ANNUAL MEETING 101

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

The Annual Meeting

The churches of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) gather each year at the annual meeting. Churches send messengers to encourage one another and direct the convention's cooperative efforts. Messengers establish the annual meeting agenda, hear reports, and vote on the budget, resolutions, motions, and officers—shaping the future of our cooperative ministry. The meeting also features preaching, worship, ministry exhibits, and networking opportunities.

Convention President

Each year at the annual meeting, messengers from affiliated churches elect a convention president. The president serves as a voting member of the SBTC Executive Board during their term of service. Additionally, the president collaborates with staff and convention leaders to determine the theme and program for the annual meeting, appoint committees, and moderate the meeting sessions. The president also selects parliamentarians to help maintain the orderly conduct of convention business and to protect the rights of all messengers as they participate. A president may serve two consecutive one-year terms.

Other Officers

The convention elects two additional officers: a vice president and a secretary. The vice president and secretary serve as voting members of the SBTC executive board and credentials committee during their term of service. The vice president assists the president and acts as his delegate when needed. The convention secretary oversees and certifies business items submitted during the annual meeting.

Motions

Motions are submitted by registered messengers during designated times for introducing business at the annual meeting. Motions are formal requests for the convention to take binding action, such as proposing a new initiative or a bylaw change. Introduced motions are evaluated by the committee on order of business for parliamentary validity. After review, the committee refers the motion to a standing committee or the convention's executive board, or the committee schedules the motion for messenger discussion and a vote.

Resolutions

Resolutions reflect the opinions of messengers on timely issues. They do not direct the convention or its churches to take specific steps; rather, they encourage action, affirm individuals or initiatives, or express an opinion deemed consistent with a biblical world view. Resolutions are submitted by messengers to the resolutions committee before the annual meeting, in accordance with instructions published in the Texan each year. The resolutions committee reviews submissions and makes recommendations to messengers at the annual meeting.

Becoming a Messenger

Affiliated churches send messengers, members of the church, to attend the annual meeting on their behalf. Messengers are not delegates of their congregation; instead, they act according to their own conscience and discernment. According to the SBTC Constitution, Article IV, Section 3, each affiliated church may send 10 messengers. Messenger registration is available online before the meeting or onsite at the meeting. Messengers are entitled to vote, make motions, and speak to convention business.

Guests at the Meeting

Only registered messengers of the annual meeting can participate in convention business, but guests from affiliated churches, non-affiliated churches, and out-of-state visitors are welcome to attend.

Registration Committee

The registration committee, appointed by the president, helps messengers register at the annual meeting. This committee is often composed of local area church volunteers.

Resolutions Committee

The resolutions committee, appointed by the president, recommends resolutions to messengers at the annual meeting.

Tellers Committee

The tellers committee, appointed by the president, is responsible for providing voting instructions, counting ballots, and reporting the results of votes conducted at the annual meeting as necessary.

Committee on Committees

The committee on committees, appointed by the president, recommends members and a chairperson to serve on the committee on nominations.

Committee on Nominations

The committee on nominations is recommended by the committee on committees and elected by messengers. The committee nominates members to serve on the executive board, SBTC-affiliated entity boards, and standing and procedural committees that serve the convention. The committee recommends nominations to messengers at the annual meeting.

Committee on Order of Business (COOB)

The committee on order of business (COOB) is nominated by the committee on nominations and elected by messengers. The COOB assists the president and convention staff in planning the annual meeting business elements and recommends the date and location for future meetings. They also direct items of business submitted during the meeting to the appropriate committee/board or back to the messengers for consideration and voting, as applicable.

Credentials Committee

The credentials committee is nominated by the committee on nominations and elected by messengers. Throughout the year, they review affiliation applications and matters, offering recommendations to the SBTC Executive Board. During the annual meeting, committee members answer questions regarding the qualification of a messenger or church affiliation status.

Executive Board

The executive board is nominated by the committee on nominations and elected by messengers. The board is comprised of members from all 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. The board exercises regular oversight of the work of the convention staff during their three plenary meetings and several committee meetings. During the annual meeting, they make a report and recommend an annual budget and other major items of business to the convention.