



Smyrna Baptist Association

March 2024

A Word from your Associational Missions Strategist

Throughout my ministry, I have worked in different roles in churches of varied sizes, served on the Georgia Baptist Mission Board staff, and am now called to be an Associational Missions Strategist or, as some call this role, the "area missionary." This journey has given me a unique perspective on how Southern Baptists unite to take the gospel to our neighbors and the nations. Furthermore, I have encountered a lack of understanding as to how we are organized and function as a denomination. Here are some points that might help you understand our denominational work.

The Southern Baptist Convention has its offices in Nashville, TN. Still, the headquarters is the local church, as it sends messengers to an annual business meeting, which takes place at various locations around the country. The convention was formed in 1845 in Augusta, GA. It has several agencies that help support the local church's mission. There are two mission organizations: the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board. We have the world's largest missionary-sending agencies taking the gospel to the nations. There are six seminaries to help prepare our pastors and others. We own a publishing house, Lifeway, that provides resources for our churches. The Ethics and Religious Liberties Commission represents our interests in Washington, D.C.. It makes us more aware of how to better relate to our ever-changing culture with a never-changing gospel. Guidestone is an entity that provides retirement and health insurance opportunities for our pastors and denominational leaders. The Southern Baptist Convention has an Executive Committee and, within that, an Administration Committee, which oversees the day-to-day operations of the convention.

The Georgia Baptist Convention mirrors our Southern Baptist Convention with an Executive Committee and Administration Committee. It was formed in 1822 prior to the SBC's existence. It holds an annual business meeting. Its agencies include three colleges and universities; BCM's located on college campuses; Disaster Relief; NextGen Ministry; Discipleship; Evangelism; Pastor Wellness; Music and Worship; and Baptist Women; and others. It has consultants and leaders representing these ministries throughout the state with the central office located north of Atlanta. It helps our churches by providing events, resources, and consulting to assist them with their mission.

The Smyrna Baptist Association was formed in 1875. It has an executive committee that meets twice a year in a business session. It does not have a local office, as the Associational Mission Strategist works from his home. There is a stewardship team that works with the association's mission strategist to deal with the day-to-day operations of the association. There is a Church Strengthening Team, which focuses on church health, and a Great Commission Team, which concentrates on helping churches reach people with the gospel. It offers various training opportunities and resources and assists churches directly with their mission. It further helps to connect churches and pastors locally to better the Kingdom's work.

All of these organizations of our convention work to support the local church to help it succeed in its mission as recorded in 1 Cor. 3:5-9. According to the passage, we are God's coworkers who support the local church in fulfilling the Great Commission. In 1925, Southern Baptists created the Cooperative Program. It is a funding mechanism formed to take the gospel to the lost. It funds our mission efforts and our supporting agencies on a national and state level. The local association is not financed by the Cooperative Program but through donations from local churches.

Every church has problems and issues on multiple levels, and any one member could see a reason not to be a part of the church. Yet, as believers, we are called to wisely deal with differences through prayer and God's Word and stay unified for the spread of the gospel. In the same way, individuals or churches might disagree with certain aspects of the operations of the organizations within the Southern Baptist Convention, but we stay committed to working cooperatively to obey the Great Commission. Working together for our shared goals far outweighs the problems and issues that we might have. It is a good thing to work together.



great commission



Baptist Collegiate Ministries

Meals from Churches

March 5th - Reedy Branch

March 12th - NO BCM

March 19th - Denton

March 26th - Burkett

If your church would like to provide a meal to help reach college students, contact Kim Knight at 912-381-4191 or davidandkim07@yahoo.com

Please have the food at the college no earlier than 11:45 AM. The meeting starts at 12:15 PM.

BCM Night of Worship

Gracepointe Church, Douglas

March 25th

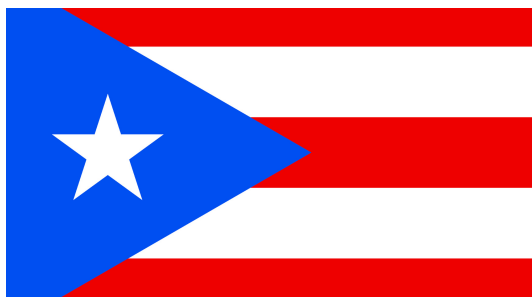
6:30 Meal

7:00 Worship



Northside Baptist Tifton
March 10 & 11, 2024

Register [Here](#)



Puerto Rico Mission Trip

New Date!

October 19-25, 2024

More Information is Coming!





church strengthening



Children's Summer Ministry Training

March 16th at FBC Douglas

9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Two Morning Sessions

Leading a Child to Christ / Safety and Security / Are they Learning what I am Teaching / Pastor's Role in Summer Ministry

The afternoon session is Lifeway VBS Training with age Group Breakouts

Please Sign up by March 8th so we can prepare
Lunch Provided

Register [HERE](#)



SPRING TRAINING



Morningside Baptist in Douglas

April 25th

This training event will provide opportunities for leaders to learn and grow in their specific areas of ministry.

Topics to Include

- Deacon Ministry
- Audio Visual Training
- Children's Leaders
- Student Leaders
- Adult Sunday School Training
- Social Media Training
- First Impressions
- Ministry to Women





Spring Executive Committee Meeting

Northside Baptist, Douglas
April 11th at 6:00 PM

Meal Provided

Pastor or Staff Designate and one
Layperson
Guests Welcome

Register [HERE](#)

SBA Team Meetings



Church Strengthening
March 25th @ 2 PM



Great Commission
March 25th @ 6:00 PM



Stewardship
March 26th @ 5:00 PM



**We are thankful for these
churches who gave to
the mission of our Association
in January.**

Alma, First · Bethel · Big Creek · Broxton
Burkett · Carver · Central · College Avenue ·
DeBerry · Douglas Chapel Eastside ·
Douglas, First · New Harmony Grove ·
Morningside · Mt. Pleasant · Mt. Zion · New
Hope · Nicholls · Northside · Pearson, First ·
Pridgen · Providence · Reedy Branch ·
Saginaw · Sand Hill · St. Illa · Stokesville · Unity
· West Green · Willacoochee · Westwood ·
GracePointe · New City Church

Pray for these Churches Without Pastors

Providence Baptist Church
Westwood Baptist Church
La Primera Iglesia
Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
Nicholls Baptist Church
Big Creek Baptist Church



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