



**1—Project Name:** Connected Conference

**2—If this grant is being requested on behalf of an external organization, what is that organization's name and connection with Texas Baptists?**

N/A

**3—Please request the minimum amount needed—with a maximum of \$20,000 possible—in order to accomplish the project's goals.**

\$20,000.00 (*budget attached*)

**4—Overview: Give a one paragraph description of the project.**

The Connected Conference helps churches connect with young adults, and helps young adults connect with Christ. It's a strategic gathering designed to bridge the gap between generations, foster authentic relationships, and equip churches with practical tools to engage young adults with relevance, purpose, and the Gospel.

**5—STRATEGIC: How will this project make Texas Baptists stronger?**

This conference will make Texas Baptists stronger by equipping church leaders across the state with strategic, practical tools to start, grow, and sustain effective young adult ministries—regardless of church size or family dynamic. Young adult ministry today includes a wide spectrum of life stages and family structures: single young adults, single parents, traditional families, and blended households. The Connected Conference acknowledges this diversity and offers tailored approaches to reach, disciple, and empower each group. When churches are equipped to intentionally disciple young adults, these individuals and families grow stronger spiritually and more connected to the local church. As a result, churches become healthier, more vibrant, and more future-focused—ultimately strengthening the collective mission and witness of Texas Baptists statewide.

**6—SIGNIFICANT: What is the anticipated long-term impact of this project?**

The anticipated long-term impact of this project is to help churches grow younger so they do not age out and die out. Many congregations are experiencing a generational gap that threatens their long-term sustainability. By equipping churches to effectively engage, disciple, and mobilize young adults, this project ensures that the next generation is not only present—but actively leading, serving, and shaping the future of the church. As young adults become spiritually mature and rooted in their local congregations, they bring new energy, fresh vision, and long-term commitment. This generational renewal will result in churches that are both

faithful to the Gospel and adaptable to a changing culture, securing the health and longevity of Texas Baptists for decades to come

### **7—SUSTAINABLE: How will the grant help this project become self-supporting?**

This grant will help the project become self-supporting by educating churches on how to effectively connect with and grow young adult ministries, and then strategically partnering them with churches that struggle in this area. By creating a network of churches that are both learning and leading, the project fosters a sustainable culture of collaboration and mentorship. As more churches are equipped and begin seeing growth in their young adult ministries, they will become active stakeholders in the ongoing success of the initiative—contributing through shared resources, leadership, and financial support. Over time, this will reduce the need for external funding and allow the project to be sustained through a growing community of churches committed to reaching and retaining young adults across Texas.

### **8—INNOVATIVE: How will this project break new ground?**

This project breaks new ground by intentionally targeting both pastors and young adults to partner together in reversing the drastic decline of young adult engagement in the local church. Instead of treating young adult ministry as a side effort or separate program, this initiative positions young adults as integral to the mission and future of the church. By fostering meaningful collaboration between church leadership and young adults, the project creates space for mutual learning, shared leadership, and intentional discipleship. It shifts the paradigm from trying to “attract” young adults to empowering and including them in shaping church life and culture. This relational and strategic partnership model is a fresh, forward-thinking approach that addresses the generational gap and offers a sustainable pathway to church revitalization and growth.

### **9—INVOLVING: How will the churches served by Texas Baptists be included in this project?**

Churches served by Texas Baptists will be actively included through practical training, resources, and relationship-building. This project will provide churches with tools and techniques on how to effectively reach young adults, disciple them in their faith, and integrate them into meaningful leadership roles within the church. By equipping church leaders to understand the unique needs and strengths of young adults, this initiative helps create ministry environments where young adults are not just welcomed but engaged, empowered, and entrusted with responsibility. Additionally, the conference will foster collaboration between churches—creating a statewide network of support, shared ideas, and collective momentum toward a stronger, younger, and more vibrant Texas Baptist community.

**How many churches will be involved?** 125

### **10—INTERESTING: How will this project produce helpful stories and encourage donor engagement for future ministry support?**

The Connected Conference will generate powerful, real-life stories of transformation as churches begin to implement the strategies learned at the conference. One of the most compelling narratives will come from churches that previously had a majority of senior adults and, through intentional outreach and discipleship, begin to grow younger and become vibrant, multi-generational communities. These success stories will be captured through video testimonials, written features, and social media highlights that showcase measurable growth and renewed energy in churches across Texas. As donors see the tangible impact—churches revitalized, young adults engaged, and leadership pipelines strengthened—they will be more inspired to invest in a movement that is clearly shaping the future of the church.

**11—Has this project received previous TBMF grants? If YES, list years and amounts.**

Yes \$20,000

**12—Is this request for an ongoing project with a new name? If YES, what was the former name of the project?**

N/A

Food	4,000
Worship Team	4,000
Speakers	2,000
Travel	2,000
Host Location	2,000
Production Team	6,000
SWAG (Give Away)	2,000
Total	22,000

# Connected Budget