O‘AHU BAPTIST NETWORK
CONSTITUTION

Preamble

Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and recognizing our common mission to advance God’s kingdom by fulfilling the Great Commission cooperatively, we hereby establish and maintain this network of Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention (HPBC) churches on O‘ahu.

ARTICLE I - Name

O‘ahu Baptist Network (OBN)

ARTICLE II – Mission Statement

The O‘ahu Baptist Network exists to fulfill both the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) by fostering ministry partnerships among member churches to advance God’s kingdom.

ARTICLE III - Composition

The O‘ahu Baptist Network shall be made up of churches on O‘ahu who are member churches in good standing in the HPBC and who have entered a covenant with OBN churches to partner together in accordance with this constitution and the accompanying bylaws.

ARTICLE IV - Theological Basis

One of the foundational principles of the church is the witness to God’s power that comes when believers from diverse backgrounds and giftings are united by the Spirit through a common faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ with the primary purpose of building up the body of Christ in love (e.g., 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Ephesians 4). Southern Baptists, in accordance with the clear teaching of Scripture, believe that this unity takes place first and foremost in the local church. Secondarily, God calls together churches of like faith to cooperate in advancing the kingdom more effectively and to display to the world the unity that comes from God for those who share a common faith in Jesus Christ. Our common faith comes from the full counsel of God’s Word and is summarized by Southern Baptists in the *Baptist Faith and Message*.

ARTICLE V - Philosophical Basis

Southern Baptists believe in the autonomy of the local church and that churches are stronger when they pool resources and cooperate in a spirit of love and servanthood as exemplified in the example of Jesus Christ. To put into practice both of these beliefs, OBN is founded on the voluntary association of each member church that enters into covenant relationship with the other OBN member churches according to this constitution and the accompanying bylaws. This covenant relationship in no way limits the autonomy of each church. While each church may determine how it participates in OBN, OBN may disassociate from churches that demonstrate clear divergence, in belief or practice, from our common faith.

ARTICLE VI – Relationship to the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention

By the same beliefs in Article V, OBN will retain its autonomy while freely associating with the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention. This autonomy includes its rights to self-governance and the use of its financial resources. Its relationship with the convention should in no way be understood as a subordinate relationship.

ARTICLE VII - Annual Meeting

The OBN shall meet annually in general session at a time designated by the OBN Leadership Team. The annual meeting shall be composed of duly elected messengers from OBN churches and presided over by the officers of OBN.

ARTICLE VIII - The OBN Leadership Team

The OBN Leadership Team shall be made up of 8 to 12 members from participating OBN churches and elected by a simple majority of messengers at a regular meeting of the OBN. Leadership Team members must be members in good standing of a participating OBN church throughout their terms. Members shall serve a three-year term. There is no limit to the number of terms that can be served, but members shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. In accordance with this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, this OBN Leadership Team has full authority to govern the OBN between annual meetings. The same officers shall serve both the annual meeting and the OBN Leadership Team.

ARTICLE IX - Officers

The officers of the OBN are moderator, vice moderator, clerk, and treasurer. They shall be elected at the annual meeting. If vacancies occur between annual meetings, the OBN Leadership Team shall have the authority to elect a replacement at a duly called meeting to finish terms. Officers shall serve two-year terms and may be elected to consecutive terms.

ARTICLE X - Organization

In accordance with this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, OBN may create and administer programs and structures that will accomplish its purpose.

ARTICLE XI - Rules of Order

Roberts Rules of Order (most current edition) shall be used as rules of order for OBN unless otherwise specified in this constitution and/or the accompanying bylaws. The rules should be followed in a spirit of love, humility, servanthood, and grace that the Bible demands of all followers of Christ.

ARTICLE XII - Amendments

This constitution may be amended at a regular meeting of OBN provided that the following conditions are met:

- Submission: Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the OBN Leadership Team 90 days prior or earlier to the regular meeting.
- Review: The OBN Leadership Team will review all proposed amendments to determine relevance and appropriateness for OBN consideration.
- Notice: Proposed amendments must be sent to all member churches by mail and/electronic means 30 days prior or earlier to the regular meeting.
- Quorum: Quorum will be established when 50 percent of member churches are represented by at least one messenger.
- Approval: Approval will require a 75% majority of messengers present at the meeting. No proxy voting will be allowed.

ARTICLE XIII - Dissolution

If at any point this organization should dissolve and cease to exist, all assets (including cash, properties, and equipment) shall pass to the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention.

O‘AHU BAPTIST NETWORK
BY-LAWS

Article I
Composition and Affiliation

The Oahu Baptist Network (OBN) shall be made up of churches on O‘ahu who are part of the Hawai‘i Pacific Baptist Convention (HPBC) and who have requested and been granted network membership.

Article II
Membership

OBN member churches will meet all of the following criteria:

- Affirm the Baptist Faith and Message
- Current members of HPBC in good standing
- Located on O‘ahu
- Submitted a written request to the OBN Leadership Team for membership expressing a desire to partner with OBN in accordance with the OBN covenant
- Elected at an OBN annual meeting

OBN Covenant

Believing that kingdom work is more effective and more reflective of God’s glory when we act cooperatively, OBN churches enter into a covenant to:

- Develop partnerships and other cooperative efforts in missions, evangelism, discipleship, leadership training, church planting, church revitalization, and church assistance
- Pray for each other
- Promote activities of OBN and OBN member churches
- Communicate needs and available resources to share with other churches
- Foster inter-church fellowship and ministry opportunities
- Provide regular financial support consistent with the church’s finances
- Participate in OBN activities
- Make every effort to send at least one messenger to the OBN annual meeting

Article III
Meetings

OBN shall hold such meetings as deemed prudent for the purpose of the work of the network.

Annual Meeting: OBN will convene for a meeting each year. The OBN Leadership Team shall be responsible for setting the time and place of the annual meeting as well as planning the agenda and program. The time, date, and agenda for the annual meeting must be communicated to member churches by mail and/or electronic means no less than 30 days prior to the meeting. **Quorum** shall be reached when one third of member churches are represented.

Messengers: Messengers to OBN annual meetings shall be elected by each affiliated church on the following basis: Five messengers for the first 50 members – 1 for every additional 10, not to exceed 12 messengers. No person shall serve as a messenger of a church of which he or she is not a member. A list of messengers and alternate messengers shall be certified by the church and provided at or before the meeting.

Special Meetings: The OBN Leadership Team may call a special meeting of OBN. Notice of called sessions must be communicated to the churches by mail and/or electronic means a minimum of seven days prior to the called meeting. A quorum shall be reached at such meetings when 50% of member churches are represented.

Messengers for special meetings Messengers to the last preceding meeting (regular or special) shall constitute the membership of the special meeting, except cases in which new messengers are certified by member churches and submitted to the OBN Leadership Team prior to the special meeting. Same limitations per church.

Minutes: A record of the proceedings of each meeting (annual or special) shall be distributed to all affiliated churches.

Article IV
Officers

OBN officers shall be: moderator, vice-moderator, clerk, and treasurer. Note: a separate document "Policy and Procedures of the OBN" shall describe their duties and responsibilities. The officers preside over the annual meeting and the leadership team.

These officers shall be nominated from and by the OBN Leadership Team, be elected at the annual meeting, and assume office at the conclusion of that meeting. All officers must be members of member churches throughout their term of service.

Officers are elected to two-year terms and may be nominated and reelected for consecutive terms.

Should officers need to be replaced during their terms, they may be replaced by vote of the OBN Leadership Team to complete the unexpired terms.

Article V
OBN Leadership Team

The governing body of OBN between annual sessions shall be the OBN Leadership Team. The OBN Leadership Team shall be responsible for:

- Acting on behalf of OBN between annual sessions
- Enacting decisions made by OBN during annual sessions
- Working with member churches, their members, and other ministries to develop, facilitate, initiate, and/or maintain activities and programs in the following areas:
    - Discipleship
    - Evangelism and missions
    - Church planting and revitalization
    - Church assistance
    - New leader orientation and mentorship
    - Communication
- Preparing and presenting a ministry plan to OBN at its annual meetings
- Developing a budget proposal that fulfills the vision of the ministry plan and submitting the budget for approval by OBN at its annual meetings
- Responding for OBN on matters that occur between annual meetings and require action before the next annual meeting

Composition: The OBN Leadership Team shall be made up of 8 to 12 members elected at an OBN annual meeting. When a member cannot complete his or her term, a replacement may be elected by the OBN Leadership Team. All leadership team members must be members in good standing of an OBN member church throughout their time of service.

Organization: While the entire team will be responsible for all six areas listed above, each team member will be assigned to one or more of the areas. These members will be responsible for developing teams who will focus on the area to which they are assigned. These teams will be responsible for working with OBN churches, their church members, and ministries to help coordinate, resource, facilitate, and/or plan efforts in the teams' particular area.

Terms: The OBN Leadership Team member terms shall be three years. Members may be elected to no more than two consecutive terms.

Article VI
Staff

OBN may from time to time employ such staff as deemed prudent to accomplish the purpose of the network.

Facilitator: The chief employed leader of OBN shall be called the facilitator. He shall lead the OBN Leadership Team to help churches work together to carry out the purposes of the network. He will provide overall leadership and oversight to the ministries of the network. He may participate *ex officio* on any of the teams, task forces, and advisory groups established by OBN. The facilitator shall be accountable to the OBN Leadership Team.

OBN may employ this person in partnership with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and/or the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention (HPBC) provided that this partnership does not infringe upon the autonomy of the network.

How chosen and dismissed: Should OBN and/or the OBN Leadership Team determine that a facilitator is necessary and sufficient financial resources are available to fund the position, the OBN Leadership Team will convene a sub-committee to search for and recommend to the leadership team a candidate to serve as facilitator. Approval of the candidate will require a 75% majority of the OBN Leadership Team.

OBN may dismiss this person following the same process of approval. Should the OBN and/or the OBN Leadership Team determine that the position of facilitator is no longer necessary, and/or sufficient financial resources are not available to fund the position, and/or the facilitator does not meet the requirements of the position, the OBN Leadership Team will convene a sub-committee to recommend that the facilitator be removed. Notice of the OBN meeting for that purpose will be given at least 30 days before the date of the meeting. It will require a 75% majority of the leadership team members in attendance.

Other Staff: The OBN Leadership Team may also hire additional staff to carry out OBN's mission effectively if sufficient financial resources are available to support the position(s). The facilitator will be the overall supervisor for all OBN staff. This will be specified in the job description.

Article VII
Board of Directors

Responsibilities: (1) Represent the corporate body of OBN in its civil relationship to others including various governmental bodies and (2) with approval by OBN, any three of the directors shall have the power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer assets.

The Board of Directors has no additional responsibilities or authorization unless directed by OBN.

Indemnification: The board members shall not be held personally responsible for any debts or obligations of OBN. OBN shall indemnify the directors for any personal liability resulting from the good

faith discharge of their duties as directors. OBN may also obtain for directors and officers liability insurance in order to protect them from economic loss incurred due to legal action taken against them as a result of their actions on behalf of OBN in their capacity as directors and officers.

Composition: The OBN Leadership Team will serve as the Board of Directors.

Officers: The moderator will be the board president. The vice moderator will be the board vice president. The treasurer will be designated board treasurer. Their membership on the board will coincide with their term as moderator, vice moderator, or treasurer. If there is a vacancy, any leadership team member may be elected to serve as a board officer until the vacancy is filled.

Frequency of meetings: The board will meet as needed but no less often than required by law.

Article VIII
Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of messengers present and voting at an annual meeting, provided that the amendment has been presented in writing at a previous session of the OBN Leadership Team and communicated with churches by mail and/or electronic means.

Submission: Proposed amendments to these bylaws must be submitted in writing to the OBN Leadership Team 90 days or earlier prior to the regular meeting. Proposed amendments will be received only from members in good standing of OBN churches.

Review: The OBN Leadership Team will review all proposed amendments to determine relevance and appropriateness for OBN consideration.

Notice: Proposed amendments must be sent by the OBN Leadership Team to member churches by mail and/or electronic means 30 days or earlier prior to the regular meeting.

Quorum: Quorum will be established when 50 percent of member churches are represented by at least one messenger.

Approval: Approval will require a two-thirds majority of messengers present at the meeting. No proxy voting will be allowed.