



**BAPTIST WOMEN
IN MINISTRY**

IF YOUR CHURCH WISHES TO BE REMOVED FROM SBC LISTINGS

Because Baptist churches are autonomous, each congregation determines its own relationships with denominational bodies. If your church has decided that it no longer wishes to be identified as a Southern Baptist church, consider the following steps:

1. Take Official Church Action

- a. Southern Baptist churches voluntarily cooperate with the SBC. Likewise, churches may determine for themselves whether they wish to continue that relationship. Each congregation should follow its own bylaws and decision-making processes when considering affiliation with any denominational body.
- b. Before taking any action, investigate your church's processes and policies for affiliation and thoughtfully strategize how to approach the matter with the congregation and its leadership. Then, carefully navigate the process of having your congregation approve a motion or resolution stating that the church no longer wishes to be represented as a cooperating Southern Baptist church. You can find an example resolution [here](#).
- c. Be sure to record the action in your church's official minutes.
- d. During this process, also consider state convention and local association affiliations. In most cases, these affiliations are not directly connected to your church's affiliation with the SBC so would need to be considered separately in any official church action. Know that in most cases your church can be affiliated with your local association and/or state convention while not being affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

2. Notify the SBC Executive Committee

- a. Send a letter or email requesting that your church no longer be listed as a cooperating Southern Baptist church and be removed from SBC church directories. Include:
 - i. Church name and address
 - ii. Contact information
 - iii. Date of church action
 - iv. A copy of the resolution or meeting minutes (if desired)

- b. Here is the appropriate contact information to send your letter:

SBC Executive Committee

ATTN: Jonathan Howe, Vice President for Convention Administration

901 Commerce Street

Nashville, TN 37203-3699

615-782-8645

jhowe@sbc.net

Copy any email communication to Kristen Johnson, Administrative Assistant:

kjohnson@sbc.net

3. **Confirm Removal**

Within the next few days, check the [SBC Church Directory](#) to ensure that your church is no longer listed. If 2 weeks pass and your church still appears on the directory, reach back out to the contact listed above.