

southern baptists of texas convention

annual meeting 101



the annual meeting

Once each year, the churches affiliated with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention send messengers from their congregations to set the future course for their cooperative ministry. The annual meeting accomplishes at least four major things that benefit our missionary efforts.

worship & fellowship

Bible Study, music worship, luncheons and exhibits provide an atmosphere of spiritual encouragement and challenge. This is a significant aspect of our annual meeting as relationships are built and strengthened around the Word of God.



networking & training

A selection of auxiliary meetings, alumni gatherings and after-hours fellowships are a highlight of the week.



accountability

While this is not the major portion of the time the convention is meeting, it is important for us to hear a report from the ministries we support all year. These reports can also be very encouraging as we see the work of God done as we join for the sake of his kingdom.



business

The election of officers and committees, the passage of a budget and a variety of other decisions make possible the ministry done between sessions. While these times of discussion and voting usually take only a small portion of the time the convention is gathered, they are indispensable to the work of the convention.



the convention president

Each year, a convention president is elected by messengers from affiliated churches. Presidents play a crucial role in the life of the convention. The president and other officers become ex-officio members of the SBTC Executive Board. Additionally, the president works with staff and other appointed leaders to set the annual meeting theme and program. The president also appoints committees and moderates the sessions of the annual meeting. The president may be elected to two consecutive one-year terms.

other officers

The convention elects two other officers, a **vice president** and a **secretary**. The vice president assists the president, fills in for him when necessary, and serves on the Credentials Committee during his time in office. The convention secretary receives items of business submitted during the meeting, certifying the qualifications of those submitting items of business. The secretary also serves on the Credentials Committee. The president appoints **parliamentarians** to assist in keeping the conduct of convention business orderly and to ensure the rights of all messengers as they participate in the business of the convention. You'll see them on stage, often standing by the president during business sessions.

motions

Motions call for binding action on the part of the convention (a new initiative, a bylaw change, etc.).

- Motions are introduced by registered messengers during the times designated for the introduction of business.
- Introduced motions are then evaluated by the Committee on Order of Business for parliamentary validity. The committee then makes a recommendation to assign the motion to a standing committee or the convention's Executive Board, or can schedule the motion for discussion and vote by convention messengers.

much work is done!

A lot of work is done behind the scenes to make everything come together during the annual meeting. Scores of people serve on committees related to the annual meeting.

committee on order of business

Works with the president and convention staff in planning the program and details (time, place, speakers, etc.) related to the annual meeting. The COOB also works during the convention to channel items of business submitted during the convention to the appropriate committee or back to the messengers for consideration and vote, as appropriate. (nominated by the Committee on Nominations, elected by convention messengers)

resolutions committee

This committee does most of its work before the meeting begins. They consider resolutions appropriate to the times and beneficial to the work of the convention. Once a slate of resolutions has been prepared, it is submitted to the messengers for consideration and vote. (appointed by the president)

registration committee

This committee works with elected messengers to get them registered and equipped with ballots, reports and other tools they will need during the meeting. (appointed by the president)

resolutions

Resolutions express the opinion of the convention messengers on timely issues. They do not direct the convention or its churches to action. They instead encourage action or attitudes, affirm a person or action, express agreement or disagreement with an action or cultural trend, or otherwise state an opinion deemed consistent with a biblical worldview.

- Resolutions are submitted by members of affiliated churches at least 10 days prior to the annual meeting.
- The Committee on Resolutions considers submissions the week before the annual meeting, recommending those most appropriate for consideration by messengers, usually on the second day of the annual meeting.

tellers committee

The Tellers Committee is on hand to receive ballots and count them if the need arises. (appointed by the president)

credentials committee

This committee works before the convention, considering churches that have submitted affiliation papers for recommendation to the Executive Board for a vote. During the convention they assist with answering any questions regarding the qualification of a messenger or sending church. (nominated by the Committee on Nominations, elected by convention messengers)

the executive board

This board is on the stage during the convention, making a report and recommending an annual budget and other major items of business to the convention. The board has members from all four quadrants of the state, laypeople and pastors, and members from small churches and larger churches. They conduct the business of the convention in between annual meetings. This board, for example, exercises regular oversight of the work of the convention staff during their three plenary meetings and several committee meetings. (nominated by the Committee on Nominations, elected by convention messengers)

committee on committees

This committee's significant work is to recommend the Committee on Nominations. Having a committee on committees serves to involve more people in the important work of filling vacancies on boards and standing committees. (one-fourth of this rotating committee is appointed by the president each year)

committee on nominations

The Committee on Nominations recommends people to fill open slots on the Executive Board, the boards of SBTC-affiliated entities and standing and procedural committees that serve the convention. (one-fourth of this committee rotates off each year, replacements are recommended by the Committee on Committees, elected by convention messengers)

core
values

biblically based
kingdom focused
missionally driven

becoming a messenger

Messengers are chosen by affiliated churches to attend on behalf of the congregations, and can be any member of the affiliated church. In fact, most of our convention messengers are lay leaders of SBTC churches. We do not refer to them as “delegates” because they act according to their own consciences and discernment rather than representing an agenda sent from their particular congregations. According to the SBTC Constitution, Article IV, section 3, each affiliated church may send 10 messengers to the annual meeting. Appointed messengers can register online or in person at the annual meeting and are entitled to vote, make motions and speak to convention business.

guests at the annual meeting

While only registered messengers to the annual meeting can participate in convention business, each year the convention welcomes hundreds of guests from affiliated churches, non-affiliated churches and even from out-of-state. These guests are welcome to participate fully in all convention sessions and events, except for business sessions.

