

PBBA-WCBA | Association Network Model

Purpose: To unite the Kingdom endeavors of Southern Baptist Associations (in Walton and Escambia County, FL) in order to align and amplify missional service toward the local church.

Names/Identifiers: Pensacola Bay Baptist Association (PBBA) will serve as the Lead Association with Walton County Baptist Association (WCBA) serving as a Partner Association. Names of individual Associations will remain as is, however, associations will together be viewed as part of the Panhandle Association Network.

Statement of Faith: The Statement of Faith will be the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000 of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

Mission: Associations in the network will support local churches in their mission to multiply disciples, leaders, and churches through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Strategy: Associations in the Network will pursue their mission through the strategy set forth by PBBA yet contextualized by each Association:

- Encouraging – Providing personal, professional, and spiritual support for pastors.
- Equipping – Provide training & resourcing to church leaders in order to form healthy congregations.
- Engaging – Providing assistance to churches in prayer, evangelism, and church planting.

Values: Associations in the Network will operate by the following values:

- Undiluted Kingdom-Mind, Unexpected Excellence, Unselfish Collaboration, Undivided Relationships, Unapologetic Church-Focus, Unyielding Integrity

Lead Association (PBBA)

- Will select and oversee all staff in associations
- Will review and make any recommendations if needed to the annual financial plan (budget) for Partner Association (WCBA), and then submit the plan back to Partner Association (WCBA) for final approval. [Process: WCBA will develop a budget proposal and present to PBBA Admin Team for review who will then return to WCBA for final approval by WCBA Executive Board]
- Will manage the digital framework of Network Associations (e.g., shared communication platforms and resource databases)

Partner Association (WCBA)

- Will be led by a local AMS, selected, and supervised by PBBA AMS
- Will contextualize mission and strategies for local setting (e.g., tactics)
- Will select individuals to serve on local E-teams (Encourage, Equip, Engage)
- Will select individuals to serve as Trustees of WCBA
- Will select a WCBA Lead Team comprised of WCBA AMS, E-team team leader (3), one trustee, and two at-large members
- Will follow Annual Spending Plan (reviewed by PBBA, yet developed and approved by WCBA), develop monthly reports to share with WCBA churches and PBBA AMS

- Will work with PBBA and local/state government to maintain updated and active business continuity status
- Will send ten percent (10%) of undesignated contributions to Lead Association (PBBA) on a monthly basis for Lead Association Network services
- Will host an annual gathering of Association member churches (additional gatherings are at the discretion of the WCBA Leadership Team)

Legal: While being enjoined through collaboration and accountability, Associations in the Panhandle Association Network (PBBA and WCBA) will remain independent in the eyes of local/state governance. Though DBA's (Doing Business As) may change, remaining independent can provide an easier pathway for Partner Associations to become stand-alone if in the future ministry realities become conducive.

Additional:

- The PBBA AMS, plus two individuals from PBBA, and WCBA AMS, plus one individual from WCBA, will comprise a Network Guiding Team and meet on a semi-annual basis in order to foster collaboration and missional direction.
- The sale of property owned by WCBA must first be approved by trustees of WCBA, the WCBA Lead Team, WCBA member churches, and the PBBA AMS.
- The termination of leases held by WCBA must first be approved by the WCBA Lead Team and PBBA AMS.
- All monies sitting in designated accounts prior to the formation of the partnership must be expensed according to the guidelines set forth *prior to* the formation of the partnership.
- New designated accounts desired by WCBA must first have the approval of the WCBA Lead Team, and Network Guiding Team.
- Decisions on the best use of Partner Association Offices (WCBA) will be made through collaboration of the WCBA Lead Team and PBBA AMS (PBBA Admin team need only to be informed.)
- Assets of each Association remain with that Association and do not transfer unless mutually agreed upon by both Admin Team (PBBA) and Lead Team (WCBA).

Escape: Participation in this partnership can be ended by a majority vote of churches in the said Association desiring to leave the partnership. Note: The Association initiating the “escape” will assume any and all expenses related to the separation (ex. signage, computer networking expenses).

Conflict Resolution: Associations agree to submit any legal dispute for mediation before a mutually agreed-upon mediator, or if none can be agreed upon, one selected by Peacemaker Ministries.