



Being SBC

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 <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. 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. As Dr. Leo Endel states in the linked video below, “Historically, churches have affiliated with the MWBC and the SBC by affiliating with their local association.”

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 <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.

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 <https://vimeo.com/230665377> .

Summary on How to Become a Southern Baptist Church

- A. We ask that you agree in principle and practice to the BFM 2000. We ask that you read and affirm the BFM 2000: <http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp>
- B. Cooperate on Mission and Ministries
 - a. We ask that you cooperate with other SBC churches on mission financially by giving to the Cooperative Program.
 - b. We ask that you cooperate with other Southern Baptist churches within the SBC, the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention (MWBC) and your local association.
 - c. If you have any questions please contact Steve Dyess (MWBC) at 1-507-282-3636 or dyess@mwbc.org.