

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention now consists of over 2,400 churches. That's right; we are a growing fellowship made up of churches committed to cooperative missions. Your church is the headquarters for our state convention and we are pledged to assist you as you seek to fulfill our Lord's Great Commission.

A convention of like-minded churches can do a lot to encourage one another. We are like-minded because we agree on what constitutes biblical doctrine as expressed in the Baptist Faith & Message (2000). The convention's fellowship is based on mutual accountability. That fellowship is easily seen during statewide meetings, which become times of prayer, worship and relationship building. Churches also encourage one another by sharing expertise and resources, and even examples of effective ministry.

In every imaginable way, we are stronger together. No church can fulfill the Great Commission by itself. But in cooperation we can do it as God gives the increase. Beyond Texas we count the 44,000 churches and various convention entities of Southern Baptist Convention as valued ministry partners to assist our Texas churches to take the gospel to the very ends of the earth.

From your community to the remotest places, we are together on mission to Reach Texas and Touch the World!

Jim Richards, Executive Director



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REACHING



TOUCHING THE



REACHING TEXAS

TOUCHING THE WORLD

WHAT MAKES THE SBTC A DIFFERENT KIND OF STATE CONVENTION

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

The SBTC gives the highest percentage (55%) among state conventions out of budgeted receipts to the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention. The SBTC supports SBC agencies and ministries in North America and around the world.

The SBTC uses the Texas budget allocation (45%) to assist in church planting, evangelistic efforts and strengthening existing churches. Colleges and family ministries also receive funding.

Remember the Cooperative Program is an undesignated giving channel. No church is so large it can go it alone. No church is too small that it can't have a part. We are stronger together through the Cooperative Program.

CONFESSATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

The SBTC is a confessional fellowship. The current Baptist Faith and Message (2000) is our statement of faith. Affiliated churches and ministries express their agreement by affirming the BFM2000. This provides a set of parameters. Every affiliated church or ministry is assured they are connecting with a group of like-minded believers. Additionally, the SBTC affirms the inerrancy of Scripture in our constitution. A belief in the plain truth of the Word of God is foundational to fellowship within the SBTC. A high view of Scripture (inerrancy) is the belief that all the miracles occurred as they are recorded, all the narratives are historically true and all the authors of the books are the authors to whom they are ascribed.

PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH

When the SBTC was established in 1998, the founders wanted evangelism and church planting to be its main priorities. While doing this, the SBTC maintains ministry support for over 100 church-based program ministries in the local churches. While we do not major on institutions, the SBTC does help fund and help lead children's homes, an adoption agency and two colleges.

HOW THE SBTC IS SIMILAR TO OTHER STATE CONVENTIONS

AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Like other state conventions, the SBTC fully supports the autonomy of the local church. This is a distinctive of Southern Baptist polity. The SBTC is not in the business of trying to govern the local church; we are in the business of coordinating cooperative giving for mission and ministry to Reach Texas and Touch the World.

AFFILIATED CHURCHES

The SBTC has over 2400 affiliated churches. Every state convention exists because of its affiliated churches. Churches choose the organizations with which they want to relate. In Texas, the churches that affiliate with the SBTC have a like mind for accomplishing mission and ministry through strong Cooperative Program giving and a foundational conviction on the inerrancy of God's Word.

CORE VALUES

BIBLICALLY BASED

- Affirmation of a minimal set of doctrinal beliefs
- Biblical inerrancy is the foundational element
- Churches working together in mutual accountability

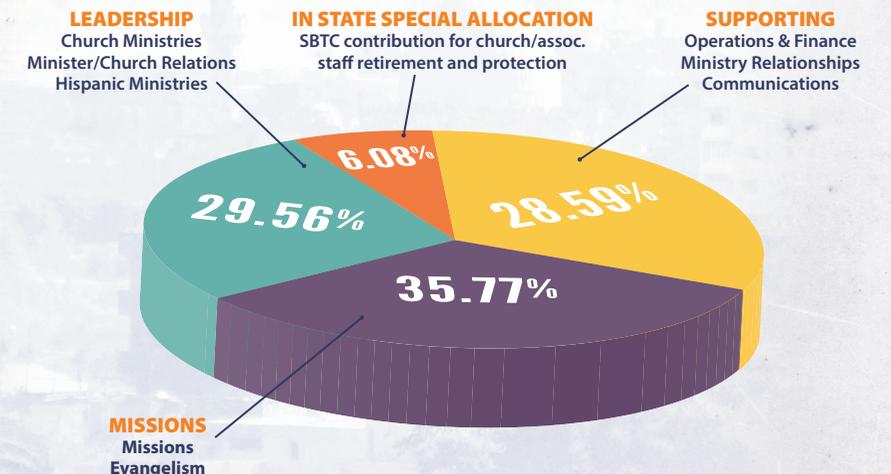
KINGDOM FOCUSED

- A focus on missions and evangelism in budgeting and staffing priorities
- Networking and using volunteers and paid consultants to keep bureaucracy to a minimum
- Striving to resource the needs of SBTC churches rather than to direct their ministries

MISSIONALLY DRIVEN

- Partnership with the Southern Baptist Convention through the traditional Cooperative Program
- Utilizing the resources of the SBC agencies to maximize the ministry effectiveness of SBTC

MINISTRY AREAS



See sbtexas.com/2014-budget for a more detailed budget