



# pastor | church **transition**

[sbtexas.com/transition](https://sbtexas.com/transition)

# things to remember

---

## step one pray

When a pastor announces that God is transitioning him, the church should immediately move into an intentional prayer strategy. Pray for your leaving pastor and his family. Also, begin praying immediately for the man God is already preparing to be your next pastor. Pray for your search team. Pray for your interim pastor. Pray for each other. Pray for your community.

## step two communicate

Have open dialogue between church leadership and laity. As you select a pastor search team, be sure to talk about the prospective profile of the pastor you may be seeking. Throughout the search process, have a representative from the search team give regular updates to the church body. Constant communication is important in times of transition.

## step three stay positive

You are Jesus's church. You are his plan – his only plan – for worldwide gospel propagation. God has a man prepared for you, a pastor who will lead you into the future. You do not yet know who this man is, but God does and he is actively working on your behalf to bring about his will in his time. Stay positive about the future of your church. Stay committed. Lean in with great expectation to the journey ahead of you.

As the church is praying, communicating and staying positive, remember that God is at work right now preparing your next pastor. Whoever this man is, he is God's gift to you and you are God's gift to him. The SBTC will be honored to walk with you through this transition. We are only one phone call away.

# how the sbtc assists churches in transition

---

## **transition management**

Let us help you assess your specific context, leadership culture, governing documents and other transition management needs. We can assist you in setting up a system and leadership for a positive transition.

## **succession planning**

When a pastor has invested many decades successfully at a church, sometimes it is best for him to leverage his relationships by making pastoral succession part of his exit strategy. SBTC consultants can help with a succession plan that honors God, builds forward momentum, and provides the new pastor with the greatest opportunity for success. The earlier we can begin these conversations, the better.

## **pulpit supply connections**

Let us help you with some qualified, gifted communicators of God's Word to fill the pulpit while you work through more long-term options. We can get you connected with men in your area, and from SBTC and SBC leadership positions who would love to encourage your congregation in a season of transition.

## **interim pastor connections**

The SBTC trains and certifies dozens of interim pastors across the state every year. We provide basic instruction for an interim pastor's success while encouraging them to draw upon the wealth of

wisdom God has given them through their years of pastoral ministry. Interim pastors do much more than fill the pulpit weekly. They lead with forward momentum to tee up the ball during the season of transition so the incoming pastor can knock it out of the park.

## **contextualized pastor search committee training & coaching**

Our pastor search committee training and coaching draws on the collective wisdom of pastors and denominational leaders who have walked hundreds of churches through pastoral transition. They can help your pastor search committee establish a process that will lend itself to Spirit-led sensitivity, candidate confidentiality, input from church membership, an effective communication strategy, and so much more. Let us train your search committee in their first or second meeting. This training will be invaluable to them as they begin their work.

## **connection to qualified candidates**

Not only does the SBTC facilitate the NextStep Church Job Board ([nextstep.sbtexas.com](http://nextstep.sbtexas.com)), but SBTC staff also have relationships across the country that they constantly leverage to get pastorless churches connected to qualified candidates who match the church's pastor profile.

## **relationship-based encouragement**

The SBTC field staff will stay in regular contact with your transition leadership to provide encouragement and prayer support throughout the process. We are here for you.

---

### **Connect with us**

email [pcr@sbtexas.com](mailto:pcr@sbtexas.com) • visit [sbtexas.com/transition](http://sbtexas.com/transition)

**Next-Step Connections Church Job Board**  
[nextstep.sbtexas.com](http://nextstep.sbtexas.com)

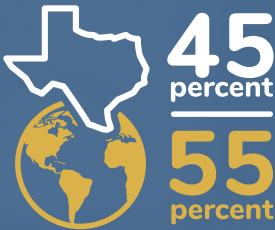
pastor | church  
**transition**

# reaching texas, impacting the world

through the



## cooperative program



Among state conventions, the SBTC gives the highest percentage (55%) of budgeted receipts to the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The SBTC invests the Texas budget allocation (45%) to assist in church planting, evangelistic efforts and strengthening existing churches.



- Give out of gratitude to God
- Give because you love people
- Give because you trust God



- Discipling believers
- Reaching the lost
- Obeying the Great Commission



- Statewide evangelism strategy
- Texas church planting
- Family/educational ministries



- Global evangelism
- U.S. church planting
- Training for future leaders

With 7 billion people in this world, sharing the gospel with all of them can be intimidating. But working together the possibilities are endless. We are stronger through the Cooperative Program.

for more info visit [whatispcp.com](http://whatispcp.com)



### **biblically based**

Affirmation of a minimal set of doctrinal beliefs.  
Biblical inerrancy is the foundational element.  
Churches working together in mutual accountability.



### **kingdom focused**

A focus on missions and evangelism in budgeting and staffing priorities. Using volunteers to keep bureaucracy to a minimum. Striving to resource the needs of SBTC churches rather than to direct ministries.



### **missionally driven**

Partnership with the Southern Baptist Convention through the traditional Cooperative Program. Utilizing the resources of the SBC agencies to maximize ministry effectiveness.



Phone 817.552.2500 • Toll Free 877.953.7282  
4500 State Hwy 360 Grapevine, TX 76051 • [sbtexas.com](http://sbtexas.com)