



Gospel

Change

Community

Mission

Paramount Church

MEANINGFUL MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Four Steps to Church Membership

1. Complete the Meaningful Membership Class
2. Join A Community Group
3. Meet with A Pastor
4. Presentation As A New Member on Sunday Morning

Part 1: Gospel

- Who's Who in Paramount Leadership
- Statements of Faith
 - Abstract of Principles (1858) / Baptist Faith & Message 2000
 - The Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood
- Commitment to Expositional/Exegetical Preaching
- Christ-exalting, Content-driven Worship
- Five Year Ministry Strategy Plan



Part 2: Change

- Commitment to Progressive Sanctification
- Biblical Counseling Ministry
- Ministries for Discipleship and Growth
 - Adult Discipleship
 - Paramount Students
 - Paramount Kids
 - Paramount Ladies
 - Paramount Men
 - Others



Part 3: Community

- The Local Church in Scripture
- Five Reasons to Join a Healthy Church
- Community Group Life
 - Life Together Under the Word
 - Mutual Ministry of the Word / One-anothering
 - Training Process for Community Group Leaders
- Meaningful Membership Commitments
- Using Our Gifts in the Church
- Membership Covenant
 - Associate Membership (some students, missionaries, etc.)
- Eldership Covenant



Part 4: Mission

- Great Commission Baptist Convention
 - History, Identity, and Entities
 - State Convention of Baptists in Ohio
 - Metro Columbus Baptist Association
- Paramount's Vision for Planting Churches in Ohio and Beyond
- Our Global Focus



Part 1: Gospel

CELEBRATING THE GOSPEL FOR THE PLEASURE OF GOD AND THE GOOD OF OUR NEIGHBORS.

Who's Who in Paramount Leadership



RUSH WITT
Lead Pastor

Rush and his wife Kathryn have five children: Hannah ('04), Sophie ('06), Josiah ('08), Ezra ('13), and Ella Grace ('15). They enjoy the Bexley pool in the summer, the snow in the winter, and at other times fishing from a tiny boat. Kathryn spends time homeschooling the kids and serving at Paramount.

Rush is a Fellow with ACBC, and the author of *Diehard Sins* (P&R, 2018), *Planted in Truth* (P&R, 2019), and *Escapism* (NGP, 2022).



KEVIN KING
Pastor for Administration and Families

Kevin is a father of four. Kevin moved to Columbus, Ohio from Jacksonville, Florida where he was Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church (South Campus) from 2010-2013. Before that he was on staff as the Young Couples / Median Adult Pastor at First Baptist Church from 2001-2010. Kevin enjoys hunting and playing golf in his spare time. Kevin has a Biblical Counseling Certificate through CCEF and over 20 years of ministry experience.

Who's Who in Paramount Leadership



ISAAC BARTON

Pastor of Discipleship and Missions

Isaac and his wife Holly have three wonderful girls, Rebekah ('08), Moriah ('10), and Elise ('12). They enjoy movies, music, parks, and spending time with friends. Holly is a full-time nurse and homemaker. Isaac has a B.A. in Humanities from The College at Southwestern and an M.Div. from Southern Seminary. He also works as a Supportive Services Manager for *Volunteers of America*. You can find him with a cup of coffee and a book in hand most days.

What We Believe

- Statements of Faith
 - Paramount Statement of Faith (Abstract of Principles 1858)
 - The Baptist Faith and Message (2000)
- Five “Solas” of the Protestant Reformation
- The Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood
- Keeping the Main Thing, the Main Thing
- When the Church Gathers
 - Expository Preaching
 - Christ-exalting, Content-driven worship



When the Church Gathers

Expositional Preaching

In connection with a high view of Scripture, we are committed to expository verse-by-verse, text-driven teaching/preaching. Although we recognize that there are certain times when a topical approach is suitable, we firmly believe that an expositional approach is the best way to clearly, consistently, and effectively teach/preach the word of God. In this view, an expository approach is not only a matter of preference, but essential to accurately handle the word of God. – 2 Timothy 3:15-17, Ephesians 6:10-17, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 2:15.

When the Church Gathers

Christ-exalting, Content-driven Worship

In connection with a high view of Scripture, we hold prioritize musical theology over musical style. We strive for musically gifted leaders who may contribute to what we call “non-distracting excellence” in worship through music. We do not view corporate singing as an isolated worship event, but see worship as encompassing all of life. As Warren Wiersbe wrote in *Real Worship*, “Worship is the believer’s response of all that they are – mind, emotions, will, body – to what God is and says and does (26).”

To understand the role of the corporate worship leader, Pastor Bob Kauflin provides an excellent definition:

“An effective corporate worship leader, aided and led by the Holy Spirit, skillfully combines biblical truth with music to magnify the worth of God and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, thereby motivating the gathered church to join him in proclaiming and cherishing the truth about God and seeking to live all of life for the glory of God.”

The Next Five Years at Paramount

The Five Year Ministry Strategy Plan

- Congregational Input and Planning Process
- Yearly Flight Plan
- Celebrating God's Work Every 5 Years
- 5 Year Plan Available on the Church Website

Part 2: Change

GROWING BY GRACE TOGETHER OVER TIME

Ministries for Discipleship and Growth

To provide a Gospel-Centered Christian education to equip the saints for the work of ministry over the course of four years, grounded in the values of Paramount.

- Adult Discipleship
 - Adult Bible Fellowship (ABF, Sunday Morning)
 - Community Group Life (Weeknights in Homes)
- Paramount Students
 - Youth Bible Fellowship (YBF, Sunday Morning)
 - ABF and YBF mirror one another in content, but are different in the depth of teaching for students. This unifying theme naturally enables parents to interact with their children about the lesson. At the end of each study we will enjoy a combined ABF/YBF fellowship to unify the church and usher in the new study.
- Paramount Kids
- Paramount Men
- Paramount Ladies

Homework for Part 2: Change

Complete the Children's Ministry Background Screening

Progressive Sanctification (Growth)

JUSTIFICATION

An instantaneous legal act of God in which He (1) thinks of our sin as forgiven in Christ's righteousness belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in his sight.*

Legal Standing
Once for All Time
Entirely God's Work
Perfect in this Life
The Same in All Christians

*Grudem, Wayne, *Systematic Theology*, 1246.

SANCTIFICATION

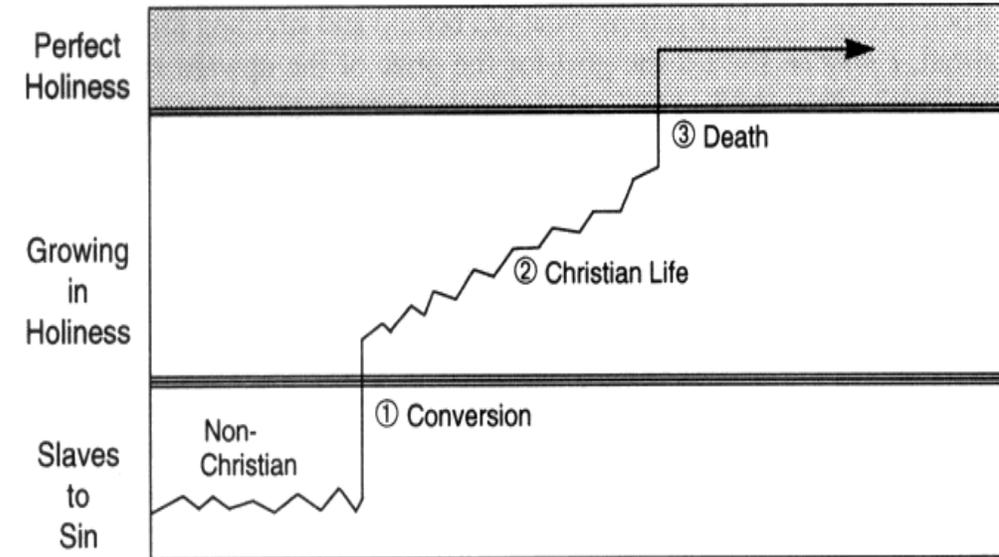
Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.*

Internal Condition
Continuous Throughout Life
The Christian Cooperates with God
Not Perfect in this Life
Not All Christians Grow at the Same Rate

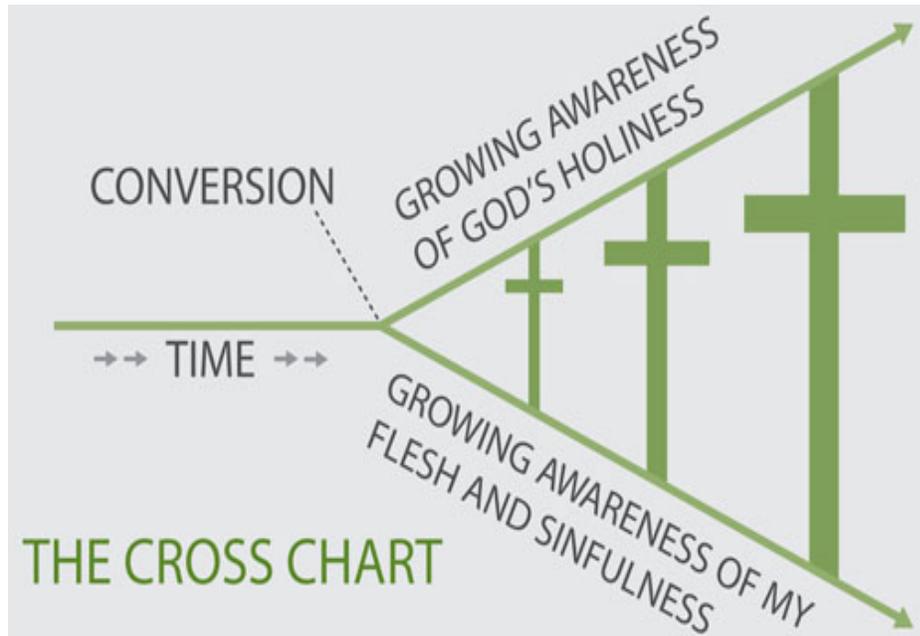
**Westminster Shorter Catechism*, Question 35.

Three Stages of Christian Growth

1. Sanctification Has a Definite Beginning at Regeneration (Titus 3:5, 1 Cor. 6:11, Acts 20:32)
2. Sanctification Increases throughout Life (Rom. 6:11, 6:18, Phil. 3:13–14)
3. Sanctification is completed at death (for our souls) and when the Lord returns (for our bodies) (Heb. 12:23, Rev. 21:27).
 - Sanctification is not complete in this Life (Matthew 5:48 , 2 Corinthians 7:1, 1 John 1:8).



Understanding Gospel-Driven Growth



We remain focused on the Gospel because it is the power of sanctification.

As we grow, we see more and more of our sinfulness. Yet, instead of driving us to discouragement, even a growing awareness of sin should drive us to the Gospel. The Gospel is the only enduring motivation to pursue progressive sanctification, even during the times in life when we are slow moving. And because the Gospel drives sanctification, we need to "preach the gospel to ourselves every day."

Bridges, Jerry, *Gospel-Driven Sanctification*.

What is Biblical Counseling?

Four Underlying Convictions for Biblical Counseling

- 1) We present the Lord Jesus Christ—the crucified, risen, reigning, and returning Savior—who through his Word and his Spirit can help us handle our personal and relational problems.
- 2) We use the Bible as our God-given tool to diagnose, explain, and solve people's problems.
- 3) We reflect the love, concern, and compassion of Jesus our Shepherd and Counselor.
- 4) We address both the outward and the inward aspects of our problems to bring thorough and lasting godly change.

Paramount Church provides free Biblical Counseling to all who seek it.

**These convictions were provided by Dr. Robert D. Jones from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.
-robertdjonescounseling.com*

Part 3: Community

LIFE TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH

What's So Big About Community?

God created us to live in gospel community, under the Word, and rooted in the person of Jesus Christ. To guard our Community Groups from revolving around something other than the Gospel or someone other than Christ, we pursue at least four primary goals for life with one another:

1. Progressive Sanctification (Growing into the Image of Christ)
2. Mutual Care
3. Fellowship
4. Stewardship of Spiritual Gifts



The Local Church in Scripture

While there is no direct command in Scripture that says *every Christian must join a local church*, several factors indicate that every Christian should be a member of a local church. *Ekklesia*, the New Testament term used for “the church” means “the called-out ones.” Of the 114 times *ekklesia* is used in the NT, 90 instances are in reference to the local gathering of committed believers. Examples are:

1. Jesus established the church to be a public, earthly institution (Matt. 16:18-19, 18:15-20)
2. Jesus established the church to publicly declare those who belong to him (John 17:21, 23, Eph. 3:10)
3. Peter addressed the 120 brothers, the church increased to about 3000 then 5000 (Acts 1:15, 2:41, 4:4)
4. Leaders understood who were part of the local church (Heb. 13:17)
5. Leaders could carry out discipline because they know who was part of the local church (1 Cor. 5:12-13)
6. Roles for widows were kept (1 Tim. 5:9)

Five Reasons to Join a Healthy Church

Church Leaders

- Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden (Heb. 13:17).
- Respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Thriving Christians

- Christians encourage one another and build each other up (1 Thess. 5:11).
- Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24).

Struggling Christians

- We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves (Romans 15:1).

Non-Christians

- Identifies who is part of the church (1 Corinthians 5:1-5).
- By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:35).

Because God loves the Church and churches.

- Jesus gave Himself for the Church (Ephesians 5:25).

Four Privileges of Church Membership

1. You may *vote on matters brought forward by the Elders during congregational meetings*, where we seek to discern and plan to follow God's vision for our church (age 18 and above).
2. You will be eligible to *minister to the children and youth* in our church wide member rotation after completing our standard screening process.
3. You may seek *more opportunities to use your spiritual gifts*, including those of teaching, assistant CG leader, CG leader, music ministry, serving and leading within the body.
4. If you need counseling or support from our leaders when their time is limited, *your request for assistance will take precedence* over requests from people who have not joined the church.

Caring for One Another in Community

1. Be at peace with each other (Mk 9:50)
2. Love one another (Jn 13:34)
3. Be joined to one another (Ro 12:5)
4. Be devoted to one another (Ro 12:10)
5. Honor one another (Ro 12:10)
6. Rejoice with one another (Ro 12:15)
7. Weep with one another (Ro 12:15)
8. Live in harmony with one another (Ro 12:16)
9. Accept one another (Ro 15:7)
10. Counsel one another (Ro 15:14)
11. Greet one another (Ro 16:16)
12. Agree with each other (1 Co 1:10)
13. Wait for one another (1Co 11:33)
14. Care for one another (1Co 12:25)
15. Serve one another (Gal 5:13)
16. Carry one another's burdens (Gal 6:2)
17. Be kind to one another (Eph 4:32)
18. Forgive one another (Eph 4:32)
19. Submit to one another (Eph 5:21)
20. Bear with one another (Col 3:13)

Caring for One Another in Community

21. Teach, admonish each other (Col 3:16)
22. Encourage one another (1Th 5:11)
23. Build up one another (1Th 5:11)
24. Spur one another on (Heb 10:24)
25. Offer hospitality to one another (1Pe 4:9)
26. Minister gifts to one another (1Pe 4:10)
27. Be humble toward one another (1Pe 5:5)
28. Confess your sins to one another (Jas 5:16)
29. Pray for one another (Jas 5:16)
30. Fellowship with one another (1Jn 1:7)

Community Groups at Paramount

Group Dynamics:

- 10 – 15 people
- Shepherding model
- Sermon-based discussions
- Speaking the truth in love/counseling in community
- Mutual ministry of the word

Training for Community Group leaders

- Must be current members and CG attender
- Gifts are recognized by Paramount Pastors
- Asked to attend Community Group leader training
- Are made Assistant leaders
- Are moved into the role of CG Leader
- All CG leaders receive continual quarterly training and meet with Pastors on an ongoing basis.

Being a Community Group Member

Personal Responsibilities:

- Participate in Functions of the Corporate Church and Ministry
- Arrive On Time for All CG meetings, Service Projects, Social Events, and Outreach Functions
- Come to Meetings Prepared to Participate
- Build Meaningful Relationships with Other Members of the Group Outside Scheduled Meetings
- Open Yourself to Others by Being Honest, Transparent, and Teachable
- Support the Direction of the Community Group Leaders

Relational Commitments

A few high points to consider:

1. Commitment to Biblical Counseling - Covered in Part 2
2. Commitment to Peacemaking and Reconciliation
3. Personal and Assisted Peacemaking
4. Commitment to Preserving Marriages and Protecting Children
5. Confidentiality and Church Discipline
 - Accountability and Discipline Are Signs of God's Love
 - Most Corrective Discipline Is Private, Personal, and Informal
 - Formal Discipline May Involve the Entire Church

*Read more at Church Website Church Membership Page

Membership Covenant

Having been brought by divine grace to receive Jesus Christ as the Lord, Savior, and supreme treasure of our lives, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, as members of Paramount Church we affirm this covenant with one another, by God's grace, for our collective growth and for the glory of our Triune God:

Gospel - Nothing is as precious or powerful. The gospel is the power of God to convert a sinner in a moment and mature a believer over his lifetime (Rom. 1:16).

- We confess Jesus is Lord, to wholeheartedly follow him as his disciples, and profess faith in him in believer's baptism (Luke 9:23-24; Rom. 10:9).
- We commit to growing in our knowledge of the gospel through a devotional pursuit of God as the greatest treasure of our lives, and submit to the teaching of Scripture as expressed in the Statement of Faith (Mt. 13:44; 2 Pet. 3:18).
- We commit to living out the implications of the gospel by pursuing holiness and walking in a manner worthy of and glorifying to God (1 Cor. 10:31; Eph. 4:1; 1 Pet. 1:15-16).

Membership Covenant

Change - As broken people in a broken world, we all need change. In the gospel, we find sufficient grace for every need (2 Cor. 12:9). We have hope because God is at work to bring lasting biblical change to our lives.

- We are motivated and committed to change through an insightful study of the Scriptures, personal ministry to one another, and through the caring culture within our church.
- We commit that Scripture is sufficient for life and godliness and will carry out ministry to this end (2 Pet. 1:3).

Membership Covenant

Community - Through preaching, small groups, and one-on-one discipleship, we want every member to grow in wise and godly counsel, living the Christian life together.

- We plan to be members of Paramount Church and will work to help see it established and flourish (Mt. 16:18).
- We commit to gathering regularly with Paramount Church (Heb. 10:24-25).
- We commit to fulfilling the one another commands of Scripture as we move toward membership (e.g. love, serve, forgive, teach, admonish, encourage, pray for one another (John 13:34; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:11)).
- We have read and affirm the Paramount Church Constitution and Bylaws.

Membership Covenant

Mission - It is our mission to please Christ by proclaiming this paramount gospel to those near and far (Col. 1:10). Through personal evangelism, global missions, and a strong church planting initiative, we yearn to see the nations worship as many hear the Holy Spirit's call, respond with faith and repentance, and are made complete in Christ (Matt. 28:19-20).

- We affirm the missional direction and vision of the church and commit to using our time, gifts, and resources to further its mission (1 Thess. 1:1-10).
- We commit to living like missionaries by praying for those who need Christ as well as striving to make disciples by consistently displaying and declaring the gospel to our neighbors, family, friends, and co-workers (Mt. 28:18-20).
- We affirm that we will pray for Bexley, and surrounding communities, and seek its good by engaging in deeds of mercy and kindness (Jer. 29:7; 1 John 3:18).

Associate (Junior) Membership

We encourage professing believers 16 and older to begin the Paramount membership process. Those under the age of 18 will attend the same membership class; agree to the same church covenant, and doctrinal statements as adults. Although the process for membership is identical, there are three distinguishing points, which the Elders of Paramount think are wisest regarding junior members.

- Parental involvement - We recognize majority of teenagers live under the roof of their parent/guardian. We also recognize that the state does not consider a person an adult until 18. Therefore, the elders of Paramount will assist parents in all matters of shepherding and discipline.
- Voting limitation - Anything the Elders bring before the congregation for a vote is restricted for adult members. For example, we do not think it would be appropriate to ask youth to vote on weighty matters such as church discipline or other difficult topics.
- Pastoral interview – All members are required to have one pastoral interview. Upon turning 18, students will have a follow-up interview to help them understand the responsibilities of adult membership. Please note; students do not have to repeat the membership class at that time unless recommended by a Pastor.

Eldership Covenant

The Eldership Covenant is similar to the Membership Covenant, but details a higher standard for all church elders. Available from the church website.

Part 4: Mission

WE HAVE A GREAT COMMANDMENT AND A GREAT COMMISSION

Who are We as Baptists?

What we are:

- SBC refers to the convention and its annual meeting
- 1,175 local associations and 42 state conventions
- SBC has 16 million members
- 45,000 churches in the United States
- Sponsors about 5,000 missionaries (US territories)
- Sponsors more than 5,000 foreign missionaries in 153 nations of the world.

Who are We as Baptists?

Where we are, and where we've been:

The SBC emerged from the need to support and facilitate missions in North America and abroad. In 1814, Baptist churches from South Carolina to Massachusetts came together to form the first national Baptist organization in America, charged with coordinating the funding of international missionaries.

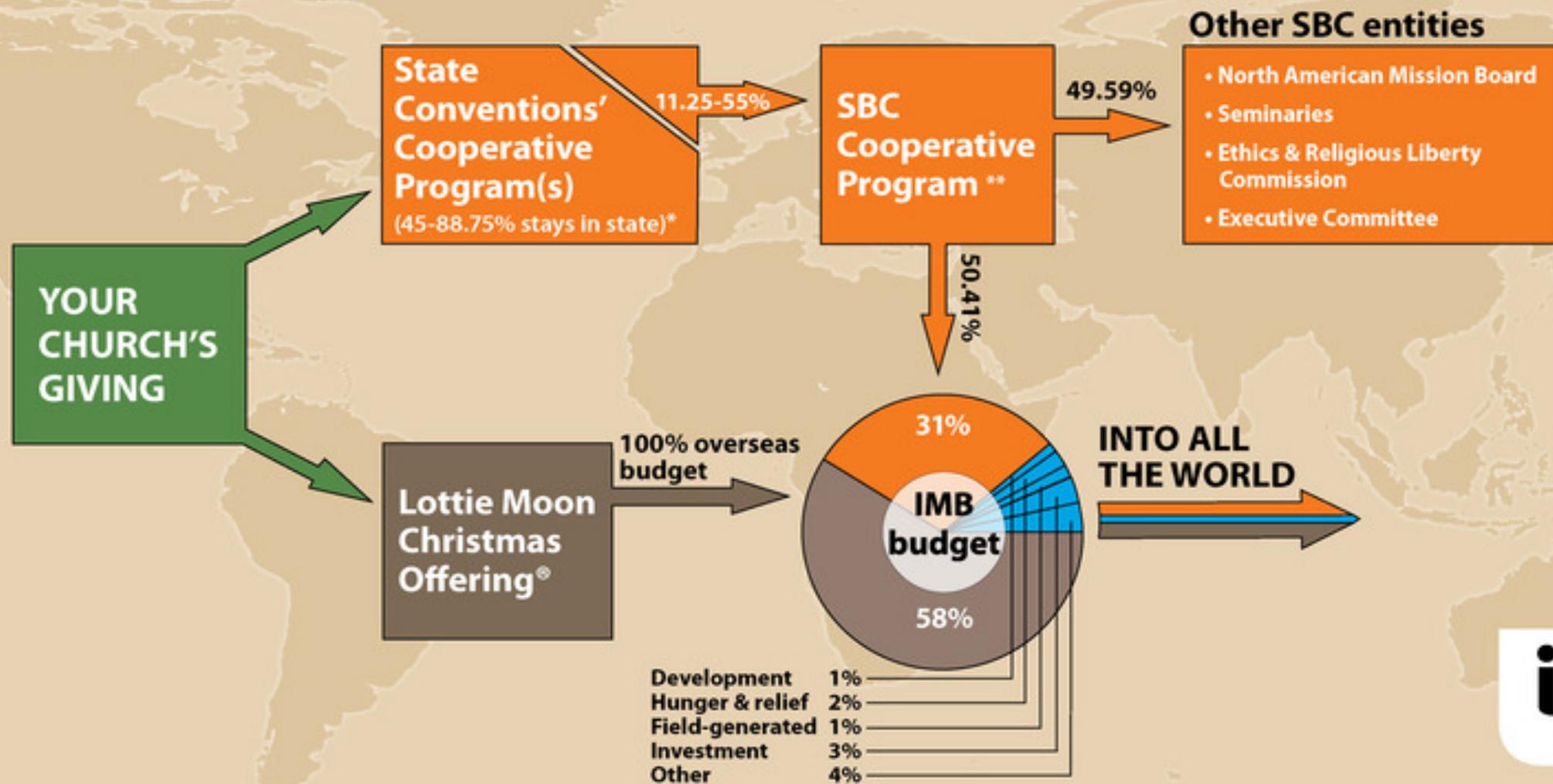
Then, in 1845, churches in the south came together to become the Southern Baptist Convention – today, also known as Great Commission Baptists.

Who are We as Baptists?

A local church that has chosen to be *“in friendly cooperation with and contributing towards the causes of the Great Commission Baptist Convention.”* What that means is that every Southern Baptist Church is completely autonomous under Christ. We don't take orders or direction from the GCB, but instead, we are in friendly cooperation with the GCB. While some refer to the GCB as a denomination, it can be slightly misleading because the GCB doesn't have authority over any of the churches associated with it and can't tell any of those churches what to do like Presbyterian, Anglican, Lutheran, and many other churches. That means the GCB isn't a church, but rather thousands of churches that cooperate together for missions and evangelism.

So when Paramount says we are *“in friendly cooperation with...”* we mean that we have a shared theology and vision for missions and evangelism. And we are *“contributing towards the causes of...”* it means we financially support to the work of the Convention.

Giving to send missionaries



SBC Entities

International Mission Board (Richmond, VA) – The IMB is the entity of the SBC focusing on international missions, reaching almost 5,000 people groups, many with little or no access to the Gospel.

North American Mission Board (Alpharetta, GA) – NAMB assists Great Commission Baptists in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission in the United States, Canada, and their territories.

Seminaries – All SBC members receive 50% off tuition.

- Gateway Seminary (Mill Valley, CA)
- Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Kansas City, MO)
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminar (New Orleans, LA)
- Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Wake Forest, NC)
- The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville, KY)
- Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Fort Worth, TX)

GCB Entities

Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (Nashville, TN) – The ERLC is the public policy arm of the SBC, dedicated to addressing social and moral, public policy issues on a state and federal level.

Life Way Christian Resources (Nashville, TN) - Lifeway provides material/books, music, audio and video recordings, church supplies, and Internet services for churches. Lifeway also manages B&H Publishing.

GuideStone Financial Resources (Dallas, TX) – GuideStone provides financial services of retirement, insurance, investment management, and executive planning for pastors and churches in the SBC.

Great Commission Baptist Convention Executive Committee (Nashville, TN) – EC reviews financial statements, recommends the annual operating budget, distributes monies, recipient and trust agency for the GCB.

We Belong to the Pillar Network

As Paramount Church, we have reaped great benefits of being mentored and poured into by our sending church Open Door and associating with the Pillar Network. The Pillar Network is a church planting foundation, which exist to:

- Fund more church plants, faster
- Provide greater financial support to existing church plants
- Establish an endowment for continued, long-term, strategic church plants

We Give to the Great Commission

10% Total to Great Commission Giving

Paramount's Vision for Autonomous Church Plants

Every 5 years, it is the hope of Paramount's Elders to identify, equip, and send out of Paramount a team to plant an autonomous, local church like ours.

Paramount has adopted missionaries in an undisclosed location.



Personal Sacrificial and Faithful Giving

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed

Paramount's Leadership Pipeline

Elder - Oversees the church as a whole, but each ministry is directly under one Elder

Director - Oversees the ministry and leads leaders

Team Leader - Oversees one area within the ministry and helps the director lead leaders (some ministries do not have this position)

Leaders - Oversees one area within the ministry and leads participants

PARAMOUNT KIDS - PASTOR ...
KEVIN - 8/19/19

Directors- Brittany Rosentreter

☰

Team Leaders- Hope Barnes and Laura Heaton

☰

Leaders- Quarterly and Lead Teachers

☰

How Can I Serve?

Inside the Church

Worship Team - Isaac Barton

Paramount Kid's - Brittany Rosentreter

Community Outreach - Isaac Barton

Venue Team - Zach Nappi

Students - Jon and Mary Vickery

Connections/Greeting - Jared Kirk

Set up/Pull down Team - Mandy Heintzelman

Outside the Church

Evangelism, Evangelism, Evangelism!!!

Inviting Others to Church

Raising Awareness about Our Biblical Counseling Program

Speaking Positively about Our Church

Volunteering for Outreach Events

- i.e. Broadleigh, 4th of July, and Bexley Triathlon

The Next Step toward Joining

Membership Meeting with a Pastor

- Explain the gospel; provide a brief explanation of your conversion.
- Explain the meaning of baptism, when were you baptized (pre or post-conversion), and the mode (sprinkled or immersed).
- Describe your life since becoming a Christian, include any details that will help us shepherd you well.
- Ask other questions you have in mind.