

Cooperating With the Ministry of Your Local Baptist Association

Your Local Association Missional Strategist

- He is a great person to brainstorm with. He has visited 100 churches and studied their ministry.
- He can preach for you when you are sick or out of town.
- He can fill in teaching Sunday School when a teacher is out.
- He attends a lot of conferences every year and reads books and can share new ideas.
- He is available to help with conflict resolution or can refer you to someone.
- He can meet with your ministry and office staff to share ideas.
- When the church doesn't have a pastor, he can help them find resumes and prepare for an interview. He may know people available for interim work.
- If you want to plant a new church, the AMS can help with ideas for location, a building, resources, funding and training.
- If your church is thinking about closing, the AMS can help you work through this process or help to replant a new church in your building.

Training for Pastors, Staff and Church Leaders

- Training for any topic you can think of – teaching, discipleship, evangelism, deacon ministry, greeters, children, students, college, single adults, senior adults, finances, communication and more.

Training for Church Members

- Church members have not been to seminary, read 100 books about ministry or gone to 100 conferences. The Association can provide workshops for your members at no cost to you.

Pulpit Supply

- Your AMS can preach for you when needed.
- The Association keeps a list of retired pastors and others who are available for pulpit supply.
- If you would like to be out for a Sabbatical, the Association can provide speakers.
- The Association can provide speakers for special worship topics – missions, what it means to be a Southern Baptist, etc.

Church Strengthening and Revitalization

- The average church in America is often 100 or less in attendance.
- Small churches face some common problems that are a challenge to overcome – members getting older, declining facilities, declining neighborhood around the church, lack of teachers, lack of deacons, lack of finances, difficulty finding a part-time pastor or staff member, and it is hard to find musicians to play music.
- Your Association and State Convention can help you brainstorm ideas for new growth.

Doing Ministry with Other Churches

- Student lock-ins, D-Now weekends, concerts, camps, mission trips, etc.
- Joint service projects and mission trips in the state, in the country, or overseas. Disaster relief.
- Joint worship services, revivals, conferences, concerts.
- A community food pantry, clothes or other supplies for the community.
- Round tables with other pastors – book study, topical discussion, prayer, fellowship.