**RBYA Constitution**

**The Constitution for the Organization and Functioning of the Romanian Baptist Youth Association of the United States and Canada**

**Modified and Updated to Reflect the Current Situation**

**Preamble:**

The Romanian Baptist youth of the United States and Canada are organized as an association whose purpose is to unite Romanian Baptist youth of different Romanian Baptist churches for Christian fellowship, spiritual growth, a deeper knowledge of scripture, as well as coordinating missionary activities.  The Association is to uphold intact the teachings of the New Testament, the standard of holy Christian living and to share missionary experiences.

**Article I: Name and Components**

Section 1. The organization of Romanian Baptist youth carries the official name:  “The Romanian Baptist Youth Association of the United States and Canada” and consists of youth from Romanian Baptist churches affiliated with the Romanian Baptist Association of the United States and Canada.

Section 2. The members of this Association are all Baptist youth who are members in Romanian Baptist churches affiliated with the Romanian Baptist Association. Romanian Baptist youth who are apart of other Baptist churches, unaffiliated with the Association are also considered members; however, their rights extend to speaking and discussing, and they do not have the right to vote.

Section 3. The Romanian Baptist Youth Association of the United States and Canada is a subordinate and functions within the Romanian Baptist Association of the United States and Canada.

**Article II: Organization and Leadership**

Section 1: The Association is led by the Executive Committee composed of the following departments:

* One President
* Two Vice Presidents (East and West Coast)
* Missions Department (East and West Coast)
* Training Department (East and West Coast)
* Communications Department (East and West Coast)
* Publishing Department
* YTF “Young Teens Fellowship” Department (East and West Coast)
* Activities Department (East and West Coast)
* Treasury Department (East and West Coast)
* Fundraising Department (East and West Coast)
* Archives/Records Department (East and West Coast)
* Two Controllers (East and West Coast)

Each department is represented by one or two representatives depending on the geographic region represented.

Section 2. The Association headquarters is located where the current president resides.

Section 3. All the Executive Committee members are elected for a one year term. All of them may be re-elected for a consecutive second one-year term. The exception is the director of the Archives Department, who is elected for a two-year term.

Section 4. The members of the Executive Committee are chosen only from members of Romanian Baptist churches affiliated with the Romanian Baptist Association.

**Article III: The Duties of the Executive Committee**

Section 1. The executive Committee has the following functions:

* to make decisions concerning the Association’s current problems
* to promote the Association’s purpose and mission
* to initiate general activities related to missions and literature
* to establish the dates and itinerary for youth functions
* to execute the goals decided upon by the youth Convention
* to supervise articles in the youth section of *Luminătorul* magazine
* to edit the magazine *Farul* (*The Beacon*)
* to sustain and defend the Association’s interests when necessary

Section 2. In case a position becomes vacant (via resignation, expulsion, suspension or death of a member of the Executive Committee), the replacement is selected from the youth representatives of the local churches (with the said local church’s consent) by the Association’s president along with the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Executive Committee comes together as needed as many times necessary.

**Article IV: The Responsibilities of the Executive Committee**

Section 1. The President’s Responsibility

The principle duty of the President is to offer the Baptist youth Association a vision while serving the elected term. Part of the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

* To oversee and convene all of the Association and Executive Committee’s gatherings
* To oversee, conduct, and motivate members of the Association, with the help of the Executive Committee, as well as delegating special responsibilities in accordance with the Association’s aim

The President will oversee the course the Association, will direct the work among Executive Committee members and will be able to give members special responsibilities.

Section 2. The Vice President’s Responsibility

The Vice Presidents, at their request or in the President’s absence, will fulfill the President’s responsibilities.

The Vice Presidents are responsible for overseeing the departments’ responsibilities under the President’s direction.

Section 3. Missions and Evangelism Department

The leader of the Missions and Evangelism Department is responsible for encouraging the youth in the local churches in regards to mission and evangelism at the local and even international level.

Section 4. Training Department

The leader of the training department will be responsible for educating and ministering toyouth in local churches in regards to God’s work through seminars and appropriate materials.

Section 5. Communications Department

The communications department will occupy itself with all of the Association’s correspondence. It will also keep in touch with the local churches by maintaining an up-to-date flier with Association’s members’ information. At the same time, it will be responsible for up keeping the Association’s website: rbya.org.

Section 6. Publishing Department

The publishing department’s leader will gather, edit and type material for the youth magazine, *Farul* (*The Beacon*). The leader will also be responsible for any kind of informative publication that will be necessary throughout the year.

Section 7. YTF (Young Teens Fellowship) Department

The YTF department’s leaders are responsible for facilitating activities for adolescents at the Association’s level through different activities organized especially for adolescents.  They will also encourage such activities in the local church.

Section 8. Activities Department

The leader of this department is responsible for organizing all of the Association’s camps and activities.

Section 9. Finance (Treasury) Department

This department’s main role is administrating all funds within the Association’s treasury.

Section 10. Archiving Department

This department will maintain the Association’s archives, composed of: the Constitution, *Farul*, the newsletter, brochures, and important documents from each department. Generally, this department’s role is to document all projects and activities that year.

Section 11. Controller

The controller will verify the treasury account (department of Finance) at least twice a year, will give a report at the Convention before being discharged via vote and will verify the records kept by the Archiving Department.

**Article V: Functionality**

Section 1. The Youth Association Convention is the organization’s chief forum and is held once a year, with the Executive Committee’s meeting on the same date and at the same location where the Romanian Baptist Association Convention takes place. The day’s itinerary will be established by the Executive Committee, or by a group commissioned by the Committee. At the convention, all the delegates form Romanian Baptist Churches will have the right to speak and vote. All of the Association’s members present at the meeting have the right to speak and to make proposals. Any proposal must be seconded and discussed until resolved, or until the discussions are asked to be discontinued, either only with the approval of the majority of the delegates. When there are many motions in regards to a problem, the voting will commence in reverse, i.e. with the last motion.

The delegates may vote for a single motion for a problem. All decisions will be made through an open or closed ballot, according to the majority of the delegates. Any decision made must be backed by the vote of the majority present at the Convention. In case of a draw, the president’s vote will decide the outcome.

Section 2. The Executive Committee is the form of leadership maintained between Conventions and will meet at least twice a year at the same time as the Association’s Executive Committee. While voting, the president may solicit the presidents of the youth societies in local churches to have a consultative vote, and if the Executive Committee decides, they may have a definitive vote in that meeting. The Executive Committee’s decisions are based on a simple majority vote, and in the case of a draw, the president’s vote will be the deciding factor. All twenty-one (21) people discussed in Article 2, Section 1 have the right to a decisive vote.

Section3. A special convention may be convened by the president at the request of two thirds of the youth in churches, with ninety (90) days in advance. In such a situation, the meeting will indicate the reason for the respective convention.

Section 4. Presentation at a Convention will be one delegate for ten (10) youth members in a church, and for those left over, one delegate. The President will be the church’s delegate. These delegates will have the right to vote. All members of churches in the Association may participate, make proposals, and speak but they do not have the right to vote. The pastors of churches in the Association may participate with a consultative vote.

Section 5. At the Executive Committee’s discretion, guests may be invited to make presentations, or speak occasionally at the Convention.

**Article 6: Choosing Leaders**

Section 1. All members of the Executive Committee shown in Article 2, Section 1 will be picked during a session at the Convention.

Section 2. Nominations will be done online on the Romanian Baptist Youth Association of the United States and Canada website: [www.rbya.org](http://www.rbya.org/) at least sixty (60) days before the annual Convention. Nominations can be made by any baptized Association member who maintains a healthy relationship with the local church. Each of the nominees is eligible for election only if nominated at least forty-eight (48) hours before the annual Convention. All nominees must accept their nomination in writing.

Section 3. After presenting the candidates, there is time allocated to further recommend them. Each recommendation is limited to two minutes.

Section 4. Voting may be open (by raising hands, standing up, saying “aye”) or closed (by communal or individual ballots). The form of voting will be decided by a majority vote.

Section 5. Before voting, two people will be chosen to count the votes. They will give the results to the present-day secretary, who will then give them to the president, who will announce it during the session.

**Article 7: The Association’s Publications**

Section 1. The Romanian Baptist Youth Association’s official publication is named *Farul*, which will be run by the head of the publishing department. This person will see to it that there is a balance between articles in Romanian and English, taking the number of youth in the Association into consideration. This will be decided upon by the Executive Committee.

In regards to covering publishing expenses, this will be taken care of at the youth Convention, through donations made by the youth from the local churches and personal donations. The allocation of funds will be decided upon by the convention.

Section 2. The youth are responsible for one page in *Luminătorul* magazine. This page will have articles submitted by *Luminătorul*’s youth correspondent and the articles will be written by the correspondent of other youth members in the Association.

Section 2. The *Luminătorul* correspondent remains responsible for every article published in from of the Executive Committee and Convention. The youth Association is not financially responsible for the youth page in *Luminătorul*.

**Article 8: Donations**

Section 1. The ways of collecting the necessary funds will be decided at the Convention every year.

Section 2. Special donations may be made by individuals, organizations or churches. These donations may be intended for a specific cause or not. In the case of a specific cause, the Association may not change the donor’s mind about where the money will be used.

Section 3. Other revenue may be obtained from a special youth donation, the funds raised at an event, subscriptions and many other sources. All these are permitted only after a decision taken by the Executive Committee.

**Article 9: Youth in the local Church**

Section 1. The society of youth in the local church is a spiritual organism, which accepts, establishes, brings and guides youth in that respective church, as well as spreading the Gospel to souls for Jesus Christ.

Section 2. The Society of youth is made up of all baptized youth under the age of forty (40). When a person is forty (40) years old, but not yet fifty (50), and is vital to the youth activities, the person may be included. Also, all youth friends may be involved in the youth activities and will be able to contribute to groups such as the youth choir, orchestra, as the local church sees fit.

Section 3. The youth activities are developed in the local church as well as the mission field, individually and as a group, as much for personal spiritual growth as for missions.

Youth personal spiritual growth is achieved through:

* youth prayer group
* Bible study (doctrinal or commentary)
* Perusal and reviews of books beneficial to the youth
* other meeting of fellowship and religious activity
* Missionary activities are done through:
* visiting friends, individually or in a group
* handing out Bibles, testaments or Gospels
* evangelical groups visiting residents
* correspondence with those searching for salvation
* prayer and fasting for other’s salvation
* being a living example

Section 4. The leadership in the local church will be identical with the Association’s, shown in Article 3, Section 1.

Section 5. Allocation of Funds

Funds for the youth will be allocated according to the youth in the respective church, according to their specific situation

**Article 10: Final Instructions**

Section 1. The language used at the convention, the Executive Committee and Society of youth will be Romanian or English, however best the members can express themselves.

**Article 11: Now in Effect**

The present Constitution is the Association’s Constitution, modified and amended in more than one way, and now modified and placed in accordance with present day situations. It has been presented, discussed, and voted upon at the Youth Convention on September 1-3, 2001 and is effective immediately. The text is available in Romanian and English. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at a session at the Convention through a two thirds vote of the total number of delegates at the Convention.