



2018 Ministry Inquiries

Cooperative Program

1. **With an understanding that SBC entities who receive Cooperative Program funding share an equal responsibility to promote and advance the Cooperative Program, please give a description of NAMB's efforts to promote the Cooperative Program.**

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) is grateful for every dollar Southern Baptists send through the Cooperative Program (CP), which provides 35 percent of NAMB's annual budget.

NAMB's president and other public speakers regularly make note of CP and thank Southern Baptists for giving when they speak, write or create videos that will be viewed by Southern Baptists. NAMB provides a speakers' guide for missionaries and staff, as well as NAMB ambassadors and other advocates, which requests the speaker always thank their audience for their support through the CP.

NAMB seeks to educate church planters on the importance of CP and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO) in a number of ways.

- NAMB requires church plants that receive funding from NAMB to give a minimum of 6 percent of their undesignated offerings to CP and 4 percent to great commission giving for a total of 10 percent.
- Every NAMB-endorsed church planter who attends Send Network Orientation attends a session with Kevin Ezell, during which he outlines the importance and expectation of CP giving.
- Included in every gift that the Send Network distributes to planters is a reminder that the gifts are provided through the generous giving of Southern Baptists to the CP and AAEO.

For the last three years, NAMB's president and Public Relations director have participated in a Cooperative Program Task Force with the SBC Executive Committee which is focused on how national and state SBC entities can better communicate with and cultivate a closer relationship with churches.

Featured at the Orlando NAMB-sponsored Send Conference in 2017 (held in partnership with the International Mission Board) was a discussion panel of several SBC leaders who discussed the importance of the CP among other things.

In addition to printed materials produced by NAMB which cite "NAMB is a Southern Baptist Convention entity supported by the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®, all of NAMB's digital presence of information and articles frequently reference CP.

2. **What are the expected outcomes of NAMB's efforts in Cooperative Program promotion which would be suitable for use in a Baptist Press or SBC LIFE article**

about the value the Cooperative Program brings to our SBC entities and our entity leaders' belief in and support of the CP.

NAMB regularly produces stories—both written and video—that tell the story of how NAMB-supported missionaries are reaching people for Christ through church planting and other means. Since most of these missionaries are direct beneficiaries of CP, any of their stories would be worth sharing as an example of how CP giving is changing lives. NAMB is always happy to produce these stories for Baptist Press or work with their writers to facilitate a story.

Please note that not all CP stories are church planting related. For instance, in 2018, NAMB will do a follow-up story on results of the CP allocation to Send Relief (referenced in <https://www.namb.net/news/sbdr-preparing-major-puerto-rico-response>: *In their Sept. 18-19 meeting in Nashville, the SBC Executive Committee voted to send the first \$1.25 million in overages to the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget to NAMB's Send Relief ministry.*)

Also, as mentioned in Ministry Inquiry #1, by requiring NAMB-funded church plants to give 6 percent to CP, and by encouraging CP participation at church planter orientation events, NAMB is nurturing loyalty among new SBC churches toward CP.

- 3. Please articulate for Southern Baptists how NAMB perceives the role of the Cooperative Program in funding NAMB ministries. What value does NAMB place upon its partnership with SBC churches through the Cooperative Program?**

As mentioned in Ministry Inquiry #1, the NAMB is grateful for every dollar Southern Baptists send through the CP, which provides 35 percent of NAMB's annual budget.

CP is essential to the support of missionaries. Every NAMB-supported missionary directly benefits from the resources and infrastructure that CP allows NAMB to provide.

NAMB is grateful to pastors for how they lead their churches to give to CP. NAMB's president regularly expresses that gratitude directly to pastors when he speaks in churches, records video messages and in daily correspondence.

NAMB's number one customer is pastors and the churches they lead. While the resources ultimately belong to God, NAMB views every dollar that comes through CP as money coming from churches and individuals to be used with the highest standards of stewardship.

Ethnic Participation

- 4. Please give a descriptive report of participation of ethnic churches and other ethnic leaders in the life and ministry of your entity. Over the past 12 months, (2016 - 2017) has NAMB seen a change (increase or decrease) in the number of ethnic leaders across all NAMB ministry platforms?**

NAMB considers multiethnic representation and engagement a high priority, and the Lord continued to bless NAMB with the presence of multiethnic leaders at the most senior levels of Alpharetta staff and in all levels of field-based management. The 2016

Equal Employment Opportunity report showed that 22.2% of NAMB employees were nonwhite - compared to 21.77% on the 2015 report.

To assist in the engagement with African-American pastors and churches, NAMB has enlisted the assistance of an African-American Church Ambassador. In this role, Dennis Mitchell led a series of initiatives intended to mobilize African-American churches' missional involvement with NAMB. Some of the initiatives/successes are as follows:

I. Pastor Gatherings

1. Chicago - September 2016: met with African-American pastors and introduced Chicago Send City Coordinator.
2. Detroit Vision Tour - October 2016: met with African-American pastors to discuss church planting partnerships.
3. Baptist Convention of North Carolina - November 2016: discussed Send Network partnership opportunities during state African-American Fellowship annual meeting.
4. Louisiana - January 2017: promoted Send Network participation to African-American pastors.
5. San Diego - March 2017: met with African-American pastors to discuss Send Network partnership opportunities and connected group to the San Diego Send City coordinator.
6. Jacksonville - March 2017: met with and discussed Send Network opportunities with 13 African-American mega-church pastors. Meeting was hosted by Dr. H.B. Charles.
7. Baltimore - September 2017: met with African-American pastors to discuss church planting partnership needs and opportunities and introduced NAMB church planter Kirk Rookwood to group.
8. Ohio - October 2017: spoke at gathering of Ohio African-American Fellowship pastors to overview work of NAMB and Send Network partnership opportunities.

II. Meetings and Conferences

1. January 2017: facilitated meeting between NAMB leadership and National African-American Fellowship. Discussed and resolved African-American concerns regarding the NAMB church planter assessment process. Also identified opportunities for National African-American Fellowship to assist NAMB in efforts to mobilize African-American pastors in Send Network.
2. Newport News Virginia - May 2017: SBC/NAMB Orientation, New Beech Grove Baptist Church (a newly affiliated African-American SBC church).
3. Kingdom Growth Conference - May 2017: Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention
4. Planned and coordinated NAMB's involvement in the 2017 Black Church Leadership and Family Conference at Ridgecrest, N.C. NAMB conferences focused on evangelism, Send Network and church planting partnership opportunities.
5. August 2017 - met with 18 Metro-Atlanta ADOMs to discuss opportunities for engaging African-American pastors in the work of the association in general and church planting partnerships specifically.

III. African-American Young Leaders Initiative: Assisted NAMB leaders Kim Robinson and Jonathan Akin in developing candidate profile and identifying and enlisting candidates for the initiative.

IV. Churches Mobilized: A total of 100 African-American churches were mobilized, which includes commitments to become sponsoring or supporting churches. There were 76 additional commitments were made by African-American church to support the Pray for Planter initiative.

Since NAMB's beginning in 1997, ethnic church plants have been a priority. In 2014, we developed several national maps indicating plans for Hispanic, African-American, Korean and Chinese church plants throughout North America. Census data reflecting demographics for each area of the city is included as well. Each of these ethnic groups also has a Church Planting Catalyst (CPC) or National Mobilizer assigned to help foster efforts for church planting among that specific group. Our focus in this area is delivering strong results.

Promoting leadership development among our ethnically diverse church leaders is also important to NAMB. In 2017, NAMB trained 16 Hispanic church planter coaches from across the United States. Of these, 12 have already trained 22 Hispanic church planting coaches in their regions and are also coaching 53 Hispanic church planters. We cast vision to, motivated and trained approximately 180 Hispanic pastors and more than 500 Hispanic church leaders in church planting. We also trained approximately 60 Hispanic pastors in the importance and best practices of disciple making and provided copies of the *3 Circles Life Conversation Guide (Spanish)* to 120 Hispanic churches and provided basic discipleship materials to 49 Spanish-speaking churches. We connected 12 Hispanic church planters to the field. We have two planter training centers and are in the process of establishing five assessment centers across the United States.

NAMB staff also led three church planting conferences for those planting among Muslim people groups in Alaska, Indiana and Georgia and led seven Ethnic Pastors/Planters Gatherings, which included Pakistanis, Middle Easterners, Indians, Burmese, Nepalese and Ethiopians. In addition, 12 planters, representing Middle Eastern, South Asians, West African, and Burmese, were deployed to plant in Send Cities and other places in North America.

There were also three workshops/conferences for pastors in relation to ethnic church planting/partners (Chinese, Korean, South East Asia groups). We connected eight planters to the field among these groups and presented the vision for church planting to 400 Chinese and 500 Hmong young leaders through churches in respective conferences, as well as in ethnic seminaries.

Representation of ethnic church leaders is evident among the **730 new church starts** that Southern Baptists partners reported for the church plant class of **2016**. Non-Anglo churches, per ACP data, shows **56.0%**

- African-American 10.5%
- Hispanic 17.7%
- Native American 1.0%
- Asian or Pacific Islander 12.9%
- Other 13.9%

Of the **242** plants in Send Cities reported in the class **2016**, **64.7** percent were reported as non-Anglo:

- African-American 11.6%
- Hispanic 14.2%
- Native American 0.4%
- Asian or Pacific Islander 19.4%

- Other 19.0%

5. In what ways does NAMB reach across the SBC's broad ethnic diversity through the Send Network and through Send Relief? Do NAMB's print and digital resources reflect the growing diversity across the SBC? Please give examples.

SBC church plant statistics each year continue to demonstrate that the Send Network planting strategy results in plants (see chart in Ministry Inquiry #4) that are a reflection of the communities they are reaching with the Gospel—great diversity in ethnicity, age and socioeconomic categories. To reach the cities this is an absolute necessity.

To encourage and further support these efforts, NAMB continues to work toward making all church planter and missionary pathways and resources available in as many languages as possible. An example of this is the Send Network assessment retreat. The assessment retreat is the culmination of the assessment experience for the potential planter and provides the final evaluation of readiness for the individual to plant. In an effort to make these available to those who are not able to communicate well in English, Send Network has begun the task of creating these assessment retreats in Spanish and French. Korean translation is also in process.

The commitment of Send Relief is to direct all opportunities to the entire SBC family and all efforts will be driven towards reaching a diverse SBC audience.

Send Relief is uniquely positioned to directly engage across racial, ethnic and economically diverse groups in all five of its focus areas: poverty, foster care and adoption, human trafficking, refugees and internationals and disaster response. Each of these areas naturally bridge many SBC churches to engage inner cities, various nationalities and those of varied economic circumstances.

In 2017, a ministry hub in Clarkston, Ga., was opened with the specific focus on refugees and internationals in one of the most ethnically diverse communities in the nation. This hub will become a significant resource church leaders can use to come and see refugee ministries at work, which will assist them in bringing a new ministry into their own communities across the nation. Send Relief provides research and mission awareness for specific human needs that result from poverty and social injustice. Victims of poverty and social injustice are not limited to any specific segment of our population but reach across all boundaries.

Through the GenSend program, Send Relief placed approximately 200 students in 15 of the Send Cities this past summer to locally engage various people groups within these large urban areas. GenSend Spring Break engaged 350 students in Johnsonville, S.C., in disaster relief and rebuild efforts. This continues to be a great educational platform for creating awareness of ethnic diversity in the collegiate sector. In 2017, one GenSend team served at our ministry hub in Clarkston. For more detailed information on GenSend, see Accomplishment VI.

Our print, web and video design also reflects SBC-audience diversity. Our videos can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/namb>.

6. In response to a Ronnie Floyd motion, June 2013, Houston, TX, requesting that the Executive Committee and SBC Entities assist churches with mental health ministries, the Executive Committee appointed an advisory group, Fall 2013, to determine ways in which Southern Baptist entities and SBC churches can best help those who are in need of mental health assistance. The final report of this advisory group was presented to Dr. Frank S. Page, Fall 2014.

In the 2015 & 2016 Ministry Report(s) the following question was asked of each SBC entity:

Please give a progress report on what NAMB has implemented to assist SBC churches with training and equipping people with mental health challenges and how will NAMB continue to seek ways to work in cooperation with SBC entities and others to address the severe challenges imposed by mental illness?

For the 2018 Ministry Report please provide the following:

If NAMB feels that reporting on this subject is within its purview, or falls within the scope of its ministry assignment(s), or has made any progress in the area of assisting churches with training and equipping people with mental health challenges, or has developed or identified resources to assist SBC churches in the area of mental health ministry, please provide a detailed progress report.

Since NAMB acts as the endorsing agency for Southern Baptist chaplains and since military chaplains, in particular, minister to and sometimes deal with combat-related mental health issues themselves, the NAMB Chaplaincy team primarily sees itself addressing mental health issues as they relate to the chaplaincy's pastoral care role within the context of their respective institutional settings. As we develop mental health ministry resources for use by our endorsed chaplains, the broader SBC ministry community (pastors, churches, and SBC agencies and organizations) will benefit as well, especially since members of the clergy are the number one place people go to when seeking help for mental illness.

The NAMB Chaplaincy team has initiated collaborative relationships with various community and national mental health care providers, institutions, and nonprofit faith-based organizations in order to learn best practices and to develop a comprehensive mental health care ministry strategy for individuals, chaplains, staff members, and their family members in institutional settings. The Chaplaincy team also maintains an ongoing dialog with the Department of Veterans Affairs' Mental Health Integration for Chaplain Services (MHICS) program, a one-year training that aims to better equip military chaplains in the provision of care to Veterans and Service members suffering mental health problems.

Our Executive Director for Chaplaincy has engaged a number of SBC state conventions regarding mental health ministry strategies, training and resources for pastors and SBC churches, especially in those states whose congregations have experienced an unusual percentage of suicides or suicidal ideations.

Additionally, the Chaplaincy team has developed mental health ministry training resources for all endorsed Southern Baptist chaplains. In 2016 and 2017, the NAMB Chaplaincy team developed and led six regional SBC Chaplain Training events entitled "The Intersection of Chaplaincy and Mental Health." Dr. Phil Conner, professor at

Gateway Theological Seminary, and Dr. Michael Langston, professor at Columbia International University (both retired military chaplains), led these events attended by more than 600 SBC endorsed chaplains and their spouses. The purpose of the training was to educate chaplains on the crisis of mental health facing our nation and to equip chaplains for mental health care ministry and training in their respective institutional and local church settings.

The above mental health training resources are available on the NAMB Chaplaincy website:

- Download the pdf: [https://www.namb.net/The-Intersection-of-Chaplain-Ministry-and-Mental-Health%20Notes%20RC%20NC\[1\].pdf](https://www.namb.net/The-Intersection-of-Chaplain-Ministry-and-Mental-Health%20Notes%20RC%20NC[1].pdf)
- <https://namb.wistia.com/projects/07krddfnbq>

Local churches should also consider using SBC chaplains for their mental health care ministry and training program.

- 7. Please give a brief description of Chaplain Ministry, and how this ministry assists the local church. Does NAMB make available to SBC churches resources and other assistance for those within the church or within the community who might be suffering with long term effects of war, domestic violence, and other issues routinely addressed through the Chaplain Ministry?**

The SBC Chaplaincy is a Gospel-centric, multi-disciplined, Spirit-empowered, professionally trained group of men and women sent out by their local SBC church to bring the transforming power of Jesus Christ into places that other members and church staff sometimes cannot go. Their ministry responsibilities require them to meet unique human needs demonstrated locally, nationally and globally, often within the context of a diverse, multi-faith setting.

Chaplains are pastors or laypeople with specialized ministry training to serve in institutional settings, such as correctional facilities, disaster relief, health care, hospice, military, public safety, corporate and community service. They share the Gospel, encourage Christians in their relationship with Jesus Christ and offer words of comfort and hope to those suffering physical, emotional, mental, relational or spiritual trauma.

Chaplains operate at the cutting edge where ministry and social structures intersect. They commit themselves to being available to those who are suffering, alienated and confused. They struggle with those who have perplexing questions about suffering, death and the meaning of life. Chaplains offer prayers, guidance and resources that lead toward spiritual renewal and reconciliation with God. In so doing, they are part of the professional team within the institution. The duality of serving both the church and institution is key to understanding the challenges and opportunities for this specialized ministry.

The NAMB Chaplaincy team provides periodic training on post-traumatic stress to endorsed Southern Baptist chaplains, local churches and denominational agencies and entities. This training is essential for military chaplains who frequently provide training and pastoral care to combat veterans and their families. Additionally, the Chaplaincy team has initiated collaborative relationships with various mental health-care

providers, institutions and faith-based organizations in order to provide a comprehensive post-traumatic stress ministry strategy to Southern Baptists and their families who work in institutional settings.

The Chaplaincy team is in the process of revising a Bible-based resource that offers spiritual solutions for struggles with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. It can be found at the following NAMB Chaplaincy website (the link below downloads a pdf):

- https://www.namb.net/Resources/Biblical_Response_to_Post_Traumatic_Stress_Disorder.pdf

Local churches should consider using SBC chaplains for assistance in their development of post-traumatic stress ministry training and pastoral care. Chaplains are encouraged to engage their local churches, bringing their training and experience to help meet the needs of the local body of believers in various ways.

NAMB Specific Questions

- 8. Please give a brief report about NAMB's ministry assignment for assisting SBC churches in the area of church planting.**

NAMB believes Jesus gave the assignment of church planting to the Church. With that in mind, NAMB does everything it can to assist Southern Baptist churches with that mission. To help churches develop leaders who may one day become church planters, NAMB offers the Church Planting Pipeline. This process allows churches to discover and develop potential church planters right in their churches. Once a candidate completes the assessment process, they enter into the development pathway.

Many of NAMB endorsed missionaries across the United States and Canada are deployed to assist SBC churches and those they send in the task of church planting. These personnel are invaluable to the work and success of plants.

Send City missionaries (SCMs) work to ensure that strategies for reaching the lost and congregationalizing them into new churches is taking place in the 32 Send Cities. SCMs assist in the discovery and development of individuals for planting, and they work with churches that desire to come alongside these new congregations. The SCM also ensures that the Send Network support systems (training, coaching, and care) are functioning well in each city so that the planters/plants have every opportunity to be healthy.

Church Planting Catalysts (CPCs) work alongside the SCMs in Send Cities but are also in areas outside of the Send Cities. CPCs work with local churches to help discover and develop future planters. They are also instrumental in helping potential planters navigate through application, assessment and endorsement. Once a planter is endorsed, the CPC walks with them through the journey of planting, often acting as a mentor/guide for the new church plant.

NAMB hosted 34 Catch the Vision (CTV32) Tours during the 2017 calendar year with 794 total participants representing 469 churches. Each of these events were designed to function as a supporting church training experience and to enlist partnering churches in support of NAMB's Send City strategy. Pastor and other church leaders were introduced to active church planters in the Send Cities and learned both how to best practices for being a supporting church for SBC church planters, as well as exploring outreach,

evangelism and ministry strategies used by church planters. In many cases, the participants realized that their own churches should adopt similar outreach, evangelism and ministry strategies in their communities back home.

9. What is the current church planting collaboration between NAMB and State Conventions?

Communication and collaboration is essential between NAMB and the state conventions to effectively and efficiently fight to penetrate lostness in North America.

NAMB's president meets with state executives at their annual meeting in February each year. He also meets with the South state executives annually. Smaller meetings take place throughout the year and he meets with any state executive upon request. From time to time, he will pull small groups of state executives together to discuss strategies.

NAMB's regional vice presidents (RVPs) maintain ongoing relationships, budgets, cooperative agreements and general convention situations. The RVPs also have an ongoing communications process which includes personal on-site visits with our convention partners as well as quarterly phone calls or web meetings. Collaborative strategy is always a topic of discussion throughout these points of contact. Additionally, one of the RVPs also works with the SBC associational directors of missions.

With conventions outside the south, there is constant communication/collaboration between NAMB regional mobilizers and convention church planting leadership (SDOM/ Church Planting Leader). This communication includes strategy discussions, personnel decisions (evaluation/hiring of CPCs), funding of plants, assessment of potential planters and other needs.

One recent example of collaboration is the development of a church planting pilot project which was designed and implemented with a group of these convention partners from the Northeast Region, Canada Region, and other SDOMs/executive directors. The pilot is to help address the consistency of those declared "ready to plant" through assessments and the amount of funding provided across different convention lines. Other conventions that are learning of the pilot have also expressed interest in participating.

South conventions use as much or as little as NAMB has to offer in church planting assessments. Many of them now use NAMB's process. There are at least annual updates with them from NAMB concerning Send Network adjustments, as NAMB learns best practices.

10. Please provide a progress report on the Church Planting Catalyst (CPC) initiative across the SBC.

The Church Planting Catalyst (CPC) has been a NAMB missionary category for many years, especially in the conventions outside the South region. The majority of CPCs are full-time staff with responsibility for a specific geography or people. Over the course of the last two years, we have undertaken a different approach in partnership with some convention partners when there is a vacancy in one of these positions: to utilize funding for multiple individuals which expands the reach. These individuals are deemed by the partner convention and NAMB personnel to have the best church planting

catalytic skills. This allows the convention to cover more ground for the same financial investment and use their best church plant multipliers to further the work. We refer to these personnel as church-based CPCs.

Of the roughly 125 CPCs, 100 are full-time and 25 are church-based. While their duties are the same, the expectation of number of plants each year is different. Currently, full-time CPCs are expected to assist in the planting of at least four churches each year. For church-based CPCs, that number is less. All new CPCs go through an orientation time, and regional training events are provided each year for all CPCs to attend.

Overall, NAMB, under the president's leadership, has a seven-year track record of the work of CPCs in all conventions. As a result, NAMB is evaluating the number of CPCs in each convention. In some cases, church planting goals have not been consistently met, while others have exceeded expectations. In each case, NAMB is exploring alternative methods of CPC strategies as referenced above and the number allocated to a convention.

11. How do church revitalization efforts, church re-plant(s) efforts, and new church plants “intersect” within the context of NAMB’s ministry assignments? What does this look like for 2018?

Replanting intersects within the context of two specific ministry assignments given to NAMB, namely:

- 1. Assisting churches in planting healthy, multiplying, evangelistic Southern Baptist churches in the United States and Canada.**
- 2. Assisting churches in the ministries of evangelism and making disciples.**

Ministry Assignment #1: Assisting churches in planting healthy, multiplying, evangelistic Southern Baptist churches in the United States and Canada.

By reducing the death rate of churches, the number of healthy, multiplying and evangelistic churches in North America is increased. The Replant team is working to greatly reduce the ratio of churches planted to churches closed which in turn increases the net number of healthy churches across the United States and Canada.

This is being accomplished in the following ways:

- Training and equipping of DOMs, state convention partners and CPCs in the principles and processes of replanting, as well as the identification and assessment of potential replanters.
- Equipping replanters through local and national training events to lead congregations to health and vitality.
- Production of movement-specific resources that include articles, training manuals, blog posts (www.churchreplanters.com), podcasts and books.
- Strategic consultations in partnership with local associational and state convention personnel.

Ministry Assignment #2 Assisting churches in the ministries of evangelism and making disciples.

By reducing the death rate of churches and by seeing churches replanted, the number of baptisms and disciples made through those churches that would have otherwise died is increased. The reduction of churches that have died, combined with the churches that have been replanted, represents churches that are back on mission. There is reinvigoration of churches that have grown cold by reigniting them with a vision of their role in proclaiming the gospel to their communities and the practical instruction necessary to achieve this end.

More information concerning revitalization in the answer to question #20.

12. Are NAMB's church planting strategies and church revitalization strategies surmounting the perennial attrition rates commonly experienced in the SBC?

By just looking at the numbers - yes.

- On average, for the last 6 years, 1,097 congregations have been removed from the Annual Church Profile on an annual basis.
- LifeWay's "State Convention and SBC Statistics" annual reports show that the number of SBC churches has continued to increase slightly in each of the last 6 years.

2016 - 47,272
2015 - 46,793
2014 - 46,499
2013 - 46,125
2012 - 46,034
2011 - 45,764

- Also, the number of total congregations (churches plus church type missions) as reported on the Annual Church Profile has shown an increase over the 6 years (from 50,948 in 2011 to 51,736 in 2017).

To continue to see improvement in this area, NAMB understands the need for a two-fold battlefront. Send Network works in partnership with churches and conventions with a goal to see 1,200 new, healthy, multiplying SBC churches planted each year. Additionally, the Replant team is focusing on identifying at-risk congregations and assisting in revitalization and replanting efforts.

13. Since 2010, what is the survival rate for new church plants in years, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017?

Prior to 2010, Southern Baptist partners reported new church starts to NAMB in number only. However, beginning in 2010, our partners began reporting specific new church starts to NAMB (i.e., SBC ID, church name, location, planter's name). This new method of reporting has assisted greatly in tracking the plants, including attrition and other data using the Southern Baptist Directory Services (now SBC Workspace) as a part of the Annual Church Profile (ACP) process.

It is important to note that along with NAMB’s new emphasis to plant more churches outside the South and in and around large cities comes an increased number of challenges including high costs, a challenging spiritual climate and small numbers of indigenous church planters. These factors and more contribute significantly to survivability rates.

The following charts show the current survival rate for each year’s “plant class” since 2010. (The class of 2017 will not be available until February 2018). Please note: These charts include congregations assigned individual SBC ID numbers and *do not* include reported multi-site or multi-campus churches.

U.S. Plants

- Overall - 81.28% of all plants reported since 2010 were still active in the 2016 ACP Report
- On average:
 - 96.9% of reported plants have survived one year
 - 93.3% of reported plants have survived two years
 - 87.6% of reported plants have survived three years
 - 81.2% of reported plants have survived four years
 - 75.5% of reported plants have survived five years

<u>U.S. Reported Plants</u>			
	Reported	In 2016	Still
	by Partners	ACP	Active
2010 Plant Class	921	600	65.15%
2011 Plant Class	938	690	73.56%
2012 Plant Class	903	664	73.53%
2013 Plant Class	886	745	84.09%
2014 Plant Class	958	842	87.89%
2015 Plant Class	879	829	94.31%
2016 Plant Class	707	663	93.78%
	6192	5033	81.28%

Canadian Plants

- Because Canadian National Baptist Convention (CNBC) churches are not part of the ACP process, Canadian church plants are tracked separately. The CNBC works with NAMB staff in tracking plants in Canada.

Class Year	Plants Reported	Not Active 12/2017	Still Active 12/2017	Survivability Percentage
2011	32	4	28	87.50%
2012	19	2	17	89.47%
2013	33	6	27	81.82%
2014	24	3	21	87.50%
2015	36	0	36	100.00%
2016	19	0	19	100.00%
2017*	28	0	28	100.00%
Totals	191	15	176	92.15%
* Additional plants expected by year end 2017				

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14. Please provide a brief description of NAMB's Send Network and Send Relief initiatives. Please give examples of how Send Network and Send Relief are accomplishing NAMB's stated goals and ministry assignments. Please give an update on NAMB's mobile medical and dental units.

Send Network

Send Network provides a planter pathway that creates accountability and preparation for a planter. A potential planter works through a pre-assessment tool, then moves to an assessment retreat. After the retreat experience, if he is deemed ready to plant, he is then provided with orientation, training, coaching and care for the first 5 years of the plant.

To secure more potential planters, NAMB has launched the Church Planting Pipeline to be utilized in churches to discover, develop and deploy church planters and team members. In addition, NAMB has partnered with Billy Graham Center for Evangelism to develop Send Institute, a "think tank" that will house the best practices NAMB uses in church planting and share those practices with like-minded evangelicals who are also planting churches. Read more about Send Institute in the Baptist Press [article](#) from April 27, 2017.

To support the corporate goal of 1,200 churches being planted each year, in 2017, Send Network oversaw the implementation of 33 two-day church planter assessment events, with a total of 197 church planting candidates assessed. These two-day retreats served both the sending church and the candidates by providing insights, growth development plans and reports in determining a potential planter's readiness for planting. In addition to the assessments, 156 coaches were equipped in 18 cities in one-day coach training events and 21 coach developers from 18 cities were equipped at two-day champion retreats. Twenty of the Send Cities hosted 34 cohorts for planters in 2017. Overall there were 74 cohorts, with 266 planters trained. Send Network also hosted 16 Train the Trainer retreats, training 104 trainers.

Other initiatives include the Network Planter Care team providing over 32,000 personal touches to planters on the field. These personal touches include everything from handwritten notes, phone calls, and text messages to gifts sent on special days and planter gatherings in various cities.

Continuing to gain traction this past year are Collegiate Church Planting (CCP) and Military Church Planting. The goal of CCP is to plant in the largest 400 residential college campuses in North America. Military church planting has an intentional strategy of training and developing military personal in planting churches as they are deployed to different bases.

In 2017, Send Network worked with Exponential Conference leadership in leading a series of workshops at their conferences. Through this initiative we have had continued conversations in regard to understanding, defining and leading out in creating a movement of multiplying churches.

Send Relief

Send Relief provides pathways for churches to engage their communities more holistically by meeting human needs through ministries focusing on refugees and internationals, poverty, adoption and foster care, human trafficking, and disaster response. Additionally, Send Relief materials, resources, volunteer opportunities and labs have the goal of evangelism in all aspects of ministry. Send Relief is active in seeing missionaries be deployed in the various areas of compassion and mercy ministries and is developing metrics and empirical goals for these missionaries to create an environment of accountability and integrity.

Send Relief has numerous national opportunities for SBC churches to engage, participate and be trained for mercy and compassion ministry. These opportunities include but are not limited to National Pilot Projects, GenSend summer, semester, and fall/spring break mission experiences, Disaster Relief responses, Appalachian Regional Ministries and training labs. Additionally, in 2017, Send Relief opened three ministry hubs which provide year-round mission experiences and training opportunities for SBC churches:

- Clarkston, Ga.: Refugee and Internationals
- Appalachia (Ashland, Ky.): Poverty
- New Orleans, La.: Human Trafficking

During 2017, Send Relief's initiatives resulted in:

- 40 podcasts released to educate and inspire (posting 16,000 downloads).
- Engaged more than 2,000 volunteers in the Meals for a Million event in St. Louis, Mo., in June.
- Formalized ministry partnership with Arise2Read literacy ministry out of Memphis, Tenn.
- Engaged 3,445 Event-Based Volunteers in disaster response.
- Testing ideas before spending significant money in launching a product design or release for the Send Relief Web App. This app will allow churches to manage volunteers and ministry opportunity process and is expected to release in pilot cities in 2018.
- Developed a ministry assessment process which will support volunteer ministry opportunities within the Send Relief Web App, and the ministries will become a resource for churches that are looking for compassion ministries in their area with which to serve or learn from.

Our Send Relief medical units were operational for their second year in 2017. In total, our medical and dental units served in 10 locations for a total of 45 ministry days. Units were on mission in the following states: Alabama, Missouri, South Dakota, Ohio, Illinois, Mississippi, Virginia. Several events were cancelled or delayed due to hurricane responses this year and the added logistics required to service all of locations. In 2018, the medical units will return to the majority of the 10 locations served this year. Additionally, Kentucky has booked out the months of March and April for events and we have eight new event locations. We are seeing a significant trend in utilization growing rapidly as national Send Relief awareness takes place and as Send Relief ministry hub strategy creates new opportunities for these units to be deployed through SBC church community engagement. The dental unit is in highest demand, and we anticipate the need for a second unit to be acquired in 2018.

15. **Please give a brief update on NAMB's Send City initiative. Please indicate how SBC churches are partnering with new church plants in the Send Cities or otherwise supporting this initiative.**

The Send City approach is not an initiative but rather strategic direction for church planting in North America. The strategy is seeing success as strong efforts continue in 32 Send Cities to see more churches planted.

While we partner with many churches and conventions, our partnership with Florida Baptists has increased this past year with the widening of focus for Send Miami to encompass South Florida, thus the new identifier of Send South Florida is now used. Florida has designated its state missions offering to go toward funding efforts in South Florida.

In each of our Send Cities, we are seeing progress in implementing the planter pathway elements, from church planter orientation through church planter care. Supporting and sending churches are coming alongside planters to provide needed resources to enable them to be healthy and multiplying.

One way we nurture the supporting and sending church pool is to host Catch the Vision (CTV) Tours in the cities. In 2017, NAMB hosted 34 CTV32 opportunities with 794 total participants representing 469 churches. Each of these events were designed to function as a supporting church training experience and to enlist partnering churches in support of NAMB's Send City strategy. Pastors and other church leaders were introduced to active church planters in the Send Cities and learned best practices for being supporting churches for SBC church planters, as well as exploring outreach, evangelism and ministry strategies used by church planters. In many cases, the participants realized that their own churches should adopt similar outreach, evangelism and ministry strategies in their communities back home.

There are currently 1,243 churches that are involved as an official "sending church" for a plant or multiple plants. Additionally, there are currently 3,822 SBC churches that are involved in a "supporting church" role. 796 of these supporting churches have thus far only committed to "Pray for Planters," which is the first step in engagement.

- 16. What is NAMB's strategy for partnering with various church planting networks across North America? What criteria does NAMB have in place to determine viability for its partnership(s) with non-Southern Baptist church planting networks? Please explain and give examples.**

NAMB only funds and helps plant Southern Baptist churches. NAMB doesn't partner with other church planting networks. Some Southern Baptist church plants might choose to partner with networks in addition to NAMB, but we do not encourage those additional partnerships. In fact, in recent years, we have scaled back the benefits we provide for church plants that choose to partner with others in addition to NAMB.

In 2017, we partnered with the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill., to form the Send Institute. Through the Send Institute we have "white labeled" many of our church planting resources and made them available to like-minded evangelical denominations for the sake of the larger Kingdom. These resources are distributed at no cost to NAMB.

- 17. Please give a brief report on how NAMB is fulfilling its ministry assignment for evangelism.**

The NAMB Evangelism team consistently adds to the *Your Church on Mission* Blog, found at <https://www.namb.net/your-church-on-mission-blog>, to provide practical, strategic training to pastors to help them lead their churches on mission. *Your Church on Mission* podcast has also been developed as a resource to pastors.

NAMB continues to promote the *3 Circles Life Conversation Guide*, available in both English and Spanish. The *3 Circles Pastor's Kit* was launched and a *Live This* evangelism kit is now available. A third evangelism kit is being created.

NAMB started the Gospel Conversation (GC) Challenge to encourage pastors and their congregations to have more gospel conversations. The website <https://gcchallenge.com> has more information, as does the article in *SBC Life* (<http://www.sbclife.net/Articles/2017/11/SLA3>). NAMB has provided six Engage 24 Evangelism Workshops to date. Almost 100 pastors attended each event. These workshops provided hands-on, practical training by some of the most evangelistic pastors in the SBC.

In 2017, the Evangelism Response Center (ERC), which equips and mobilizes Southern Baptists to offer prayer and spiritual counseling via telephone or online chat with people all over North America, utilized user-friendly technology that incorporates texting. The system also allowed us to engage lost people through social media to drive them to chat and text platforms, through which the gospel was shared. People can connect with the ERC by calling 1 888 JESUS-20 or by visiting www.findithere.com.

18. In the coming year, please give an update on how NAMB will assist churches in the area of evangelism and contextual disciple making.

Please see question 17 for more specific info.

NAMB will continue hosting Engage 24 workshops, utilizing the Evangelism Response Center, promoting *3 Circles*, distributing *Live This* evangelism box and the 3 Circles Pastor Kits, and continue to add new resources to the *Your Church on Mission* blog and podcast. In addition, we will continue to promote the GC Challenge initiative and web site. Our [apologetics resources](#) help believers learn more about cults and other religions so they can more effectively share the truth with their adherents.

In 2018, NAMB will provide more than \$3 million to state convention partners to be used for evangelistic initiatives.

NAMB, in partnership with LifeWay Christian Resources, appointed a disciple-making task force in 2016 that will recommend ways churches can improve their disciple-making process and share “best practices” churches are already using. This task force will report its findings and recommendations to the 2018 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Dallas.

19. What must Southern Baptist do, in the coming months and years, to offset the rapid decline in SBC baptisms?

According to the 2016 ACP:

- 29% of reporting churches reported zero baptisms

- 48% of reporting churches reported two or fewer baptisms
- 67.3% of reporting churches reported five or fewer baptisms
- In the last year the typical SBC church:
 - Dropped from 66 to 65 in worship
 - Dropped from 41 to 40 in Sunday School
 - Remained at 3 Baptisms per year

NAMB is addressing the problem by:

- Providing tools, such as *3 Circles*, *Live This*, and several other resources to call Southern Baptists back to personal evangelism and equip pastors to train their members how to effectively share the gospel.
- Providing resources to pastors through *Your Church on Mission* blog and podcast to equip pastors in the leadership and strategic skills necessary to lead their church to be on mission.
- Offering Engage 24 Workshops around the nation to provide pastor-to-pastor training and equipping.
- Providing apologetics resources (see www.namb.net/apologetics) to equip pastors and laity to share and defend the gospel.
- Initiated in 2017 with culmination in June 2018, the GC (Gospel Conversation) Challenge, a partnership promotion by NAMB, LifeWay, Evangelism Renewal, and state conventions, challenges pastors and laypeople to have intentional gospel conversations. In addition to making a commitment pledge, people can record videos about their gospel conversation experiences and upload them to encourage and inspire others. The website for the GC Challenge is GCChallenge.com.

Helping Southern Baptists plant evangelistic churches that have attendee-to-baptism ratios that are, on average, 74 percent better than in established churches.

- 20. Under the banner of church revitalization, please provide a progress report of NAMB's efforts to assist SBC churches which have reached a plateau or find themselves in decline? What is NAMB doing to support churches at risk across the SBC? Please explain.**

The Replant team at NAMB views the state convention and local association partners as being best equipped and situated to assist churches in traditional revitalization efforts. The Replant team helps with those efforts by providing funding that state conventions can use in their replanting efforts. In the South, state conventions can use annual grant money from NAMB to assist with these efforts. In non-South states, a portion of the annual budget NAMB provides can be used for church revitalization.

Most state conventions are developing plans to serve these churches by addressing issues that encourage church health and leadership training. NAMB is seeking to come

alongside state conventions to create an environment of sharing ideas, best practices and networks.

NAMB becomes more directly involved when a church reaches the end of its life cycle and is about to close its doors. Based upon an assessment of the church's situation, the Replant team can then become part of the process and help plant a new church out of the dying congregation. If, as a part of that process, a new congregation is birthed with a new SBC identification number, then that church is counted as a church plant.

The Replant team has identified this year 135 churches engaged in a replant process. These are churches that would have very likely faced death had they not engaged in a replant process.

Plateaued or Declining Churches:

During 2017, NAMB provided revitalization events with Richard Blackaby, held at five local churches across the country including California, Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. In addition to these events, the third Replant Lab was hosted in Alpharetta, Ga., and the National Replant Gathering was hosted at the SBC Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Ariz. Through these and other events, the Replant team is connecting and equipping more than 1,000 pastors each year. In addition to these successful opportunities, the Replant team:

- Prepared an updated edition of the replant journal to assist leaders in replanting/ revitalizing their churches. This is a free download at both the Replant [blog](#) and the [NAMB website](#).
- An [Associational Replanting Guide](#) was developed, released and made available as an e-book on [namb.net/replant](#) and via [churchreplanters.com](#)
- Another replant gathering is scheduled to take place prior to the SBC Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas.
- A replant lab and first-ever DOM Training Lab will be held in Alpharetta, Ga., in 2018. There is already a full roster (250+) registered for this Lab.
- The Replant team will continue to partner with state conventions and offer multiple revitalization conferences in partnership with Blackaby Ministries.
- The Replant team has developed, in partnership with Thom Rainer and LifeWay, a new podcast that debuted in the top 100 in religion category on iTunes called "Revitalize and Replant."
- Webinars with prominent replanters allow for extensive question and answer sessions for pastors and other attendees.
- A new [Replant Collective](#) equipping email was developed to share valuable best practices. There are 238 pastors, DOMs and associational leaders who have subscribed to this email.

- The Replant team visited dozens of local associations and has been able to reach another 1,000+ pastors, DOMs, and state leaders.

At Risk Churches:

- NAMB urges “at risk” churches to enter a self-evaluation process and offers coaching and pathways to understand the process of replanting. We developed an assessment/training event for pastors who are considering leading at risk churches through a replanting process to guide this process. Two of these assessments were held in 2017 in Denver, Colo., and Kansas City, Mo. In 2018, assessment and training events are being held for men seeking to replant churches. These will take place in Vancouver, B.C., and Alpharetta, Ga. Replant uses the same assessment process as Send Network with a few minor differences related to interviews and activities during a replant assessment. Assessors are experienced church replanters/revitalizers. Activities are directed more toward strategies for replanting an existing church rather than establishing a church plant. The general process of a replant assessment schedule can be viewed here: [Denver Assessment](#)
- The at-risk, self-evaluation process is comprised of a list of questions (found at [Replant Your Church](#)) that are indicators that a church is in deep decline and therefore significant trouble. In addition to responding to the questions, churches can work through replanting consideration in a variety of ways:
 1. [The Replant Brochure](#) - made available at events where the Replant team has opportunity to attend and mailed to any denominational official (state/local association) CPCs, Send City missionary, and others upon request.
 2. [Churchreplanters.com](#) - this blog has the church self-assessment available online in a simple survey form for anyone to take. Email addresses are collected and follow-up is done through email and personal contact.
 3. [Church Self Evaluation Cards \(online\)](#) - online self-evaluation cards have been developed to disseminate this classification to missions personnel such as SDOMs and state leaders.
 4. The Replant team has identified and promoted the following options/pathways for struggling churches to consider as they determine their future, and the team has equipped congregations considering coming alongside struggling churches to understand the ways they may potentially engage such struggling churches.

Replant Pathways - After the self-evaluation process, if the at-risk church decides to work with the NAMB revitalization/replant staff, there are five pathways that are considered.

- **Merger** - The dying church merges with a stronger existing church or healthy church plant and becomes a new church. Members are enfolded into the new congregation.
- **Gifting/Giving Facilities** - The struggling church gifts or gives their facilities to a healthy and growing church plant. The church plant works to reach the community through the legacy gift of the building and presence in the community.
- **Sharing Facilities** - The existing struggling church shares its facilities with a church or several churches, be it a new church plant or ethnic congregations/plants that represent the local context.

- **Replant Level 1** - The church makes the courageous decision to become a new church with new governance, initial outside leadership and an assessed and NAMB-approved replanter.
- **Replant Level 2** - The church agrees to make intentional and incremental changes to regain vitality in its local context and calls a new pastor who has and continues to receive equipping and coaching from local (state/association) and or NAMB leaders in the field of replanting.

21. How does NAMB fulfill the ministry assignment for assisting churches in the area of leadership development? How does NAMB provide leadership development for church planters and new churches?

NAMB's Send Network requires every endorsed church planter to attend a three-day orientation at NAMB in Alpharetta, Ga., during which we develop them around the network's core values of brotherhood, multiplication and kingdom. The orientation also includes information about the Cooperative Program and the basics of Southern Baptist life. For this experience, NAMB covers all the planter's expenses.

In addition, Send Network provides a vibrant web presence that further equips planters with blogs, E-books, podcasts and videos. The content focuses on the themes of personhood of the planter, Send Network values (noted above), and equipping church planters, planter spouses and sending churches.

The Send Network also provides cohort-based training for every NAMB endorsed planter. This six-month training covers 12 competencies needed to plant a healthy multiplying church. The network also provides a peer-to-peer coaching relationship for two years in the life of the church plant to further develop a planter to accomplish God's calling on their life.

We are in the process of creating five Send Network Gatherings throughout North America to further encourage, train and coach our planters during years 2-5 of planting. These gatherings will be led by church planting practitioners from our five regions and provide ample opportunities for networking and development.

Promoting leadership development among our ethnically diverse church leaders is also important to NAMB. In 2017, NAMB trained 16 Hispanic church planter coaches from across the United States. Of these, 12 have already trained 22 Hispanic church planting coaches in their regions and are also coaching 53 Hispanic church planters. We cast vision to, motivated and trained approximately 180 Hispanic pastors and more than 500 Hispanic church leaders in church planting. We also trained approximately 60 Hispanic pastors in the importance and best practices of disciple making and provided copies of the *3 Circles Life Conversation Guide (Spanish)* to 120 Hispanic churches and provided basic discipleship materials to 49 Spanish-speaking churches. We connected 12 Hispanic church planters to the field. We have two planter training centers and are in the process of establishing five assessment centers across the United States.

NAMB staff also led three church planting conferences for those planting among Muslim people groups in Alaska, Indiana and Georgia and led seven Ethnic Pastors/Planters Gatherings, which included Pakistanis, Middle Easterners, Indians, Burmese, Nepalese and Ethiopians. In addition, 12 planters, representing Middle Eastern, South Asians, West African, and Burmese, were deployed to plant in Send Cities and other places in North America.

NAMB hosted several Sending Labs in 2017, which equipped pastors and other church leaders with the essentials they need for effectively planting a new church and mentoring their church planters.

22. Please provide a report on disaster relief as it relates to devastating disasters within the US and the US territories, Fall, 2017.

Relief groups across the nation and countless veterans of 20+ years in disaster relief work report that the disasters of 2017 were of epic proportions and have never been experienced to this level in so many different geographic regions in such a short period of time. It pushed the entire network of disaster relief agencies to the point of exhaustion. NAMB president Kevin Ezell was invited to the White House where President Trump recognized the big three disaster relief groups: American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.

Send Relief experienced an overwhelming volume of requests from churches across the nation to send volunteers to help in the responses as “Spontaneous Untrained Volunteers” (SUV) or “Event Based Volunteers” (EBV). As a result, Send Relief responded by setting up three response sites in Houston, Texas; one in Immokalee, Fla.; and three in Puerto Rico. Leaders were recruited and a volunteer management system was implemented which facilitated 2,748 registered volunteers and 697 walk-up volunteers for a total of 3,445 volunteers being able to serve people and share the gospel.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Reports: Hurricane Harvey engaged 33 SBDR conventions at 66 sites for more than 97 days. Hurricane Irma engaged 18 SBDR conventions at 19 sites for over 64 days. Response efforts continue in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands at the time of this report.

Additional statistics that represent response efforts:

<https://www.namb.net/news/baptist-volunteers-en-route-to-puerto-rico-as-new-storm-aims-at-gulf>

<https://www.namb.net/news/baptist-efforts-move-forward-in-puerto-rico-as-florida-texas-work-persists>

23. What has proven to be NAMB’s most reliable metric indicating future accomplishments of, or challenges to NAMB across all of its ministry assignments? Why is that metric the one NAMB believes is most important to watch relative to NAMB ministry assignments?

NAMB exists to connect churches with their next mission opportunity because churches that begin engaging in mission activity (at even the slightest level) have shown to continue growing in their involvement.

- Churches engaged in mission activity are more outward focused and will be more evangelistic.
- Churches engaged in mission activity naturally raise up and train more volunteers, leaders, planters and missionaries.
- Churches engaged in mission activity will see and understand more about the needs of people and they will support mission endeavors financially (e.g., Cooperative Program, mission giving, plants, mission trips).

Therefore, the one key metric for NAMB is Church Engagement.

In 2010, it was estimated that less than 4% of all SBC churches were involved in Church Planting in any way. Today that number is more than 10%.

- There are currently 1,243 churches that are involved as an official “sending church” for a plant or multiple plants.
- Additionally, there are currently 3,822 SBC churches that are involved in a “supporting church” role. 796 of these supporting churches have thus far only committed to “Pray for Planters,” which is the first step in engagement.

A continued and consistent increase in Church Engagement will be crucial to NAMB maximizing its efforts in fulfilling its ministry assignments. More information about NAMB’s strategy to assist churches to connect to their next mission opportunity can be found at <https://www.namb.net/video/church-engagement-pathway>.