

Policy of South Roanoke Baptist Association
Requirements for Affiliated Churches
Effective date: October 22, 2024

Preamble:

Constitution Article III states the membership requirements for an affiliated church in the South Roanoke Baptist Association (SRBA):

Once received as a member, a church continues perpetually as an affiliate as long as it maintains some level of financial partnership, submits an annual profile, and participates in the Messenger Meetings as possible or until notice of withdrawal in written form is received.

The Leadership Council of the SRBA has reviewed the requirements for affiliation and recommends the Policy as stated below be officially adopted by member churches of the SRBA.

Policy

The requirements for affiliated churches, as stated in the Constitution of the SRBA, are to be interpreted in the specifics presented below.

1 Maintains some level of financial partnership:

- a. During each calendar year, January 1 to December 31, each affiliated church shall make a yearly contribution of \$120 as a minimum (an average of \$10 per month).
- b. A church experiencing a period of financial hardship may appeal to the Leadership Council of the SRBA to be excused from this requirement for a period of six (6) months from the date of the appeal.
- c. Except as noted in 1.b. above, a church failing to meet the yearly minimum will have until July 1st of the following year to make up the deficit, in addition to their giving for that current year.

2 Submits an annual profile:

- a. The Annual Church Profile (ACP) of the Southern Baptist Convention is provided yearly to each affiliated church. The new deadline for ACP submission, covering a calendar year, is January 31st of the next year. The SRBA receives a copy of the ACP.
- b. If a church fails to submit an ACP by the January deadline, they will have until April 1st of that year to provide a report.
- c. In lieu of an ACP, a church may submit a letter to the SRBA, signed by the pastor/elder or other church leader, that provides the following information for the calendar year:
 - Contact information for the church, pastor (or lead elder), ministerial staff, chair of deacons, and church secretary
 - Number of resident members

- Average worship attendance
- Average Bible study attendance
- Number of baptisms
- Annual church budget
- Financial giving to the SBC Cooperative Program and the SRBA

3 Participates in Messenger Meetings

- a. The Quarterly Meetings of the SRBA are in January, April, July, and October.
- b. Each affiliated church is entitled to send one Messenger, and one additional Messenger for each one-hundred resident members, up to a maximum of seven. Churches shall annually send names of their Messengers to the SRBA office, and any time they replace a Messenger. Messengers must duly register prior to each meeting to be eligible to vote. Pastors, elected officers of the Association, and members of the Leadership Council who attend a meeting are eligible to vote, and need not be selected as a Messenger by their church.
- c. Each church shall send at least one Messenger to at least two Quarterly Meetings in a calendar year.
- d. An affiliated church may petition the Leadership Council with a reason why they might not be able to meet this requirement (e.g., Messengers unable to drive at night).

Mission Churches: Churches that were started or sponsored by an affiliated church within the SRBA, and are unable to meet the three requirements for affiliation, may request their sponsoring church to place them in a watch care status until they are prepared to meet the stated requirements. The Strengthening Churches Ministry Team of the SRBA will work with the sponsoring church to help the mission church achieve its goals.

Compliance: The Strengthening Churches Ministry Team will monitor the status of each affiliated church, and provide updates to the Leadership Council on any church not in compliance with this policy. An affiliated church that does not meet all three requirements may be dismissed from the SRBA by a two-thirds vote at a Quarterly Meeting. If a church is presented for dismissal, a leader of that church may address attendees at that meeting. A church may also appeal the decision of the SRBA at a Quarterly Meeting.

Dismissal of a church from affiliated status:

- 1 Will no longer be eligible to vote on issues at meetings of the SRBA.
- 2 Will not be eligible to hold any office or membership on any team of the SRBA.
- 3 May not receive any ministry funds, directly or indirectly, from the SRBA.
- 4 May attend any Quarterly Meeting of the SRBA as a guest.
- 5 May apply for reinstatement through the Strengthening Churches Ministry Team when they are able to commit to affiliation requirements.
- 6 May be provided pastor search committee training and/or a list of interim pastors.
- 7 Will continue to receive SRBA newsletters and other information pieces.