

## Explanation of Proposed DBC Constitution and Bylaw Amendments

The following two amendments to the DBC Constitution and Bylaws will be presented by the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to the messengers for adoption at the October 2021 Annual Meeting in Mandan. In accordance with Article XIV of the Constitution and Article VIII of the Bylaws, the committee is publishing this notice to the churches, *“at least one hundred ninety (90) days prior to the Annual Session.”* As you read the amendments, you will notice that proposed deletion of words/phrases from the existing documents is indicated by *italics and they are lined through*. Proposed addition of words/phrases is indicated by *italics and they are in a red font*.

Included with the proposed amendments is an explanation and rationale for the changes. If you have any questions or need clarification prior to the October 2021 Annual Meeting, you are welcome to contact either the DBC Executive Director/Treasurer Fred MacDonald or one of the Constitution & Bylaw Committee members, Josh Bonner (pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Rapid City, SD) or George Crawley (pastor of First Love Church in Lincoln, ND).

### Explanation and rationale for the proposed amendments

1) **Article X of the Constitution:** The proposed amendment clarifies names of committees and how they are selected. As the Constitution and Bylaws currently read, there is a discrepancy between the two documents, making it impossible to observe both documents in selecting committee members. As a result, our current practice follows neither precisely. Also, there are minor discrepancies between the two documents in the names of some of the committees.

This amendment simplifies the language of the Constitution. It identifies committees that are to be selected and yields to the Bylaws to identify the manner in which the committees are selected. By making this change in language to the Constitution, there is no need to make any changes to the Bylaws. We simply need to begin selecting committees in accordance with the Bylaws, which will be done beginning with the 2021 meeting. This proposed amendment also brings conformity to committee names between the two documents.

2) **Article VII, Section 2 of the Bylaws:** This proposed amendment clarifies terms of service for Board members who are selected to complete unfilled terms of other Board members. As the Bylaws currently read, there is confusion as to under what circumstances a Board member can be selected to terms of his/her own after filling the unfilled terms of the person they replaced. This also makes it impossible to maintain the intended rotation of two members leaving the Board and two new members joining the Board each year. In fact, it is theoretically possible that over a number of years we could come to a year where the entire Board rotates off. While this is a highly unlikely possibility, we will continue to have years when we have to replace 3 or 4 members and other years where no one rotates off. This was not the intent when the rotation system was established.

This amendment clarifies this matter by allowing for someone who completes an unexpired first term to be elected to a full three-year second term, then rotate off. A person who completes an unexpired second term could be eligible to serve two full terms of his/her own. This clarifies the filling of unexpired terms more precisely and puts us in a position where we will never be off of our system where two members are rotating off each year.

**Proposed Constitution Amendment**  
**Article X - Committees**

The committees of the Convention shall be a Constitution *and Bylaws* Committee, Credentials Committee, Resolutions Committee, Nominations Committee, *Annual Session*/Program Committee, and such other committees as may be deemed necessary to carry out the work of the Convention. Members of committees shall be *selected by the Convention in accordance with the Bylaws of the Convention* and must be members of cooperating Convention churches. The assignment of each committee shall be established in the Articles of Incorporation and Constitution, and the Bylaws of the Convention.

**Proposed Bylaws Amendment**

**Article VII - Executive Board**

**Section 2. Number of Members and Terms.** The Executive Board shall be composed of no more than twelve (12) elected members and three (3) *ex-officio* members with vote, viz., the Executive Director-Treasurer, President, and Vice President of the Convention. Upon the recommendation of the Executive Board, the Convention in Annual Session can increase the number of Board members as needed. Executive Board members shall be elected for three-year terms. After the first three-year term a member may be elected for a second three-year term. After serving a second three-year term the member must rotate off the Board for at least one (1) year before being eligible to serve again. When a person fills an unexpired *first* term of a member, that person ~~can serve the rest of that term and can be eligible to serve another three year term as long as both do not exceed six (6) years~~ *can be eligible to serve a second term. After serving this term, the member must rotate off the Board for at least one (1) year before being eligible to serve again. When a person fills an unexpired second term of a member, that person can serve the rest of that term and is eligible to serve two additional terms, after which the member must rotate off the Board for at least one (1) year before being eligible to serve again.*