

GCR Evaluation Task Force Recommendations - June 2024

Recommendations:

1. We recommend and move that the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Indianapolis on June 11-12, 2024 request that State Conventions and Lifeway Christian Resources cease using the category of, and any language related to “Great Commission Giving” while continuing to retain the language from Article III, Number 3 regarding gifts “through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the Convention’s Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any Convention entity” in an effort to reaffirm the Cooperative Program as the primary method of giving for Southern Baptist Churches.
2. We recommend and move that the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Indianapolis on June 11-12, 2024 request that State Conventions and Lifeway Christian Resources restructure and simplify the ACP in an effort to effect more participation from churches, limiting the SBC requested information to a total number of 6 categories and 2 questions. The information requested would include the following:
 - a) Total Church Membership
 - b) Total Number of Baptisms
 - c) Average Worship Attendance
 - d) Average Sunday School / Small Group Attendance
 - e) Total Undesignated Receipts
 - f) Total Designated Receipts
 - 1) Does your congregation employ a screening process for staff and volunteers interacting with children and students (e.g. background checks, references, personal interviews)?
 - 2) Currently, does your congregation train staff and volunteers working with children and students to recognize and report instances of sexual abuse?
3. We recommend and move that the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Indianapolis on June 11-12, 2024 request that the North American Mission Board conduct an annual survey of the status of churches planted, revitalized, or otherwise assisted using CP funds 10 years out from their launch, specifically to include data regarding: 1) the % of churches which are still in existence, and 2) the % of churches still connected to the SBC in CP giving & ACP reporting, and include that information each year in its report to the messengers at the annual meeting and publish this data in the Book of Reports.
4. We recommend and move that the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Indianapolis on June 11-12, 2024 strongly request the Executive Committee to increase the CP Allocation Percentage designated to the IMB to 51% beginning with the 2026-27 budgeted year. This will bring the International Mission Board and Executive Committee CP allocation budget percentages into alignment with the vote of the messengers at the 2010 Annual Meeting. This will finally correct the Executive Committee’s lack of responsiveness to the will of the messengers.
5. We recommend and move that the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Indianapolis on June 11-12, 2024 request that the Council of Seminary Presidents

direct the staff of the Historical Library and Archives, under the supervision of the Director and Archivist, to begin the process of indexing the audio recordings of the original GCR compact disc collection (titled AR 913) for publication on June 16th, 2025 so that interested parties may have navigable access from the first day of public access.

6. We recommend and move that the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Indianapolis on June 11-12, 2024 request that the Executive Committee consider and propose changes in the appropriate governing documents to be brought to the 2025 Annual Meeting for consideration in order to require entities, institutions, committees, or commissions of the Convention to report on the action they have taken on messenger approved recommendations coming from special work groups or task forces. We encourage that these reports be included in the Book of Reports. We would suggest something similar to the following:

26. Procedures, 1. Method of Procedure for Entities. 4. "All recommendations adopted by the messengers to the annual meeting that are made by special committees approved by messengers of previous conventions, the referred entity, institution, committee, or commission shall take action on those recommendations and a report on that action shall be submitted by the appropriate entity, institution, committee, or commission to the Executive Committee within two years of adoption by the messengers. This report shall be included in the Book of Reports and a part of the entity's report from the platform at the subsequent Annual Meeting."

Words of Encouragement:

Each SBC entity is governed by its trustees, and it is beyond the scope of this task force and the bounds of SBC polity for us to direct an entity or churches. In this section we wish to offer suggestions for areas of direction and focus that emerged from our study.

We encourage NAMB to continue to expand their evangelistic cooperative efforts by collaborating with state convention evangelism leaders and associational mission strategists, utilizing existing material, and creating new resources to address the changing needs of local churches in their pursuit of the Great Commission. Additionally, NAMB should keep working to build healthy relationships among pastors, associations, and churches of all locations and sizes, and provide clear feedback avenues to their leadership to increase transparency in the use of church planting funds. By nearly all testimonies NAMB was a dysfunctional entity in 2010. We would like to thank NAMB for effectively addressing organizational challenges and promptly implementing decisions made by the messengers regarding their two related components from the 2010 Annual Meeting.

We encourage the Executive Committee to focus their efforts on advancing and elevating the Cooperative Program as our best and most effective means of cooperating together through shared stewardship for our part of the advancement of the Kingdom of God, particularly in light of the 100th anniversary of the Cooperative Program in 2025.

We encourage cooperating churches of the SBC to commit to complete the ACP each year to help our Convention of churches more accurately track patterns and important trends.

We encourage cooperating churches of the SBC to keep their focus on the Great Commission and encourage them to continue the hard work of cooperating together to take the gospel to the ends of earth and teaching believers to observe all that Christ commanded which will result in established churches being strengthened and new churches being planted.