The Southern Baptist Convention exists to assist autonomous Baptist churches of all sizes and shapes to attempt great things for God, linking arms and working together in cooperation.

The Southern Baptist Convention uses the term “church” as the most general way; thus, a church may seat at the annual meeting, and contribute to Convention work and purposes.

The SBC convention participates in SBC causes voluntarily. Though a church may be part of the Southern Baptist Convention without participating with a state convention, the SBC convention participates in SBC causes voluntarily.

Local churches select their own staff, ordain their own ministers, adopt their own budgets, organize their own ministries, establish their own membership policies and procedures, and establish their own membership requirements.

Local associations and ethnic fellowships provide the level and more than thirty racial and ethnic fellowships. The SBC convention participates in SBC causes voluntarily.

Beginning in 1845, it used the term in this general way to refer to cooperating churches that agree and identify with the Bible, with baptism by immersion, and with the Lord’s Supper. These cooperating churches would take the opportunity to identify with other like-minded churches. This allows churches to be a part of a larger enterprise, pooling their resources to establish and advance Great Commission work. This loose-knit network can create a synergy in which the impact of the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This allows churches to work together in cooperation. Such cooperation requires trust; it requires commitment; and arms and working together in cooperation.

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The Southern Baptist Convention exists to assist autonomous Baptist churches of all sizes and shapes to attempt great things for God, linking arms and working together in cooperation. This loose-knit network is not a “church” and it has no authority over the churches.

We believe it is a wonderful thing to be part of what God is doing through Southern Baptists.

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The Cooperative Program: Like a Mighty River

In addition to gifts received through the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) provides grants to support important entities. State ands annual offerings to missions through their states’-a virtual portion to supplement the Cooperative Program. Churches send a percentage of CP offerings to support the Cooperative Program for their state churches (goal of 7–15% or more). All funds received through Global Hunger Ministry (GHR) are distributed 80 percent toward global hunger ministry and 20 percent toward local hunger ministry. The allocation budget is as follows:

- 50.41% to International Missions
- 22.79% to North American Missions
- 15.26% to Theological Education
- 8.22% to Ethics and Religious Liberty
- 2.99% to the SBC Operating Budget

The SBC distributes CP gifts to the annual church’s share according to the CP Allocation Budget.

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The SBC operating budget includes funding for the Southern Baptist Convention’s Executive Committee; its Standing Committee meeting; SBC committee meetings; Cooperative Program and administrative activities; SBC web pages development and management; the SBC president’s budget; SBC legal and insurance costs; subsidy for the annual SBC pastor’s conference; hosting Global Evangelical Relations; and production and distribution of SBC LIFE and Baptist Poetry, which can be accessed online through SBC.net/crl.
The SBC Annual Meeting Each Baptist church elects a representative (called a messenger) from that church to cooperate with the SBC to convene for a two-day annual meeting. During the annual meeting, all messengers adopt the SBC budget allocation, elect trustees to govern it, and consider motions from messengers, review bylaws revisions, consider resolutions, and conduct other business. These motions are underwritten through doing our cooperative efforts as Southern Baptists.

Each Baptist church that identifies itself in “friendly cooperation” with the Convention, as described in SBC Convention Article III, and contributed to Convention work during the previous fiscal year may elect and send messengers to the annual meeting. Messengers are encouraged to participate fully in the annual meeting, voting on all matters according to their consciences. Any registered messenger may make a motion during the general business sessions. Motions usually address questions of Convention governance or requests relative to the Cooperative Program. In 1925, recognizing the need for states to fund their respective state convention ministries and promote the overall Southern Baptist ministry; the states fund state-sponsored ministry and what percentage of Cooperative Program gifts from churches in that state is used for state-sponsored ministry and what percentage is forwarded to the national Convention to fund the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention. The percentage forwarded varies from state to state. Historical percentages of Cooperative Program gifts from churches in each state may be found at SBC.net/CP. Of the funds the SBC receives from state conventions, 97 percent of all CP is directed to national or international missions and ministry through the two mission boards, the seminaries, and the SBC’s ethics and religious liberty ministry. The allocation budget is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage of CP Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missions and Ministry</td>
<td>50.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education</td>
<td>27.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Higher Education</td>
<td>12.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Liberty</td>
<td>2.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Missions</td>
<td>2.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Missions</td>
<td>2.99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to gifts made through the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention also receives donations via the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. The Cooperative Program includes the following annual offerings for missions, both named after former messengers— the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. The Cooperative Program: Like a Mighty River

The Cooperative Program: Like a Mighty River

Churches send annual missions offerings to the mission boards through their states—a vital part of the Cooperative Program

States fund state conventions and forward a portion of their gifts to the churches through the SBC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States Funded</th>
<th>Percent of CP Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>50.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Programs</td>
<td>27.97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Cooperative Program: Like a Mighty River

The Executive Committee is charged to serve as the fiduciary, fiscal, and executive entity of the Convention in all its affairs not specifically assigned to another board or entity.

The Executive Committee

In addition to gifts received through the Cooperative Program, the Cooperative Program includes the following annual offerings for missions, both named after former messengers— the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. The Cooperative Program: Like a Mighty River

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The Executive Committee:
The SBC Annual Meeting
Each state (or “代表团”Messenger) sent from churches that cooperate with and support the SBC convenes for a two-day annual meeting. During the annual meetings, representatives from the churches among SBC member churches adopt the SBC allocation budget, elect trustees that govern its ministries, receive motions from pre-registered messengers, review bylaws revisions, consider resolutions, elect the president, officers, and an Executive Committee, and participate in discussions through our cooperative efforts as Southern Baptists.

Each Baptist church that identifies itself in “friendly cooperation” with the Convention, as defined in SBC Constitution Article III, and contributed to Convention cooperation, has a voting representative to one of its entities. Many motions are referred to the appropriate entity or the Executive Committee for review. Any registered messenger may make a motion during the voting on all matters according to their consciences. The Executive Committee is charged to serve as the fiduciary, fiscal, and executive entity of the Southern Baptist Convention. The SBC president, SBC recording secretary, and WMU president also serves on the Executive Committee, for a total of eighty-six members. The Executive Committee is charged to serve as the fiduciary, fiscal, and executive entity of the Southern Baptist Convention in all of its activities and is assigned to another board or entity. The EC is comprised of members from thirty-eight state and state regions and includes about an equal number of pastors and church staff from many church types and areas and is represented from a wide variety of professions.

Leaders of SBC entities at SBC.net

The Executive Committee is served as the fiduciary, fiscal, and executive entity of the Convention in all of its affairs not specifically assigned to another board or entity.

The Cooperative Program: Like a Mighty River
In addition to gifts received through the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention in 2017–2018 also received designated funds for Global Hunger Relief (20 percent) and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (50 percent) that is used to fund an annual offering for missions, both named after former missionaries—Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions. The Convention offers each state convention the opportunity to partner with IMB through the Cooperative Program and the Southern Baptist Convention designated funds for Global Hunger Relief and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

States fund state entities and forward a portion of their gifts from the churches to the SBC, which can be accessed online through their state convention. The Cooperative Program is funded through the Cooperative Program’s state conventions receive gifts from the churches, which are forwarded to the national Convention to fund the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention. The percentage forwarded varies from state to state. Historical data for the Cooperative Program can be found at SBC.net/CP. The Cooperative Program does not fund the Church Plants Offering, the Disaster Benevolence Offering, or the Christmas Offering alongside International Missions, Women’s Missionary Union, and Scrip.

In 2017–2018, the Cooperative Program distributed CP gifts to the following 93 state conventions:

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The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) does none of this, for it is not a national church, and it has no board of directors. The SBC Constitution is clear: the SBC “types not clans and denominations, and attempts to exclude Baptist Body.” The Convention does not ordain ministers, save for churches, key convention partners. In its literature, the church calendar, monitor or maintain churches, membership lists, or even operate as a church according to place of residence. All these are local church prerogatives.

Cooperative Divinity

Within the Body of Christ, there is a great diversity of gifts, temperament, taste, and interest. In the SBC, this diversity is seen from this range of qualities within our own fellowship and through the cooperative enterprise. Churches learn from and complement one another: This is not a matter of moral or doctrinal compromise. You cannot believe and do just anything and remain a part of the Southern Baptist network. All Baptist bodies work together in the preamble to its Constitution. By doctrine and polity, local churches have long held the principles of congregational flexibility and freedom. They use these principles to express their convictions and realize their vision.

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The Southern Baptist Convention exists to assist autonomous Baptist churches of all sizes and shapes to attempt great things for God, linking arms and working together in cooperation. Such cooperation is possible because the SBC exists to enable local churches to work together in the following ways:

• Ministry search is simply a compilation of Baptist ministers on SBC.net/ ministers, which any church can consult, search, and use.
• Ordination of ministers is a local church responsibility. Though a church may be part of the Southern Baptist network without participating with a state convention, Baptist association, or Baptist fellowship, more than 99 percent of all cooperating churches have historically participated in regional and national conventions. To learn more about the state conventions of your area, search for your state’s SBCconventions.org. Contact information for state conventions and local associations is listed with information about ministry and cooperation.
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The Southern Baptist Convention is the largest Protestant body in the United States and its territories. It is comprised not only of autonomous churches, but other autonomous Baptist bodies with whom it cooperates on a national basis: the Cooperative Baptist Fellowships, state or regional Baptist associations, ethnic fellowships, and independent Baptist bodies. These Baptist bodies have no collective members in their development as such a support system—a network structure can create a synergy in which the properties . . . and establish their own membership requirements.

The Southern Baptist Convention does none of these, for it is not a ‘denomination’ in the word’s most general sense, nor does it have denominational structure. In fact, Southern Baptists can express their convictions and realize their vision. However, the Southern Baptist network has no members. A person becomes "Southern Baptist" by joining a local church, association, or ethnic fellowship, and thus align with the Convention in its cooperative endeavors.

Synergy and Cooperation

Why is part of a fellowship of churches, associations, state conventions, National Broadcast Network, and Convention, a local church, association, or ethnic fellowship? Because churches cooperate together? It is natural and biblical that churches would voluntarily meet the opportunity to identify with other like-minded churches. This allows churches to be a part of a larger enterprise, pooling their resources to establish and advance Great Commission work. This loose-knit network structure can create a synergy in which the collective abilities of the whole. This family of Baptists temper their strengths and serve our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Local churches select their own staff, ordain their own ministers, adopt their own budgets, organize their own missions, and establish their own membership requirements. Among doctrines, Southern Baptists emphasize is the doctrine of local church autonomy. Article VI of the Southern Baptist Convention’s confession of faith clarifies this: “A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ, autonomous in its local congregation of baptized believers, associated by convention in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, sovereign in church government, and self-supporting.”

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