

THE ASSOCIATION

Southern Baptists have 1,211 associations grouped following a city or county borders. There is no specific number of churches necessary to form an association. The association determines the qualifications for membership of new churches.

Associations make their own constitution and by-laws. As the churches, the associations and state conventions are autonomous bodies.

Generally the functions of the associations are as follows:

1. To promote fellowship among churches.
2. To assist churches in ways that will facilitate the enrichment and effectiveness of their programs.
3. To create the climate and support of the churches in all the missionary ventures of faith. Evangelism and missions are at the heart of these efforts, and they are the true bases for cooperation among the churches.
4. To promote training for the leaders of the churches
5. To challenge the churches to serve the community with innovative fulfilling real needs of the people.
6. Develop ministries in camps, helps for the needed, nursing homes, all of which would be the hands of the churches serving the community.

The association has regular meetings according to the constitution and also a general meeting annually to review the whole year of activities and the progress achieved toward reaching the strategic goals proposed for the year. Reports are heard from the officers and employees of the association. The budget is adopted for the next year, and new officers are elected.