

ARTICLE XVII

ASSOCIATED MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS

An Associated Ministry Organization (AMO) must be a national or sectional American Baptist or other religious organization that indicates its willingness: to support the statement of purpose in the Bylaws of ABCUSA, to cooperate wholeheartedly in such relationships and projects at all levels of denominational life which seem advisable, and to be identified as an organization related to and participating in the life of ABCUSA by use of name and/or logo. The Standing Rules shall set forth such other provisions as the Board of General Ministries may deem appropriate for AMO status.

The Standing Rules shall enumerate the AMO's.

RULE 17

ASSOCIATED MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 17.1 Qualifications

An Associated Ministry Organization (AMO) must be a national or sectional American Baptist or other religious organization that indicates its willingness: to support the statement of purpose in the Bylaws of ABCUSA, to cooperate wholeheartedly in such relationships and projects at all levels of denominational life which seem advisable, and to be identified as an organization related to and participating in the life of ABCUSA by use of name and/or logo.

The AMO will provide reports periodically as requested by the Board of General Ministries which ABCUSA may use in communicating the organization's ministries and activities to the denomination's constituencies.

AMO's as of the most recent effective date of these Standing Rules, as amended, are: American Baptist Assembly; American Baptist Computer Center; American Baptist Men; American Baptist Women's Ministries; the Chin Baptist Convention USA; the Karen Baptist Convention USA; the Ministers Council of American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A; Rainbow Acres; and the three American Baptist Centers for Ministry.

Rule 17.2 Process

Any organization which meets the qualification of Standing Rule 17.1 may seek to become an Associated Ministry Organization of ABCUSA by (i) filing an application with the Board of General Ministries, (ii) receiving from the Board of General Ministries an invitation to become an Associated Ministry Organization, (iii) voting to accept such invitation, such acceptance to be given in writing to the General Secretary, and (iv) entering into a covenant with ABCUSA describing its relationship and defining the mutual expectations of each party. Such a covenant will be reviewed and reaffirmed at five-year intervals.

Rule 17.3 Legal Status

An Associated Ministry Organization shall be incorporated; must have its own governing board, a substantial portion of whose members are active members of American Baptist Cooperating Churches; define its own ministry; engage staff persons who are accountable to its governing board

and insure its own financial solvency. An Associated Ministry Organization shall hold itself out as a separate entity from ABCUSA. ABCUSA will not be liable or otherwise responsible for the debts, obligations, or liabilities of an Associated Ministry Organization and an Associated Ministry Organization will not be liable or otherwise responsible for the debts, obligations or liabilities of ABCUSA or any other Associated Ministry Organization.

Rule 17.4 Relationships

An Associated Ministry Organization will not be a party to the Covenant of Relationships or its Statements of Agreement entered into by Regional and National ABC organizations. An Associated Ministry Organization shall relate to ABCUSA to foster recognition, communication, assistance and support, and may purchase services or space from ABCUSA as defined in individual agreements.

Rule 17.5 Termination

The relationship between ABCUSA and any Associated Ministry Organization may be terminated by either the Board of General Ministries or such organization as of December 31 of any year, by giving at least six (6) months prior written notice to the other party of its intention to do so, provided that either party initiating the termination shall not act without giving the other party a reasonable opportunity to present its point of view concerning the proposed termination to the governing board of the initiating party.

ARTICLE VIII

COVENANTS OF THE DENOMINATION

Section 1. The Covenant of Relationships and Statements of Agreement. The relationships among ABCUSA, the corporations managed by the National Boards, and the Regional Organizations shall be recorded in the Covenant of Relationships and the related Statements of Agreement, one of which shall be the Common Budget Covenant. The Board of General Ministries, the National Boards, and the Regional Boards shall adopt and review periodically and may amend the Covenant of Relationships and Statements of Agreement. In affirmation of its historic and continuing relationship with these organizations, ABCUSA is and shall remain a party to The Covenant of Relationships and Its Statements of Agreements.

Section 2. Other Covenants and Agreements. ABCUSA, the corporations managed by the National Boards, and the Regional Organizations may adopt among themselves or with other groups or organizations such other covenants and agreements not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws or the Standing Rules as are not inconsistent with the Covenant of Relationships, the Statements of Agreement, these Bylaws, the Standing Rules or applicable law.

Section 3. Amendment and Termination. The Covenant of Relationships and Statements of Agreement, and any other covenant or agreement authorized by this Article VIII, may be terminated or amended only in accordance with procedures stated therein.