

# **WEST AFRICAN REFORMED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES**

## **CONSTITUTION**

*Adopted at WARBAC Founding Meeting*

*May 16, 2025*

### **1. The Establishment of the Association and Registered Office**

#### **A. The Name of the Association**

The Name of the Association shall be West African Reformed Baptist Association of Churches (WARBAC).

#### **B. The Purpose of WARBAC**

The Purpose of WARBAC is to glorify God through fellowship and cooperation of all the Reformed Baptist Churches in West Africa who embrace and adopt the 1689 2<sup>nd</sup> London Baptist Confession of Faith.

#### **C. The Address of WABAC**

The registered office of WARBAC shall be in London Corner, Serekunda, Kanifing municipal, The Gambia.

### **2. The Standards of WARBAC**

#### **A. Articles of Faith**

We hold wholeheartedly to the inerrant and infallible Word of God as found in the sixty-six books of the Bible (this being our sole authority and final source of faith and practice). We embrace and adopt the London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689 (1689 LBCF) as a faithful expression of the doctrine taught in the Scriptures. Substantial subscription to this Confession is the doctrinal position of WARBAC. (See Appendix A.)

#### **B. Articles of Association**

This Constitution is the ultimate governing standard of WARBAC. Therefore, actions of WARBAC must comply with it. Any article in this Constitution but not the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith may be amended or changed by a two thirds vote of representatives present and voting at an officially called meeting, when the proposed amendment has been distributed in writing to every member church at least two weeks before the vote is taken.

Amendments shall be incorporated into this Constitution after they have been approved.

### **C. Policies**

As needed, each standing committee of WARBAC will adopt, amend, or delete policies to govern the activities of WARBAC, to be ratified by a simple majority of the member churches present and voting at the General Assembly (GA).

## **3. The Authority of WARBAC**

### **A. Source of Authority**

WARBAC exists by virtue of the corporate authority of its member local churches.

### **B. Limitation of Authority**

- i. All cooperation in or contribution to WARBAC efforts by member churches shall be strictly voluntary. WARBAC will make no demands of a member church beyond its principles of association.
- ii. WARBAC has authority to determine whether its membership shall be given to or withheld from an applicant church. It also has power to dismiss a member church. WARBAC cannot take anything from a local church but that which it gives to the church, namely, membership in WARBAC.
- iii. WARBAC affirms the principles of conflict resolution spelled out in the 1689 LBCF 26.15.

### **C. Authority to Conduct Business**

WARBAC has authority to establish bank accounts in order to receive and disburse funds for accomplishing its purposes and functions. WARBAC may own property and conduct business through its elected officials or appointed committees.

## **4. Membership in WARBAC**

- A. Full membership is reserved for churches which meet the stated requirements outlined below including Appendix A, Confessional Subscription.
- B. Requirements for Membership Application

Churches applying for membership in WARBAC must meet the following conditions:

- i. Duly constituted as a church with at least one officer.
- ii. Subscription to the 1689 LBCF (See Appendix A, Confessional Subscription).
- iii. Agreement to abide by the constitution of WARBAC.
- iv. Be recommended by at least one current full-member church.
- v. Willingness to contribute financially to the general fund of WARBAC as the Lord prospers their work.
- vi. Commitment to active involvement in the WARBAC General Assembly.

#### **C. Termination of Membership**

- i. A church may withdraw from WARBAC at any time by means of a letter to the Membership Committee. This letter, in its entirety, shall be immediately forwarded to the entire membership of WARBAC.
- ii. A member church shall be removed from membership automatically upon dissolution of church.
- iii. Situations may arise wherein a church no longer meets the requirements of membership status. Such a church may be removed from WARBAC completely by three-fourths vote of the member churches.
- iv. A church shall always retain the right to reapply after termination, according to normal application procedures.

#### **5. The Privileges and Duties of Member Churches of WARBAC**

- A. Cooperation in Kingdom endeavors in accordance with the vision statement of WARBAC.
- B. Churches will communicate with and pray for one another regularly.

- C. The giving and reception of the conscientious commendation of other member churches.
- D. Each church shall have one church officer as a voting messenger at the GA.
- E. Willingness to financially contribute to the general fund of WARBAC as the Lord prospers their work.
- F. In matters of unresolved conflict between WARBAC churches, these churches must seek the mediation of fellow WARBAC member churches.
- G. Members shall have the right to participate in the activities of the association, attend meetings, and vote in elections. Members shall willingly support the association's vision, mission, and objectives with their time and resources.

## **6. The Administration of WARBAC**

### **A. General Assembly (GA)**

- I. Calling of Meetings

Messengers from member churches will convene at least once a year. Ordinarily notice will be given to all member churches as to time, place and purpose at least ninety days in advance. Prior to the meeting, member churches shall receive copies of any agenda to be proposed. Emergency sessions may be called by one of the standing committees, in which case all member churches must be notified at least thirty days in advance.
- II. Representation at Meetings

The GA is a representative assembly of the member churches. Churches are encouraged to send as many messengers to the GA as possible. Each member church is entitled to one vote, but may appoint up to four messengers for the purpose of discussion.
- III. Conduct of Meetings

Any member church may bring any agenda item to the floor of the GA. Members are encouraged to first work through standing committees, and present all agenda items to the GA Planning Committee in advance. More than fifty percent of the member churches must have messengers present to constitute a quorum at a business meeting of WARBAC.

- IV. Responsibilities of the WARBAC business meeting
  - a) Election of committee members and Coordinator.
  - b) Reading and approval of minutes
  - c) Approval of financial reports
  - d) Admission or exclusion of member churches
  - e) Approval of amendments to the Constitution
  - f) Adoption of budgets to fund the work of WARBAC
  - g) Adoption and ratification of policies relating to the work of WARBAC
  - h) Other business arising from our mutual love and concern for each other and the glory of God.

#### **B. WARBAC Officers**

- 1. The ruling body of WARBAC shall be made up of the voting representatives of the member churches.
- 2. The executive officers of WARBAC will consist of The Director, Secretary, Treasurer and Operations officer.
- 3. Committees may be appointed at the direction of WARBAC, for the performance of specific tasks on behalf of WARBAC.
- 4. The term for the executive officers will not be more than two consecutive terms of three (3) years each.

#### **C. Incorporation**

- i. WARBAC will incorporate in an appropriate state.
- ii. The four standing committees of WARBAC will be the Missions Committee, the Membership Committee, the Personnel and Finance Committee, and the General Assembly Planning Committee.

- iii. For purposes of legal documentation filed with governmental agencies and signatory, the three corporate officers of WARBAC will consist of the Director, Secretary and Treasurer.

#### **D. The Board**

##### Section (1): Membership to the Board

- (1) The Board shall be constituted by at least 5 members
- (2) Membership shall be by invitation subject to vetting by members and approval by the Board
- (3) The term for board membership shall not be more than two consecutive terms of three (3) years each
- (4) The quorum for meetings shall be constituted by the Director and a simple majority
- (5) The Board shall meet at least twice a year

##### Section (2): Functions of the Board

- (1) The board shall have oversight on the general operation of the organization
- (2) The board shall appoint the manager of the organization
- (3) The board shall approve the employment of the Senior management team of WARBAC
- (4) The board shall approve the annual operational budget of the organization and endorse the annual financial report prepared by the board's Treasurer
- (5) The board shall approve the appointment of internal and external auditors and endorse audit reports

##### Section (3): Resignation and removal

A board member may resign from office on their own initiative at any time. A board member may be removed from office by the unanimous decision of the other board members if the member in question is no longer able or qualified to fulfill their responsibilities. In the event of a board member's resignation or removal, the board of directors and the person to be removed shall be informed in writing within two weeks.

#### **E. Source of Funding**

##### Section (1): Foundations and donors supporting Christian associations

The main source of funding for WARBAC will be through well written project proposals to be funded by foundations and grants, donations from individuals, churches and religious institutions, international aid agencies, etc. who are interested in the Vision, Mission and Objectives of the association.

#### Section (2): Internal resource mobilization

The organization will also be funded through local fund-raising activities

### **F. Signatories to the Accounts**

#### Section (1): Signatories to WARBAC accounts

The definition of authority and signatories to WARBAC shall be made up of the Director, Secretary, and Treasurer.

#### Section (2): Change of signatories to the account

The definition of authority and signatories to WARBAC shall be as specified by the Director.

### **G. Amendment**

This constitution may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board including the Director during a board meeting, provided that written notice of the proposed amendments is given to all members at least one (1) month in advance. Constitutional amendments could also be informed by feedback from the management team, who are the operational arm of the association and shall forward the feedback to the board for further action.

### **H. Dissolution**

In the event of dissolution, no member church or individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any assets of WARBAC. Any assets of WARBAC at the time of dissolution shall be used to pay any outstanding debts. Any remaining assets shall be distributed to Christian organizations chosen by the remaining members at the time.

## **Appendix A. Confessional Subscription for Full Membership**

Christ's church is by definition a confessing church (Jude 3), and the common confession of our churches is the Second London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689 (1689 LBCF). This document has a rich history, not simply of theological precision, but as the doctrinal foundation from which great missionary efforts have been launched.

The convictions it expresses are key to partnership in evangelism, discipleship, church polity, and other Great Commission objectives. The member churches of West African Reformed Baptist Association of Churches (WARBAC) already possess a common expression of these convictions in the document to which we all already subscribe.

However, the methodology of our subscription is paramount. Confessional subscription is no guarantee of true unity. Nor can unity within WARBAC be guaranteed by minimizing or multiplying confessions. Unity within WARBAC is not established upon common subscription alone; but also involves the cultivation of healthy relationships, mutual trust, and laboring together in love for common kingdom objectives.

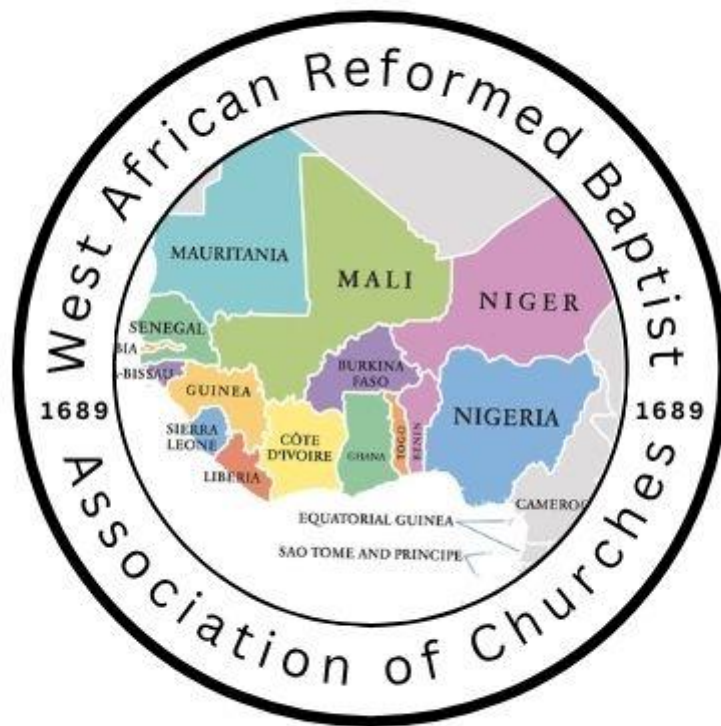
Membership in WARBAC requires substantial subscription to the system of doctrine expressed in the Confession, which is a good and faithful summary of the Scripture. Since the infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself (1689 LBCF 1.9), when there is a reservation about the true and full sense of the wording of the 1689 LBCF, WARBAC encourages transparency in a humble and charitable spirit.

Recognizing that terms may be defined differently, what WARBAC means by substantial subscription is confession of the doctrines expressed in each chapter of the 1689 LBCF, yet with liberty and charity over minor matters of wording, application and nuance not essential to those doctrines as a whole. Any reservations or exceptions must be expressed in the WARBAC membership application and approved by full member churches meeting in general assembly.



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**(WARBAC)**



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