

## Cooperating With the Ministry of Your Local Baptist Association

### Your Local Association Missional Strategist (AMS)

- 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 with you.
- 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 normal church in America is most 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.