



Protecting Yourself

In light of the constitutional amendment being proposed to the SBC for the 4th year in a row, increased attention is placed on women ministering and pastoring among Baptists. In the last few weeks, BWIM has found churches and women being targeted online through social media and various websites. Anytime we find one of these lists or any mention of a church or woman in “violation” of the SBC’s stance on women in ministry, we reach out to that church and woman to make them aware. However, we cannot find every post that might be made.

So if you are a woman pastoring or ministering in an SBC church, here are some recommendations we have for you to protect yourself. If you are a woman pastoring or ministering in a Baptist church outside of the SBC, you still may be targeted since many don’t know the difference between Baptist groups, and the majority of Baptists are SBC.

- Set up Google Alerts for yourself and your church.
 - You can find instructions to set up Google Alerts [HERE](#).
- Make all of your social media private for the next few weeks.
 - You can find instructions on how to make your social media accounts private [HERE](#).
- Check your bio on your church/organization’s website and make sure to remove any personally identifiable information and information about your children.
- Consider if additional awareness or security needs to be implemented at your church.
 - While this may seem excessive, in the past, we have received reports of people showing up at churches to harass them during seasons surrounding the SBC Annual Meeting To think more about these issues, watch our recent webinar with Rev. Dr. Jay Kieve, [Securing the Pulpit Against Ideological Violence](#).
- If you find a video or post with you or your church being identified as a target for the SBC, report the post to the platform as harassment to try to get it taken down. Most social media apps have easy ways to report posts that are on each individual post.
- Preemptively prepare to navigate conversations about this with your church.
 - Find out what your church’s exact affiliations are, whether or not affiliation with the SBC is in your church’s by-laws, who would make the decision to adjust relationships, etc. Having this information readily available will help should discussions need to occur.
 - Consider how your congregation would react to receiving notification that it is under investigation for disfellowship from the SBC.

- Reach out to other women who have navigated these conversations in their churches to reflect on how to prepare yourself to be the subject of conflictual discussions and attention.