

HISTORICAL BASE FOR HOME MISSION BOARD/
STATE CONVENTION COOPERATION

- 1845 - Southern Baptist Convention requested State Conventions and other bodies with mission funds to forward such funds to respective boards.
- 1845 - Bestor resigned as Corresponding Secretary stating that Southern Baptists "prefer carrying on their domestic missionary operations, through their Associations and State Conventions;" and that although they approved of the Board, he could not persuade them to support it.
- 1846 - In January the Domestic Mission Board began employing agents to raise funds and do mission work. Listed values:
- (1) Distribute missionary information.
 - (2) Furnish systematic plans for fund raising.
 - (3) Secure harmony and cooperation for convention.
 - (4) Provide agents for the gathering of mission funds.
 - (5) Promotion of religious and missionary zeal.
- 1846 - In May reported that most state organizations had "become auxiliary to this Board."
- 1847-49 - Some churches to which Domestic Mission Board had been giving aid released appropriations - new mission points were established.
- 1847-49 - Called on churches to inform people and secure support for two mission boards.
- 1851 - Domestic Mission Board announced plan to secure an agent for each state to assist in fund raising. Southern Baptist Convention called on churches to cooperate with Board by liberal contributions.
- 1853 - Domestic Mission Board called for a "Cooperative Program" plan of fund raising between associations, state conventions, and the Domestic Mission Board for conducting home missions.
- 1855 - Kentucky voted to cooperate with Domestic Mission Board in home missions, rather than continue its own home mission program without contributing to Board's work. Arkansas reported eight missionaries jointly supported by the associations and Domestic Board.
- 1857 - Reported trend to adopt missionaries and pledge support. Eleven associations, four churches, and several individuals were following this plan.
- 1859 - Southern Baptist Convention approved resolution offered by Georgia Convention calling on Southern Baptists to raise \$125,000 for home and foreign missions.
- 1863 - Domestic Mission Board expressed appreciation for five million tracts contributed by Virginia for distribution to Confederate Soldiers.
- 1865 - Domestic Mission Board supplemented salaries of some pastors in destitute areas. Louisiana voted to cooperate with Domestic Mission Board and

act as agent in appointment of ten missionaries, for whose salaries the Board would be responsible, provided there should be any deficit.

- 1865 - Kentucky Baptists asked Domestic Mission Board to raise funds in state. \$10,000 raised in six weeks.
- 1867 - A "Plan of Cooperation" for joint appointment and support of a missionary in an association by that association and the Domestic Mission Board was in operation. Funds appropriated to meet needs of destitute churches.
- 1868 - Southern Baptist Convention instructed Domestic Mission Board to prepare a circular and suitable forms to promote systematic giving in every church.
- 1869 - Southern Baptist Convention instructed Domestic Mission Board to employ agents in "states where they promise good results." Domestic Mission Board reported several states auxiliary with Board, uniting efforts, and avoiding additional expense of two agencies upon same field.
- 1871 - Domestic Mission Board appointed three district secretaries to work with corresponding secretary in bringing the Board's work before every church in their district.
- 1873 - Southern Baptist Convention approved a percentage agreement by Domestic Mission Board with state boards for propagation within the state's boundaries.
- 1874 - Southern Baptist Convention requested State Conventions and associations to cooperate in promoting purposes, and that reports be forwarded to the Domestic Mission Board.
- 1876 - Southern Baptist Convention called for volunteer agents to present the work and wants of the Home Mission Board.
- 1878 - Southern Baptist Convention changed constitution to provide one representative to the Southern Baptist Convention for each \$500, provided that by March 1 the state body had communicated same to Home Mission Board. Southern Baptist Convention approved report discussing distinctive work of Home Mission Board in cities, destitute and frontier areas, and relationship with State Conventions. Instructed Home Mission Board to gather statistics on work of the churches.
- 1879 - Southern Baptist Convention adopted report: "Let it. . .be settled as a fixed matter in the hearts of Southern Baptists:"
 - (1) "That the Home Mission Board is a necessity."
 - (2) "That there are points in most states, which the State Conventions or General Associations cannot effectually sustain without aid outside of state organizations."
 - (3) "To give unity to our work, and to harmonize all state organizations. . ."
 - (4) "The Home Mission Board will always be our most effective agent in collecting, collating, publishing, and placing in enduring form the statistics. . ."

- 1879 - Home Mission Board advocated the organization of one mission society in each church to promote all mission causes.
- 1880 - A motion to consolidate the work of home and foreign missions into one Mission Board was turned down by the Southern Baptist Convention. Instructed Home Mission Board to enlarge domestic mission work.
- 1881 - Southern Baptist Convention requested Home Mission Board to spend funds as possible in destitute states, and appealed to larger state boards to allow funds to be used in destitute fields. Home Mission Board commended Georgia and Alabama for allowing Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer to raise Southern Baptist Convention funds.
- 1882 - Southern Baptist Convention instructed two mission boards to stimulate and strengthen women's work in all lands. Home Mission Board moved to Atlanta.
- 1883 - Home Mission Board reported 22 missionaries in Florida in conjunction with Florida State Board.
- 1884 - Home Mission Board report included three page appeal for Southern Baptist Convention to abandon "spasmodic efforts and passionate appeals" and adopt a cooperative systematic plan of giving to missions.
- 1885 - Home Mission Board reported policy of closest possible alliance with State Boards in promoting the work of its Church Building Department.
- 1888 - Southern Baptist Convention adopted a statement reserving right of Convention to make a direct approach to the churches. Home Mission Board reported cooperation with Maryland in work with the Chinese in Baltimore.
- 1889 - Southern Baptist Convention instructed Home Mission Board to examine "expediency of opening stations and occupying the territories of New Mexico and Arizona." Appeals made for increased support of Home Mission Board.
- 1893 - Special Southern Baptist Convention Committee emphasized the importance of Home Missions as a means of "unifying our forces. . ." Home Mission Board appealed to State Boards for assistance in raising and distributing funds for church buildings.
- 1895 - Home Mission Board declared that by 1900 the State and Home Mission Board should have 1,000 missionaries in the field.
- 1896 - Southern Baptist Convention asked for report on amount of money Home Mission Board received from each state. Vice-Presidents of Home Mission Board promoted work of Home Mission Board.
- 1897 - Southern Baptist Convention directed Home Mission Board to undertake work of unifying all of our churches. Home Mission Board called a meeting of state secretaries to confer on needs of each state for mission work.
- 1900 - Southern Baptist Convention adopted statement regarding necessity of a Home Mission Board program of work.

- 1901 - Southern Baptist Convention adopted changes in cooperative work of Home Mission Board. (Reporting).
- 1902 - Southern Baptist Convention urged continued Home Mission Board help east of the Mississippi River because of: (1) mountain people, (2) industrial developments, and (3) the cities..
- 1904 - Home Mission Board reported misunderstanding in some areas regarding areas of Home Mission and State Missions. Some appropriations to Mountain Missions were made through State Boards.
- 1905 - Home Mission Board assisted Mountain Schools of State Boards of Georgia and Alabama. Home Mission Board stated readiness to cooperate with State Boards in work.
- 1907 - Southern Baptist Convention instructed Home Mission Board to cooperate with Layman's Movement and Women's Missionary Union in seeking to raise a half-million dollars for home missions during year.
- 1908 - Home Mission Board reported that the Southeastern States are becoming more and more - mission territory.
- 1909 - Southern Baptist Convention called on state conventions to cooperate with Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board in formulation and promotion of plans to enlist Southern Baptists in systematic giving. Home Mission Board reported assuming work of American Baptist Home Mission Society in New Mexico.
- 1910 - American Baptists refused to honor agreement of its Home Mission Society and Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board. Caused many New Mexico churches to withdraw from American Baptist Convention and from the Baptist General Convention of New Mexico.
- 1911 - 70 of the 121 churches in New Mexico were cooperating with the Home Mission Board. Home Mission Board reported 202 cooperative missionaries in Oklahoma and financial support to Oklahoma Baptist College.
- 1912 - Home Mission Board reported that Cooperative work with states included white and Negro Missionaries, evangelists, mission-pastors, schools, construction of church buildings, language group missionaries, assistance to weak churches.
- 1913 - Southern Baptist Convention approved Home Mission Board Department of Enlistment and Cooperation "to train the people of God for service and efficiency." Literature and field workers included in work. The field workers were to:
- (1) Project and conduct educational, missionary, church-to-church campaigns in Associations - set forth needs, stewardship, proportionate giving.
 - (2) Hold workers' conferences for developing leaders, workers, pastors, and others.
 - (3) Assist pastor in local church regarding local problems and systematic giving.

- (4) Help churches compact field, build pastorium, locate pastors.
- (5) Disseminate denominational, educational, and missionary information by study class and literature.
- (6) Cooperate in building up community and community life.

- 1914 - Southern Baptist Convention called on Home Mission Board Enlistment Department to emphasize educational feature, and to make work intensive rather than extensive. Southern Baptist Convention instructed Laymen's Missionary Movement leaders to line up with the Enlistment men of Home and State Boards. Home Mission Board stated that long recognized function of the Home Mission Board, in cooperation with the State, was to elicit, combine, and direct the forces of the Southern Baptist Convention in the homeland.
- 1915 - Southern Baptist Convention adopted Efficiency Commission report that two Mission Boards not be consolidated "either now or in the future."
- 1916 - Southern Baptist Convention approved Home Mission Board purpose "to maintain the closest bonds of fellowship and cooperation with various state boards."
- 1921 - Home Mission Board conducted Cooperative Mission works in all Southern Baptist Convention states, except South Carolina and Georgia where cooperative enlistment work was done.
- 1922 - Home Mission Board accepted state agencies with initiative in selection and direction of cooperative workers.
- 1927 - Home Mission Board reported both direct and cooperative mission endeavor.
- 1928 - Southern Baptist Convention approved Home Mission Board gradual withdrawal of funds in stronger states to assist foreigners, strategic centers, and frontier situations.
- 1931 - Southern Baptist Convention approved Arizona's request for representation on the Home Mission Board.
- 1935 - Home Mission Board summarized task as "the denomination as a whole taking the Gospel in all of its fullness to the people of the homeland, Cuba and Panama."
- 1942 - Southern Baptist Convention called on every association to conduct a School of Missions and for State and Southwide agencies to cooperate in the movement.
- 1944 - Home Mission Board reported cooperating with State Convention in operation of 28 city mission programs. Method used was appointment of a local missions committee for general direction of the work, and the enlistment of churches.
- Home Mission Board initiated cooperative-program of rural work.
- (1) Study and survey of fields.
 - (2) Assemble, publish, and distribute information.
 - (3) Challenge Young People to serve these areas.
 - (4) Cooperate with colleges and seminaries in training for such service.

- (5) Cooperate in rural-life institutes, pastor's conferences, short courses.
 - (6) Cooperate in support of a State Superintendent.
- 1946 - Home Mission Board cooperated with Radio Committee in extensive evangelistic broadcasting.
Home Mission Board functions stated:
- (1) A missionary board.
 - (2) A board of survey.
 - (3) A unifying agency.
 - (4) A connectional board - bringing all Southern Baptist Convention resources to bear upon opportunities.
- 1947 - Southern Baptist Convention adopted program suggesting Home Mission Board - State Cooperation in supporting a state Department of Evangelism.
- 1948 - Southern Baptist Convention committee reported Home Mission Board working cooperatively with city missions, rural missions, Negro work, language ministries, and in Missions, Stewardship, and Evangelism.
- 1950 - Home Mission Board launched Mountain Mission Program to:
- (1) Establish new churches.
 - (2) Strengthen existing churches.
 - (3) Assist mission churches.
 - (4) Open new fields.
 - (5) Pastor and leader conferences, institutes, and fellowship meetings.
- 1951 - Home Mission Board and Texas cooperated in support of a general superintendent of Spanish work in Texas. Home Mission Board sponsored state and convention-wide conferences on rural and city mission work.
- 1952 - Home Mission Board reported 6,454 people enrolled in Correspondence Bible Course.
- 1956 - Southern Baptist Convention requested secretaries of Boards and State Conventions to formulate plans to implement 30,000 Movement.
- 1957 - Southern Baptist Convention authorized Home Mission Board to send a worker to work among Canadian Baptists. Home Mission Board reported cooperation with State Student departments in a ministry to international students (Begun in 1950).
- 1958 - Southern Baptist Convention adopted following recommendations.
- (1) The Home Mission Board should continue to exist as a separate agency of the convention.
 - (2) The Home Mission Board should emphasize areas not well established.
 - (3) Home Mission Board-State Convention cooperation should be accelerated-uniform program developed.
 - (a) Surveying fields
 - (b) Experimentation with new programs.
 - (c) Development of books on mission methods.
 - (d) Sponsor Conferences and training for mission workers.
 - (e) Promote interest in missions - financial support for missions.
 - (f) Encourage persons to enter mission service.
 - (g) Provide assistance to State Convention in obtaining qualified mission workers.

- (4) State Convention should assume direct mission work.
- (5) State Convention should assume financial responsibility for mission work.
- (6) Home Mission Board should transfer Cuba, Panama, Canal Zone to State Convention.
- (7) Church Loan function should be retained by Home Mission Board.
- (8) Home Mission Board should strengthen internal organization and operation.

Taken from -

A Biblical, Philosophical, and Historical Basis for Home Missions

(E. W. Hunke, Jr.)

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- 1961 - Cooperative agreements have been worked out with 23 state conventions for the promotion of our work in 1961. This is a gain of seven over the previous year.

At the close of 1960 there were 77 City Mission programs in 24 states with the Home Mission Board giving financial assistance to 48 programs through the respective state conventions.

- 1962 - Almost all of the work of this division is now cooperative in nature. It is planned, promoted and financed jointly by the Home Mission Board and the respective state conventions. The missionaries, in most cases, are employed jointly. Written agreements, initially developed and regularly reviewed in an annual conference with representatives of each of the state conventions, furnished the basis for the cooperative work with 23 state conventions in 1961. The number rises to 25 in 1962.

- 1963 - The older and stronger states have taken over additional financial responsibility in most categories from year to year and are making it possible for the Home Mission Board to give increasing support to new work and to the pioneer areas.

Total appropriation through the Missions Division in the 1963 budget provides 66.5 percent for new areas and 33.5 percent for 16 Southern states.

- 1964 - It will be noted that 88.1 percent of the Missions Division budget used in the older states is appropriated for three types of work: Mission Centers, Language Missions, and Work with National Baptists.

- 1965 - The Board continues to serve in all fifty states, plus three Caribbean countries. Most of its service is rendered within a framework of cooperative missions with the twenty-nine state conventions. This involves joint planning of strategy, joint selection and employment of missionaries, and joint structuring of the cooperative missions budget between the Home Mission Board and the respective state mission boards.

In 1959 the Convention commended the Board of this approach (see 1959 Annual, pp. 438-439) and asked for a progress report each year. In accordance with the Convention's 1959 directive (Ibid., pp. 439-440) relatively small assistance is given to the well-established states except in areas where the cooperation of a nation-wide agency adds strength to the respective projects. Most of the financial assistance to these states is in the fields of Work with National Baptists, mission centers, juvenile rehabilitation and Language Missions.

- 1970 - The Board's 2,235 missionaries, two-thirds of whom are jointly employed with one of the 31 state conventions, serve in all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and Panama.

Much of the Board's field work, including employment of missionaries, is done in cooperation with the respective state conventions. Plans are developed jointly, are administered by the respective state conventions, and the work and workers are supported through a joint budget. This plan, now in effect for ten years, has been extremely effective in unifying the various state and home missions efforts into "a single uniform missions program" (Annual, Southern Baptist Convention, 1959, p. 438) in the homeland. All phases of missions work in the younger convention territories are included, with the Home Mission Board normally carrying most of the financial responsibility. Selected types of work in the older conventions, such as Language Missions, Work with National Baptists, and Christian Social Ministries, are included, with these conventions normally carrying a larger portion of the joint budget.

- 1971 - The Planning and Coordination Section is an entirely new unit in the organization. Led by an executive assistant, Leonard G. Irwin, the section has a staff of four regional coordinators and a Department of Planning Services. Each coordinator represents all programs and services of the Board in relationships with the respective state conventions, in keeping with formal agreements. This section is oriented toward future planning, maintaining close liaison with both Home Mission Board program leaders and state convention program leaders.

The Board participates financially in all phases of the work of the younger conventions, usually helping support the state missions directors, the state evangelism secretary, the state Woman's Missionary Union office, and the area and/or associational superintendents of missions; and in all cases providing church pastoral aid, thus assisting young congregations to support a pastor until the church can become self-supporting.

- 1972 - The major part of the Board's field work is conducted in cooperation with the respective state conventions. The Board's new Planning and Coordination Section staff and procedures have increased the frequency and extent of consultation between the Board and state convention representatives. It is expected that this approach will improve the joint planning and implementation of home missions efforts by identifying priorities more clearly and by improving coordination of effort both among the Board's programs and between the Board and the respective state conventions.

The studies, priority determinations, budget preparations, cooperative agreements, and progress evaluations point toward the development of a "single uniform nationwide missions program."

A cooperative planning conference for 1973 was conducted with leaders of each of the thirty-six state conventions or general associations.

Long-range planning was initiated in 7 state conventions. The 1972 Home Mission Board field services budget was developed with state leadership. About 75 consultative planning conferences conducted by regional coordinators with program leaders and division directors led to deeper understandings of national needs and opportunities.

The section serves in staff relationships to the administration of the Home Mission Board. A strategy planning group meets each month to plan on a national perspective.

- 1974 - The Board has provided resource persons to assist in state convention missions planning, some of which has grown out of the agency's heightened emphasis on long-range missions planning. The Board has provided staff assistance to the North Central states as a group—Alabama, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Iowa, New York, Northern Plains, Northwest, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah-Idaho, Virginia, West Virginia and Puerto Rico.

The staff assisted six additional state conventions in initiating long-range mission planning. Thirteen state conventions are now involved in this process.

In updating the formal relationship between the Home Mission Board and state conventions, the staff, in cooperation with the state leadership, revised twelve of the Cooperative Agreements.

- 1979 - The area for Home Mission Board planning encompasses the entire nation, which includes thirty-four state conventions.

In conjunction with the Sunday School Board, personnel have provided assistance to three state conventions in the initiation of a strategic planning process. Assistance has been provided to two associations which are moving toward convention status.

- 1984 - In coordination with the Sunday School Board, section personnel assisted four state conventions in initiating a strategic planning process. In a joint venture with the controller, they published a financial and accounting handbook for new state conventions.

- 1985 - Intense efforts were given to assist smaller state conventions in administrative and financial management. This assistance to executive directors ranged from providing advice to detailed review and, with the help of the controller, assistance in establishing books of accounts.

Section personnel have taken the lead in a top-level review of financial relationships between the Home Mission Board and all state conventions, which has resulted in some significant policy decisions. Five states were assisted in developing their long-range plans.

- 1986 - The Home Mission Board maintains a cooperative agreement with each state convention which includes a process of annual planning and budgeting. The basic purpose of this relationship is to develop an

effective uniform mission and evangelism strategy for our nation and assigned territories. Noteworthy accomplishments resulted from continuing efforts to assist smaller state conventions in administrative and financial management. This included conducting a three and one-half-day management seminar for top executives from twenty state conventions. The first phase of installing desktop computers and financial software in five state conventions was completed. Six state conventions were assisted in developing their long-range plans and eleven state conventions in program review and evaluation.