

FAMILY DOCUMENT OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF METRO CHICAGO

Adopted September 14, 1991

Recognizing the pressing need to redefine and clarify the relationships among our churches for the sake of our common mission, we the Churches of the Chicago Baptist Association, adopt this Family Document in place of the present Constitution and By-Laws, as amended.

ARTICLE ONE

Name

We call our Family “American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago” and continue our legal existence as an Illinois not-for-profit corporation.

ARTICLE TWO

Relationship

The ABC of Metro Chicago is a covenanting Region of the American Baptist Churches USA.

ARTICLE THREE

Mission

We are a Family of American Baptist Churches united in Jesus Christ to serve God through mission and celebration in our metropolitan setting with a global vision.

ARTICLE FOUR

Definitions

Family	Our associated American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago.
Associated Church or Churches	Our member worshiping fellowships and language congregations adhering to the Covenant or Relationships.
Declaration of Covenant	The statement of our Associated Churches affirming our mutual relationships and common mission, set forth below in Exhibit A as an integral part of this Family Document.
Covenant of Relationship	The statement setting forth the services and resources we want to provide for ourselves as Associated Churches and the promises we make among ourselves to supply them and use them, set forth below in Exhibit B as an integral part of this Family Document.

Family Reunion	A gathering of the members of our Associated Churches for celebration, worship, evangelism, witness, fellowship, and communication, or other activity visibly joining our lives as family in our common mission.
Family Council or Council	The group composed of the representatives of our Associated Churches, members of the Family Cabinet, presidents of Related or Council Organizations, and the Election District Representatives to the ABC/USA.
Representatives	A pastor and another member selected by each Church representing Associated Churches at the Family Council. Each Church is also permitted to select an alternate representative. Each representative should be willing serve on a committee of his or her choice if requested by the Family Cabinet.
Related Organizations	Organizations of members of the Associated Churches which further the mission of the ABC of Metro Chicago.
Family Cabinet or Cabinet	The group composed of the officers of the ABC of Metro Chicago, chairpersons of the Standing Committees and up to four other persons elected by the Family Council.

ARTICLE FIVE

Members and Meetings

The members of the ABC of Metro Chicago, as an Illinois not for profit corporation, are the individuals who comprise the Family Council. The annual meeting of the members shall be a Family Council designated as such by the Council. Officers of the ABC of Metro Chicago, chairpersons of the Standing Committees and up to four other persons as members of the Family Cabinet shall be elected at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE SIX

Family Council

- 6.1 Adopt By-Laws in furtherance of the provisions of this Family Document.
- 6.2 Decide upon the admission, retention and dismissing of churches on the basis of whether or not a church has agreed to adhere to, and is living up to its promises under, the Covenant of Relationship.
- 6.3 Decide matters of policy, goal setting, program and budget.
- 6.4 Call Family Reunions.
- 6.5 Make all decisions with respect to real estate owned or to be owned by the corporation and the leasing of real estate to the corporation.
- 6.6 Decide upon the calling, evaluation and retention of the Executive Minister.
- 6.7 Upon recommendation by the Executive Minister, decide which ecumenical relationships the ABC of Metro Chicago will have from time to time.
- 6.8 Meet at least four times per year and at other times as it shall deem necessary, and any time at the call of the President or twenty representatives.

ARTICLE SEVEN

Without limiting this authority, the [Family] Cabinet shall:

- 7.1 Develop proposals for the Family Council on policy, goal setting, program, budget and evaluations.
- 7.2 Implement the decisions of the Family Council.
- 7.3 Appoint persons to interim vacancies in elected positions.
- 7.4 Appoint members to the Standing Committees and create, and appoint chairpersons and members of committees in addition to or subordinate to the Standing Committees.
- 7.5 Arrange for an annual audit of the books and accounts of the corporation by a Certified Public Accountant.
- 7.6 Arrange for the annual evaluation of the Executive Minister.
- 7.7 Shall establish a meeting schedule and shall meet otherwise at the call of the President.
- 7.8 Meet with representatives of congregations making application for membership as an Associated Church in ABCMC, review the applications, and make recommendations to the Family Council for or against membership.
- 7.9 Shall serve the functions of program oversight and evaluating structure as a committee of the whole, creating task forces to develop and coordinate program as needed; at-large members of the Cabinet will be expected to serve as chairs for these task forces, according to their gifts, at the request of the President or the Cabinet.

ARTICLE EIGHT

Standing Committees

8.1 Finance and Property

This committees shall recommend to the Family Cabinet an annual budget and the means of meeting the same, oversee real property owned by or leased to the corporation and manage the investments and funds of the corporation as delegated by the Cabinet.

8.2 Ministry

This committee shall recommend to the Family Cabinet methods and procedures for the examination of ordination candidates and for the well-being and support of ABCUSA ministers in Metro Chicago. This committee shall oversee the process of complaint against ordained persons with nationally validated ordinations. This committee shall carry out other functions as delegated by the Cabinet.

8.3 Nominating

This committee shall recommend to the Family Council persons to be nominated for election as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the ABC of Metro Chicago, as chairpersons of the Standing Committees and up to four other persons as members of the Family Cabinet.

8.4 Fund Development Committee

The committee shall work with the Executive Minister and any staff members assigned for fundraising efforts in carrying out the final development plan; recommend annual, capital, and special fundraising goals to the Family Council; provide oversight of the fund development program; participate in fundraising efforts, including the recruitment of others in these efforts.

ARTICLE NINE

Officers

9.1 **President**

The president shall chair each meeting of the Family Council and the Family Cabinet, and shall perform other responsibilities assigned to the office.

9.2 **Vice President**

The Vice President shall perform such functions as may be assigned by the President and shall act as President while a vacancy exists in that office. In addition, the Vice President shall perform other responsibilities assigned to the office.

9.3 **Secretary**

The Secretary shall maintain a record of each meeting of the Family Council and the Family Cabinet, give notice of meetings, have custody of the corporate records and sign and seal documents as directed by the Council or Cabinet.

9.4 **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Monitor finances of the ABC of Metro Chicago. These Monitoring responsibilities shall be determined by the Family Cabinet as recommended jointly by the Treasurer and the Finance and Property Committee.
- (b) Provide regular reports of the financial status of the ABC of Metro Chicago to the Cabinet.
- (c) Make a written report annually to the Council of all receipts and disbursements for the preceding fiscal year.

ARTICLE TEN

Executive Minister

The Executive Minister shall be charged with the general operation of the ABC of Metro Chicago, enabling the implementation of the policies of the Family Council and the decisions of the Family Cabinet. The Executive Minister also shall attend to the needs of the ABC/USA ministers in Metro Chicago and shall be the liaison of the ABC of Metro Chicago to the Staff Council of the ABC/USA. The Executive Minister shall be directly responsible to the Cabinet within a job description developed mutually between the Cabinet and Executive Minister. All employees of the ABC of Metro Chicago are directly responsible to the Executive Minister who, in consultation with the Cabinet, hires, retains, and dismisses all Region staff.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

Inclusiveness

It is the intention of our Associated Churches to call out the gifts of all our members, empowering them to participate and lead in all the structures and activities of the Family. Thus, all groups electing, appointing or nominating individuals for positions under the provisions of this Family Document are committed to furthering inclusive participation.

ARTICLE TWELVE

Related Organizations

Any organization of the members of the Associated Churches which believes its purpose furthers the mission of the ABC of Metro Chicago may apply in writing to the President for recognition by the Family Council as a Related Organization. So long as the Council finds that the organization is of such members, furthers the mission of the ABC of Metro Chicago and should have representation at the Council for the best interests of the Family, the organization shall be a Related Organization.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN

Indemnification

The ABC of Metro Chicago may indemnify and hold harmless the members of the Family Council and the officers, as the Council, by the adoption of By-Laws or otherwise, may provide.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN

Voting

Voting by proxy shall not be allowed at any meeting of the members, Family Council, Family Cabinet, any Standing Committee or any other committees.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN

Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the ABC of Metro Chicago, all of its assets shall be distributed to the ABC/USA, or if it then is not in existence to its successor in interests, if any, otherwise to such religious or charitable organization or organizations, and if more than one, in such proportion among them as the Council shall decide. As used in this article, the term "religious or charitable organization" described in Section 170 and 2055(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding provisions of any subsequent tax laws.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN

Amendment

This Family Document may be amended at a meeting of the Family Council by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Council in attendance and constituting a quorum, provided at least thirty days prior to the meeting written notice, stating the date, place and time of meeting and the proposed change or amendment, is given by mailing such notice to each of our then Associated Churches at the address of each such church, to the members of the Family Cabinet, to the president of each Related Organization and to the Election District Representatives to ABC/USA. Amendments may be proposed by the Council or in writing by at least twenty-five Representatives. When so proposed, notice shall be given by mail by the Secretary.