

YOUR BRN FAMILY

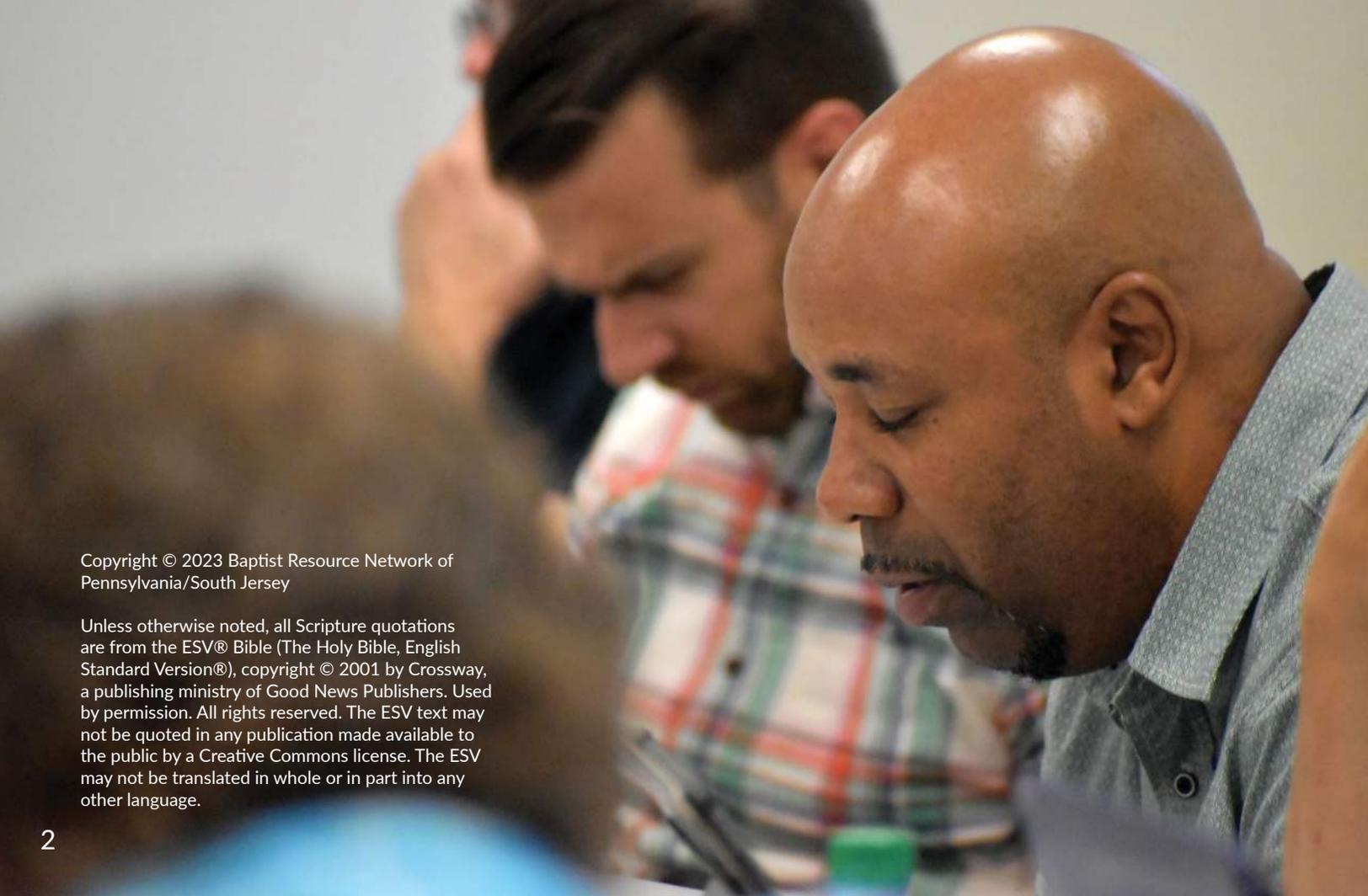
A GETTING STARTED GUIDE TO THE BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK OF PA/SOUTH JERSEY



**Baptist Resource Network
Pennsylvania/South Jersey**



ACCELERATING KINGDOM MOVEMENT



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A WELCOME GUIDE TO THE BRN

Thank you for your interest in the Baptist Resource Network (BRN) and for your partnership in the gospel. The BRN is the fourth largest non-South Baptist state convention by population. Everything we do centers on four key parts of our strategy to help churches *accelerate Kingdom movement*.

Our team of missionaries offers customized training and resources because we know churches are in different stages of growth. We believe the gospel of Jesus Christ is the main accelerant of the work that churches do across the BRN, because it is the only way to see a multiplication movement of new disciples, new leaders, new ministries and new churches across our two-state region.

If your church desires growth and multiplication, this is your network. At the BRN, we have a clear vision of wanting to see every church within our Pennsylvania/South Jersey geography become a healthy, multiplying church.

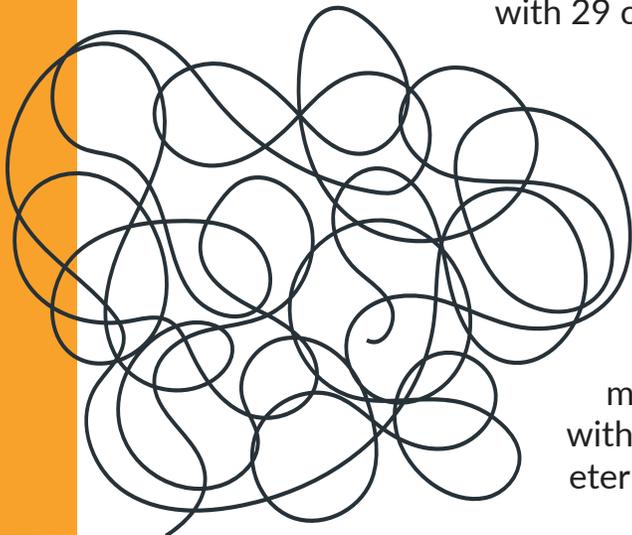
In this guide, you will see the resources the BRN provides to assist and encourage you as you embrace your mission. You'll see the benefits and partnerships that are available to you. Whether you are a new church seeking affiliation with the BRN, an existing church that wants to review the resources of the BRN, or simply a faithful disciple within one of our local churches who wants to know what the broader church is all about, we hope that you'll find this information encouraging.

Our mission is worth our partnership. Your church can be stronger when we stand together for the gospel, and we're truly grateful that you're exploring the BRN.

We are
better
together.
#BRNunited

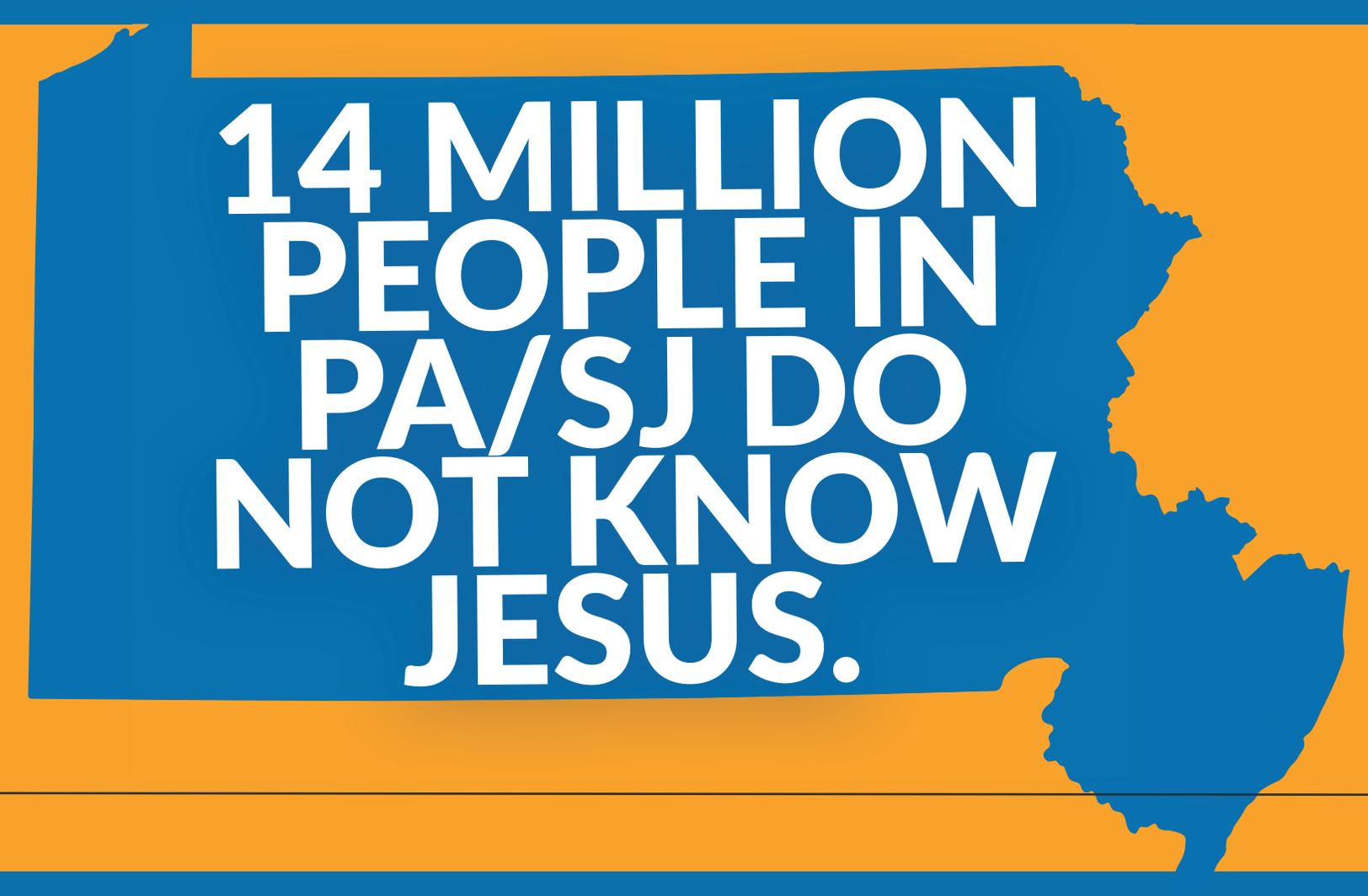
THE NEED

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, over 13 million people live in 67 Pennsylvania counties, filled with 4,250 cities, towns, villages/boroughs, and special districts. And in South Jersey, another nearly 3 million people live in 9 counties with 29 cities, 106 townships, and 79 boroughs.



Given a conservative 85% rate of lostness among these populations, statistics show an estimated 14 million people in our geographic region who do not have a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Moreover, vital records from the states' departments of health show that every 4.2 minutes, someone in our geographic region dies without knowing Christ and will be separated from Him eternally.



**14 MILLION
PEOPLE IN
PA/SJ DO
NOT KNOW
JESUS.**

Challenges to Churches in the Northeast

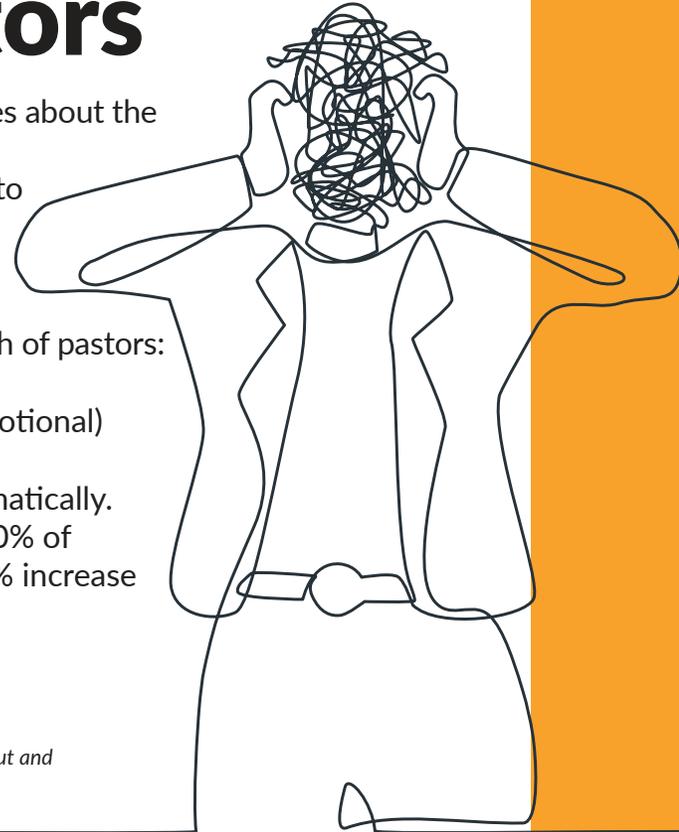
- Post-Christian (pre-Christian?) worldview and culture
- Underlying distrust in the area
- Large area leads to isolation, loneliness
- High ratio of bivocational pastors
- Less value of clergy results in job-related stress
- Ineffective or absent discipleship models
- Lack of leaders and leader pipelines
- Loss of vision and mission
- Unresolved pain from past church conflict

Challenges to Pastors

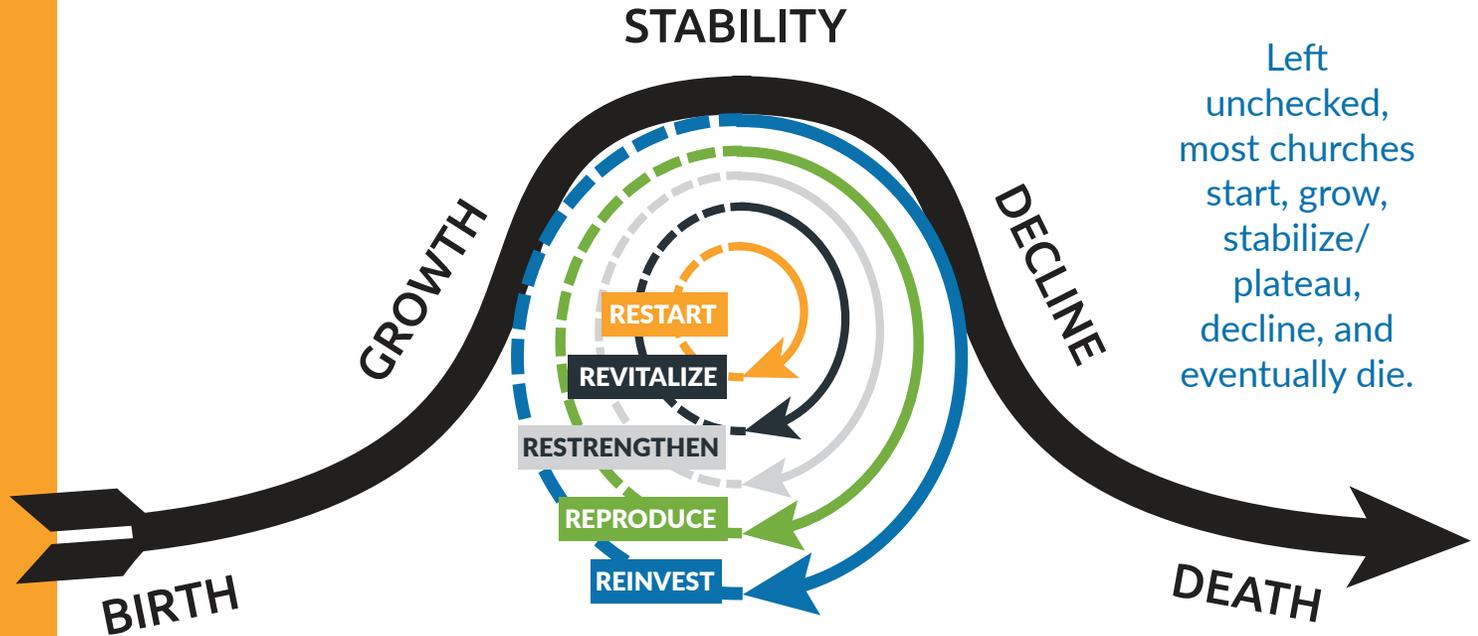
According to Carey Nieuwhof's article on "5 Shocking Realities about the Real State of Pastor Burnout," based on new Barna Research, there has been a 20% decrease in pastor satisfaction related to their job over seven years. In 2015, 72% of pastors said they felt "very satisfied" with their job as pastors. In late 2022, just 52% of pastors were "very satisfied with their jobs." Here are 5 key areas of significant decrease in the health of pastors:

1. The overall well-being (spiritual, physical, mental and emotional) of pastors has hit a low.
2. The pastor's confidence in his calling has decreased dramatically.
3. Pastor burnout has reached a "Five Alarm Fire" status: 40% of pastors now show a high risk of burnout (an almost 400% increase since 2015 when it was only 11%).
4. Young pastors are being hit the hardest.
5. Pastors do not feel supported.

Sources: <https://careynieuwhof.com/5-shocking-realities-about-the-real-state-of-pastor-burnout> and www.barna.com/research/pastoral-security-confidence

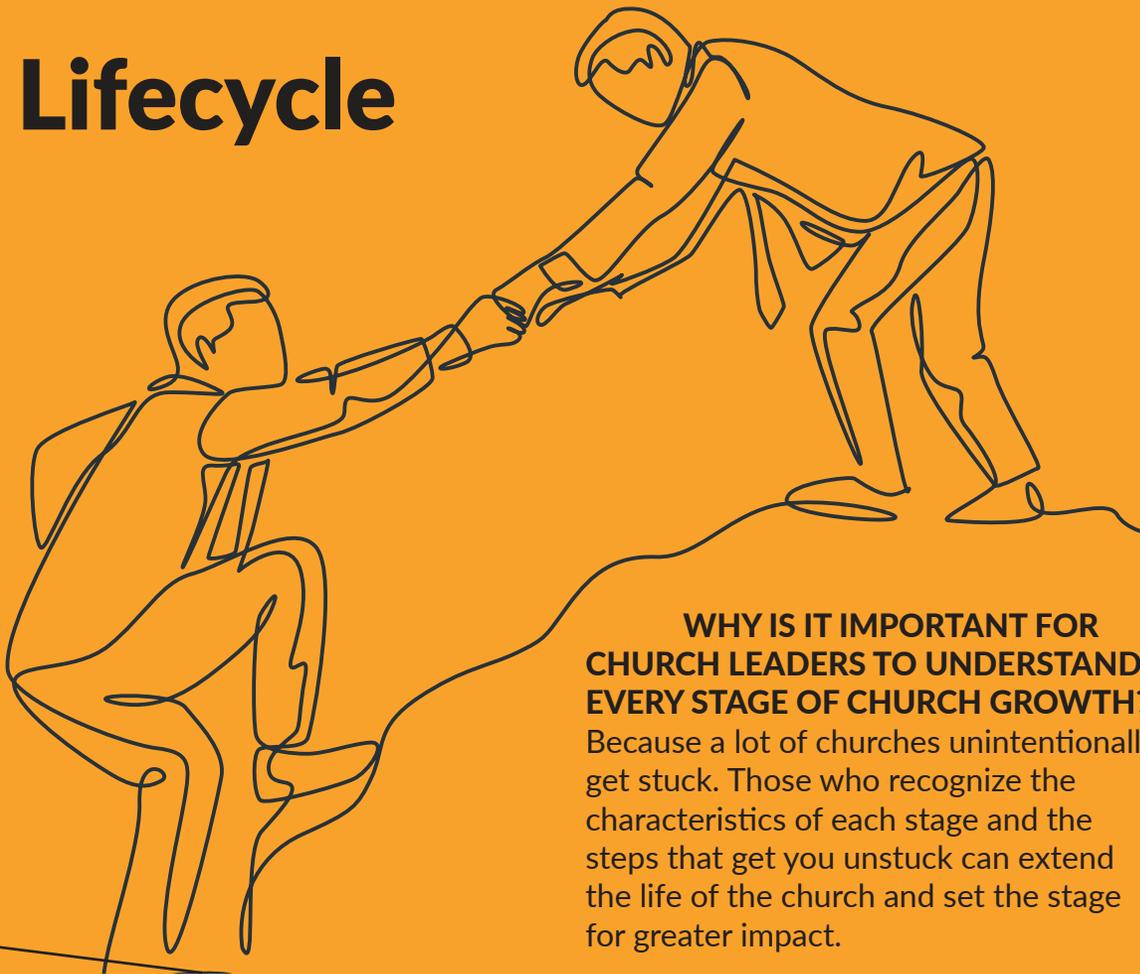


The BRN helps churches at every stage of their lifecycle



Church Lifecycle Stages:

Reach/Restart
Revitalize
Restrengthen
Reproduce
Reinvest



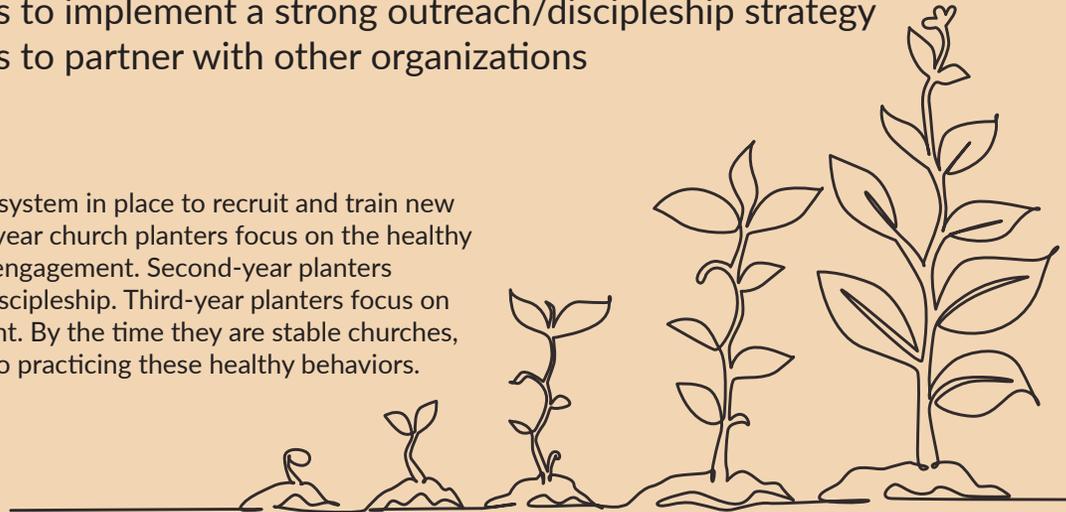
**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR
CHURCH LEADERS TO UNDERSTAND
EVERY STAGE OF CHURCH GROWTH?**
Because a lot of churches unintentionally
get stuck. Those who recognize the
characteristics of each stage and the
steps that get you unstuck can extend
the life of the church and set the stage
for greater impact.

REACHING

The church is **starting** and will work in the following areas within 18 months

- Church is in the early stages of starting
- Church seeks to develop other leaders beside pastor
- Church seeks to partner missionally/innovatively internally and with other churches
- Church seeks to implement a strong outreach/discipleship strategy
- Church seeks to partner with other organizations

The BRN has a strong system in place to recruit and train new church planters. First-year church planters focus on the healthy behavior of missional engagement. Second-year planters focus on intentional discipleship. Third-year planters focus on leadership development. By the time they are stable churches, they are accustomed to practicing these healthy behaviors.



RESTARTING

The church is **stuck**. The lack of spiritual vitality can stem from many causes, including mistrust, internal fighting, or spiritual complacency. Spiritual breakthrough is needed with a significant organizational renewal or a complete replanting process.

- Church is on survival mode and needs to be restarted
- Church has no leaders beside pastor
- Church has internal conflict, which affects/shuts down ministry efforts
- Church has no outreach/discipleship strategy
- Church does not want help from other organizations

A church that fails to revitalize or reproduce can still be an effective tool for the Kingdom by choosing to close their doors and invest their remaining people and assets into a new church. By intentionally closing and passing their assets on to a new congregation, they are leaving a legacy of faith within their community that may sprout new fruit in the next season. The BRN can help you close well.



REVITALIZING

The church is **struggling** and has normalized the feeling. It may be looking on the horizon for hope. There is no impulse or readiness to change. Spiritual breakthrough is needed with disciple-making revitalization.

- Church has no interest in helping start new churches
- Church's existing leaders are languishing
- Church members compete instead of partner between ministries
- Church has a forgotten outreach/discipleship strategy
- Church is looking for help from BRN and other organizations



A healthy church is always looking for ways to maintain a strong connection to missional engagement, intentional discipleship, and leadership development. When a church starts to decline, they are likely neglecting one of these key behaviors. The BRN can help you identify and address these issues at the first signs of decline so that your church might be revitalized before it dies.

RESTRENGTHENING

The church is no longer **strong**, but feels stuck. Even though the leaders know the mission is not hitting on all eight cylinders, they want to fix it. They desire change and are hungry to learn. They ask for help.

- Church would like to help start churches but can't afford to give people/funds
- Church's development of new leaders is waning
- Church members partner well between ministries; few new ministries
- Church has a disorganized outreach/discipleship strategy, but wants to fix it
- Church consistently reaches out to BRN and other organizations for help

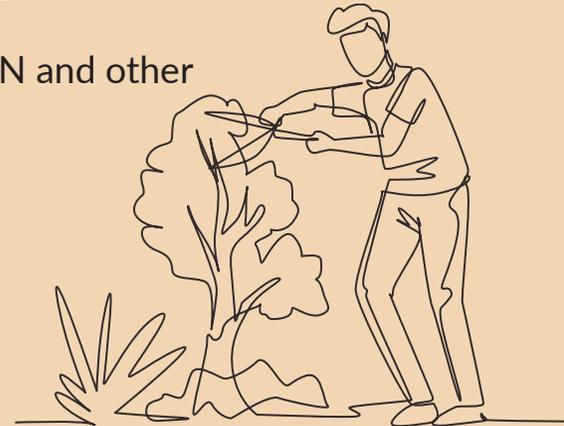


REPRODUCING

The church is **strong** but has the potential to be stellar. Effective ministry continues with stability that may be pre or post plateau. There is some innovation, but passionate culture of mission has cooled off a bit. The church has a very good reputation.

- Church starts new churches by sending funds, not people, or vice versa
- Church multiplies new leaders
- Church members partner well and often innovate new ministries
- Church has a strong outreach/discipleship strategy, but needs help implementing it
- Church would like to share in leadership with BRN and other organizations

A stable church teaches disciples to make other disciples who make other disciples. Their pastors are planning for reproduction through leadership development. Their ultimate desire is to reproduce disciples, leaders, new ministries, and new churches. These outwardly-focused behaviors prevent a church from slipping into “self-preservation mode,” which is unfaithful, and ultimately unfruitful. The BRN can teach you to stay on mission.

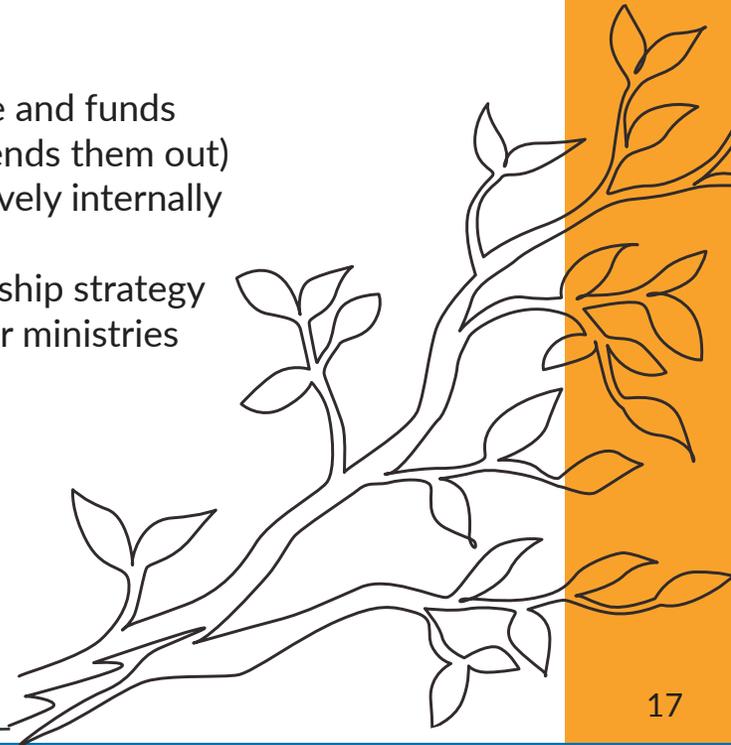


REINVESTING

The church is **stellar** with relationship to the mission. There is overall health, leadership trust, external focus, demonstrated disciple-making and ministry innovation.

- Church starts new churches by sending people and funds
- Church regularly multiples new leaders (and sends them out)
- Church regularly partners missionally/innovatively internally and with other churches
- Church implements a strong outreach/discipleship strategy
- Church provides leadership to/with BRN/other ministries

Reinvesting churches excel at all levels but are equally interested in growing God's Kingdom by helping other churches grow in their healthiness and impact. They tend to understand the importance of sharing their expertise, strengths, and wisdom gained in their own journeys. The BRN seeks to pair reinvesting churches with other churches for greater collaboration and investment in the Kingdom.



A black SUV is shown from a low angle, partially submerged in deep, reddish-brown mud. The front wheel is visible, completely covered in mud. The background is a dark, overcast sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of being stuck or hindered.

IS YOUR CHURCH STUCK?

Take a short
quiz to find out!

RATE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ON A SCALE OF 1 (LOWEST) TO 5 (HIGHEST).

#1: People visit our church, and most of them come back.

1. What are visitors?
2. I wish! None of them come back!
3. I wish. A few of them come back.
4. I am seeing some repeat visitors.
5. So exciting! Many of our guests are plugging into our church!

MY ANSWER:

#2: We've tried reaching out to our community, and it's working!

1. We haven't focused on the community yet.
2. We have plans to reach out to our community, but...
3. We have reached out to our community, but it doesn't seem to be working.
4. We have started making great repeat contacts in the community, and some are coming to church.
5. We have several repeat visitors from whom we've engaged from our community.

MY ANSWER:

#3: Finding enough volunteers is never a problem in our church.

1. We constantly struggle to find volunteers.
2. We have volunteers, but they are stretched too thin.
3. We are developing a system for volunteer recruitment but haven't made much traction yet.
4. Our volunteer system is really starting to take off.
5. The people in our church are wonderful volunteers, enabled by a robust volunteer system!

MY ANSWER:

RATE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ON A SCALE OF 1 (LOWEST) TO 5 (HIGHEST).

#4: We have a strong leadership pipeline.

1. We constantly struggle to find people who will step into leadership roles.
2. We have leaders, but they are stretched too thin.
3. We are developing a system for leader recruitment but haven't made much traction yet.
4. Our leadership system is really starting to take off, and people are serving in vital roles throughout our church.
5. Our church deliberately and systematically influences and develops others to become leaders within the Body of Christ.

MY ANSWER:

#5: Church members are developing spiritual maturity through discipleship, deliberate learning, and accountability.

1. Our church members lack understanding of basic spiritual truths.
2. We have some church members who are growing and exhibiting some spiritual transformation, but most are focused on acquiring information.
3. Some of our church members are moving from head knowledge to their hands, then to their hearts, and are building habits that produce growth (spiritual maturity) in their lives.
4. Our church has a discipleship system, which regularly engages members and invites them to continue moving forward in building healthy discipleship practices.
5. The people in our church are disciple-makers who lead others to become and know how to follow Christ.

MY ANSWER:

IS YOUR CHURCH STUCK?

TABULATE YOUR SCORE

My total:

<u>SCORE 0-5:</u> Our church is stuck!	My church is stuck. Spiritual break-through is needed with a significant organizational renewal or a complete replanting process.
<u>SCORE 6-10:</u> Our church needs a shovel.	My church is struggling and has normalized the feeling. Though we have hope, we are not ready for change. Spiritual breakthrough is needed.
<u>SCORE 11-15:</u> Our church is losing traction.	My church is no longer strong, but feels stuck. Even though the leaders know the mission is not hitting on all eight cylinders, we want to fix it. We want change and are hungry to learn. We are asking for help.
<u>SCORE 15-20:</u> Our church needs to reorient the wheel.	My church is strong but has the potential to be stellar. Effective ministry continues with stability, and there is some innovation, but passionate culture of mission has cooled off a bit. We want help to focus on the right direction again.
<u>SCORE 21-25:</u> Our church is in alignment.	My church is stellar with relationship to the mission. There is overall health, leadership trust, external focus, demonstrated disciple-making and ministry innovation.

MISSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGING THE LOST

MISSIONAL ENGAGEMENT is defined as God's people (Christ-followers and His Church) taking the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ to a world that is separated from a relationship with a Holy and Eternal God. Engaging people missionally with the gospel involves the church going out to people rather than just reaching out and/or expecting the people to come to them. *Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8*

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP is developing spiritual maturity within Christ-followers through deliberate learning and accountability in peer-to-peer relationships and/or small groups. Intentional discipleship brings the Bible to life in Christ-followers, and what they learn moves from their heads, to their hands, then to their hearts, as it translates into habits that produce growth (spiritual maturity) in their lives. Further, through intentional discipleship, the disciple becomes a disciple-maker who leads others to become and know how to follow Christ. *Matthew 4:19, 28:20*

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

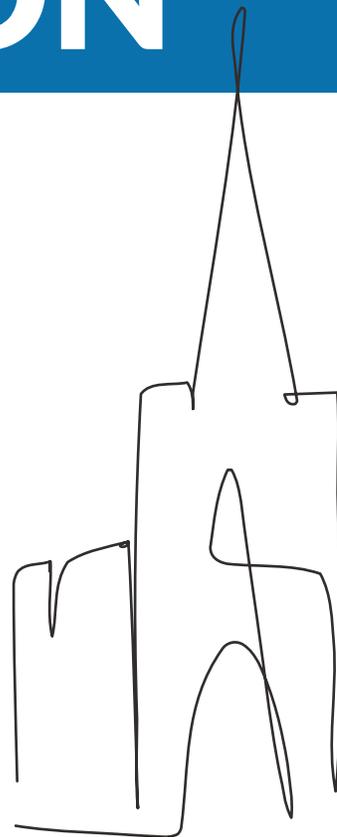
ENSURING A NEXT GENERATION

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT is the deliberate and systematic activity by church leaders to purposely influence and develop others to become leaders within the Body of Christ. Every church needs leaders, especially for its future. The Kingdom needs leaders to advance the gospel around the world. Leadership development expands the capacity of individual Christ-followers to assume leadership roles within the Body of Christ, both locally and globally. *Ephesians 4:11-12, 2 Timothy 2:2*

OUR VISION

Every church
in Pennsylvania and South Jersey
**is a healthy,
multiplying church.**

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ..." (Ephesians 4:11-13)



WE ARE GREAT COMMISSION BAPTISTS

The Baptist Resource Network seeks to help you multiply at every level. We want disciples who make new disciples, ministries that birth new ministries, leaders who replicate new leaders, and churches that plant new churches. We believe that this mission flows directly from the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20.



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:18-20).

EVERY PERSON

EVERY GROUP

EVERY CHURCH

MULTIPLYING

OUR MISSION

The Baptist Resource Network exists to help churches **accelerate Kingdom movement**



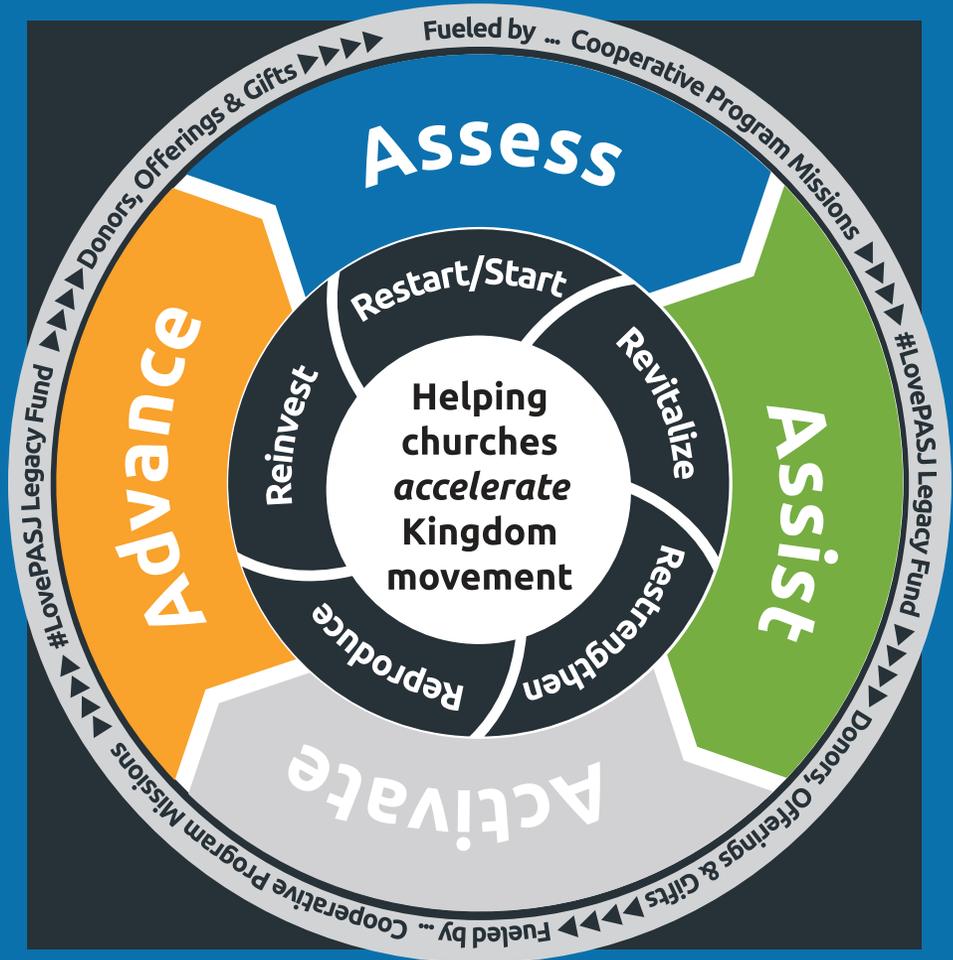
IN OTHER WORDS,
WE EXIST TO HELP
YOU TAKE YOUR
NEXT STEP.

“But for us, what is unknown and uncharted and undiscovered is the wondrous and eternal story that awaits to be written on the other side of our NEXT STEP.”

Jeff Christopherson, “Once You See”

BRN MISSION STRATEGY

*accelerating
Kingdom
movement*



UNDERSTANDING EACH STEP

Within God's Kingdom, every person, every pastor, and every church has a next step. The BRN desires to help pastors take whatever is necessary to help them move forward:

1. ASSESS

Discover Your Current Reality

An honest and detailed look at your overall ministry, defining where you've been, determining where you are, and discovering where you can go.

2. ASSIST

Determine Your Next Step

Interpreting what you have discovered, prioritizing a next step, and developing fresh strategies to meet the needs and vision of that next step.

3. ACTIVATE

Implement Your Next Step

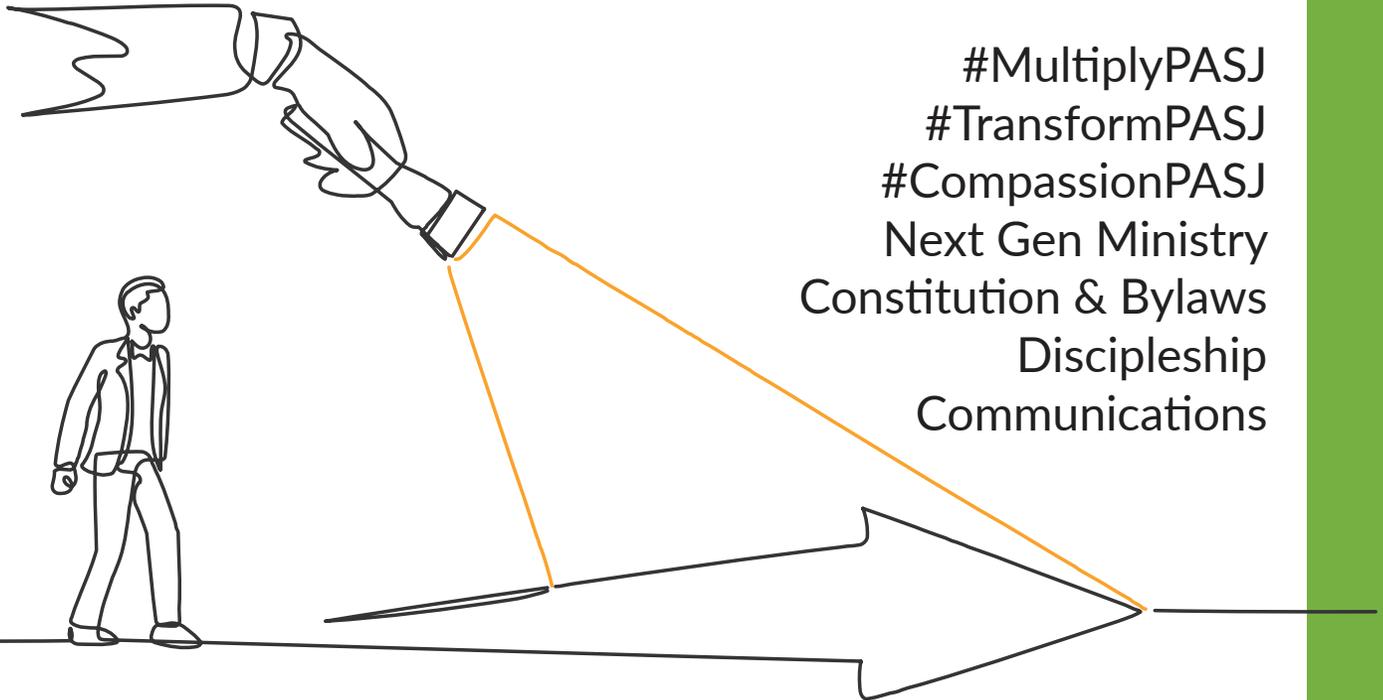
Encouraging individuals, ministries, and churches to implement strategies and goals developed by the assistance of the BRN and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

4. ADVANCE

Help Others with Their Current Reality

Enabling churches who exhibit dynamic biblical behavior and movement (moving and leading out) to contribute to the growth and advancement of the Kingdom within the BRN and beyond.

SOMETIMES THOSE STEPS LEAD TO DIFFERENT PATHWAYS:



#MultiplyPASJ

#TransformPASJ

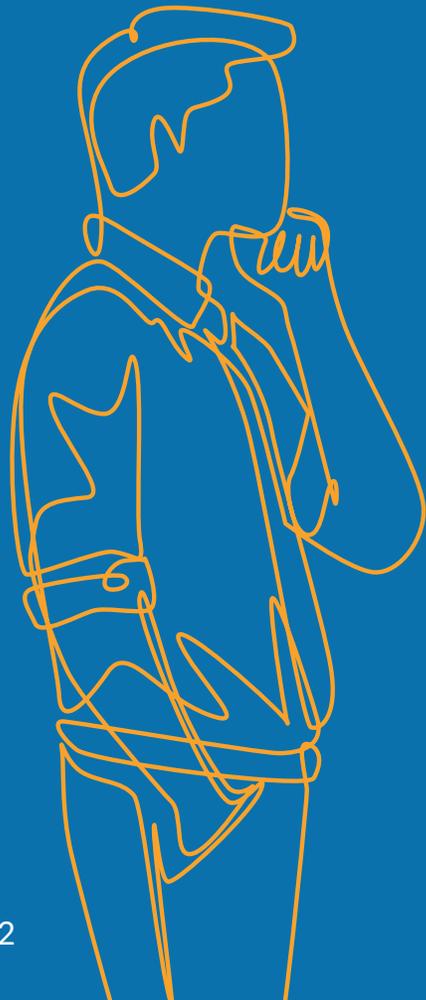
#CompassionPASJ

Next Gen Ministry

Constitution & Bylaws

Discipleship

Communications



BRN'S MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS:

Church Health
Church Resourcing & Servicing
Church Starting
Compassion Ministry
Disaster & Crisis Relief
Ministry Wives
Next Gen Ministry
Women's Ministry



HEALTHY LEADERS

HEALTHY LEADERS: We care about your health and the health of your family. Your fellow leaders in the BRN are your best source of no-nonsense talk about how you are REALLY doing. We want you to find connections with other leaders in the BRN who will help you maintain a healthy YOU. This is essential. One key resource from the BRN is Family Care that is offered through the Full Strength Network. Ministry can be exceptionally lonely, so the extended support network that the BRN provides is invaluable to our partner pastors. We offer prayer encouragement and special funds for pastors when they face unexpected major life events. With assistance from the North American Mission Board, we also provide ongoing encouragement to church planter families as they start their new journey of planting a church. We sponsor retreats to help refresh leaders, pastor's wives, and women throughout the BRN.



HEALTHY FILTERS

+ HEALTHY FILTERS: All of the best behaviors in the world can be applied in the wrong way. A common example: we spend time trying to build the church instead of building the Kingdom. Jesus clearly said that He would build His Church, while we should seek first the Kingdom. For example, when we serve the poor, are we simply trying to recruit people to join our church, or are we being Kingdom-minded? Can we celebrate when someone is disciplined better by a different local congregation or are we secretly bitter when they leave ours? Would we be willing to send our best leaders out to plant another church and expand the Kingdom, or do we want to hold on to them to build up our own local church? Without the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we could be tempted to misapply good biblical behaviors in untimely ways. For this reason, we teach healthy churches to filter all of their activities through the filters of the Kingdom of God and Prayer. Kingdom keeps our focus on the glory of the King instead of our own fame. Prayer keeps us in a humble posture before our King so that He might direct our steps.



HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

+ HEALTHY BEHAVIORS: Missional engagement, intentional discipleship, and leadership development are three key behaviors of healthy churches. (See page 22.)



HEALTHY MISSION

+ HEALTHY MISSION: Our mission is to help you multiply at every level. We want disciples who make new disciples, ministries that birth new ministries, leaders who replicate new leaders, and churches that plant new churches. We believe that this mission flows directly from the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20.



HEALTHY CHURCHES

= HEALTHY CHURCHES: We embrace the mission of getting the church out of its buildings and into the midst of our communities. Healthy churches develop a discipleship strategy to move people from spiritual infancy to spiritual parenthood. Solid biblical preaching is a component of intentional discipleship, but is not the complete picture. In Acts 20:20, we see the example of public teaching AND house-to-house teaching. We also hear about spiritual life stages throughout the Bible. A church that does not develop leaders is one generation away from closing. Healthy churches help every person consider their contribution to Kingdom growth, and every leader considers their contribution to future ministries. Multiplication is bigger than mere reproduction. We want to help you train up leaders who develop other leaders and plant churches that plant other churches.

BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK VALUES

<p>UNIFIED DIVERSITY</p>	<p>We believe it is crucial that Christ-followers be unified in diversity—not uniformity—because this reflects and celebrates the fullness of God’s creative work through humanity and His desire that all of creation reflect His character and identity.</p> <p><i>Genesis 1:26-27, Galatians 3:26-29, Revelation 7:9</i></p>
<p>PASSIONATE INNOVATION</p>	<p>We believe we must remain passionate about the need to become increasingly innovative in creating new ideas, strategies, and systems because it will be demanded in order to reach the unreached for Jesus Christ.</p> <p><i>Isaiah 42:9, 43:18-19, Mark 2:21-22, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23</i></p>
<p>GOSPEL-DRIVEN MULTIPLICATION</p>	<p>We believe the gospel of Jesus Christ is the main accelerant of the work that churches do across the BRN, because it is the only way to see a multiplication movement of new disciples, leaders, ministries and churches across our two-state region.</p> <p><i>Matthew 28:18-20, John 20:21, Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 2 Timothy 2:2</i></p>
<p>EMPOWERED NETWORK</p>	<p>We believe we are a great network of churches, because we have learned and are learning the value of relying on and resourcing one another in pushing back darkness and decreasing lostness within our region.</p> <p><i>Exodus 17:12, Proverbs 27:17, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, 1 Corinthians 3:9, Philippians 4:19</i></p>
<p>AUTHENTIC PARTNERSHIPS</p>	<p>We believe our network needs to be capable and credible, because partnerships can only thrive when they are built on mutual trust, honesty and authenticity.</p> <p><i>2 Corinthians 5:9-11, 2 Corinthians 8:21, Philippians 1:3-11</i></p>

When our churches have/are:



From Leaders Surviving to Leaders Thriving, resulting in greater vision, succession and indigenous leadership pipelines



From Church Centric to Kingdom Centric, resulting in greater church collaboration and disciple-making



From Programmatically Obsessed to Missionally Motivated, resulting in greater missional reach and impact locally/globally



From Racially Ignorant to Diversely Unified, resulting in greater racial cooperation and collaboration

BRN SUCCESS
MEASURES

The Baptist Resource Network also cares about the health of our pastors and their families.

Ministry can be exceptionally lonely, so the Baptist Resource Network offers an extended support network, prayer encouragement, retreats, and other events to help refresh our partnering churches' leaders, pastor's wives, and families. We come alongside lead pastors in four ways:

RECREATION:

The BRN offers free Pastor Blessing events and gatherings, such as a day at the golf range or other special outings, for pastors, pastor couples and/or pastor families. These events provide pure fun and camaraderie with fellow ministry leaders.

RESPITE:

Ministry can be quite tiring. The BRN offers pastors and their wives free use of its Guest House in Harrisburg, as well as access to a list of other preapproved respite locations. The Volunteer House also is available for families to enjoy.

RESTRENGTHENING:

Through a vital partnership with Full Strength

Network (FSN), the BRN offers free monthly counseling or coaching for the pastor and his wife and family, as well as peer huddles, a mindfulness app, exclusive wellbeing content, referrals to trained financial coaches, and access to a list of pre-approved respite locations.

REASSURANCE:

GuideStone Financial Services serves churches with products and services that promote financial health and spiritual wellness. The BRN partners with GuideStone to provide free protection benefits and retirement contributions for qualified candidates. The BRN also offers Legacy and Estate Planning for churches, individuals and families.



PASTORAL WELLNESS



RECREATION

Free Pastor Blessing events/gatherings

RESPIRE

*Free use of BRN's Guest House and
access to other respite locations*

RESTRENGTHENING

Free counseling and coaching

REASSURANCE

*Free GuideStone benefits and
Legacy and Estate Planning*

TESTIMONIAL

**Chuck Fricker, Bivocational Pastor,
Harvest House Community Church, Towanda, Pa.**

"[The Baptist Resource Network] creates a prepackaged product that is very easy to get people excited about in the church. So, what's really cool for my context, specifically, is without a staff I'm doing everything kind of solo [and] it's really great to not have to reinvent the wheel.

"None of this strategic stuff is novel or innovative. It's just, here's what the Bible says to do, and we're going to create really valuable tools that are visually pleasing to people, and it just takes a ton of workload off of the leadership in the local church."



There are more
exciting
things ahead!

Who is the Baptist Resource Network?

- We are Great Commission Baptists, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.
- We are a collection of like-minded, autonomous churches in Pennsylvania and South Jersey working in cooperation with one another to impact the whole world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- We are one of the top two largest evangelical organizations in our servicing region.
- We are one of 41 state conventions in the Southern Baptist Convention organized to support the local church.
- Our primary focuses include Church Health, Church Resourcing and Servicing, Church Starting, Compassion Ministry, Disaster Relief, Ministry to Women, and Next Generation Ministry.
- We were founded in 1970.
- In our network, 75% of our churches consist of bi-vocational pastors.
- Our BRN Hub is centrally located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

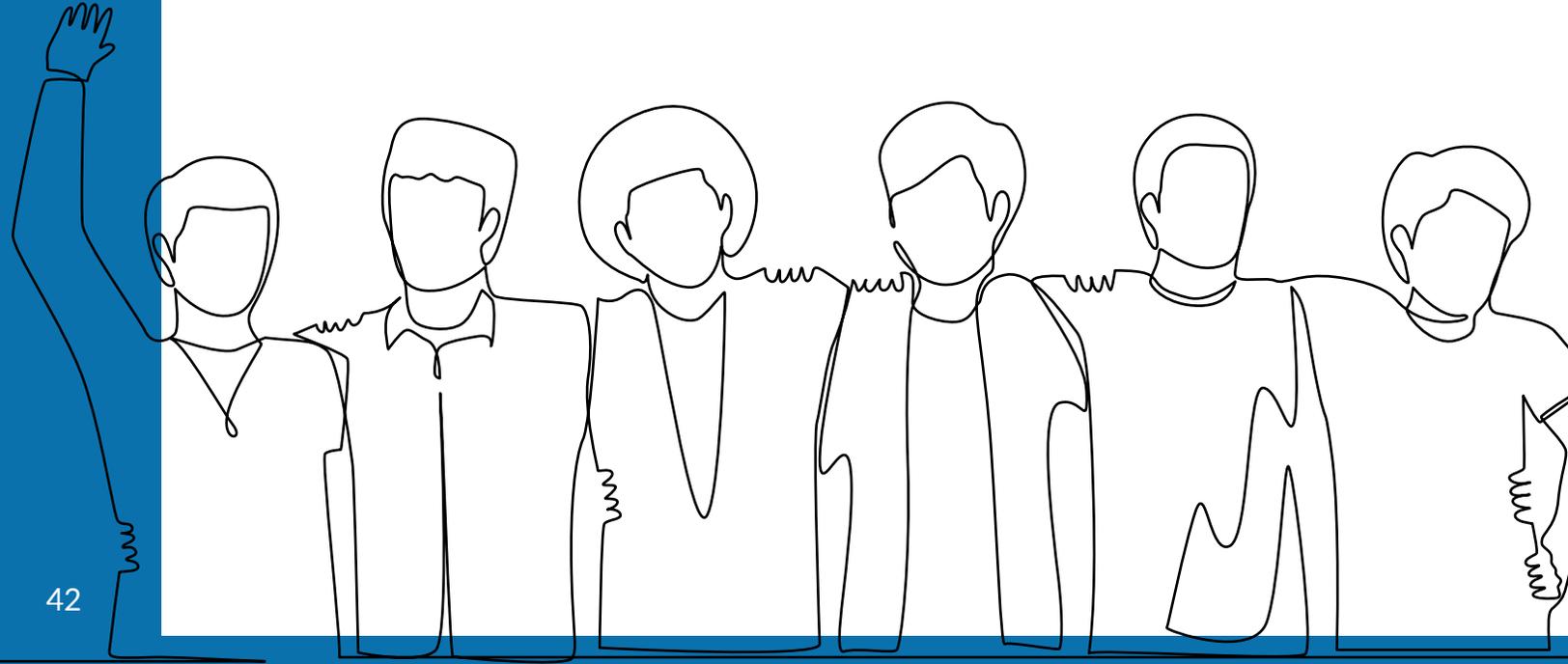


The BRN seeks to:

- Promote and encourage your gospel work and witness
- Promote and encourage holiness and faithfulness to Scripture
- Strengthen your church through interactions with our team, trainings, conferences, and resources
- Aid church leaders in faithfully shepherding their churches
- Help churches discover and take their next step

HOW THE BRN IS ORGANIZED

- Executive Board
- Executive Board Leadership Team
- Executive Director, Barry Whitworth
- Directors
- Hub Support
- Field Consultants



EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Baptist Resource Network is a nonprofit organization governed by an executive board. The board is comprised of 17 persons, both pastors and lay persons, who serve in BRN affiliated churches. The BRN has four regions in our servicing territory, and there are four representatives on the board from each region and one additional representative from the largest region. The board meets corporately at least three times per year to discuss matters pertaining to the BRN and the fulfillment of the BRN's purpose.

EXECUTIVE BOARD LEADERSHIP TEAM

The BRN has a leadership team, comprised of current board members, who assist with the operations of the BRN as it relates to executing policy, decisions, operational functions, and other matters of the BRN. In support of the BRN mission, the Executive Board Leadership Team:

- Provides ongoing operational counsel of the BRN.
- Gives ready response to time-sensitive requests and needs.
- Is an accessible resource and counsel to the BRN Executive Director/Treasurer.
- Provides and maintains organizational structure and integrity within the BRN.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DR. BARRY WHITWORTH has been in ministry for over 30 years, serving as a mission pastor, associate pastor, church planter, pastor, interim pastor, transitional pastor and planter, church planting strategist, lead church planting catalyst, church planting director, and now executive director.

Before his calling as BRN's Executive Director in February 2017, he was a church planting missionary and served as the BRN Multiplying Churches Team Leader.

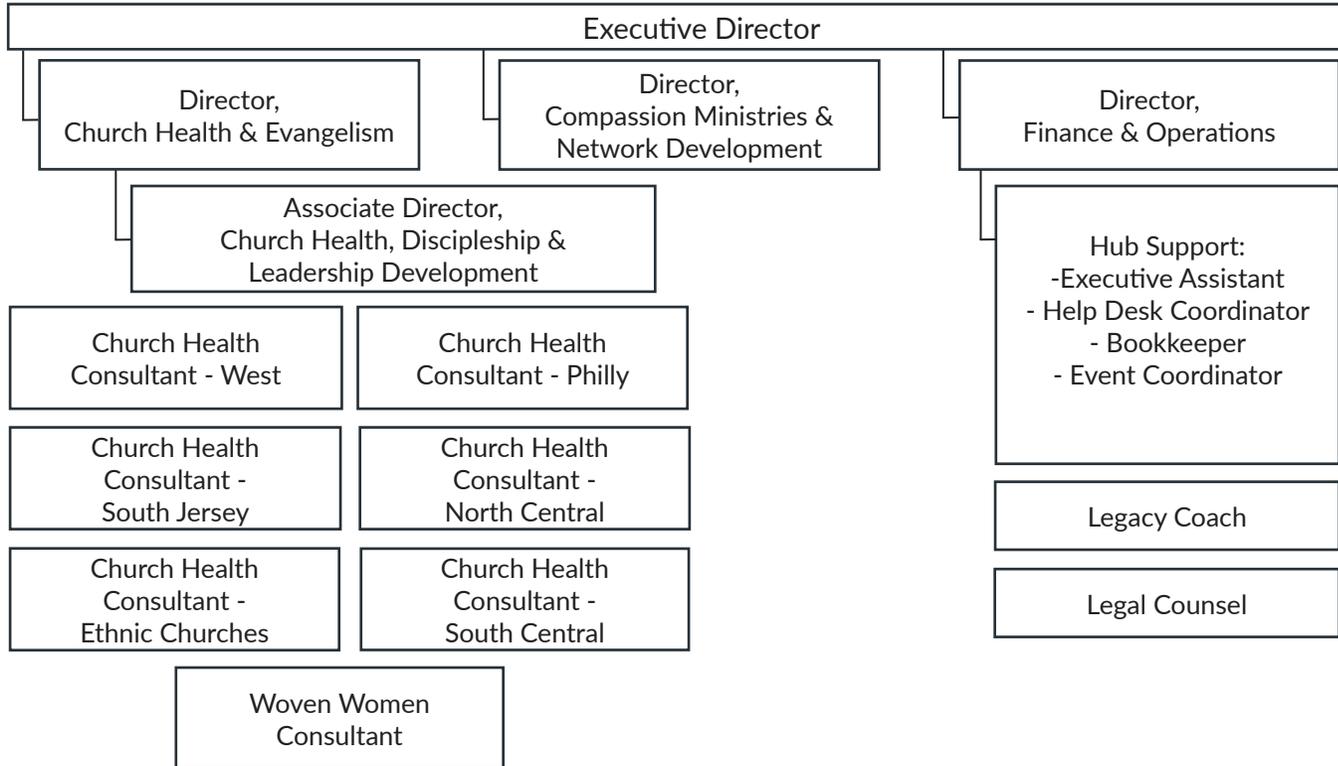
Barry, who has planted churches and served on church staffs in Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland, says his passion is the local church – to assist and encourage the churches in “reaching the lost [and] discipling the saved.” He seeks to help Pennsylvania and South Jersey Baptists “decrease lostness,” “push back darkness” and “have an impact in our generation for such a time as this.”

In May 2017, Barry received an honorary doctorate degree from Davis College. The Doctor of Divinity degree is conferred on individuals who have distinguished themselves in Christian ministry and leadership. Prior to ministry, he was employed by the USPS for 12 years, working as a maintenance mechanic and supervisor. He and his wife Beth have two daughters and six grandchildren.





Team BRN



Team BRN

Executive Director

Director,
Communications,
Editor, *BRN United*

Associate Editor,
BRN United

Director,
Next Gen

Associate Director,
Next Gen

Collegiate Ministers
(*self-funded*)

Director,
Disaster & Crisis Relief

Ministry Wives Consultant

Director,
#MultiplyPASJ

NAMB Partnering Employees:

- Send Network PA/SJ Director
- Church Planting Catalysts in Central, Philadelphia/S. Jersey & West regions

**MEET
THE
TEAM**



BRN Hub

BRN's corporate offices are located in Harrisburg, Pa. The two-story building features:

Training Center

Café

Offices

Library

Prayer Room

Communications Studio


Baptist Resource Network

Email the BRN Help Desk to learn more about the Hub and our mission housing



MISSIONS HOUSING

The BRN has two houses, complete with kitchens and meeting rooms, available for mission teams and volunteers staying in Pennsylvania or simply traveling through the state.

The VOLUNTEER MISSION HOUSE in Harrisburg has one bunk room and eight bedrooms, and sleeps 25 people total.

The WARREN MISSION HOUSE in Pittsburgh can sleep up to 24 people total, and has seven bedrooms.

GUEST HOUSE

The GUEST HOUSE, situated next to the BRN Hub in Harrisburg, is available for BRN guests. When available, this home is a perfect getaway for pastors and their wives when a short respite is needed.



HOW THE BRN IS FUNDED

The Cooperative Program (CP) is the main ministry and missions funding mechanism for the Baptist Resource Network and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). Giving to the Cooperative Program is what makes Southern Baptists unique as this directly funds ministry/missions efforts locally, nationally, and internationally.

COOPERATIVE MISSIONS GIVING SUPPORTS LOCAL MINISTRY.

A percentage of Cooperative Program giving is used to support ministries offered by the Baptist Resource Network. This funding is our largest revenue source and enables all the ministry defined in this resource.

COOPERATIVE MISSIONS GIVING SUPPORTS GLOBAL MINISTRY.

Cooperative missions giving also supports other SBC entity organizations, such as the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board, the six Southern Baptist seminaries, and the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. Churches also have the opportunity to give additionally to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, of which 100% of gifts go directly to the mission field.

The more your church can give to Cooperative Missions, the more ministry we can accomplish in Pennsylvania/South Jersey, the nation, and the world.

†*Learn more about Cooperative Missions Giving at www.brnunited.org/cp.*



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING IN PENNSYLVANIA/SOUTH JERSEY & BEYOND

ACCELERATING KINGDOM MOVEMENT THROUGH MISSIONAL GIVING

YOU ARE HERE



YOU
give a tithe and offering to your church



YOUR CHURCH contributes a percentage or a financial gift to the Cooperative Program through the Baptist Resource Network, who shares the undesignated funds locally, nationally and internationally.



The BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK

retains a percentage of the Cooperative Program for ministries in Pennsylvania/South Jersey. These ministries include:

- Church Servicing
- Church Resourcing
- Coaching/Training
- Disaster & Crisis Relief
- Multiplying Church Centers
- Next Generation Ministry
- Partnerships
- Pastor/Staff Benefits
- *And more!*

† **PA/SJ**
%



THE NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD (NAMB)* & THE INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD (IMB):

Missionaries in North America and all over the World

ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION (ERLC):

Religious Liberty and Public Policy Representation

SOUTHERN BAPTIST SEMINARIES:

Gateway, Midwestern, New Orleans, Southeastern, Southern, and Southwestern

**NAMB graciously provides funds back to the BRN to assist with church planting, evangelism, and hunger grants.*



SBC

The SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION also receives a percentage of the Cooperative Program gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention to fund national and international missions, theological education, and religious liberty. An additional 100% of gifts from individuals and churches given through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions goes directly to missionaries on the field.

† **SBC**
%



Your giving to PA/SJ ministries is critical. The Baptist Resource Network (BRN), one of the largest non-South Southern Baptist state conventions based on population, seeks to reach an estimated 14 million people in PA/SJ, who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In fact, EVERY 4 MINUTES, one Pennsylvanian or South Jerseyan **DIES** without Christ!**

DON'T STOP

***This statistic is based on a conservative national average of 85% lostness and current vital statistics from the PA and NJ Departments of Health.*

THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM IS THE FINANCIAL FUEL FOR REACHING EVERY PERSON FOR JESUS CHRIST IN EVERY TOWN, EVERY CITY, EVERY STATE, AND EVERY NATION.

HOW THE BRN IS FUNDED

In addition to the Cooperative Program, the Baptist Resource Network has two other funding opportunities.



#LOVEPASJ STATE MISSIONS OFFERING

This state missions offering is an annual observance in BRN-affiliated churches that highlights what God is doing across Pennsylvania and South Jersey. Each summer, local congregations learn about, pray for and give to support special ministries, outreach projects and other initiatives, such as collegiate ministries, volunteer ministries, disaster and crisis relief, and emergency funding for pastors, which are uniquely connected to PA/SJ Baptists and not funded through regular giving streams. The annual offering is inspired by Ed and Mary Price, early missions leaders who were known for their exemplary service and unwavering dedication to the cause of Christ.

Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up. Also, if two lie down together, they can keep warm; but how can one person alone keep warm? And if someone overpowers one person, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not easily broken (Eccl. 4:9-12).

#LEGACYPASJ GIVING

Everyone wants to have a life with meaning. Part of that meaningful life is to live on in the memory of family and friends. Generous giving with eternal impact can indeed create a legacy for family and Kingdom ministry that gives added meaning to your life.

We urge you to pray and ask the Lord for guidance about financially giving through your resources and estate toward an endowment to provide additional resources and services for BRN churches. These funding opportunities have been made possible through a partnership with Ministry Trust LLC, who provides one-on-one private consultation, customized gift projections, tax saving strategies, personal income projections, estate stewardship consultation, giving opportunities through cash and non-cash gifts, planned gifts, & estate gifts.



To learn more, visit
www.brnunited.org/legacy.



ABOUT THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

With more than 48,000 churches and nearly 14 million members, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is the world's largest Baptist denomination, the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, and the second-largest Christian denomination in the United States after the Catholic Church.

Distinctively, the SBC affirms the autonomy of every local church. These autonomous local churches choose to join together in common cause for the gospel and share some common beliefs and practices that unite them in mission.

Annually, the SBC meets for a convention. An SBC Executive Committee is comprised of 86 representatives chosen from qualified states and regions, and acts on behalf of the Convention between sessions. Executive Committee officers are elected from these representatives. The Baptist Resource Network is grateful for our national partners.

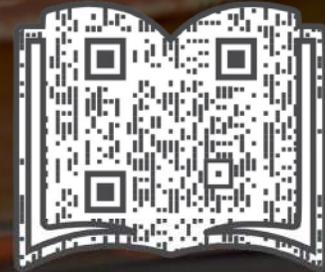
There are three requirements to affiliate with the SBC in PA/SJ - affirming a common doctrinal statement, reporting annually, and giving financially to the Cooperative Program through the Baptist Resource Network. Additionally, the BRN requires a fourth item to affiliate, affirming the security of minors and vulnerable adults.

OUR DOCTRINE

The common doctrinal statement of the SBC is the Baptist Faith & Message 2000 (BF&M). This statement is thoroughly biblical, yet broad enough to allow for some theological diversity on secondary theological stances. Because of the autonomy of each local church, there are plenty of minor variations in the beliefs of SBC churches, yet most agree to hold this doctrinal statement as a common core. One thing that all SBC churches agree upon, however, is the centrality of the Scripture as the basis for our doctrine.

“Baptists cherish and defend religious liberty, and deny the right of any secular or religious authority to impose a confession of faith upon a church or body of churches. We honor the principles of soul competency and the priesthood of believers, affirming together both our liberty in Christ and our accountability to each other under the Word of God.”

Committee Report on the submission of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000



READ STATEMENT:

<https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000>

KEY PARTNERS

ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM (ADF):

ADF is an alliance-building legal organization that exists to keep the doors open for the gospel by advocating for religious liberty, the sanctity of life, and marriage and family. This partnership seeks to inform and engage pastors and churches on how to protect their ministry.

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTIONS/SBC SEMINARIES:

The Baptist Resource Network is blessed to have ongoing partnerships with other state Baptist conventions who share resources, send mission teams, and otherwise support God's work in the Northeast and with the six SBC seminaries where students from PA/SJ attend.

BROTHERHOOD MUTUAL:

Brotherhood Mutual provides quality property and liability insurance coverage, custom-designed to help churches and related ministries do their work safely and effectively.

CHRISTIAN TIMBER RESERVE:

Christian Timber Reserve encourages, facilitates, and manages gifts of timber for the benefit of Christian causes.

ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION (ERLC):

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention. The ERLC is dedicated to engaging the culture with the gospel of Jesus Christ and speaking to issues in the public square for the protection of religious liberty and human flourishing.

FULL STRENGTH NETWORK:

Full Strength Network provides a wellbeing membership for pastors and church staff to live and lead at full strength. This includes free monthly counseling or coaching for the pastor and his wife and family, as well as peer huddles, a mindfulness app, exclusive wellbeing content, referrals to trained financial coaches, and access to a list of pre-approved respite locations.



*Learn more about
our partners at
[www.brnnited.org/
partners](http://www.brnnited.org/partners).*

GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES:

GuideStone Financial Services serves churches, mission-sending organizations, as well as ministry-minded individuals with products and services that promote financial health and spiritual wellness, including retirement, insurance, investments, and disability, survivor protection, and retirement contributions.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD (IMB):

Every day, hundreds of thousands of people will die without the hope of Jesus. The IMB exists to address this problem, the world's greatest problem — lostness. This international partner sends missionaries to the nations to share the good news of Jesus.

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES:

Lifeway Christian Resources, based in Nashville, Tennessee, is the publishing and distribution division of the Southern Baptist Convention and provider of church business services.

MINISTRY TRUST:

Ministry Trust, LLC., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is a long-term investment and estate planning organization that seeks to provide long-term and endowment style investment opportunities (strategy for investment growth and consistent income) for BRN churches.

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD (NAMB)/SEND RELIEF:

NAMB helps equip churches to be on mission in their own communities and across the continent through mercy ministry, church planting, chaplaincy, and disaster relief.

RIGHTNOW MEDIA:

RightNow Media is an online Library resource that has over 250 Christian publishers and thousands of Bible studies, conference sessions, online training sessions, kid's cartoons/discipleship and much more! There is a FREE membership for pastors of BRN churches, and their churches can receive a discount of nearly 40% on the subscription rate through this partnership.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION (SBC) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Executive Committee, governed by an elected board of trustees, exists to minister to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by acting for the Convention ad interim in all matters not otherwise provided for, in a manner that encourages the cooperation and confidence of the churches, associations, and state conventions and facilitates maximum support for worldwide missions and ministries.

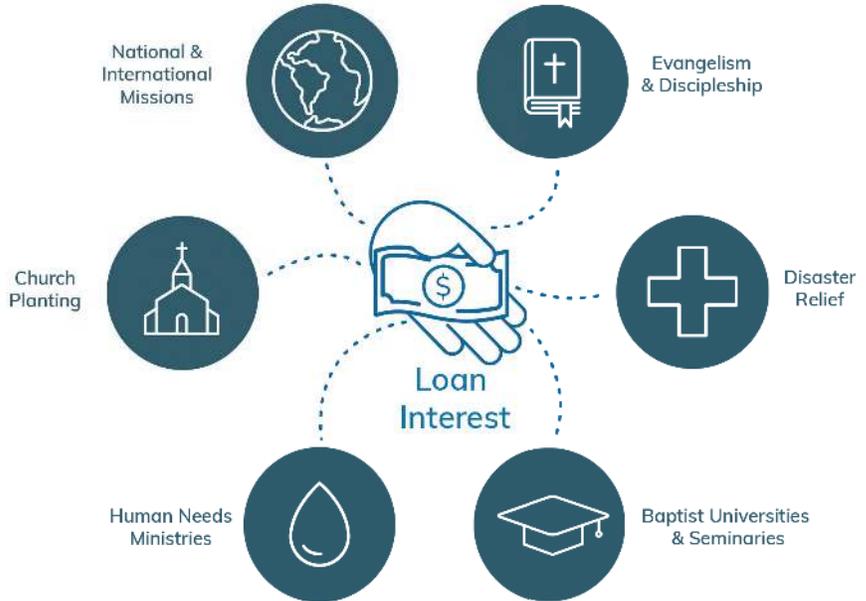
WATERSEGE:

WatersEdge partners specifically with the BRN to provide church loans and accounting services to BRN churches, and short-term investment opportunities to churches in Pennsylvania. They help spread the gospel and strengthen Christian ministries by providing financial resources to build churches and grow ministry assets and by reinvesting loan interest back into Kingdom causes. (See graphic on the right.)

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU):

For more than 130 years, Woman's Missionary Union has devoted itself to making disciples of Jesus who live on mission as an auxiliary of the SBC. WMU assists churches in growing and implementing a missions strategy for adults and children, expanding leadership skills through Christian Job Corps, and developing fair-trade business among impoverished people through World Crafts.

How WatersEdge reinvests interest in Kingdom causes







WHAT ARE SOME WAYS
YOU CAN GET INVOLVED?

BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK CONFERENCE MINISTRY

Conferences are a large part of the BRN's ministry:

ACCELERATE CONFERENCE:

This annual gathering, held each autumn, provides inspiration, training, and encouragement to churches. The conference also hosts a short business meeting to highlight accomplishments and vision.

ADVANCE CONFERENCE:

This annual evangelism conference, held in the spring, focuses on tools and inspiring content to fuel evangelism in our region.

AMPLIFY CONFERENCE:

This annual conference focuses on evangelizing, engaging, and equipping the next generation.



#LOVEPASJ Initiative

#LovePASJ (or Love Pennsylvania/South Jersey), is a three-phase missional framework for engaging our neighbors in Pennsylvania & South Jersey.

The first phase, “KNOW,” provides resources and encouragement to churches to love their neighbor(s) through prayerwalking, community exegesis and exploration, and adopting neighborhoods for Christ.

The second phase, “SHOW,” examines what it means to follow Christ through words AND actions; through compassion ministries, evangelistic outreaches, and other ways to show love to our neighbors.

The third phase seeks to teach participants to “GROW” in all that Jesus commanded with a special focus on intentional discipleship and leadership development.

Learn more at
www.lovepasj.com



Compassion Ministry

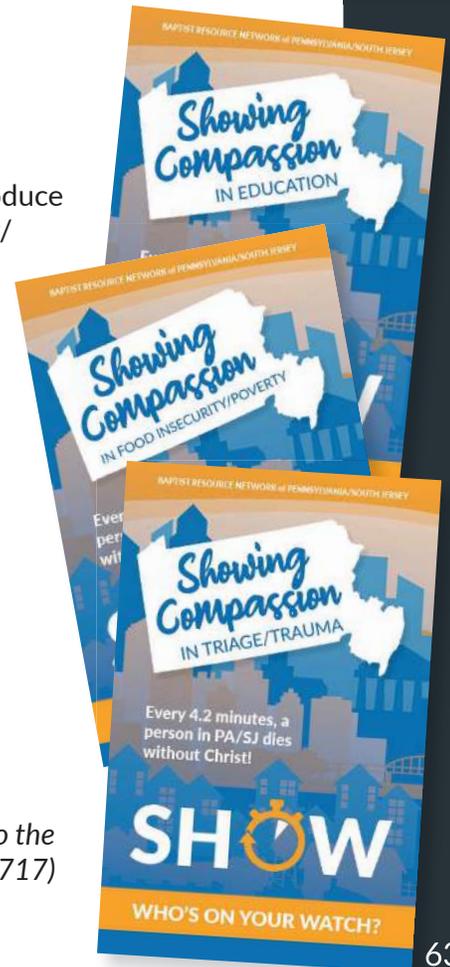
While there are many needs that exist in every community, we have found 3 strategic PATHWAYS that have the potential for us to do the most good and produce the most fruit in our region. They are in the arenas of Education, Food Insecurity/Poverty, and Triage/Trauma. Each of these PATHWAYS have several ways that you and your church can mobilize to help meet needs in your community.

EDUCATION: There is a myriad of opportunities tied to the discipline of education, such as supporting local schools and their students, faculty and staff, teaching English to international residents, or offering computer classes for the disenfranchised.

FOOD INSECURITY/POVERTY: There are families around us who lack consistent access to enough food and other basic essentials. Churches can meet these physical needs and their spiritual needs.

TRIAGE/TRAUMA MINISTRY: When a crisis comes (whether a natural disaster, a crisis pregnancy, or abuse), churches can be on the front lines to help through disaster relief, counseling, chaplaincy, and more.

For additional resources and information on Compassion Ministry, please reach out to the Baptist Resource Network Help Desk at email: helpdesk@brnunited.org; call or text: (717) 652-5856; or visit online: brnunited.org, lovepasj.com.



Disaster and Crisis Relief

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is one of the top disaster response organizations in the world because we are able to quickly deploy well trained and experienced volunteers to the point of need and provide logistical support for them. Many disaster relief organizations serve only a humanitarian purpose, but that is not us. We are compelled by Christ's love for all mankind AND his desire that no one should perish. We keep our focus by nurturing our individual relationship with Jesus Christ in the context of a local body of believers who recognize and call out our giftedness in service to God and our neighbors.

AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Operational Stress
- First Aid
- Mass Feeding
- Rapid Response Kitchen
- Flood Recovery
- Chainsaw
- Shower/Laundry
- Chaplaincy
- Ready Church



LEARN MORE:



BRNUNITED.ORG/DR

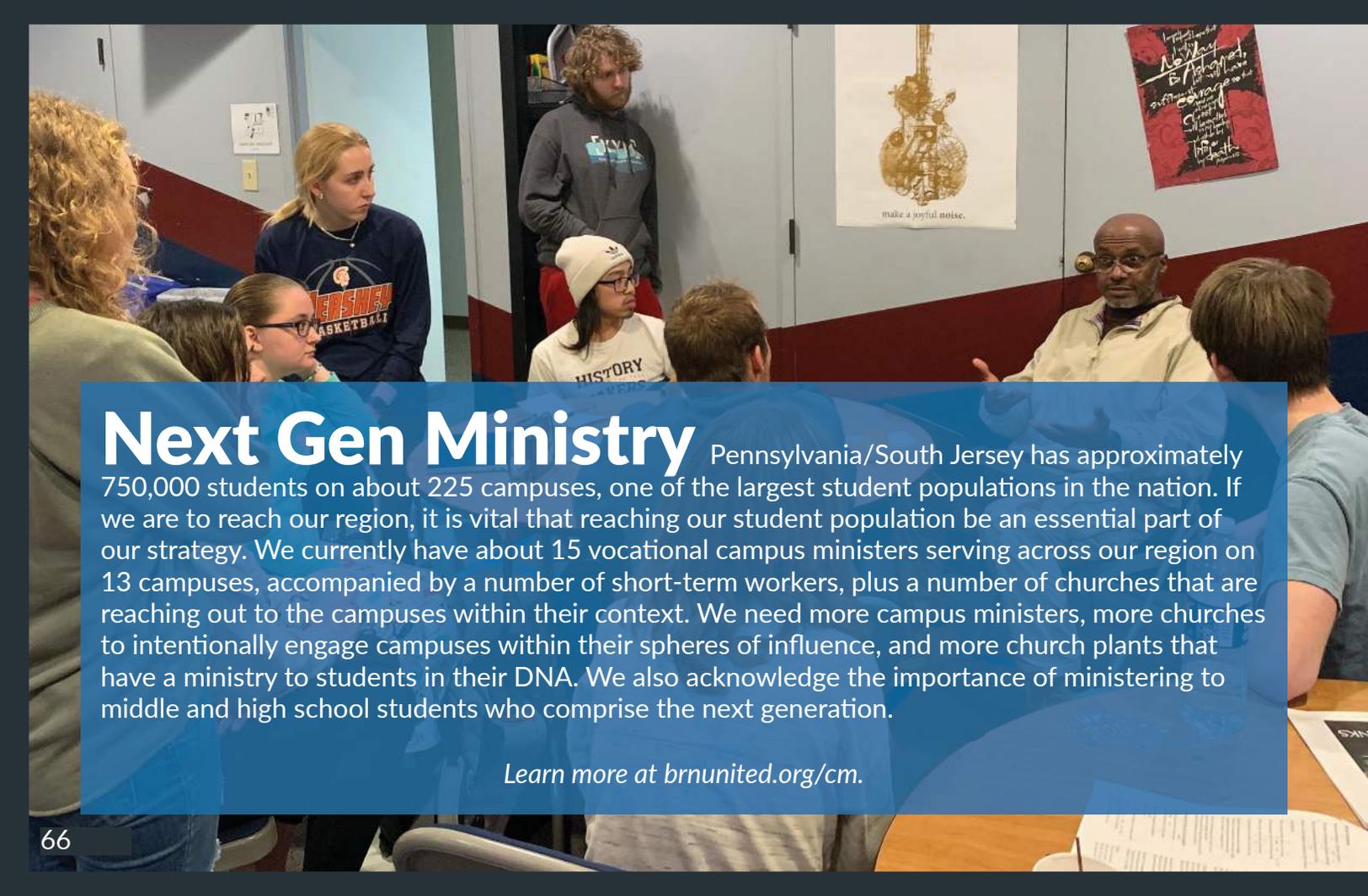
'Accelerated' Student Internships

The BRN provides a matching grant to help pay for a 10-week Accelerated Internship experience for student(s) as secured by the church. In addition to weekly ministry experiences, the Accelerated Intern will interact with the online Multiplication Pipeline training by the North American Mission Board. Learn more by contacting our Help Desk at helpdesk@brnuned.org.



Grants to Fuel Your Ministry

Baptist Resource Network churches may apply for grants for evangelism, compassion ministries, discipleship, hunger and other ministries. Churches may also request emergency grants. Learn more by contacting our Help Desk at helpdesk@brnuned.org.



Next Gen Ministry Pennsylvania/South Jersey has approximately 750,000 students on about 225 campuses, one of the largest student populations in the nation. If we are to reach our region, it is vital that reaching our student population be an essential part of our strategy. We currently have about 15 vocational campus ministers serving across our region on 13 campuses, accompanied by a number of short-term workers, plus a number of churches that are reaching out to the campuses within their context. We need more campus ministers, more churches to intentionally engage campuses within their spheres of influence, and more church plants that have a ministry to students in their DNA. We also acknowledge the importance of ministering to middle and high school students who comprise the next generation.

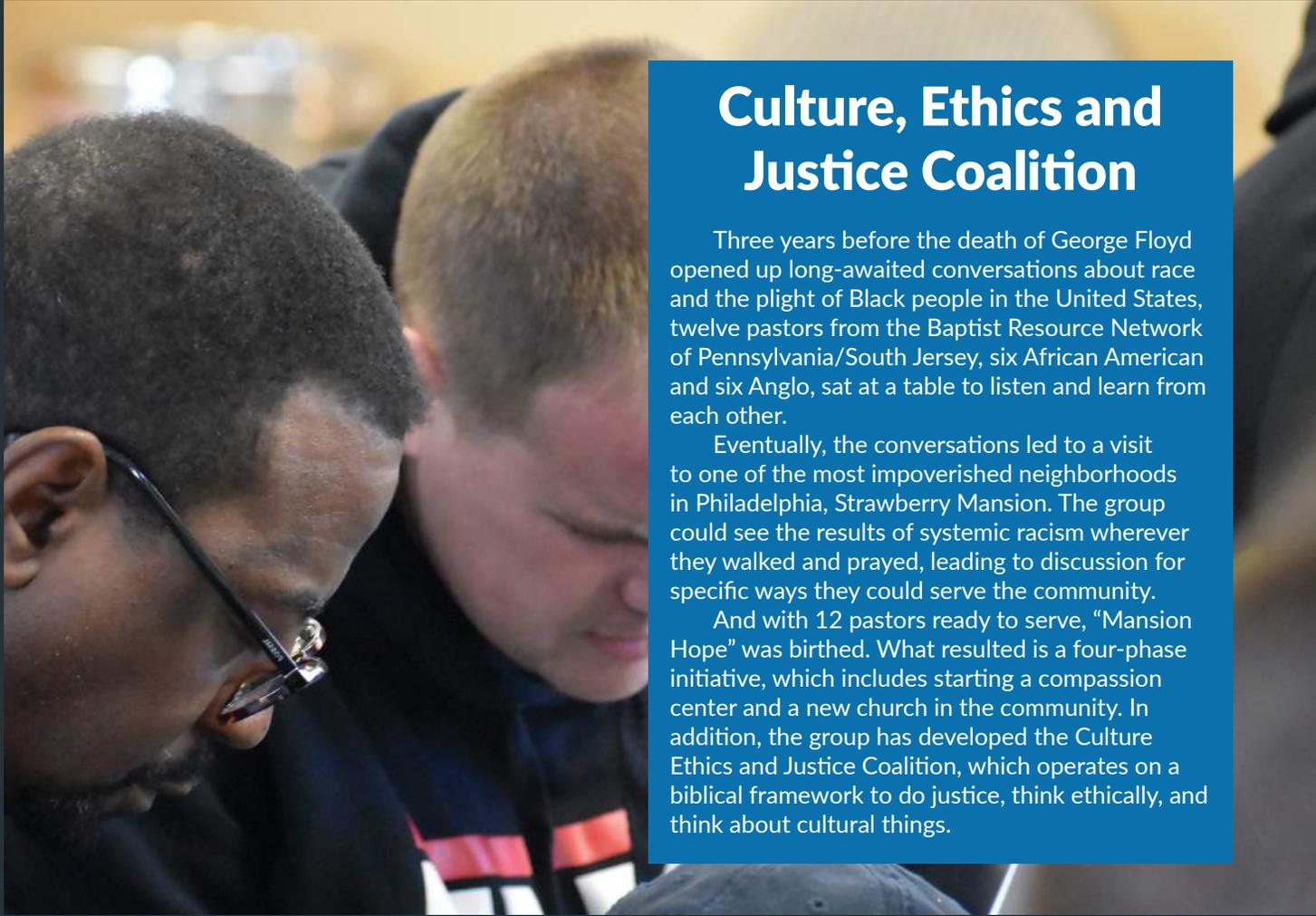
Learn more at brnuned.org/cm.



Woven Women

Woven Women is a network level community that provides intentional discipleship, leadership development, and missional engagement for women in leadership, including pastors' and planters' wives, in their local church. Women motivate women and this leads to opportunities to engage, disciple and train one another for ministry in the Kingdom of God. We intentionally develop women in all leadership roles. We currently offer roundtables, meet and greet opportunities for churches, evangelism and discipleship opportunities, and no charge personalized women's ministry consultation for BRN churches.

Learn more at brnunited.org/women



Culture, Ethics and Justice Coalition

Three years before the death of George Floyd opened up long-awaited conversations about race and the plight of Black people in the United States, twelve pastors from the Baptist Resource Network of Pennsylvania/South Jersey, six African American and six Anglo, sat at a table to listen and learn from each other.

Eventually, the conversations led to a visit to one of the most impoverished neighborhoods in Philadelphia, Strawberry Mansion. The group could see the results of systemic racism wherever they walked and prayed, leading to discussion for specific ways they could serve the community.

And with 12 pastors ready to serve, “Mansion Hope” was birthed. What resulted is a four-phase initiative, which includes starting a compassion center and a new church in the community. In addition, the group has developed the Culture Ethics and Justice Coalition, which operates on a biblical framework to do justice, think ethically, and think about cultural things.



WHAT IS ON THE HORIZON
FOR THE BAPTIST
RESOURCE NETWORK?



Current Goal 1: Capacity Expansion

We will have increased our ability to meaningfully serve more churches by increasing our three funding streams and expanding our BRN team to not only include new consultants but activating pacesetting practitioners (pastors) as the BRN dream team.

Current Goal 2: Farm-Team Acceleration

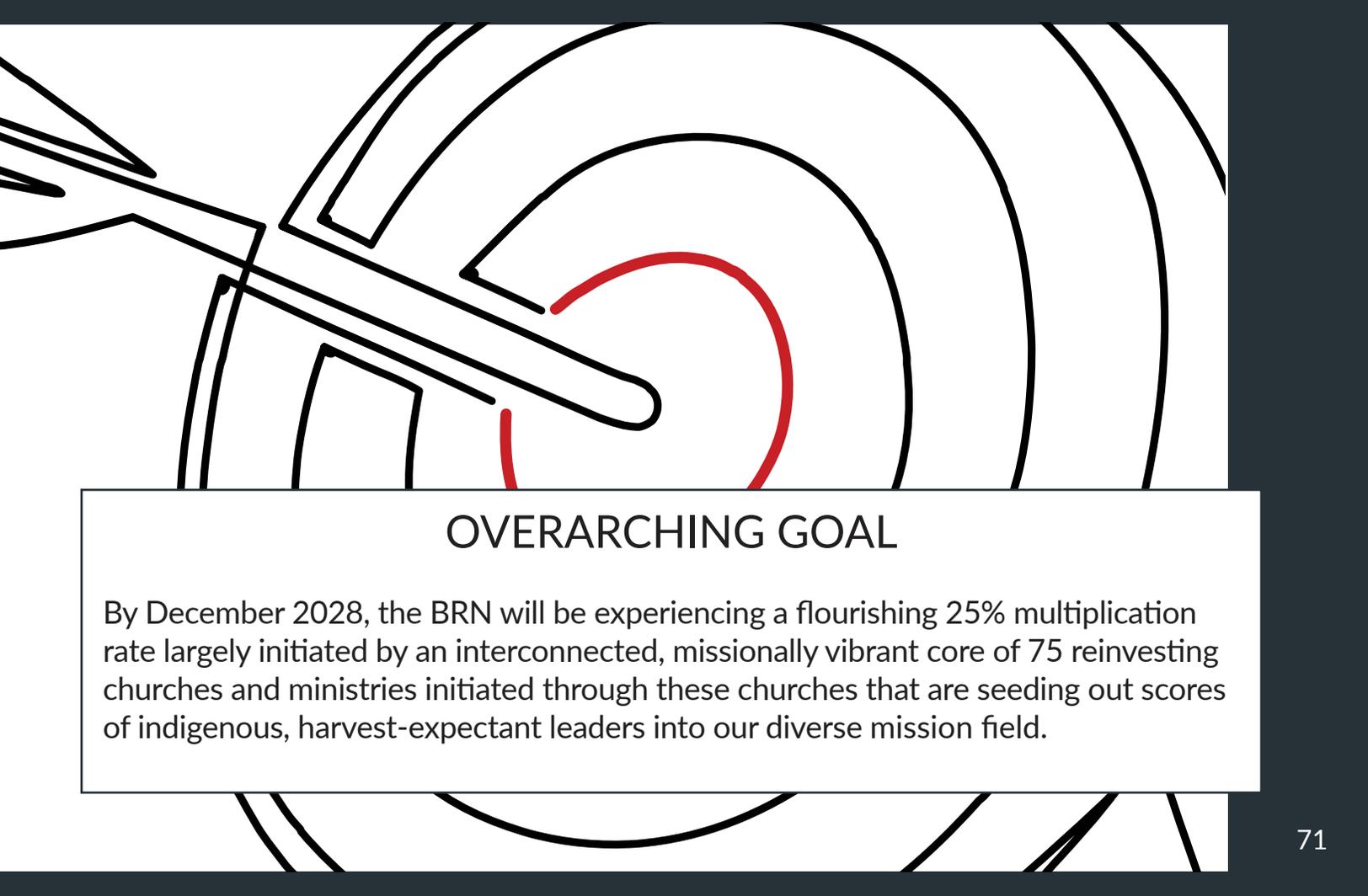
In collaboration with our reproducing and reinvesting churches & campus ministries, we will have cultivated a raise-and-release leadership culture, making BRN a leader-rich network; evidenced most clearly by 25 new church plants annually.

Current Goal 3: Missional Activation

Largely instigated by the #LovePASJ initiative, 25% of BRN churches will be tracking gospel conversations as a key indicator of their disciple-making vitality, resulting in year-over-year increases in baptisms.

Current Goal 4: Next Step Story Circulation

We will have celebrated and shared both the stories and insights of 150 churches that have taken their next step to discover and live into their future missional story.

An abstract graphic consisting of several thick black lines that form overlapping, curved shapes, resembling a stylized 'S' or a series of connected arcs. A single, thick red line is also present, curving through the black shapes. The background is white.

OVERARCHING GOAL

By December 2028, the BRN will be experiencing a flourishing 25% multiplication rate largely initiated by an interconnected, missionally vibrant core of 75 reinvesting churches and ministries initiated through these churches that are seeding out scores of indigenous, harvest-expectant leaders into our diverse mission field.

WHY PARTNER WITH THE BRN?

You are not alone in ministry.

Our staff cares deeply for your church and for you personally as church leaders. We endeavor to come alongside you simply to listen, to offer resources, and to provide training to help strengthen your ministries. When you are a part of the BRN family, you can draw inspiration and encouragement from other churches who are also striving to impact our region with the gospel!

You can share in the mission.

Through the Cooperative Program with the greater Southern Baptist Convention, you have the opportunity to support missionaries all over the world! You can partner with BRN in international missions partnerships, local church plant missions support, and church-to-church projects.

You have a voice.

Your story matters. You may have opportunity to mentor younger ministers, coach church planters, teach seminars and otherwise share lessons with church leaders throughout the region. You also can send messengers to the BRN's annual gathering, where you can hear vision and can help shape the future of ministry in PA/SJ.

TESTIMONIAL

Dr. Brian King, Senior Pastor, Ezekiel Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

There are a lot of reasons to partner with the Baptist Resource Network. You'll want to have the resources you need to do Kingdom-building in your congregation.

- We have taken advantage of training and serving in disaster relief.
- We have benefited from mission and vision workshops as we prepared to relocate to a different location in Philadelphia.
- We were assisted in Natural Church Development, construction planning, prayer, and with evangelism grants.
- We have enjoyed partnership with other state conventions, such as Alabama, who sent a team to help finish the construction of our church building, do VBS, and prayerwalk our community.
- Partnering with BRN PA/SJ has allowed me to be on the Trustee Board of GuideStone Financial Resources as well as multiple other committees. I also have served in the Philadelphia Baptist Association, as president of BRN PA/SJ, and as president of the Executive Board for BRN PA/SJ.
- The exposure from the relationships developed and the ministries BRN PA/SJ offer have greatly enhanced Ezekiel's ability to excel in doing Kingdom work. These relationships have encouraged me and have enabled me to encourage other pastors and churches within the BRN PA/SJ.



HOW TO AFFILIATE WITH THE BRN

The Baptist Resource Network welcomes churches who are interested in affiliating in our network. Together, our bold commitment to the Great Commission and to each other will help expand God's Kingdom and impact our communities like never before! Partnership is not meant to be cumbersome, but we do ask for four vital areas of involvement:

Affirm Southern Baptist Doctrine (BF&M)

Affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, the statement of faith of the Southern Baptist Convention. It summarizes key Southern Baptist thought in the areas of the Bible and its authority, the nature of God as expressed by the Trinity, the spiritual condition of man, God's plan of grace and salvation, the purpose of the local church, ordinances, evangelism, Christian education, interaction with society, religious liberty, and the family.

Support God's work through Cooperative Missional Giving

Participate in the Cooperative Program (CP), Southern Baptists' unified plan of

giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts to support cooperative missions and ministries in the BRN and the SBC.

Regularly report your status through the Annual Church Profile (ACP)

The Annual Church Profile (ACP) is a process of collecting data regarding membership, baptisms, discipleship and more from PA/SJ Baptist churches.

Affirm the security of minors and vulnerable adults

Because we take the security of minors and vulnerable people seriously, the Baptist Resource Network now makes it a requirement that affiliated churches affirm that they have protocols in place for the security of minors and vulnerable adults, as already required by state law. Those churches that do not affirm that they are in full compliance with applicable state laws and that they have protocols in place will be deemed as non-affiliated until such affirmation is provided.

Visit www.brnunited.org/affiliation to learn more.



QUICK SNAPSHOT OF PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS FOR BRN-AFFILIATED CHURCHES

FROM THE BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK		
Administrative Assistance	Financial/Admin Coaching (new churches)	Pastor Prayer Line
Children's Ministry Training	Guest Retreat/Church Speakers	Pastor Roundtables & Clusters
Church Health Assistance	Help Desk Support	Pastoral Wellness Resources
Church Health Evaluations	Informational Resources	Prayer Support/Encouragement
Church Planter Support	Legacy Coaching	Racial Unity Assistance
Church Servicing/Resourcing	Lending Library	Respite Opportunities
Collegiate Ministry Assistance	Free Life, Disability Insurance & Retirement Benefits	Student Internships
Compassion Ministry Assistance	Ministry Job Board	Training Center Use
Communications/AV Training	Ministry Wives/Family Ministry	Transitional/Supply Pastor
Conferences, Cohorts, Trainings	Missions Housing	Voting Privileges at BRN Business Session
Demographic Studies	Multiplying Church Centers	Weekly E-Newsletter
Disaster & Crisis Relief Opportunities	Networking Opportunities	Women's Ministry Resources
Discounted Legal Counsel Consultation	Next Gen Ministry Assistance	<i>And more!</i>
Evangelism and Ministry Grants	Next Step Consultations	
Evangelism Resources	Next Step Conversations	

QUICK SNAPSHOT OF PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS FOR BRN-AFFILIATED CHURCHES

FROM THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION		
501(c)(3) Federal Tax Exemption	Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) representation in public square	Missions Service Opportunities
Access to International Missionaries	Evangelism Resources	Multiplication Pipeline Training System
Church Planter Coaching & Training	Funded Missionaries (Local, National, and International)	Quality Seminary Education
Church Planter Funding	Guest Missionary Speakers	SBC Seminary Tuition Discount
Church Plant Start-Up Grants	GuideStone Life/Health Insurance, Investments, Retirement, & Minister Taxation	Short-Term Mission Trip Opportunities
Church Planter Support	Lifeway Christian Resources (Books, Bible Studies, Gifts, Camps, etc.)	Voting Privileges at SBC Annual Convention
FROM OUR PREFERRED PARTNERS		
Alliance Defending Freedom Membership	Ministry Trust Estate/Planned Giving	Southern Baptist Foundation Financial Services
Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company, Preferred Ministry Insurance Provider	Ministry Trust Financial Investment	WatersEdge Church Accounting
Christian Timber Reserve Fundraising	Mission Partners from Other State Conventions	WatersEdge Church Loans
Full Strength Network Counseling/Coaching	Respite Opportunities	WatersEdge Short-Term Investments
Full Strength Network Resources	RightNow Media Membership Specials	<i>The BRN will continue seeking beneficial partnerships for our churches.</i>

BRN United

This weekly e-newsletter seeks to help you accelerate Kingdom movement by bringing you all the latest news, testimonials, resources, and events available to you and your church!

Subscribe Today



A BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK GLOSSARY

ACCELERATE CONFERENCE: The Baptist Resource Network's annual gathering, held each autumn, provides inspiration, training, and encouragement to churches. The conference also hosts a short business meeting to highlight accomplishments and vision.

ADVANCE CONFERENCE: The Baptist Resource Network's annual evangelism conference.

AMPLIFY CONFERENCE: This annual conference focuses on evangelizing, engaging, and equipping the next generation.

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING (AAEO): An offering held around Easter to support the field work of the North American Mission Board.

ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE (ACP): Also known as the annual letter, this is the annual report sent from the local churches to the state convention.

BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE (BF&M): The list of beliefs held by Southern Baptists.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM (CP): Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts to support cooperative missions and ministries in the BRN and the SBC.

ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION (ERLC): A national entity who addresses specific moral issues in broader cultural conversations.

GREAT COMMISSION BAPTISTS: Great Commission Baptists, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, seek to follow God's command to make disciples of all nations.

GUIDESTONE: A SBC entity who provides health insurance, life insurance, retirement accounts, and taxation information as well as wellbeing resources for churches.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD (IMB): The missionary sending agency of the SBC that deploys outside of North America.

LEGACYPASJ: A fund began in 2021 with the assistance of Ministry Trust (theministryfund.org) to support the Baptist Resource Network's long-term viability.

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES: The publishing house of the SBC, Lifeway is one of the world's largest providers of Christian resources.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING (LMCO): An offering held around Christmas to support the field work of the International Mission Board.

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD (NAMB): The missionary sending agency of the SBC that deploys in North America.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION (WMU): A missions education, prayer support, and involvement organization that also promotes the Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon offerings.

OUR HELP DESK STANDS READY TO ASSIST YOU:

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