

The Cincinnati Area Baptist Association

A Closer Look

The Cincinnati Area Baptist Association (CABA) consists of interdependent churches that voluntarily unite to form the association. They agree with the Southern Baptist Convention's Baptist Faith and Message, 2000. Each member church in good standing is entitled to send three messengers to CABA's Annual and Semi-Annual Meetings. These messengers are empowered to vote on associational business. Each church is encouraged to constitute and apply for membership in the Association as early as possible.



The Cincinnati Area Baptist Association

This association was formed in 2013 when two associations merged. These associations were Southern Hills Baptist Association and the Baptist Association of Greater Cincinnati. We view our organization as churches being on the top and CABA serves the churches, their strategies, and coordinates their efforts for the maximum effectiveness and efficient use of resources – time, money, and people.

The churches *are* the Baptist association. CABA seeks to resource a dynamic leadership network that impacts lostness. We also come together to provide services. Each church is autonomous, yet voluntarily cooperates with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO) and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Our Vision:
Resourcing a
dynamic
leadership
network that
impacts lostness

A Commitment to Southern Baptists in the Cincinnati Area

It is a blessing to represent the Cincinnati Area Baptist Association. Please feel free to contact me with ideas or questions. I see myself as an air traffic control tower. I don't control and I don't tower, but I help the planes (you) get to where the Lord is leading.

This brochure was designed for churches who are relatively new churches or established churches that are looking to affiliate with the Cincinnati Area Baptist Association (CABA). Your feedback is welcome to keep improving this guide to help us communicate effectively. I hope you feel welcomed as you explore ways to join in with other brothers and sisters in Christ.

Mary Leigh, my wife, and I are sold out to Jesus and strive to follow His commands. We are childhood sweethearts raised by godly Christ-honoring parents. We've been blessed, but yet so many living in the Cincinnati Area have yet to hear the Good News! My life verse is Philippians 2:13 *"For it is God who is at work in you to will and to act according to His good purpose."*

May we all be so sold out to God and His ways that He can work through us to accomplish His will.



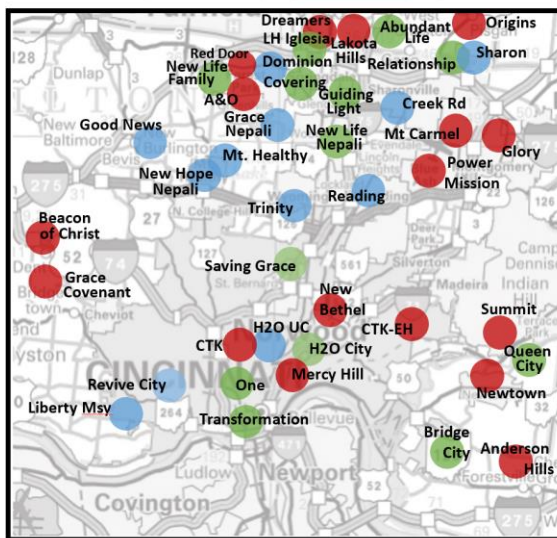
Avery Willis, one of my mentors, once said, "Following Jesus is a personal, obedient, lifelong relationship in which He changes my character into Christ-likeness, my values into kingdom values, and involves me in His mission in the home, the church, and the world."

That is my prayer for you. May you and the body of believers that form your church strive to follow Jesus by making disciples who can make disciples to the glory of God. And may each of us strive to find ways to partner together to fulfill the Great Commission.

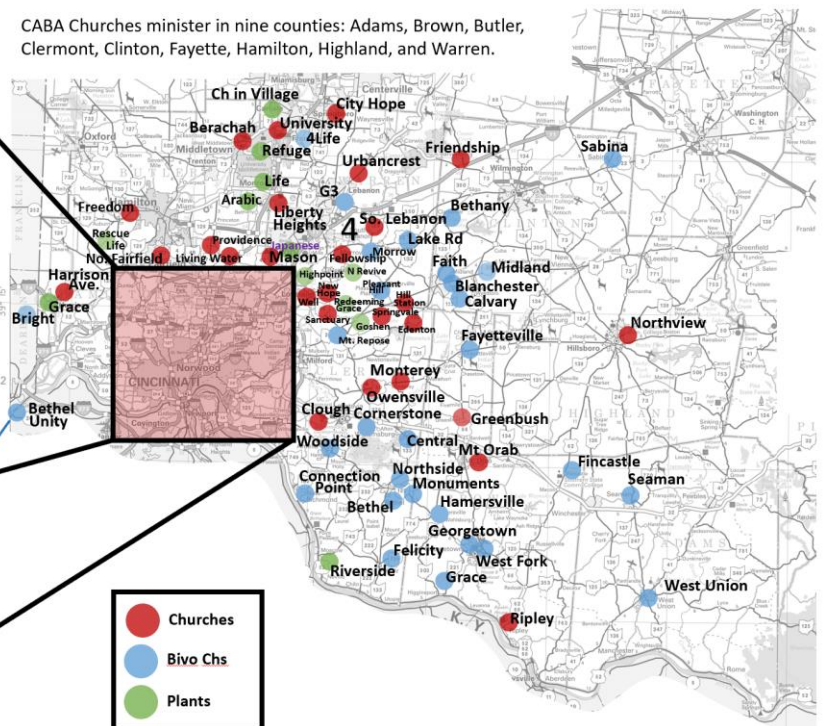
--Mark Snowden

Director of Missional Leadership
(AMS, DOM)

CINCINNATI AREA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



CABA Churches minister in nine counties: Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Hamilton, Highland, and Warren.



Affiliating with CABA

Your church will find these steps helpful to become a church and be received into fellowship with CABA.

1. A letter or email should be sent to the CABA office at least 90 days before the Annual Meeting (Fall) or the Semi-Annual Meeting (Spring).
2. A written request should include the church's statement of faith and a copy of its constitution. Somewhere in the letter, the church should give their purpose to cooperate with the association.
3. CABA's Administrative Leadership Team (ALT) will be responsible to examine the credentials of the petitioning church. This may involve a visit of a Credentialing Committee. (A checklist is on p. 4.)
4. Recommendations from the ALT are to be made to the association at either the Annual or Semi-Annual Meetings. The vote of the association requires approval of a three-fourths (75%) majority vote of the messengers present. When the vote is passed, then the church is "received."
5. CABA's moderator then declares at the meeting that the church has been received and its messengers are "seated." Being seated, they can vote with their three messengers in full cooperation with the other churches.

And, if at any time that the church wants to withdraw fellowship, then the church just needs to notify the association in writing by email or letter.



Of course, CABA also reserves the right to withdraw fellowship with a 75% vote at their Annual or Semi-annual Meeting.

Reasons include:

1. Departing from the teaching of the New Testament (as summarized in the SBC Baptist Faith and Message, 2000) in doctrine or conduct as previously stated in the article on membership of CABA's constitution.
2. To have failed to correspond with the Association for two consecutive years. Upon invitation from the church, this church is to first be visited by a group assigned by the Administrative Leadership Team to determine the cause and seek resolution.
3. To have refused to support financially the work of the association.

GIVING TO CABA

Contributions to the association must go directly to CABA. It is separate from other Southern Baptist causes. CABA is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization. It was established by Southern Baptist churches to coordinate missions advances starting in the Cincinnati Area. Individuals as well as churches may give directly to CABA. We believe that CABA is the best investment in reaching Cincinnati for the sake of Christ. CABA's budget is supported only by its member churches.

WHY CABA EXISTS:

We live in a value-driven economy that can demand return on investment. Sometimes churches ask, "If we join CABA, what do we get out of it?"

Biblical missiology challenges churches to reach out rather than expect entitlements. CABA churches must be sending rather than receiving churches. A biblical response instead is, "If our church is on mission with God, then how is God at work in the Cincinnati Area?" Joining in with CABA is joining in with part of God's great worker among the lost, those in need, believers that are seeking training, church leaders engaging a network beyond their church, and members that have a global perspective. We believe it is best to work with and through our church leaders.

Some Baptist associations have traditionally tried to be a service provider just to strengthen churches. While CABA holds that up as an ideal, the biblical mandate is to serve church leaders to mobilize and equip their churches to advance the kingdom across nine counties that comprise the Cincinnati Area.

CREDENTIALING CHECKLIST

The Credentialing Checklist is a good measure for your church. It helps your church to know what is expected as a participating church in good standing.

INTEREST IN CABA/SBC

- Be able to describe why your church desires to affiliate with CABA, and thereby with the SBC.
- What has been the decision process for your church to express that desire?

DOCTRINE

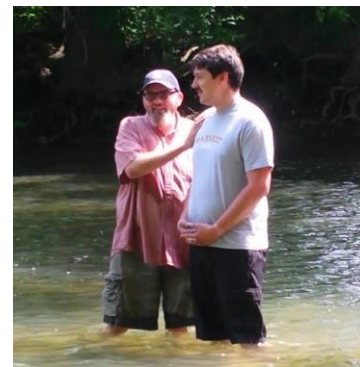
- Does your doctrinal statement refer to the Baptist Faith & Message 2000?
- If not, how is it consistent with the BF&M 2000?
- Are you in agreement with the BF&M 2000?
- What is your view of the Bible?

CHURCH ORGANIZATION

- When did your church constitute?
- When did you finalize your constitution and by-laws? (A copy of the constitution and by-laws needs to be submitted with your request for CABA membership.)
- How do people become members of your church?

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- How has and how does your church intend to financially support CABA and the Cooperative Program?
 - Percentage or designated amount? We recommend 3% to CABA from undesignated giving.
 - Monthly, quarterly, or annually?
 - Special offerings (*e.g.*, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions®, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions®, Ray Roberts Offering for State Missions, and CABA's Ann Dunn/Joanne Hopkins Associational Missions Offering)



RECORD-KEEPING

- Will your church commit to complete the Annual Church Profile for the SBC? The report covers the previous July to June of the current year.

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

- To what degree is your congregation familiar with the mission and ministries of the CABA and SBC?
- How does (or will) your church leadership promote that mission and those ministries?

FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CHURCHES

- Are you aware of any issues that would prevent the people of your congregation from being in right fellowship with other CABA churches?
- How do your leaders and/or your congregation plan to participate in fellowship activities of the association?

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF THE LEADERS

- Describe your personal relationship with Jesus.
- What has been important for you recently in your spiritual walk?

Contact the CABA Office requesting a meeting to be credentialed as a church with the association and the Southern Baptist Convention. Contact CABAoffice@gmail.com or call (513) 724-7182.



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