



## PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTION 5.14 OF THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INC. BYLAWS

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 7.2 of the Bylaws of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., it is hereby propose that Article V, Section 5.14 of the Bylaws, pertaining to election of the President, be amended by inserting the following provision immediately after the third sentence of the existing text:

*For elections for the office of President that take place after 2009, each duly qualified constituent entity shall be entitled to cast not more than five (5) votes, based on the number of years that it has been registered with the Convention since the most recent election. For the election for President to be held in 2009, each duly qualified constituent entity shall be entitled to cast no more than three (3) votes, based on the number of years it has been registered with the Convention between 2007 and the 2009 election.*

If adopted, the revised Section 5.14 will read as follows (the proposed amendment wording is italicized):

**Election of President:** Pursuant to Section 2 of Article V to the Revised Constitution, the President shall be elected by the Representative Members of the Convention at an Annual Meeting designated for that purpose. No person shall be elected or serve as President who is not a member of a Constituent Member of the Convention and in good standing with the constituent entities from which that constituent membership is based (church, district association, or state convention). In all instances, any constituent entity must have registered with the Convention during one of the two most recent Annual Meetings prior to the presidential election in order for its members to cast votes during the presidential election. *For elections for the office of President that take place after 2009, each duly qualified constituent entity shall be entitled to cast not more than five (5) votes, based on the number of years that it has been registered with the Convention since the most recent election. For the election for President to be held in 2009, each duly qualified constituent entity shall be entitled to cast no more than three (3) votes, based on the number of years it has been registered with the Convention between 2006 and the 2009 election.* All persons eligible to vote must register no later than five o'clock p.m. (5 p.m.) on Wednesday of the Annual Meeting. Voting shall take place from seven o'clock a.m. ( 7 a.m.) until seven o'clock p.m. (7 p.m.) on Thursday of the Annual Session and shall be conducted using electronic voting machines or other automated methods approved by the Board of Directors under conditions that protect the confidentiality of voters and the integrity of the election process. Election results shall be announced during the Thursday night meeting of the Annual Meeting. In the event that a sitting President is unopposed following the nomination period, the Convention shall re-elect the President by acclamation (voice or standing) vote upon motion during the Thursday night meeting of the Annual Meeting. In the event of the death, incapacity, retirement, resignation, or removal from office of an unopposed sitting President during the interim between the Midwinter Meeting and the Annual Meeting, the Vice President At Large shall, pursuant to Article 5.3 herein, complete the remaining period of the unexpired term and continue to serve as President until a successor is elected at the Annual Meeting of the following year according to the nominating procedure stated in Section 5.13 herein. The Board of Directors shall prescribe the nomination, campaign, and election process, and shall be the preliminary arbiter of any election questions, disputes, or controversies, with final judgment on such matters to be made by the Convention acting as a Committee of the Whole (*See* Article V, Section 2(B), Revised Constitution). Upon election as prescribed by Section 2A of Article V of the Revised Constitution, the transition procedure outlined at Section, 2D of Article V of the Revised Constitution shall be observed.