

FELLOWSHIP OF BAPTIST EDUCATORS BYLAWS

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ARTICLE I

Name, Offices, and Affiliation

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be FELLOWSHIP OF BAPTIST EDUCATORS (FBE), hereafter called the Fellowship.

Section 2. The home office shall be at the address of the Executive Director who is then serving.

Section 3. The Fellowship as an entity shall be affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention through an agency or auxiliary of the SBC. The Fellowship may also establish working relationships with other Baptist conventions and unions.

Section 4. The Fellowship shall function under the provisions of the Alabama Non-Profit Business Corporation Act and of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section 501 (C) (3).

ARTICLE II

Objectives

The Fellowship will prayerfully seek to abide in Christ, to know His will, and to promote His saving faith in all the world.

The Fellowship of Baptist Educators is an organization dedicated to helping Baptist educators use their professional skills in fulfilling the Great Commission. In so doing, the organization will seek to:

Section 1. Inform educators about long and short-term missionary teaching opportunities in cooperation with the International Mission Board and other Great Commission mission agencies through *Educomis*, a quarterly newsletter. In addition, the Fellowship may provide information about special, urgent needs directly to members who possess the needed skills. The Fellowship also may provide information through other media, mission organizations, meetings, and additional means deemed appropriate.

Section 2. Promote Book-Link International, Inc. which collects and ships Bibles and Christian study materials to missionaries, national pastors, and school libraries who can use materials in English.

Section 3. Support Books on Mission which collects and ships Bibles and Christian study materials to missionaries, national pastors, and school libraries who can use materials in English.

Section 4. Promote North Carolina Literacy Missions.

Section 5. Engage in additional mission opportunities as they develop.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Regular membership shall be extended to members of Baptist churches who desire to associate with and support the FBE and its objectives.

Section 2. Associate membership shall be extended to members of Christian churches other than Baptist who desire to associate with and support the FBE and its objectives. Associate members will have all rights and privileges of regular members except to serve as national officers or State Directors.

Section 3. The roster of membership shall be maintained by the Executive Director. The database shall include information concerning each member's abilities and interests relating to missions. The information shall be available to all Officers and Board members.

Section 4. Each FBE member shall be urged to make regular contributions to support the work of the Fellowship.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

Section 1. The Board of Directors (as defined in Article V, Section 4, a) shall meet annually. The Executive Committee of the Board (as defined in Article V, Section 6, a) shall meet or be polled as necessary between full Board meetings.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be in charge of planning national meetings. State or regional meetings may be planned by the State Directors.

Section 3. The Executive Committee may postpone or cancel any meeting for just cause.

Section 4. All meetings and proceedings of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and any subordinate unit of the Fellowship shall be regulated and controlled according to the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

ARTICLE V

Organizational Structure

Section 1. Officers

a. Officers to be elected by the Board of Directors (as defined in Article V, Section 4. a) shall be: President, Vice President/President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

b. The elected President and Vice President/President Elect shall serve for a period of two years.

c. No elected officer may serve successive terms in that office. Persons filling an unexpired term may be eligible for election to a full term at the conclusion of the unexpired term that they filled. The President and Vice President/Elect may not serve successive terms.

d. Vacancies in any of the elective offices that occur between annual meetings of the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Executive Committee for the unexpired term of the office.

e. Officers to be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors shall include: Editor of the Newsletter, Historian, Placement Director, State Directors, North Carolina Resource Director, and others as needed. They will serve for an indefinite period, with confirmation annually by the President and the Board of Directors.

f. The Executive Director of FBE shall be selected by the Board of Directors and shall serve for an indefinite period. The Executive Director may be replaced at any time by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present and voting at a regular or called meeting.

g. The Executive Director of BOOK-LINK International, Inc. shall be elected by the BOOK-LINK International, Inc. Board of Directors.

Section 2. Duties of the Officers

a. The President shall perform all such duties as are incident to the office of President, and those duties required by the Executive Committee. The President shall:

(1) preside at all meetings of the Fellowship, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee.

(2) be an ex-officio member of all meetings of subordinate groups of the Fellowship.

(3) prepare the budget and present it to the Board of Directors for approval at the annual meeting.

(4) appoint all committees and designate their chairpersons.

b. The immediate Past President shall serve the Fellowship in an advisory capacity and shall perform such other duties as the Board shall direct.

c. The Vice President/President-Elect shall exercise the functions of the President when the President requests, or when the President is absent or incapacitated. The Vice President/President-Elect shall have such powers and discharge such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors, including the planning of programs for national meetings. This officer will ascend to the presidency at the end of a two-year term as Vice President/President-Elect.

d. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Fellowship, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee; and compile such reports and perform other duties incident to the office. The Secretary shall perform correspondence as directed by the President, the Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee.

e. The Treasurer shall keep the financial records and make annual reports to the Board of Directors.

f. The Historian shall maintain the archives of the Fellowship, including pictorial and written documentation.

g. The Executive Director shall:

(1) serve as the coordinating link between the Fellowship, any affiliated agency, and other Great Commission missionary sending agencies.

(2) maintain a roster of members, a data bank regarding the abilities and interests of each member. On special request from an agency, the Executive Director may provide the appropriate information from the data bank.

(3) work with the Editor of *Educomis* to provide information about opportunities for service.

h. The Editor of *Educomis*, the FBE Newsletter, is responsible for preparing issues for distribution to the members regularly.

i. The Executive Director of BOOK-LINK International, Inc. shall manage and oversee all aspects of the operation of BOOK-LINK International, Inc. and report annually to the Board of Directors of FBE.

j. The Placement Director shall work with the Executive Director to enlist and recommend members to serve as requested by the sending agencies and schools around the world.

Section 3. State Directors

One State Director shall be enlisted from each state in which members of FBE live. State Directors may enlist assistant directors as needed. State Directors shall:

a. Publicize the work of FBE in their states

b. Enlist new members

c. Relate to their state's Baptist Men, Woman's Missionary Union, Annuitants, and Religious Educators organizations. They may also represent FBE in meetings of local Baptist Associations, in meetings of local churches, and in secular teacher's organizations.

d. Serve a two-year term, to be extended at the discretion of the Board.

Section 4. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the FBE Officers, both elected and appointed, the past FBE Presidents, the Executive Director of BOOK-LINK International, Inc., and a representative of the affiliated SBC agency or auxiliary.

- a. The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the Fellowship of Baptist Educators and shall be vested with the management of the affairs, property, and activities of the Fellowship.
- b. The Board of Directors shall meet annually at such time and place as is determined by the Board.
- c. Meetings of the Board shall be open to all members of FBE who may attend and participate in discussions without voting privileges.
- d. A quorum shall consist of the members present at a regularly set meeting of the Board.

Section 5. The Executive Committee

- a. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall consist of the following: President, Vice President/President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Director of Book-Link International, Inc., the North Carolina Resource Director, and the Executive Director of FBE.
- b. The Executive Committee shall attend to business as needed between the annual meetings of the Board of Directors.
- c. The Executive Committee shall meet on call of the President or of any four members of the Committee. Members shall be notified at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting.
- d. A quorum shall consist of the members of the Committee present at a regularly called meeting. In lieu of a meeting, the President may poll Committee members by mail, email, or telephone on minor matters between meetings.

ARTICLE VI

Elections

Section 1. Election of Officers

- a. A nominating committee of at least three (3) members of the Fellowship, and appointed by the President, shall present a slate of nominees for elective offices to the Board of Directors at its annual meeting during those years when officers are to be elected. All nominees must have agreed to serve in the office for which they will be nominated.
- b. Nominations may be made from the floor, provided nominees have agreed to serve, if elected, to the positions for which they are nominated.
- c. A majority of those present and voting is required for election.
- d. All newly elected officers shall be installed at the end of the annual meeting of the Board of Directors and shall begin their term of office immediately.

- e. Any officer may be relieved of a position by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present and voting at a given meeting.

Section 2. Election of State Directors

- a. State Directors shall be enlisted by the President and presented to the Board of Directors for election. The Directors of the Baptist Men and Woman's Missionary Union, the Organization of Baptist Educators, and the President of the Religious Educators group in the state may be invited to recommend members from their state. The President shall give consideration to all recommendations received, but is not bound by them.
- b. The State Directors shall be provided by the President
 - (1) a summary of the duties expected of a State Director
 - (2) a list of members of the Board of Directors
 - (3) a copy of the budget
 - (4) a list of members residing in the respective state
 - (5) a copy of the Bylaws and a list of resources available.

ARTICLE VII

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of FBE shall be from July 1st through June 30 of the following year.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendment of Bylaws

Amendments to the Bylaws must be approved by the Board of Directors at a regularly called meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. Proposed amendments must be distributed to the Board members one month prior to the scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE IX

Suspension of the Rules

Any provision of these Bylaws may be suspended temporarily, as it applies to a specific issue, by a three-fourths majority vote of the Board of Directors present and voting.

ARTICLE X

Dissolution

In the event of dissolution, any funds remaining shall be transferred to a qualifying organization with Baptist ties.