

#### **ARTICLE IV - Membership**

Section 1 - The Association is a group of Baptist churches voluntarily united to carry out the Great Commission. Membership shall consist of all duly admitted churches, which cooperate with the Association.

Section 1 (a) - A church desiring membership in this Association must present an application for membership stating its desire to be in fellowship and cooperation with the stated purpose of this Association to the Credentials Committee of the Association. The Credentials Committee, after thorough investigation, shall make its recommendations to the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall have the right to determine by majority vote, whether to admit the applying church as a member. If the church seeking membership was a mission of a member church, upon favorable recommendation and vote of the Executive Board, the church may be granted full membership. If the church seeking membership was not a mission of a member church, upon favorable recommendation and vote of the Executive Board, the church will be granted a one year non-voting membership. Based on the Credentials Committee recommendation, full membership will be granted or withheld by majority vote of the Executive Board after the expiration of one year.

Section 1 (b) - Doctrinal unity as defined by this body means: Churches should have doctrines and practices that agree in general with any of the "Baptist Faith and Message" statements adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Section 1 (c) - Cooperation as defined by this body means: (1) Participation in the various activities of Tarrant Baptist Association, Inc. (2) regular and systematic financial support of Tarrant Baptist Association, Inc. (each church is encouraged to give 3% of undesignated receipts to Association Missions and 1% of undesignated receipts to Riverbend Retreat Center) and (3) sharing with Tarrant Baptist Association, Inc. reports of the work of the church by means of the annual church profile.

Section 1 (d) – The association has established the following Membership Types: (1) Full membership with voting privileges as detailed in Article VI Section (1). (2) A probationary period leading to full membership called one year non-voting membership. (3) Church starts of member churches that have not constituted are referred to as missions and do not have voting status.

Section 2 - Churches who choose not to maintain doctrinal unity or failing to cooperate as defined by Article IV, Section 1(b and c), will be contacted by the Credentials Committee who will seek to resolve the matter. If the church, after this effort, does not seek doctrinal unity or cooperation with the Association, the Credentials Committee will present their recommendation to the Executive Board. The Executive Board, after hearing the report of the Credentials Committee, shall determine by vote at the following Executive Board meeting whether to remove the church. In order to remove a church, the Executive Board must receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the Executive Board members present and voting at a duly called and held Executive Board meeting.