

## **Selection of Messengers to the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention (SBTC) and Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)**

When there is a conflict related to Messenger qualification/selection between Sycamore Baptist Church (Sycamore) policies and the SBTC and/or SBC Constitution/Bylaw policies; applicable SBTC/SBC policies will apply.

In the absence of a Senior Pastor, responsibilities assigned to the Senior Pastor will be carried out by the Deacon Chairman unless otherwise noted.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Sycamore members eligible for selection as messengers will:

- Meet all SBTC/SBC Messenger requirements
- Be an Active Sycamore member as defined in our Policy and Procedures
- Be willing and able to attend the SBC at their own expense (this does not prevent the church from choosing to subsidize expenses)
- Commit to vote and otherwise support SBTC/SBC agenda items in accordance with Sycamore's Stated positions in our Policies and procedures, including but not limited to:
  - Statement of Faith (The Baptist Faith and Message 2000)
  - Church Covenant
  - Statements on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality
  - Statement on Sanctity of Human Life
- Submit themselves for consideration as a Messenger to the Senior Pastor
- Be pre-qualified and approved by the Senior Pastor or deacon body in the absence of a Senior Pastor

### **SELECTION**

- Timing
  - The Senior Pastor will advise the timeframe for candidates to submit themselves for consideration as a Messenger
- Process
  - Ministry Staff (and spouse) meeting the qualifications and desiring to serve as Messengers will automatically be added to the slate of Messenger candidates for approval by the church membership. If this results in a number that exceeds the maximum allowed by the SBTC or SBC policy, the Senior Pastor will make the final selection. If the Senior Pastorate is vacant, the Deacon body will make the selection.

- The slate of vetted, qualified Messenger candidates will be presented by the Senior Pastor at a business meeting for approval by the church membership
- If the number of additional qualified candidates results in more Messengers than allowed by SBTC or SBC policy, the Senior Pastor will call for the election of Messengers at a regular or special called business meeting.
  - Vote will be by paper ballot; ballots will be prepared by the Deacon body
  - When there is only 1 available Messenger spot, a member will vote for only 1 candidate; the candidate with the most votes will be selected
  - When there are 2 or more available Messenger spots, a member may vote for up to 2 candidates; spots will be filled with the candidates receiving the most votes
  - Votes will be counted by Ministry staff/Deacons present at the meeting
  - In the case of a tie result, additional rounds of voting will be conducted as necessary for those candidates who were tied for the open Messenger position(s)
- Communication
  - The Senior Pastor will communicate the final Messenger list to the church membership
- Messenger Responsibility
  - Messengers will be responsible for following any registration, certification, and other requirements set by the SBTC/SBC