

A Covenant of Partnership and Missional Collaboration between Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina And Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (National)

With gratitude and appreciation for one another in our past relationship until now, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship now name a new covenant of mutual support and cooperation. We recognize that both organizations are part of a larger movement of God's Spirit among Baptist congregations and individuals. We both exist to assist these congregations and individuals in carrying out their God-given mission.

The mutual conviction both organizations have toward their shared core values and common understanding of Baptist principles is the tie that binds us together in covenant. We recognize the autonomy of both organizations, their supporting congregations and individuals, and governance bodies. But, we also recognize a strong mutuality in our mission that leads us to covenant together in prayer, affirmation, and partnership.

I. A COVENANT OF MUTUAL AFFIRMATION

Both CBFNC and CBF will affirm the work and mission of one another. Both organizations will encourage participation in and support for the other.

II. A COVENANT OF SHARED VALUES

While CBFNC has embraced a unique set of guiding statements that apply to the North Carolina context, CBFNC joins with CBF National and other state/regional CBF organizations to embrace and live out the Fellowship's guiding statements, which include the following:

- **Identity** - We are a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches who share a passion for the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice.
- **Mission** - Our mission is to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission.
- **Vision** - Our vision is being the presence of Christ in the world.
- **Values** – Baptist Principles; Biblically-based Global Missions; Resource Model; Justice and reconciliation; Lifelong learning and ministry; Trustworthiness; Effectiveness

III. A COVENANT OF STAFF COOPERATION

While recognizing the autonomy of both staffs and the accountability of each staff to their own governance body, we covenant to cooperate and coordinate efforts between the staff of CBFNC and CBF. Efforts to strengthen the ties of cooperation will include:

- Open and intentional conversation among staff members with similar job assignments or areas of responsibility.
- Strategic collaboration between the two staffs on a regular basis initiated by the Executive Coordinators.
- A willingness to share data/information between the two organizations.
- Communication of CBF and CBFNC events and initiatives to the other organization for mutual support in communication and publicity, which will allow both CBF and CBFNC to promote and support these visits, events, and initiatives when appropriate.
- Strategic thinking involving leadership of both organizations to find the most effective means of coordination and collaboration in staffing and ministry initiatives. This strategic thinking will include:
 - Recognition of competencies unique to each organization.
 - A search for areas of responsibility that both organizations agree can be better addressed by one of the two organizations.
 - In areas of mutual interest and responsibility (leadership development, missional engagement, starting new churches, chaplaincy ministry in North Carolina, reference and referral, resourcing congregations, etc.) both organizations will work together to discover a mutually beneficial allocation of staff, volunteer and fiscal resources.
 - Both CBFNC and CBF agree to bless and assist communities of missional practice that develop among our congregations and individuals that share common interests and have a desire to be connected.

IV. A COVENANT OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Both CBFNC and CBF recognize and affirm each organization's autonomy in budgeting, resource allocation, and promotion of budget and missions offerings.
- Both CBFNC and CBF will encourage direct contribution to both organizations by congregations and individuals.
- Recognizing the autonomy of congregations and individuals, both organizations respect the need that CBFNC and CBF may have to develop and promote giving plans that meet the needs of their constituents.
- CBFNC and CBF will share the best practices and strategies for resource development to provide mutual benefit for both organizations. CBFNC and CBF will partner together with the goal of adequate provision of resources for CBFNC and CBF to faithfully fulfill their God-given mission.


V. A COVENANT OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO OUR CONGREGATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

Both CBFNC and CBF exist to serve partnering congregations and individuals. We covenant to assist in promoting the health and vitality of our constituents' mission. We covenant to work cooperatively and effectively in:

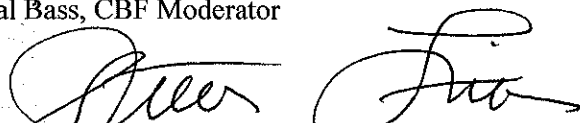
- Creating "cultures of call" to provide leadership for our congregations.
- Assisting in the start of new congregations.
- Celebrating our congregational diversity by networking congregations with similar interests and encouraging the spiritual vitality and missional relevance of all our congregations.
- Attracting and engaging young Baptists in mission, fellowship, and service.
- Seeking a fresh approach and new passion for sharing our faith and developing disciples.
- Giving the local church a global focus and connection to the Kingdom of God.
- Building community among the Fellowship family through cooperation with regard to General Assembly planning and implementation in the following ways:
 - For the annual CBFNC General Assembly, CBFNC leaders will include CBF leaders and guests to the greatest extent possible each year in planning, leadership roles, etc.
 - CBF will hold the annual CBF General Assembly in North Carolina at least every five years. CBFNC will encourage attendance among North Carolinians at every CBF General Assembly and will provide significant assistance to CBF National in the planning and implementation of the General Assemblies held in North Carolina

This covenant shall remain in effect for as long as it is mutually effective and beneficial for both CBFNC and CBF in expressing our desire for partnership in Kingdom work.

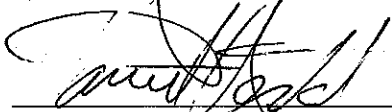
Affirmed by the CBFNC Coordinating Council on August 20, 2009, and the CBF Coordinating Council on February 19, 2010. Celebrated and signed at the North Carolina meeting of the CBF General Assembly in Charlotte, NC, on June 24, 2010.



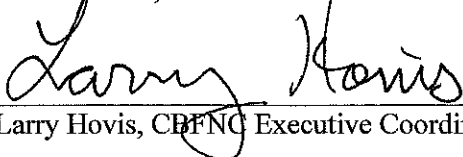
Hal Bass, CBF Moderator



Steve Little, CBFNC Moderator



Daniel Vestal, CBF Executive Coordinator



Larry Hovis, CBFNC Executive Coordinator