

CONSTITUTION of the Religious Liberty Council

Article 1. Name

The name of the organization shall be “Religious Liberty Council of the Baptist Joint Committee” (hereinafter RLC).

Article 2. Purpose

The purpose of the RLC is to preserve and enhance the effectiveness of the Baptist Joint Committee in its mission to defend and extend God-given religious liberty for all, furthering the Baptist heritage that champions the principle that religion must be freely exercised, neither advanced nor inhibited by government.

As a nationwide membership organization, the RLC has been granted membership on the Baptist Joint Committee board with representation consistent with the Baptist Joint Committee bylaws. It will function in conjunction with the elected board of the Baptist Joint Committee, and will seek to expand the contacts, influence, and stature of the Baptist Joint Committee.

The RLC will stand firm for religious freedom and the perpetuation of Baptist insights and will warn against departures from the historic Baptist witness to religious liberty. The RLC will provide support needed to continue the vital work and witness of the Baptist Joint Committee.

The RLC is formed exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, any income generated by its activities shall not inure to the benefit of officers, members or any other private persons except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments or distributions in furtherance of its religious purposes. The organization is not empowered to devote more than an insubstantial part of its activities to carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation or directly or indirectly to participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Article 3. Membership

The RLC is composed of individuals who have supported the Baptist Joint Committee’s mission by financially contributing to the Baptist Joint Committee within the last three (3) years.

Article 4. Authority

The RLC shall be governed by a Board of Directors and Officers as set forth in the bylaws of the RLC.

Article 5. Quorum

A quorum at any meeting of the RLC shall consist of one hundred members; members will not be permitted to vote by proxy.

Article 6. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at any RLC meeting provided written notice of the proposed amendments was provided to the members at least thirty (30) days in advance of said meeting.

Article 7. Bylaws

The activities of the RLC shall be conducted in accordance with this constitution and with such bylaws as the RLC may adopt.