

# What is Our Denominational Affiliation?

January 7, 2019



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12th Street Baptist Church voluntarily affiliates with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). We participate with the SBC through three levels of participation:

- **Locally** — The Etowah Baptist Association
- **Regionally** — The Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions
- **Nationally** — The Southern Baptist Convention

## Why Not Just be an Independent Church?

We are, in essence, an independent church! Every SBC church is completely autonomous. We are not subject to the hierarchical control of any ecclesiastical or denominational body. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs. For example:

- Every SBC church chooses its own pastor.
- Every SBC church owns its own buildings and assets.
- Every SBC church determines its own programs and policy.

## What are the Advantages of Affiliating with the SBC?

By participating with such a large number of Churches nationwide, we can cooperate together to accomplish things on a world-wide scale that would be impossible for us as a single church. For example, affiliation with the SBC allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. Through the SBC "Cooperative Program" we help support over 3500 international missionaries and over 30,800 churches around the world. In 2016, through the SBC "Cooperative Program," we helped start over 700 new churches in North America.