

Proposed Bylaw Change as recommended by the Board of General Ministries

“Affiliated vs Cooperating Congregations”

The current wording of the ABCUSA Bylaws, Article V, Section 1. Qualifications, states:

Section 1. Qualifications. Every Baptist church in the United States (as defined in Article XVIII, Section 7) which cooperates in the work of the Denomination in accordance with the Criteria for Cooperating Churches, as defined in the Standing Rules, may become a Cooperating Church of ABCUSA ("Cooperating Church") for the purposes of these Bylaws. Upon their determination by the Board of General Ministries and the Regional Boards acting jointly, the Criteria for Cooperating Churches shall be incorporated into the Standing Rules by the Board of General Ministries.

The following wording is proposed as an addition to this section...

“Cooperating Churches are not ‘affiliated’ with ABCUSA in the legal sense because being affiliated implies an entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another entity.”

The revised wording of the ABCUSA Bylaws, Article V, Section 1. Qualifications would read,

Section 1. Qualifications. Every Baptist church in the United States (as defined in Article XVIII, Section 7) which cooperates in the work of the Denomination in accordance with the Criteria for Cooperating Churches, as defined in the Standing Rules, may become a Cooperating Church of ABCUSA ("Cooperating Church") for the purposes of these Bylaws. Upon their determination by the Board of General Ministries and the Regional Boards acting jointly, the Criteria for Cooperating Churches shall be incorporated into the Standing Rules by the Board of General Ministries. Cooperating Churches are not ‘affiliated’ with ABCUSA in the legal sense because being affiliated implies an entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another entity.