



## **Faith Community Church and Its Affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention**

Faith Community Church was founded in 1997 by a group of men and women who had previously been faithful members of First Baptist Church of Woodstock. They desired to plant a distinctive Baptist church in our area that would be committed to expository preaching, biblical eldership, and a philosophy of ministry, missions and local outreach that is thoroughly informed by the doctrine of God's sovereign grace in the salvation of men. As long-time Southern Baptists, these founding members maintained an affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and recognized that their core convictions were well-aligned with the historic confessions of the SBC.

This affiliation was described in Article V of the FCC Constitution and Bylaws as follows:

*Faith Community Church has chosen to be affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for the following reasons:*

*We share a common commitment to the doctrinal heritage of the Southern Baptist Convention.*

*We wholeheartedly believe in the cooperative effort of churches working together in the cause of world evangelism.*

*We desire to participate with a growing number of Southern Baptist churches in the call for revival and reformation of the doctrines of grace once held and practiced by all churches within the Southern Baptist Convention.*

In the early years of FCC's history, the church maintained its SBC affiliation through modest, annual contributions to the SBC Cooperative Program. Over time, however, FCC developed relationships with other like-minded mission agencies and missionaries, and the church's financial support shifted more and more toward these entities and individuals.

For many years now, FCC has not financially supported the SBC Cooperative Program. We have, however, continued our financial support of the Greater Atlanta Baptist Network (GABN), a local association of the Georgia Baptist Convention. There are several like-minded churches in this local association with whom we enjoy fellowship and a measure of strategic ministry partnership.

By virtue of our ongoing support and involvement with GABN and the attending affiliation with the Georgia Baptist Convention, the SBC would consider us an affiliated church, even though we do not directly give to the SBC Cooperative Program. However, we believe our relationship with GABN aligns with our church's local missions goals, while also affording some practical benefits as well. For example, our church's tax-exempt status is under that of the Executive Committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention, thereby eliminating the need for FCC to file for its own exemption with the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, this affiliation qualifies us to participate in very cost-effective retirement and insurance benefit programs for our paid staff. We believe, therefore, that maintaining our local affiliation with GABN and, correspondingly, with the Georgia Baptist Convention is both fruitful and prudent.

Furthermore, since we do not believe the doctrinal and missiological trajectory of the SBC aligns with that of FCC, and our actual affiliation with, and support of the Cooperative Program of the SBC ceased many years ago, the Elders deemed it best to remove the explicit SBC affiliation language from our Constitution and Bylaws.