**Becoming a SBC Congregation**

We’re excited that you are considering becoming co-laborers with the SBC. A good overview of what it means to be a Southern Baptist may be found at <http://www.sbc.net/aboutus/>.The following is a little background on our theological beliefs and the cooperation we have in missions and ministry.

**Theological Beliefs**

The Baptist Faith and Message (BFM) is the basic belief system of Southerner Baptists. The link to the Baptist Faith and Message is [Baptist Faith and Message](http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp). We ask that you agree in principle and practice to the BFM 2000 and will affirm it.

**Cooperative Nature of the SBC**

One of the distinctives of the SBC is its different levels of cooperation. The SBC website at <http://www.sbc.net/aboutus/acloserlook.asp> states the following regarding this cooperative relationship.

The SBC maintains a fraternal, cooperative relationship with forty-two state and regional Baptist conventions in the United States and its territories. These state conventions provide multiple services for, with, and among the cooperating churches in their respective states or regions. The dominant focus of the state conventions is to assist their cooperating churches in evangelism, church planting, volunteer partnership missions, leadership development, disaster relief mobilization, and spiritual growth and prayer support.

The SBC also cooperates closely with more than one thousand associations of Baptist churches on the local level and more than thirty racial and ethnic fellowships. Local associations and ethnic fellowships provide the most grass-roots organizational structure in Baptist life, promoting regular opportunities for fellowship, cooperative ministries, and partnership missions. The SBC has traditionally looked to local associations to determine the “baptistic” identity of churches desiring to align with the Convention in its cooperative endeavors.

The first local level of cooperation of churches is within the local association. Contact your local association or Steve Dyess at dyess@mwbc.org for more information.

The next level of cooperation is the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention (MWBC). After the local state convention, we then cooperate through the SBC, which includes the North American Mission Board (NAMB) International Mission Board (IMB), as well as other agencies such as our seminaries.

Dr. Leo Endel, the Executive Director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, has a great video presentation on the family tree of the MWBC from its earliest roots to today. This video will help in understanding the distinctives of being Southern Baptist in the MWBC. Please take the opportunity to view this video at [Baptist History in the MWBC](https://vimeo.com/231199655).

**Cooperation through the Cooperative Program**

We ask that you join 48,000 other SBC churches on mission, to include financial participation in our Southern Baptist Cooperative program. We do not ask for any set amount or percentage, unless you are receiving church planting funds.

Dr. Leo Endel, the Executive Director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, also has a great video presentation on the Cooperative Program. This video will help in understanding the history and uniqueness of the Cooperative Program. Please take the opportunity to view this video at [Cooperative Program](https://vimeo.com/230665377) .

**What and How to Give**

1. **What to give?**

If you are not a funded church plant, we ask that you give what is appropriate monthly to the Cooperative Program, our two SBC annual missions offerings, and to the annual MWBC State Missions Offering.

* + 1. Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (North American Mission Board). For more information about this offering go to <https://www.anniearmstrong.com/>
		2. Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (International Mission Board). For more information about this offering go to <https://www.imb.org/lottie-moon-christmas-offering>
		3. MWBC State Missions offering: Contact Steve Melvin for more details at smelvin@namb.net

**2. How do you give?**

a. Cooperative Program giving is sent to our state office at: Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, 519 Sixteenth Street, S. E., Rochester, MN 55904. Please note your church name, address, and indicate Cooperative Program giving. For more information contact Peter Michelson at (507) 282-3636 or [michelson@mwbc.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cdrste%5CDesktop%5CMisc%5CMWBC%5CSBC%20Membership%5Cmichelson%40mwbc.org).

1. Great Commission giving may be sent to any of the causes below.
	* + 1. To give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (NAMB) or the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering please note your church name, address, and indicate which offering the check is for and send it to the MWBC.
			2. To give to the MWBC State Missions Offering please note your church name, address, and indicate which offering the check is for and send it to the MWBC.
			3. To give to Disaster Relief, please connect with David Wedekind for more details at dwedekind@mwbc.org

**Summary on How to Become a Southern Baptist Church**

We ask that you agree in principle and practice to the BFM 2000. We ask that you read and affirm the BFM 2000: [Baptist Faith and Message](http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp)

1. Cooperate on Mission and Ministries
	1. As Dr. Leo Endel states in the linked video at [Baptist History in the MWBC](https://vimeo.com/231199655), “Historically, churches have affiliated with the MWBC and the SBC by affiliating with their local association.”
	2. We ask that you cooperate with other SBC churches on mission financially by giving to the Cooperative Program
	3. We ask that you cooperate with other Southern Baptist churches within the SBC, the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention (MWBC) and the Twin Cities Metro Baptist Association (TCMBA)
2. Your church will work through affirming this and will communicate this to your local association and Steve Melvin (MWBC) at melvin@mwbc.org.