

BYLAWS OF THE
AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF THE CENTRAL REGION

ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND RELATIONSHIP

The name of this organization shall be the American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Central Region. It shall be affiliated with the national organization of American Baptist Women's Ministries USA and an integral part of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABCCR).

ARTICLE II – MISSION STATEMENT

American Baptist Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Invitation to Participate

All women are invited to participate in American Baptist Women's Ministries. Each woman is encouraged to participate as led by the Spirit of God and according to her own needs, interests, and gifts.

Section 2. Voting Membership

General business of this organization shall be reserved for vote by active women members of ABCCR who are in attendance at the meetings when business is transacted.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICIAL YEAR AND MEETINGS

The official year of American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Central Region shall be September 1 to August 31. The Annual Meeting shall be held at the Summer Conference. A Fall meeting may be held in conjunction with the ABCCR Annual Gathering. Other meetings may be held as deemed advisable by the Board.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS & ELECTED BOARD

Section 1. Names

Officers shall be President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers and the coordinators as designated in the Standing Rules.

Board shall consist of the Officers, elected board members, appointed associates, American Baptist Women's Ministries association presidents or designated representatives, and others designated in the Standing Rules.

Section 2. Term of Office

The term for elected officers and board members shall be three years with the exception of the Conference Intern whose term shall be two years. They may not be re-elected to that office, nor can they be elected to any office, until at least one year has elapsed. The President and Coordinator(s) of AB GIRLS are excluded from this restriction.

A woman elected or appointed to fill a vacancy for more than a year of an unexpired term shall be considered to have served a full term and cannot be re-elected. One who fills a vacancy of one year or less of an unexpired term shall be eligible for a full term of office in the same or some other position.

The total period of elected service on the Board shall not exceed nine (9) years, unless deemed advisable by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Election

Officers and elected board members shall be elected on a rotating basis at the Annual Meeting upon nomination by the Nominating Committee or upon nomination from the floor. The nominee for President shall be a woman who is an active member of an American Baptist Church. All other nominees must at least be active in American Baptist Women's Ministries. Active is defined as a woman who contributes by attendance, financial support, or participation in whatever way possible.

Rotating basis for election

1st year – President

2nd year – Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer

3rd year – Recording Secretary

These officers and elected board members shall assume their duties at the beginning of the American Baptist Women's Ministries year.

Resignations must be made in writing to the President.

Section 4. Vacancies

Vacancies that occur between elections shall be filled by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee and be subject to ratification of the board.

If the President is unable to fulfill her duties for a brief period of time, the ministry coordinator who has the longest tenure in office shall assume the duties of the President on a temporary basis.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall:

- plan and preside the executive committee meetings, board meetings, and all business meetings of the membership;
- coordinate the emphases, plans, and policies of the organization with the executive committee and board;
- chair the administrative ministry working group;
- appoint committees, necessary task forces and others as identified in the Standing Rules;
- serve as an ex-officio member of all committees and working groups - except the nominating committee;
- serve on the national board of the American Baptist Women's Ministries USA;
- be a representative to the ABCCR Board of Directors;
- give guidance to counterparts.

Section 2. The Recording Secretary shall:

- serve as an Officer of the Executive Committee;
- record the minutes of the executive committee, board, annual meeting of the membership, and any other meetings where business is conducted;
- promote active participation of women through the *Central Connection* and at the conference;
- give guidance to counterparts.

Section 3. The Corresponding Secretary shall:

- serve as an Officer of the Executive Committee;
- send notices for all meetings;
- handle correspondence as directed;
- obtain accurate information, prepare and distribute American Baptist Women's Ministries CR directories;
- have informational sheets printed for distribution at the conference i.e. "How To".

Section 4. The Treasurer shall:

- serve as an Officer of the Executive Committee;

- have general oversight of the finances of the organization under the direction of the board;
- be responsible for the receipt, deposit and disbursement of all monies;
- present the financial report at each meeting of the board and at the Annual Meeting;
- have the Treasurer's books audited at the end of her term;
- be bonded for an amount determined by the executive committee;
- receive project, scholarship, refit and other funds from the ABCCR office and give lists of participating churches with total amounts received to the appropriate associates;
- verify *Central Connection* subscription funds with the Editor Associate;
- give guidance to counterparts.

ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Membership

Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers and the coordinators as designated in the Standing Rules.

Section 2. Meetings

The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Duties

Between meetings of the board, the Executive Committee shall have all the power of the board - except those powers reserved by the board. The Executive Committee's actions and recommendations shall be in accordance with the policies of the board and subject to ratification by the board.

Section 4. Budget

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for preparing the annual budget prior to the Spring Board Meeting. The proposed budget shall be presented at the Spring Board Meeting for recommendation for approval at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII – BOARD

Section 1. Membership

Board shall consist of the Officers, elected board members, appointed associates, American Baptist Women's Ministries association presidents or designated representatives, and others designated in the Standing Rules.

Honorary membership, without vote or travel expense allowance, may be conferred upon those whom the board wishes to honor or invite. (i.e. National American Baptist Women's Ministries officers holding membership within our affiliating churches of the Central Region.)

Section 2. Meetings

The board shall meet at least twice annually at such time and place as deemed by the President. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Duties of the Board

The Board shall:

- transact all official business between meetings of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Central Region;
- plan financing for the organization;
- develop goals and policies of the organization consistent with the mission statement of AB Women's Ministries USA and ABCCR;
- act in accordance with the policies of the organization, with actions subject to ratification by the membership;
- formulate recommendations to the membership on matters requiring their decision;
- approve all appointments made by the President.

ARTICLE IX – COMMITTEES OR TASK FORCES

The nominating and conference committees shall be standing committees approved by the board.

The Nominating Committee shall:

- consist of two association presidents from different associations and one appointed board member;
- be appointed annually at the Fall Board Meeting for a one-year term;
- present a slate of nominees for election at the Annual Meeting;
- recommend nominees to the Executive Committee to fill any vacancy that may occur between elections.

The Conference Committee shall:

- consist of President, coordinators (except AB GIRLS), and others whom the President designates to be on the committee (i.e. Associate of Young Adult Women's Ministries and Webmaster/Technology);
- include not more than four geographic representatives appointed by the President..

Other committees or task groups can be appointed as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE X – AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

American Baptist Women's Ministries from each local church and association within ABCCR shall be affiliated with American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Central Region.

ARTICLE XI – RULES OF ORDER

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order Revised* shall govern the organization in all cases that are applicable and not inconsistent with these Bylaws or special rules of order adopted by the organization.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special called meeting of American Baptist Women's Ministries of Central Region by a two-thirds vote of the membership present and voting, either

- upon recommendation of the Board, or
- by a request signed by at least ten (10) members representing three (3) associations who had given written notices of such proposed amendment at a previous meeting of the organization or published it in the regional publication at least thirty (30) days prior to a regular meeting.