

How is First Baptist Structured?

As we have already seen, God is very much interested in church unity. There are four things that help unite us as a church:

1. Our Salvation
2. Our Statements
3. Our Strategy
4. Our _____

In the Bible, the church of Corinth had a real problem with unity. First Corinthians 3:1-6 gives a good feel for the problems that were in that church. The church there seemed to have an “everybody do your own thing” attitude. The result was chaos even in their Sunday worship! Paul reminds the church in 1 Corinthians 14:33 that “God is not the author of chaos.” Part of the solution for the Corinthian church was for the leaders to provide structure—1 Corinthians 14:40 says, *Let all things be done decently and in order.*

The _____ of the Church Determines its Structure

- The church is a _____ –Acts 2:42, Ephesians 4:2-3, Romans 14:19
Voting on trivial things tends to divide so our church elects committees and directors to handle various decisions and details of ministry
 - A *committee* is a group of people committed to a specific task assigned to them by the church
 - A *director* is a person who gives direction to specific area of ministry as assigned by the church
 - A director can appoint a *council* to assist him or her with the ministry the church has assigned
 - Our *constitution* is designed to help us carry out our business as a church in an orderly fashion
- The church is a _____ –1 Peter 3:8, 1 Timothy 5:1-2
 - As a family, we protect each others’ reputation
 - As a family, we are careful how we confront
 - As a family we strive to provide an atmosphere of love and acceptance
- The church is a _____ –1 Corinthians 12:26-27
 - As a body, a sinning member effects the entire church
 - As a body, a hurting member is the concern of the entire church

- As a body, a rejoicing member is cause for the entire church to rejoice
- As a body, every member has an important function in ministry we are all have a ministry *SHAPE*
 - S-Spiritual Gift You have a spiritual gift (Romans 12:4-6; 1 Peter 4:10)
 - H-Heart You have burden or desire for a certain age group or ministry
 - A-Ability God has giving you certain abilities that can be used by Him
 - P-Personality You have certain personality traits
 - E-Experiences Your experiences in life equip you in a unique way

Some of the ministries of our church

<p><u>Worshiping God</u></p> <p>Music Artwork Drama Usher Greeting Ministry Prayer Ministry</p>	<p><u>Building Believers</u></p> <p>Bible Teaching Committees Age-Graded Ministries Maintenance Fellowships/Kitchen Nursery/Children</p>	<p><u>Sharing Christ</u></p> <p>CARE SS Outreach Social Ministries Breadbasket/Clothesline Revivals/Special Events Servant Evangelism</p>
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- The church is a _____ –Matthew 26:31, 25:33, John 10:1-30
 - As a flock, we are cared for and led by a pastor
 - Three Greek terms describe the work of the pastor—*poimen* means shepherd, *presbuteros* means elder, and *episcopos* means overseer—1 Peter 5:1-2
 - Our Associate Pastor and our Deacons assist our pastor in caring for the flock
 - Our Pastor is accountable to the people—1 Timothy 5:17-20

How is First Baptist Affiliated?

As a local church, we see the need to be affiliated with other churches and Christian organizations that help us in our worldwide mission. Notice in Acts 1:8 the four levels of responsibility the early church was given in the scope of their mission work:

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- Our *Jerusalem* is South Lebanon and surrounding communities
- Our *Judea* would take in the several counties that surround us
- Our *Samaria* would be represented by people who are overlooked by others as outcasts or misfits, other people groups and races in our own community, or perhaps even people from other parts of our state or other states
- Our *end of the earth* would be the peoples of other nations and cultures

As a Local Church we see the _____ to be affiliated with Like-Minded Church Bodies to help us _____ the Great Commission

- Our church is affiliated with the Cincinnati Area Baptist _____
 - There are about 100 churches in our Association
 - Our Association covers the Greater Cincinnati area including eight counties
 - 2 ½ % of our offerings go to support our Association's ministry to start and strengthen churches in this area

- Our church is affiliated with the _____ Convention of Baptists in Ohio

- There are over 700 Southern Baptist churches in Ohio
- Our State Convention has State resource teams in the areas of church administration, church planting, Bible teaching/leadership, evangelism, and women's ministry
- We financially support the work of our State Convention through Cooperative Program mission giving and the Ray Roberts Offering for State Missions



- Our church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist _____

- The SBC is the largest association of Christian churches in America—about one in every 10 churches
- The SBC is the most diverse association of churches representing over 80 language groups and include every race, nationality and ethnic group
- It is one of the fastest growing groups baptizing an average of over 1000 new Christians and starting about five new churches a day



- Why not just be an independent _____?

- Every SBC church is completely independent
- We choose to voluntarily cooperate together to help us accomplish more for God's kingdom
- There is no denominational control or hierarchy—each church is self-governing, chooses its own pastor, determines its own affairs, owns its own buildings and determines its own programs

- What are the _____ being affiliated?

- It identifies us as a Bible-believing congregation with no man-made creeds
- It allows us to be part of the largest and most effective missionary organization in the world, supporting around 8000 missionaries in over 100 countries—currently 10% of our budget offering goes to CP Missions
- It allows us to draw upon resources and personnel to help strengthen our church



2013-2014 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget

This allocation budget represents anticipated gifts forwarded to the SBC.

\$191,500,000

73.20%

World Missions Ministries
International Mission Board (50.41%)
North American Mission Board (22.79%)

22.16%

Theological Education Ministries
Seminaries (21.92%)
Library and Archives (.24%)

2.99%

SBC Operating Budget

1.65%

Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty Ministries
Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission



Cooperative Program—The Heart of Southern Baptist Missions and Ministries