

Constitution & Bylaws Amendments

Constitution/Bylaw Amendments introduced in 2021

Recommendations to amend the CSBC Constitution and Bylaws were approved by the Executive Board in September 2020. Because of COVID-19, the 2020 annual meeting was canceled and the recommendations were not introduced until the 2021 annual meeting.

According to CSBC governing documents, proposed Constitution amendments are introduced into the record at one annual meeting and considered at the following year's annual session. Proposed Bylaw amendments can be considered at any annual meeting if proper notice has been given. However, since the proposed Bylaw changes were directly related to the Constitution changes, none of the amendments were considered by messengers in 2021. Messengers are being asked to vote on the proposed amendments this year.

Constitution Amendments

It is recommended that Articles VII, VIII and IX of the California Southern Baptist Convention Constitution be amended to delete references to "The Denominational Paper" and "*The California Southern Baptist*."

~~Strikethrough~~ denotes deletion; **Bold Face** denotes a change or an addition.

Constitutional Amendments

ARTICLE VII. THE DENOMINATIONAL PAPER

Section 1. ~~The California Southern Baptist~~ shall be the official paper of this Convention.

Section 2. ~~The Executive Board of this Convention shall be responsible for the conduct of this program. The Editor shall be elected by the Executive Board of the Convention for an indefinite term. The Board shall not make him responsible for Editorial policy to other than the Board itself through one of its committees.~~

ARTICLE ~~VIII~~: VII. MEETINGS

Section 1. The Convention shall meet in regular or special session at such time and place as shall be determined by the Convention. Notice of the time and place of each regular and special session of the Convention shall be published at least once **on the CSBC website** in ~~The California Southern Baptist~~ no less than thirty days prior to the date of the session.

Section 2. The president, upon approval of the Executive Board of the Convention, may call the Convention into special session. The Board shall establish the time and place of the regular session if the Convention fails to act, or if grave conditions arise subsequent to adjournment that makes the previous choice of the Convention wholly undesirable.

ARTICLE ~~IX~~: VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any annual session of the Convention, or at a special session called specifically for that purpose by two thirds (2/3) of the Messengers present and voting, provided: The proposed amendment to be presented in writing at any session of the previous Convention and voted by the next annual Convention as presented in the order of business adopted by the Convention.

Section 2. Section 3 of Article II shall not be changed or amended but shall be held inviolate.

Background:

These sections of the CSBC Constitution should be amended since the denominational paper, *The California Southern Baptist*, was discontinued in April 2020. Decreased circulation and rising costs made the CSB unprofitable, a dilemma that other state Baptist newspapers/publications have experienced.

When expenses exceeded income, it was certain CSBC would need to look at alternative avenues to communicate the California Baptist story. That expense/income threshold was realized in 2017. While advertising dollars were relatively stable, many of those dollars were derived from CSBC ministries. Also, circulation had declined to about 4,600 from its all-time high of almost 29,500 in 1977-78. The 4,600-circulation included 2,300 free subscriptions for CSBC congregations.

News and information is not consumed today as it was a decade ago, let alone as it was in 1940 when CSBC was founded. CSBC is attempting to provide more flexible and timely systems to deliver information that is accessible to all California Southern Baptists while being financially prudent.

Bylaws Amendment

It is recommended that Article VIII of the CSBC Bylaws be amended to delete the references to "*The California Southern Baptist*."

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special session of the Convention by affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Messengers present and voting. Amendments sponsored by the Executive Board shall be published **on the CSBC website** in ~~The California Southern Baptist~~ at least one (1) month in advance of the meeting of the Convention.

Background:

This section of the CSBC Bylaws should be amended since the denominational paper, The *California Southern Baptist*, was discontinued in April 2020 and is no longer a viable channel to disseminate the information. At least for now, the CSBC website is a channel that is easily accessible and can be used to inform California Southern Baptists of proposed changes to its governing documents. These changes always will be printed in the Book of Reports for messengers reference during the annual meeting.