

*Bringing Baptists of North Carolina  
Together for Christ-Centered Ministry*



COOPERATIVE BAPTIST  
*fellowship*  
OF NORTH CAROLINA

## The Value of Fellowship

*Each of the words in our name –  
**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina**  
– is important to our identity. But perhaps Fellowship  
holds the greatest insight into who we are  
as an organization.*

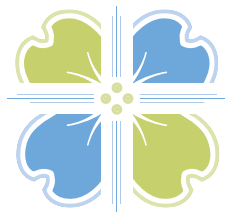
*We are a fellowship of churches and individuals who  
voluntarily cooperate to do together what we could  
never accomplish alone, for the Kingdom of God.*

*We bring together people of shared interests,  
activities, beliefs and experience.*

*We provide companionship along our shared  
journey to be the presence of Christ in the world.*

*We serve each other as equals.*

*At CBFNC, we value fellowship and  
the many ways it brings us together.*



## Sharing Our Beliefs

### Our Identity

We are a fellowship of Baptists in North Carolina sharing a commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, preserving historic Baptist freedoms and calling out God’s gifts in Christians and churches to engage in Christ-centered ministry in our state and around the world.



### Our Mission

Bringing Baptists of North Carolina together for Christ-centered ministry

### Our Principles

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#### • Centrality and Authority of Scripture

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We affirm the authority of scripture. We believe the Bible, under the Lordship of Christ, is central in the life of the individual and church.

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#### • Priesthood of All Believers

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We affirm the freedom and right of every Christian to interpret and apply scripture under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We affirm the freedom and responsibility of every person to relate directly to God without the imposition of creed, the control of clergy or the interference of government.

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#### • Autonomy of the Local Church

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We affirm that Baptist churches are free, under the Lordship of Christ and guidance of the Holy Spirit, to determine their membership and leadership, to order their worship and work, to ordain whomever they perceive as gifted for ministry and to participate, as they deem appropriate, in the larger Body of Christ.

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#### • Freedom of Religion

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We affirm religious freedom for all people and the separation of church and state.



## Our Values

### • Lordship of Christ

We are bound together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. He is the center of all that we think, say and do, and is our authority for faith and practice. By “taking the form of a servant” (Philippians 2:7), Jesus Christ is our model for leadership, ministry and service. In our obedience to the will of God, the love of Jesus shall be reflected in our relationships, fellowship and witness.

### • Spiritual Formation

We are bound together in the practice of prayer and other spiritual disciplines. By nurturing life in the Spirit and being empowered by the Spirit, we will strengthen our relationship with God and our relationships with one another. We shall draw upon the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition to undergird every facet of our ministry.

*“I have met the greatest people. I have never felt something so powerful anywhere than right here these past few days.”*

CBFNC Youth Retreat Attendee

### • Global Missions

We are bound together by a passion to fulfill the Great Commission in our communities and throughout the world. Our strategy is to do global missions in a world without borders.



## Serving Others

### Our Ministries

CBFNC churches and individuals are actively engaged in ministries around the state, nation and world.

#### • Missions

**North Carolina Missions** – We coordinate missions initiatives within the state, with a particular focus on the unreached and the most neglected.

**Church Planting** – We partner with existing congregations to start new churches in North Carolina.

**Missional Churches** – We encourage and equip local churches to engage in God’s mission in their communities and wherever they feel called.

**Global Missions** – We support and participate in missions outside our state, including the missions efforts of the larger CBF movement.

#### • Leadership Development

We provide scholarships for students at partner divinity schools, with a special emphasis on North Carolina institutions.

We conduct leadership development conferences, retreats and events for clergy and lay leaders.

We consult with congregational leaders concerning leadership development strategies and resources.

We help ministers (experienced and recent seminary graduates) and churches “find each other” through a ministry of reference and referral.

#### • Faith Development

We sponsor youth and children’s retreats several times throughout the year.

We sponsor youth and children’s choir festivals.

We conduct conferences and retreats on various topics related to spiritual formation and faith development.

We consult with congregational leaders concerning faith development strategies and resources.



*“I gave a lot of myself and it was good, but I received more than I could have ever given. Isn’t God good?”*

Member of Church Mission Team

## Supporting Our Partners

### Our Relationships

Our primary partners are the churches and individuals who comprise our fellowship. Our first priority is to serve them. In addition to these core constituents, we also have significant relationships with other ministry partners, two of which deserve special mention.

#### • Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (National)

CBFNC is grateful to be part of the larger CBF movement of God's people. Though funded and organized separately from CBF, we seek to be the face of CBF in North Carolina by supporting and promoting CBF ministries in our state and beyond, including global missions and theological education.



#### • Historic North Carolina Baptist Institutions and Agencies

We value the agencies, institutions and ministries that have historically been part of the North Carolina Baptist family. Though we do not seek to own, operate or control these ministries, we do seek to partner together in mutual ministry. We provide a channel for churches to fund these ministries through the *CBFNC Mission Resource Plan*.



## Building Friendships

### Our Gatherings

Each year, our fellowship experiences a “family reunion” in the form of the General Assembly. Usually held in a church, the assembly offers inspiring worship, informative ministry workshops, helpful resources from various ministry partners and rich fellowship with Christians from around the state.

In addition, clergy and laity who share a common bond through CBF values and commitments gather on a regular basis, often monthly, for Regional Fellowship Groups in several locations throughout our state. Check our website or call our office to find out about a group in your area.



*“There was a beautiful spirit of openness, friendliness, and mutual support with well-informed and articulate speakers/leaders.”*

General Assembly Attendee

*“Our University has an intense desire to help educate and encourage the next generation of leaders of our churches. Thus our partnership with CBF of North Carolina is vital.”*

Baptist College President



## Maintaining Relationships

### Our Leadership

Each year, the General Assembly elects our leadership, which includes the Coordinating Council (the board of directors of our non-profit religious corporation) and several Ministry Councils, which coordinate the various programs and ministries of CBFNC.

Day-to-day operations and ministries are conducted by a paid staff which includes the Coordinator (executive director), Ministry Coordinators (who oversee ministry areas) and support staff. Our coordinators travel around the state speaking in churches, visiting with ministers and church leaders and facilitating CBFNC ministries.



## Getting to Know Us

CBFNC is not a member organization but a partnership of equals. Our goal is for each local church to discover its divinely appointed mission and carry out that mission in its community and beyond.

If you embrace our mission, principles and values, and desire to share in our ministries, you are welcome in our fellowship. We humbly ask for the opportunity to be one of your missional partners and appreciate any financial gifts you are able to make.

You are invited to attend our assemblies, participate in our ministries or call our staff members or volunteer leaders for information on becoming involved with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina.

May God bless and guide us as together we seek to be the presence of Christ in North Carolina and around the world.



COOPERATIVE BAPTIST  
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OF NORTH CAROLINA

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