

Annual Meeting

11/17/25

Executive Board

02/18/25

Executive Committee

02/17/25

Item of Consideration: Recommendation for the Affirmation of BGCT's Current Practice in Regard to the Affiliation of Churches and their Respective Confessions of Faith

Highest Authority

For this item: Messengers at the 2025 Annual Meeting

Originating Source: Executive Leadership and Executive Committee

Background:

At the November 2024 Annual Meeting in Waco, a messenger presented a motion asking the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) to "affirm the *2000 Baptist Faith and Message* (BFM)." The motion was defeated. As a result, several supportive BGCT churches that affirm the 2000 BFM have reached out to Executive Leadership seeking clarification on several issues; mainly, are 2000 BFM churches welcome in the Texas Baptists family. While BGCT staff continue to encourage, serve, and support all churches in harmonious cooperation, a definitive statement is needed from messengers at the 2025 Annual Meeting to codify the convention's practice of welcoming churches that hold various Baptist confessions of faith.

While the BGCT Constitution and Bylaws do not offer any requirements for harmonious cooperation based on doctrinal beliefs, messengers to the convention have spoken over the years—albeit rarely—on confessions of faith and a few, clarifying doctrinal issues. In response, BGCT staff have compiled these actions into a list of bullet points related to affiliation. The following is stated on the txb.org website under "Join":

"A church desiring affiliation affirms:

- We are an autonomous Baptist church that makes its own decisions.
- We are identified as a body of believers separate from any church or churches who sponsor us.
- We regularly practice the ordinances of believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper.
- We will contribute to the BGCT in an identifiable way from our own resources.
- We will work in harmonious cooperation with the BGCT.

- We desire to affiliate with the BGCT.
- We hold to traditional Baptist beliefs as generally stated in either the *1963* or *2000 Baptist Faith and Message*, or similar confessional statement.

“To remain an active BGCT church in harmonious cooperation with the convention, a church should also affirm biblical sexuality.” (see [2016 BGCT Annual](#), pg. 65).

Recommendation: We recommend the continued practice of receiving into harmonious cooperation churches that affirm traditional Baptist beliefs as generally stated in either the *1963* or *2000 Baptist Faith and Message*, or similar Baptistic confessional statement.