

Pacific Coast Slavic Baptist Association

BY-LAWS



*Thy word is a lamp to my feet,
and a light to my path.*

Psalm 118:105

1. THE NAME.

This organization shall be known as the PACIFIC COAST SLAVIC BAPTIST ASSOCIATION (P.C.S.B.A.).

2. OUR CREED - *The Nicene Creed*

"I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in the Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten son of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceedeth from the Father (and the Son), Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the prophets.

And I believe in one Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

3. THE AIMS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

3.1. The aims of the Association are as follows: by combined spiritual effort and joint material means of congregations and of individual believers comprising the Association, to assist in every possible way, in the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the Slavic, and other nations as much as it is possible.

3.2 To attain these aims the Association intends to help with the needs of the member-Churches of the Association; the Association will organize evangelistic gatherings for spiritual and moral edification; to organize conferences; to organize missionary courses for preachers, youth, ladies organizations and children; to publish and acquire spiritual literature; to conduct radio and television broadcasting programs; to support and send out preachers and to encourage Church members to do evangelistic work; to organize and maintain theological schools and institutions for general education; to support homes for orphans and the aged, and summer camps; to carry on welfare activities in the Association.

3.3. The Association has the right to acquire, alienate, let or lease movable and immovable property, when it is necessary for the activities of the Association.

3.4. The Association is to assist, in every way possible the congregations (Churches) that are member of the Association, in case they are unable by their own means to accomplish one or another task in connection with their Gospel preaching activity.

4. MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

4.1. All existing Slavic Evangelical Christian Baptist Churches are eligible to be members of the Association, as well as Churches which may come into existence in the future.

4.2. All existing Churches (Congregations) and all newly organized Churches are accepted into membership by the Conference, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Association.

4.3. The Church members that are in the Association and the invited guests may be present during a Convention business sessions with the right of consultative voice.

4.4. Each Church belonging to the Association is at liberty to withdraw from it. Every Church of the Association may leave the membership. Any Church that ceases to be member of the Association does not have any rights to any of the assets of the Association.

4.5. The Churches that are members of the Association are fully autonomous in accordance with these By-Laws.

4.6. Any Church within the Association may be expelled from the Association if it deviates from the New Testament principles or does not comply with the present By-Laws.

4.7. Those Churches, comprising the Association who did not pay their membership dues to the Treasurer of the Association before November 1st., of each year, are automatically deprived of their right to send their delegates to the Convention. The dues per member of each Church member are established on the Annual Business Session of the Convention. Each Church is responsible for sending membership dues on time.

5. ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The affairs of the Association are administered by:

- 5.1 Convention of the Association;
- 5.2. Executive Committee of the Association.

5.1. CONVENTION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

5.1.1. All matters of the Association are decided at the Annual Business Convention or at Special Conventions by the delegates of the Churches, elected by the latter according to the following apportioning:

- a. Five delegates of the first fifty members (meaning: one delegate for each ten members; if the following group of members is below ten, but not less than five - this group also elects one delegate.);
- b. One delegate for every 25 members after 50 (if the last remaining group of members is below 25 - but not less than twelve - one delegate).
- c. The maximum number of delegates may be 15 delegates from any one Church.

5.1.2. The Conventions for business, for evangelistic gatherings or of special Conferences, are called by the action of the Executive Committee of the Association; Annual business conventions are conducted every year.

5.1.3. At a business session of the Convention, all matters are decided by a simple majority of votes of the delegates present, i.e., at least one vote more than the half. The voting is done either by open voting or by secret ballot, depending on the wish of the Convention.

The business Conventions of the Association are within the jurisdiction on the condition that at the Conference are present at least two thirds of the total number of delegates, regardless of whether all Churches are represented at the Convention or not.

5.1.4. The Executive Committee of the Association prepares the agenda for the Conventions including suggestions of Churches and sends them out to each member Church one month prior to conference. The Agenda may be amended by the Convention.

5.1.5. The main functions of the Convention are as follows:

- a. To receive and approve the Annual reports of the Executive Committee of the

Association;

- b. To assign functions and confirm authority upon the Executive Committee;
- c. To receive and approve the Report of the Auditing Commission;
- d. To approve the Budget;
- e. To elect the Executive Committee;
- f. To accept the By-Laws of the Association and make any changes therein, as well as in the departments of the Association;
- g. To elect and appoint spiritual workers of the Association;
- h. To accept and expel Churches;
- i. To liquidate the Association.

5.2. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

5.2.1. The Executive Committee of the Association consists of seven members and two candidates who represent the Churches of the Association. They are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and one Member, all elected by the Convention.

5.2.2. The Annual Business Convention has the right to increase or to decrease the members in Executive Committee.

5.2.3. The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer are elected by the Convention; the remaining officers are appointed by the members of the Executive Committee.

5.2.4. The Executive Committee of the Association is elected for a term of two years. A President may be elected only two terms in succession; after the second term a new President is elected. The outgoing President may be elected again after an interval of two years.

5.2.5. The President of the Association must be an ordained minister or active Church member who is not a President of any other organization or mission.

5.2.6. The Executive Committee of the Association meets whenever it is necessary, but not less than twice a year. It has the right to invite to its meetings nonmembers of the Executive Committee with the consultative voice.

5.2.7. The meetings of the Executive Committee of the Association are called by the President, either on his own initiative or upon suggestions of not less than three members of the Executive Committee. The meetings are considered valid if all the members of the Executive Committee are notified about it in writing, and within the jurisdiction when two thirds of members of the Executive Committee are present, including the President and the Vice-President.

5.2.8. The duties of the Executive Committee of the Association are as follows:

- a) to represent the Association;
- b) to administer the affairs of the Association;
- c) to manage the properties and funds of the Association;
- d) to prepare for the Convention Reports, the Agenda and the Budget;
- e) to call the Conventions;
- f) to recommend spiritual workers;
- g) to submit the changed By-Laws at the Convention;
- h) to hire and dismiss workers of the various departments of the Association;

- i) to carry on correspondence and to sign it;
- j) to direct the entire spiritual work of the Association in accordance with the decisions of the Convention.

5.2.9. The duties of the President are:

- a) to call and to direct the Conferences of the Association;
- b) to chair the meetings, as during the Conferences, as well as business meetings of the Committee of the Association;
- c) to see to it that the decisions of the Business Conventions are carried out properly.

5.2.10. The duties of the Vice-President are:

- a) to substitute for the President, when necessary;
- b) to assume, upon the suggestions of the President, various responsibilities in the Association.

5.2.11. The duties of the Secretary are:

- a) to take the minutes of the Business Conventions and meetings of the Executive Committee;
- b) to carry on the correspondence of the Association.
- c) the safekeeping of the documents and the Seal of the Association, and countersigning of the official documents of the Association.

5.2.12. The duties of the Treasurer are:

- a) to receive all financial means channelled into the treasury of the Association;
- b) to give out receipts, to keep detailed financial records;
- c) to sign checks, together with the President, in the name of the Association;
- d) to deposit in the bank all incoming moneys and submit financial reports to the Executive Committee and to the Business Conventions of the Association.

5.2.13. The Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer substitute for the Secretary and the Treasurer in their absence.

5.2.14. The President, Treasurer and Secretary are acting as trustees of the Association in legal matters, signing of Deeds and other documents concerning acquiring or alienating of properties belonging to the Association, according to the decisions of the Business Convention of the Association. In case of absence of any of the above officers, any three members of the Executive Committee may act as trustees.

6. DEPARTMENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

6.1. In order to do the work of the Association there may exist departments:

- a) Sunday School Department;
- b) Youth Groups Department;
- c) Ladies Groups Department;
- d) Choir Department;
- e) Bible Courses Department;
- f) Radio Broadcasting Department;
- g) Publishing Department;
- h) Properties Department;
- i) Other Departments, as necessary.

6.2. The Departments are an integral part of the work of the Association and their By-Laws must be approved by the Convention of the Association.

6.3. Each Department should work in contact with and under the general supervision of the Executive Committee of the Association.

7. COMMISSIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

In order to achieve the goals indicated in Paragraph 3, the Convention of the Association may choose special commissions, which will work under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Association.

8. FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

8.1. The Financial resources of the Association are comprised of the following:

- a) membership dues from the Churches;
- b) donation from individual believers;
- c) properties, funds, etc., bequests by believers and friends;
- d) income from movable and immovable properties belonging to the Association.

8.2. The Budget for the new year is presented to the Business Convention for approval. The new year starts after the Business Convention. The Executive Committee of the Association takes necessary measures that the membership dues and all other offerings to the Association correspond with the approved annual budget. Additional business may be accepted also at Special Business Conventions of the Association. In exceptional cases, in order to accomplish spiritual work the Executive Committee can transfer funds from the General fund into a fund that has a deficit.

8.3. The Association has the right to accept and not to accept bequests of money or property.

9. THE AUDITING COMMISSION.

9.1. The Auditing Commission of three members, is elected by the Convention for two years from the delegates.

9.2. The Auditing Commission has the right of access to all books of the Treasury of the Association and to inspect the activities of the Treasurer on order from the Executive Committee of the Association.

9.3. The Auditing Commission gives a yearly report to the Annual Convention.

10. THE NOMINATING COMMISSION.

10.1. The Nominating Commission of five members is elected by the Convention for a two-year term from the delegates.

10.2. The Nomination Commission searches for members for the next term of office in the Executive Committee and recommends them to the Convention.

11. CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS.

11.1. The present By-Laws may be changed, corrected or supplemented at the Annual or at a Special Convention of the Association, on the condition that the suggested changes in the By-Laws had reached the Executive Committee of the Association not less than three months prior to the Convention. Those who may propose a change are:

- a) the Executive Committee of the Association;
- b) one of the member Churches of the Association.

The revised By-Laws are accepted by the delegates from the Churches during a Business Convention of the Association.

12. THE BOOKLET OF INVENTORY AND WORK RULES.

Along the same line and parallel to these By-Laws is to be kept a Booklet of Records of all Inventory of the Association and work rules that have been decided by Conventions and committee meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Secretary is responsible of keeping this Booklet up to date and have it available to Executive Committee members, pastors and workers of the Association.

13. LIQUIDATION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The Association has the right to liquidate its activity upon its own desire during the Annual or Special Business Convention. The Convention elects a Special Liquidating Committee to execute the Liquidation in accordance with the Laws of State of California: Irrevocable Dedication-Dissolution Clause.

"This corporation is not organized, nor shall it be operated, for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits or dividends to the members thereof and is organized solely for non profit purposes. The property, assets, profits and net income of this corporation are irrevocably dedicated to charitable and religious purposes and not part of the profits or net income for this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member hereof or to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. Upon the dissolution or winding up of this corporation, its assets remaining after payment of, or provision for payment of, all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to a no profit fund, foundation or corporation, which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and religious purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 223701d of the revenue and Taxation Code and/or Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If this corporation holds any assets on trust, such assets shall be disposed of in such manner as may be directed by decree of the superior court of the county in which this corporation's principal office is located, upon petition therefor by the Attorney General or by any person concerned in the liquidation."

These By-Laws of the PACIFIC COAST SLAVIC BAPTIST ASSOCIATION (P.C.S.B.A.), were revised and duly approved by each Church, and also, were unanimously approved by the candidates at the Annual Convention on November 27, 1993.



Rev. Adolf Pichaj, Secretary of the Association



Rev. Alex Yefimov, President of the Association