

- ◇ **Churches over Non-profits.** SPBC values and prioritizes gospel cooperation with other like-minded churches. Like-minded includes unity of doctrine, ministry philosophy, and relational fellowship. Beyond the family, the local church is the only institution that God has clearly commissioned to make disciples. Therefore, we shall seek to know, encourage, pray for, and strengthen Bible-believing and gospel-preaching churches. As able, we shall also seek opportunities to partner in starting/planting new churches too. See: Mt 9:39-40; 10:11; Jn 17:21; Ac 4:32-37; 13:1-3; Php 1:18; 3Jn 1:5-8

SPBC has partnered with various churches for ministries and missions. Currently, our church has a small financial stipend with 3 churches: Life Connection Church (Odenton, MD), Lake City Church (Lavon, TX), Pastor Otoniel in Los Ovas (Cuba). Some of our members have also sponsored additional pastors/churches in Cuba. These partnerships have not consisted only of financial but tangible presence and outreach labors for the Great Commission.

SPBC has partnered with various organizations. It shall be our goal to partner with organizations that

- 1) provide our members hands-on mission service experience,
- 2) connect our community with a local church.

- ◇ **Mobilize over Volunteer.** SPBC resources should be used first for its own efforts of discipling members for learning, serving, leading, mentoring, etc. We recognize that our own ministries and resources are not unlimited, and thus should aim to steward our ministry legacy, our campus space, the time of our people, and our finances. Presently, we need volunteers, disciplemakers, and leaders! Yet, we also want to develop members by sending them strategically as part of an overall process of partnering with key organizations that provide Great Commission synergy. We don't want to merely be sending away money and manpower, but have a shared sense of meaningful ministry together.

To be clear, there is nothing wrong with members serving outside of our church walls – we encourage that. Yet, that should not oblige the church's resources to fulfil someone else's passions and preferences. The church must quantify the number of individuals performing such service before it necessitates the church's sanction and support.

Further, the organization should provide a distinction of offering a service or meeting a need that our church could and/or does not already provide (ex. health care, specific counseling, apprenticing specific skills, etc.).

- ◇ **Relationship over Performance.** SPBC resources are valuable. We want to nurture relationships and develop leaders, not just use people for what they can do/give. Candidly, if the individual(s) laboring for an outside church/non-profit are not also nurturing relationships and tangibly serving within our own church, then it's not a partnership but a performance mindset. Overall, a performance culture can quickly result in insecurity, fatigue, and burnout that hurts all parties and hinders each individual mission. Therefore, any partnership should seek sustainable trust and mutual respect of all parties involved.

Further, the entity's respect should be reflected in response for the benefits of the partnership. Transparent communication and reporting of budgets and activities are helpful to understand the overall mutual value of serving and partnering together.

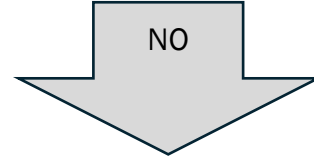
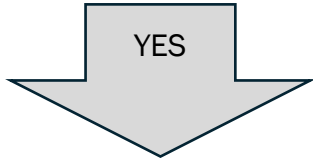
While maintaining regular communication, the church should identify ways to share stories of transformation and not just financial transactions. Each year, all parties should reflect upon alignment and commitments.

Decision-Making Flowchart

**Does the entity share a significant unity with Christian doctrine?*

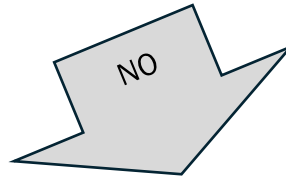
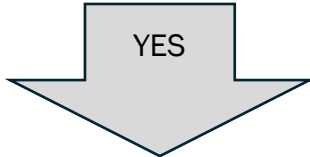
**Does the entity share a similar ministry philosophy?*

**Does the entity & leadership share fellowship and affinity with church members & leadership?*



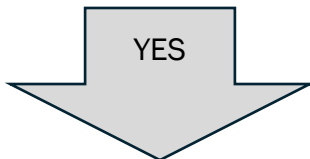
**Does the entity provide
Great Commission synergy where
all parties find value toward fulfilling
their vision/mission?*

Not Recommended Partnership



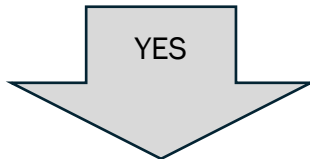
**Will the entity be available for regular
communication and feedback for how
SPBC resources (money, manpower,
and ministry support) mutually benefit
individual vision/mission?*

Not Recommended Partnership



**Does SPBC finances have
operating room?
*Does SPBC membership
support in majority?*

Not Recommended Partnership



Consider level of support...

Not Recommended Partnership

Some helpful resources

- <https://www.9marks.org/article/church-which-parachurch-ministries-should-you-support/>
- <https://www.9marks.org/article/guidelines-deciding-whom-church-supports/>
- <https://www.9marks.org/article/missions-partnerships-home-churchs-perspective/>
- Missions: How The Local Church Goes Global by Andy Johnson
- When Helping Hurts: How To Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting The Poor And Yourself by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert