

Executive Board
02/24/26
Executive Committee
02/23/26

Item of Consideration: Recommendation for the creation of a BGCT Cooperative Program Task Force

Highest Authority For this item: Executive Board

Originating Source: Executive Leadership of the BGCT

Background:

The Cooperative Program (CP) is historically the primary funding mechanism of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) and, for Southern Baptist churches, the primary funding mechanism for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). For several decades, the general trend of CP giving in the BGCT has been one of decline. Since 2015, among BGCT-affiliated churches, CP contributions have decreased by an average of 2% annually (representing an annualized decline of \$500,000/year or \$5 million), with only one recorded exception. Furthermore, approximately half of all churches in the BGCT do not contribute regularly to the CP.

The objective of the BGCT Cooperative Program Task Force is to conduct a comprehensive study of Cooperative Program giving in Texas. This study will include, but not be limited to, an examination of how the CP is promoted, the allocation of its funds, the rationales underlying churches' decisions regarding participation, the factors contributing to the overall decline in contributions, and potential solutions that could be implemented to reverse the decline and establish a positive trajectory for CP giving.

Background Attachments: None

Recommendation:

We recommend the following persons be elected to serve on the BGCT Cooperative Program Task Force until such time that the Task Force completes their work by presenting their findings to the Executive Board, along with possible recommendations, or the Executive Board votes to disband them: Keith Warren (chair), Debbie Potter, Pete Pawelek, Delvin Atchison, Tim Eng,

Victor Castillo, Michael Gossett, Del Lopez, Maria Bridwell, and Dillard Fisher; BGCT staff liaisons include Joshua Minatrea and Ward Hayes.