention shall consist of messengers . . .

Sec. 1. One messenger for each regular Baptist Church . . . a bona fide contributor to the Convention's work during the preceding fiscal year.

Sec. 2. One additional messenger from each such church for every 250 members, or for each \$250.00 paid to the work of the Convention during the preceding fiscal year . . . (no church to have more than ten messengers.)

NOTE BY A. L. P.: From a business standpoint, the numerical and financial basis of representation in the Convention might seem fair, but would you be willing to give votes in our political elections to citizens in proportion to the members of their families and the amount they pay in taxes? If such were practiced, would not the wealthy soon control the government and take advantage of the poor? Then, may not the same result from the numerical basis of representation in the Convention?

NATURE OF THE CONVENTION

Article IV. While **independent and sovereign in its own sphere**, the Convention does not claim and will never attempt to exercise any authority over any other Baptist body, whether church, auxiliary, association or convention.

(NOTE BY A. L. P.: This puts the Convention auxiliaries and associations on equality with the church.)

MISSIONARIES OF THE CONVENTION

Article IX. All missionaries **appointed by the Convention's boards** must, previous to their appointment, furnish (to the Convention's boards) evidence of piety, zeal for their Master's kingdom, conviction of truth as held by Baptists, and talent for missionary service.

FROM PREAMBLE OF THE ASSOCIATION

With faith in God, and unquestioning acceptance of the Bible as the Word of God, and earnest prayers for the blessings of God, we offer to all Missionary Baptist Churches of Christ the following Articles of Agreement:

PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The object of this Association is to encourage co-operation and Christian activity **among the churches**, to promote interest in and encourage Missions on a New Testament basis among all the people, to stimulate interest in Christian literature and general benevolence, and to provide a medium through which **the churches** may co-operate in these enterprises.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article III, Sec. 1. This Association shall be composed of regular Missionary Baptist **Churches.**

Section 3. Each church shall be entitled to three messengers whose qualifications shall be determined by the **church** electing them.

NATURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article IV. This Association is the joint co-operation of the **churches composing it.**

Article V. This Association shall recognize the freedom of speech as essential to the highest achievements in its work. It shall stand or fall on its own conformity to truth. It shall exercise no ecclesiastical authority, but it shall by every precaution recognize the sovereignty of **every individual church.** It shall encourage on the part of the **churches** and messengers the greatest possible freedom of expression in discussing matters pertaining to its work, and in the pre-eminence of missions and evangelism in the **work of the churches.**

MISSIONARIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section I. Statement of Mission Policy.

The messengers of the churches of the American Baptist Association do not recommend any man to the mission field unless he has **first been elected a missionary by the church of his membership.**

Section II. We recognize that a missionary elected by **this local church**, if it be a Scriptural church, is a Scriptural missionary without a recommendation from the messengers from the churches of the American Baptist Association.