

# THE STATE CONVENTION

Churches also cluster together in partnership in larger territory than the Association, generally by states and in accordance to the amount of members of all churches, but not always so. We have 40 of these conventions among Southern Baptists. In order to receive funds from the North American Mission Board some states come together so satisfy the required amount of membership.

It has been establish that to be recognized as a state convention the following criteria has to be met ahead of the organization as a convention:

1. Five year of cooperation with the Southern Baptist work.
2. Fulfilled one of the following: a. Eighty constituted churches with 12,000 members; b. Seventy churches with 13,500 members; c. Sixty churches with 15,000 members.
3. Give the 10% of undesignated gifts to the Cooperative Program.
4. At least 40% of the churches do not receive any help from the North American Mission Board.
5. Have the capability of assuming 10% of the budget for evangelism and missions within the territorial extension.
6. Sustain five years of fellowship of churches of the region, which is sponsor by the conventions with which they are affiliated.
7. To have a fund dedicated by the churches to initiate the function of the new convention enough to cover the costs for at least the first two months.

For representation of the new convention in the Southern Baptist bodies, the following are the qualifications:

1. With 15,000 members is possible to file for representation in the Executive Committee, Committee on Committees, and Committee on Nominations.
2. With 20,000 members is possible to file for representation on the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, and the LifeWay Christian Resources.

3. With 25,000 members is possible to file for representation on the Annuity Board, the commissions, and institutions.

The functions of the state conventions are:

1. Establish the strategy for evangelism and missions across de state.
2. Create institutions of benevolence like children homes, hospitals, homes for the aged, etc.
3. Education is a big priority of the state convention with the creation of Colleges and institutions of higher learning.
4. Develop leadership for all the organizations and programs for the churches.
5. Maintain informed the associations and churches on issues of common interest.
6. Inform and promote the participation in the annuities for pastors and other employees of the churches and institutions.

Each convention has its own constitution and by-laws to keep order in all its business. Annual meetings are scheduled and led by a moderator who is an elected official who is not salaried by the convention. Reports are heard and received by the messengers.