**ABCUSA Bylaws - ARTICLE XVI**

**STAFF COUNCILS**

**(c) National Leadership Council**

(1) The National Leadership Council (NLC) shall initially include:

(A) The President of the ABCUSA

(B) The General Secretary and up to three other staff members from the Office of the General Secretary

(C) Representatives of the National Boards (the respective Executive Director and up to three others)

(D) Regional Executive Ministers

(E) Executive Directors of the following organizations:

American Baptist Women’s Ministries

The Minister’s Council of American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

American Baptist Assembly

American Baptist Extension Corporation

Interim Ministries - ABC

American Baptist Historical Society

American Baptist Foundation

(2) The minimum threshold criteria for initial and continuing membership in the NLC will be for a represented organization to:

(A) Have an autonomous board and be financially viable

(B) Have a paid Executive

(C) Be a national ABCUSA organization that indicates its willingness:

To support the statement of purpose in the bylaws of the ABCUSA

To cooperate wholeheartedly in such relationships and projects at all

    levels of denominational life which seem advisable.

To be identified as an organization related to and participating in

    the life of the ABCUSA by use of the name and/or logo.

To be primarily devoted to providing programs and/or services to

    the ABCUSA.

To be accountable to the ABCUSA Policy Statements, Resolutions and Public Witness Statements, together with any internal covenants within the NLC where applicable.

(3) The final determination about initial or continuing membership for organizations, having met these threshold criteria, or for removal from membership if threshold criteria are no longer met, will rest with the NLC.

(4) The NLC shall meet at least once a year.  Its purposes shall include:

(A) Building and fostering authentic relationships within the NLC

(B) Participating in continuing education related to respective executive roles

(C) Facilitating implementation of Denominational priorities

(D) Demonstrating progress on those priorities in their respective boards

(E) Conducting trend analysis

(F) Suggesting means of improving the functioning of the Denomination

(G) Participating in theological reflection