

who we are

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship



We are a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches who share a passion for the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice.

Our Vision Being the presence of Christ in the world

Our Mission Serving Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission

Our Core Values

BAPTIST PRINCIPLES Soul Freedom — We believe in the priesthood of all believers. We affirm the freedom and responsibility of every person to relate directly to God without the imposition of creed or the control of clergy or government.

Bible Freedom — We believe in the authority of Scripture. We believe the Bible, under the Lordship of Christ, is central to the life of the individual and the church. We affirm the freedom and right of every Christian to interpret and apply scripture under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Church Freedom — We believe in the autonomy of every local church. We believe Baptist churches are free, under the Lordship of Christ, to determine their membership and leadership, to order their worship and work, to ordain whomever they perceive as gifted for ministry, and to participate as they deem appropriate in the larger Body of Christ.

Religious Freedom — We believe in freedom of religion, freedom for religion, and freedom from religion. We support the separation of church and state.

BIBLICALLY-BASED GLOBAL MISSIONS

All of us are called to be co-laborers in the task of fulfilling our Lord's Great Commission. We believe the Bible teaches that ...

- God is the one triune God, Creator of all people in God's own image.
- All people are separated from God by sin.
- Christ is the Savior and Redeemer for all peoples.
- The Holy Spirit convicts and converts all who believe in Christ, teaches the church in the voice of the Living Christ, and empowers the church and all believers for the mission of Christ in the world.
- Christ calls us to minister redemptively to the spiritual, physical, and social needs of individuals and communities.
- Every believer and every church is responsible for sharing the Gospel with all people.
- We want to enable believers and churches to work cooperatively with other Great Commission Christians to activate this global missions calling in their communities and throughout the world.

RESOURCE MODEL

We are committed to discovering and providing resources that will empower churches to fulfill their mission in their particular contexts and will equip individuals to fulfill their calling under the Lordship of Christ. We prefer to cooperate in mutually beneficial ways with other organizations rather than to establish, own, and control our own institutions.



JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

We are committed to a biblical vision of justice and mercy. We believe the call of Christ extends to every area and relationship of life.

LIFELONG LEARNING AND MINISTRY

We believe in lifelong learning for laity and clergy for the ministry of the church. We are committed to Baptist theological education that affords intellectual and spiritual freedom to both students and professors in an atmosphere of reverence for biblical authority and respect for open inquiry and responsible scholarship.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

We will organize, make decisions and carry out our mission in ways that earn trust. United in our mission and our shared commitments, we will celebrate God's gift of diversity among the individuals and churches of the Fellowship.

EFFECTIVENESS

We will organize in ways that encourage flexibility, responsiveness and accountability. We will monitor our processes and organizational structures in light of our stated mission.



Our Strategic Initiatives

FAITH FORMATION — Encouraging all persons in their journeys toward Christ-likeness by identifying and responding to the critical needs of congregations in the following areas:

Evangelism and outreach: Biblically wholesome and effective evangelism and outreach.

Spiritual growth: In areas such as corporate worship, spiritual disciplines, Bible study, Christian ethics, spiritual gifts, and discipleship.

BUILDING COMMUNITY — Nurturing authentic community within and beyond congregations by identifying and responding to critical needs in the following areas:

Congregational health: Developing and sustaining healthy congregations.

Baptist identity and relationships: Understanding and embracing Baptist values that have shaped our identity and to engage in meaningful Baptist partnerships and dialogue.

Reconciliation and justice: Bringing wholeness to relationships within and beyond congregations through acts of reconciliation and justice.

Marriage and family ministries: Developing healthy individuals, marriages, and families.

Ecumenical and interfaith dialogue: Meaningful ecumenical partnerships and interfaith dialogue.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT — Developing effective Christian leaders by identifying and responding to critical needs of congregations in the following areas:

Congregational leadership development: Developing effective leaders among both laity and clergy.

Theological education: Building a strong foundation of theological education for church leaders.

Collegiate ministry: Effective collegiate ministry, including nurture and development of future leaders for churches and the larger CBF community.

Chaplains and pastoral counselors: Ministry in specialized settings and endorsement of chaplains and pastoral counselors.

GLOBAL MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES — Engaging in holistic missions and ministries in a world without borders by identifying and responding to the critical needs of congregations in the following areas:

Partnership missions with local churches: Engaging in effective missions and ministries in their communities and around the world.

Most neglected peoples: Establishing an effective Christian witness among the world's unevangelized and marginalized peoples.

Church planting: Assisting at the start of churches via research, recruitment, fundraising, training, and counsel.

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