

SBTC New Church Plant Covenant Overview

1. Relationships

- Sponsoring Church must be in good standing with the SBTC, contribute regularly to the Cooperative Program, affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, and actively support the new plant.
- The new church is accountable to and under the supervision of the sponsoring church.
- The sponsor must be dually affiliated with the SBTC.
- The new church must be exclusively affiliated with the SBTC and indicate this in its founding documents and website.
- SBTC support is available only through a covenant relationship and includes prayer, consulting, training, and communication of needs.
- This covenant respects Baptist polity; SBTC does not control church affairs.

2. Ministry Responsibilities

- New church manages ministry activities and keeps partners informed.
- Submit quarterly ministry and statistic reports to all partners.
- Consult with the covenant team before incurring any debt.
- Submit the Annual Church Profile (ACP).
- Planter must attend orientation within 12 months and an SBTC Info Meeting by year two.
- Encourage participation in SBTC events (e.g., Empower, Annual Meeting, Equip).
- Leadership team meets at least annually.
- Sponsor church oversees financial accountability.
- Planter should engage in approved coaching; SBTC may fund up to 48 months.

3. Missional Giving

- Give at least 6% to the SBTC Cooperative Program.
- Set aside 2% for a church planting fund.
- Give 2% to local associational missions.
- Give monthly (preferred) or at least quarterly.
- Goal: 10% of total budget toward missions.

4. Doctrinal Alignment

- Churches must affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as stated in SBTC Constitution Article III.

5. Termination of Support

- Support may be ended due to moral failure or violation of covenant guidelines.

6. Code of Conduct for Funded Planters

- Reflect Christ and SBTC with integrity.
- Abstain from alcohol and illegal drugs.
- Avoid pornography.
- Maintain financial integrity.
- Be cautious in private interactions with the opposite sex.

New Church Plant Covenant

The undersigned parties enter into a covenant relationship, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, forming a leadership team to help develop and support a new autonomous church. All agree that the final authority and responsibility for the actions and activities of this new congregation rests with that congregation and the primary sponsor church. Any party may withdraw from participation in this covenant at any time for any reason.

All parties to this covenant affirm that they are in agreement with the New Church Plant Covenant Guidelines of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC). The SBTC will determine the length and amount of its financial support. The grant of assistance by the SBTC is conditioned by the terms of this covenant. The terms of this covenant do not represent any right or any exercise of control by the SBTC over any of the other parties to this covenant.

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Representative

Signature

Date

Name (Printed)

Sending Church Representative

Signature

Date

Name (Printed)

Church Name (Printed)

Church Plant

Signature

Date

Name (Printed)

Church Name (Printed)

Associational or Network

Signature

Date

Name (Printed)

Association or Network Name (Printed)