



2026

SONGWRITING COMPETITION

Live Out
GC2

LOVE GOD

SUBMIT YOUR SONGS FOR THE 2026 TEXAS BAPTISTS SONGWRITING COMPETITION

We're excited to invite songwriters from across Texas Baptists (Baptist General Convention of Texas) to participate in our 2026 Songwriting Competition! This is an opportunity to bless churches throughout the state with biblically-rich, congregationally-friendly songs that help God's people sing the truth with clarity and joy. *The original song chosen from this competition will: (1) be featured at our upcoming Annual Meeting at the Waco Convention Center, November 15-17, (2) be available for our churches to download lead sheet music on the Texas Baptists (TXB) website, (3) be awarded a \$500 prize for this inaugural opportunity, (4) be featured on all TXB social media platforms in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.*

Whether your writing leans modern or traditional, reflective or celebratory, we can't wait to hear what God has placed on your heart!

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To keep this competition aligned with our mission and values, submissions must meet the following criteria:

- Songs must not be under a current publishing agreement.
- At least one writer on each submitted song must be a member of a Texas Baptists church.
- Works should be original compositions intended for congregational worship.

The winning songwriter(s) will be asked to sign an agreement granting TXB the royalty-free right to have the submission's lead sheet printed and available on the TXB website for use by TXB churches, as well as the right to perform the work at Texas Baptists 2026 Annual Meeting. The original songwriter(s) will retain full ownership of their work, will receive proper credit as the songwriter(s) and retain the right to record and release the work elsewhere and to any royalties associated therewith. If an agreement between the songwriter(s) and TXB is not reached, TXB reserves the right to proceed with the runner-up submission.

WHAT TO SUBMIT

Each song submission should include:

- One PDF and Word document lead sheet and chord chart containing full lyrics. Full piano or other instrument parts are certainly welcome!
- An MP3 recording of the song. (This can be a simple demo—recording quality will not be judged.)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

There is a \$25 entry fee for each song submitted, payable online.

- Multiple submissions are allowed, but each song must be submitted separately.
- Please submit one song at a time. Each contestant may enter up to three songs.

Each song submitted must be a new song that is currently unpublished by a label. It can be a new song that has not been released on streaming platforms, or it can be self-published/self-released on a CD or streaming platform.

Each entry will be submitted online and should include:

- Audio demo
- Sheet music with lyrics (any form of chord chart, lead sheet, four-part harmonization or full score of piano/vocal/melody/vocal harmony will be accepted).

We are looking for an original song that demonstrates:

- Theological soundness
- Congregational accessibility (singable melodies, clear phrasing, corporate worship suitability)
- A strong theme and message
- Thoughtful lyrical and melodic craftsmanship
- Well-shaped structure and flow

This year's Annual Meeting theme is **LOVE GOD** - loving God, loving people and making disciples. (The song does not have to have that theme, but we are providing this information.)

SUBMISSION WINDOW

Submissions are being accepted from May 15-July 15, 2026, for this songwriting competition.

We hope to offer more opportunities similar to this soon. Stay tuned!

We're excited to hear your songs as we seek to point hearts and voices toward Jesus in worship together!

REPRESENTATION OF OWNERSHIP

By submitting a song to the Texas Baptists Songwriting Competition, each submitting songwriter represents and warrants that the songwriter(s) are the sole and exclusive owner(s) of, or otherwise holds all necessary rights, title and interest in and to, the submission, including all musical composition, lyrics, sound recording and any other intellectual property embodied in or associated with the submission. Each submitting songwriter agrees to indemnify and hold harmless TXB from any claims, damages, losses or expenses arising out of any breach of the foregoing representations and warranties.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who may enter the 2026 TXB Songwriting Competition?

We welcome submissions from songwriters who are connected to a Texas Baptists congregation. At least one writer on each submitted song must be a member of a TXB church.

When will the song be featured/sung?

The song will be featured at the 2026 Texas Baptists Annual Meeting in Waco, at the Waco Convention Center, Nov. 15-17.

If my song is selected, will changes be made to it?

In some cases, the judges may recommend small edits or refinements. Any suggested changes will be discussed collaboratively with the songwriter(s).

If my song is selected, how will songwriting credit be handled?

The original songwriter(s) will retain full ownership of their work and will receive proper credit as the songwriter(s). This will be reflected in a written agreement between the songwriter(s) and TXB.

How are royalties handled?

The winning songwriter(s) will enter into an agreement with Texas Baptists, granting it the rights to share lead sheets on its TXB website. Any songwriting royalties will remain with the songwriter(s).

If my song is selected, may it still be recorded or released elsewhere?

Songwriter(s) remain free to record, release or authorize others to use the song in the future at their discretion. The signed agreement between the songwriter(s) and TXB will reflect this.

Are songs that involve the use of A.I. eligible?

We require that lyrics, melodies and core musical ideas be the original work of the songwriter(s) and not generated by A.I. Because songs are evaluated on lyrical and melodic content, the use of AI to create a demo recording is permitted, so long as the lyrics and melody themselves are original.

For further questions, please contact tom.tillman@txb.org