



2016 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2013 – 2014, Dr Frank Page, in collaboration with state convention executive directors, appointed a 15 member Cooperative Program Advisory Council. This group was comprised of state convention executive directors, SBC entity representatives and pastors. The purpose of this group was to develop a comprehensive and unified strategy to promote the entire Cooperative Program over a ten year period of time, leading up to the 100th anniversary of the Cooperative Program (1925 – 2025). This group met together 6 times over the two year period. At the end of its process, the CP Advisory Council produced a strategic framework document which listed, Major Objectives, Strategic Initiatives and Action Steps, for each level of SBC life, in order to effectively advance the Cooperative Program. A fundamental belief of this advisory council is expressed in this statement, “It is our belief and conviction that everyone and every entity which receives funding and benefit from the Cooperative Program, shares an equal responsibility to advance the Cooperative Program.” To that end, the Executive Committee has undertaken to accomplish the major objectives and executes to this day, against the strategic framework document.
- At the annual meeting in Columbus, June 2015, Dr. Page launched a 10 year multi-faceted, multi-tiered emphasis called Great Commission Advance (GCA). This emphasis has several moving parts beginning with cooperative missions and cooperative funding, i.e. growing and advancing Southern Baptist’s primary and fundamental method for fueling missions - the Cooperative Program. The GCA emphasis, over a 10 year period of time, will also address long held Southern Baptist core values of :
 - Evangelism
 - Stewardship
 - Prayer and Spiritual Formations

A GCA will only happen when every Southern Baptist and every Southern Baptist church sees the world around them as lost and desperate without Christ, and gets a vision for “being on mission” – every one of us – every day – everywhere – standing upon the gospel – on mission for God!

- In collaboration with convention president, Ronnie Floyd, we conducted two Family Conference calls with over 400 pastors this past October. The pastors on these two conference calls were pastors who are well vested in the SBC, and all of them representing strong mission minded churches and strong supporters of the Cooperative Program. They were encouraged in their partnership in the gospel.

- Over 4,422 SBC churches took the 1% Challenge in 2014 by increasing their Cooperative Program gifts by 1% or more of their undesignated receipts. 536 of those churches took the 1% Challenge for two consecutive years. Dr. Page sent personal thank you letters to all of them.
- Significant progress has been made in launching online giving on all state convention websites as well as sbc.net.
- The Average split of CP dollars between the state conventions and the national convention (SBC) has continued to move in the direction of more dollars coming to the national (SBC). In fact from last year to the coming year (projected), the split of CP dollars represents the greatest single year percentage move (1.5% more toward the national convention) since 1945 (a 2.2% move).

State and National Split of CP Dollars, Past 15 Years:

2001 – 65.3% / 34.7%

2013 – 62% / 38%

2016 (projected) – 60% / 40%

- A group of hand-picked students from our seminaries and several Baptist colleges have been invited to meet with Dr. Page during the upcoming Executive Committee Meeting(s), Feb 22-23. These students will have an opportunity to see how our convention works. They will be in committee meetings, plenary sessions, and will have the opportunity to hear directly from entity heads and seminary presidents, as well as ask questions. This particular gathering will be the beginnings of a Young Leader Network – a virtual gathering of seminary students, pastors, missionaries and church planters across the world.

Cooperative Program Stats from the latest ACP Data (2014):

1. The top 2,083 CP giving churches make up 50% of all CP funds received. They average a 7.6% giving level.
2. The top 8,701 CP giving churches make up 80% of all CP funds received. They average a 7.2% giving level.
3. Over the past 5 years, total receipts reported by Southern Baptist churches have dropped 6.3% (from \$11.9 Billion in 2009 to \$11.2 Billion in 2014).
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Over the past 5 years, national CP has declined by 6.8% (\$194 Million to \$180 Million).
Total CP has declined by 8% (\$520,355,537 to \$478,700,850)

4. Average church CP percentage giving has ticked slightly up and leveled off the past three years – 5.407% (2011) to 5.414% (2012) to 5.50% (2013) to 5.47% (2014).
5. 17,903 churches reported no CP gifts or did not report on ACP at all.
6. 2015 Empty Tomb Report shows a continued decline in giving to church finances as a percentage of income. The average gift has declined from 2.32% (2013) to 2.17% (2015). According to a Pew study, the gifts to a church as a percentage of income has dropped by 23% over a 50 year period.