

Introduction to 2019 Ministry Report

In order to carry out the provisions of SBC Constitution, Bylaw 18E, 12, *"To utilize an appropriate report format which will enable the Executive Committee to obtain from the entities adequate and comparable information about ministry plans, accomplishments, and financial data"*, the Executive Committee, SBC, presents this thorough and complete **2019 Ministry Report**.

The **2019 Ministry Report** is the compilation of each entity's updated reports, responses to questions, and other related reports, and is presented in four separate groupings. These groupings are: **President's Letter, Ministry Goals and Accomplishments, Ministry Inquiries, and Financial Statements** (excluding Seminaries). Seminaries include **Seminary Formula** tables and **ATS Reports**. Along with full and complete responses in each of these groupings, attachments and supporting documents may be included or attached.

The purpose of this Ministry Report is to assist the Executive Committee in planning, evaluating and implementing a Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, which will be presented as an Executive Committee recommendation, in consideration for adoption, each year at the SBC annual meeting.

Also, in this Introduction to the **2019 Ministry Report** there is a listing of Cooperative Program "highlights" or actions for 2018:

Cooperative Program

For the second year in a row, Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptists approved the largest increase among all state Baptist conventions in the portion of Cooperative Program receipts sent beyond the state next year. The new split of 65 percent for in-state missions and ministry and 35 percent for the work of Southern Baptist entities will deliver an anticipated \$192,500 beyond the two states for international and domestic missions, six Southern Baptist seminaries, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and the Executive Committee of the SBC.

Joining Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptists with increases in the percentage given to SBC causes are the state Baptist conventions in Arizona and Dakotas (both up 2 percent) and Pennsylvania-South Jersey (up 1.5 percent). Another 14 states raised the SBC portion 1 percent or less.

As one of the states boosting the portion sent to the SBC, Barry Whitworth, executive director of the Baptist Resource Network of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, said, "This marks the largest CP giving year in the 48 years of our convention." With approval of a move from a 27.5/72.5 to 29/71 percent split, Whitworth encouraged churches to do more, adding, "... God-willing, I'd love for us to hit the 30 percent mark before our 50th year celebration" in 2019.

Four state Baptist conventions reduced the percentage given to SBC missions and ministry, including Alaska (-13.54 percent), Northwest (-7.2 percent), Indiana (-5.11 percent) and Wyoming (-0.46 percent).* Nine of the 41 state conventions (and fellowships) continue the practice of prioritizing "shared ministries" said to benefit both the state convention and SBC entities. Those budgeted items are taken off the top before computing the percentage of remaining receipts divided up between the state and SBC causes, and vary from 0.94 percent in Maryland/Delaware to 20.28 percent in Wyoming.

Six state conventions continue to lead the pack, forwarding to the SBC half or more of the undesignated Cooperative Program receipts received from churches without a "shared ministry"

calculation. Those are the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (55/45), Florida (51/49), and Alabama, Iowa, Nevada and Ohio all at a 50/50 split.

With 18 states increasing their CP percentage to the SBC, 17 making no change and only five decreasing that portion, the amount projected to be sent to the SBC is \$193,500,000 according to William Townes, vice president for convention finance at the SBC Executive Committee.

Southern Baptists in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands also forward a percentage of their Cooperative Program receipts to the SBC for the SBC allocation budget.

The actual dollar amount of a state convention's allocation fluctuates annually depending on how well cooperating churches in the state are able to fund their respective budgets.

Baptist Press
December 21, 2018

The **2019 Ministry Report** will be distributed to each Executive Committee member, each SBC entity leader, each state Baptist convention Executive Director Treasurer (EDT), editor(s) of *Baptist Press* and all the state convention Baptist papers. Also, in an effort to increase visibility and awareness for all SBC entities, among all Southern Baptists, the **2019 Ministry Report** will be posted online at www.SBC.net.

Also, along with a formal response from each entity President, in the form of a President's letter, you will find the President's response in a video format.