

ILLINOIS BAPTIST STATE ASSOCIATION

Your church's partner in
health, growth, and mission



IBSA

What can IBSA do for you?

When your church affiliates with the Illinois Baptist State Association (IBSA) and gives through the Cooperative Program, you not only join a valuable network of Baptist churches here in Illinois, you also support the extensive missions and ministries of the national Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Identification with IBSA and the SBC (the largest Protestant denomination and largest missionary sending body in America) denotes a commitment to biblical orthodoxy. It assures your church members and others that you are part of a trustworthy network of diverse and autonomous Baptist churches, working together to fulfill the Great Commission both locally and around the world.

What can IBSA do for you and your church?
Let's talk about it.



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As a cooperating member of the Illinois Baptist State Association, your church enjoys many unique benefits:

1. Worldwide missions investment. Your church's gifts through the Cooperative Program support more than 10,000 missionaries across North America and throughout the nations of the world, including some right here in Illinois. These missionaries share the gospel, make disciples of Jesus Christ, and help establish new churches, all from a foundation of sound, Baptist doctrine as expressed in *The Baptist Faith and Message*.

2. Worldwide missions involvement. The SBC's 10,000+ missionaries also form a worldwide network for churches to be personally involved in missions, either through short-term trips or as missionaries themselves. In addition, coordinated SBC and IBSA ministries such as Disaster Relief, urban ministry centers, collegiate ministries, chaplaincy, and more give churches countless connections and opportunities for mission service. Missionaries and staff from the International and North American Mission Boards (IMB and NAMB) and the IBSA are available to come to churches to help their members see and understand more personally how God's Kingdom is advancing, both throughout Illinois and around the world, and to help churches actively participate in that advance.

3. Training for effective ministry. Your church's Cooperative Program giving helps support more than 15,000 students training for ministry in six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries, and that discounted education is available to members of your church as well. In addition, IBSA staff specialists supported through the CP are available to train and consult with your church and its leaders right where they are. The IBSA staff equips more than 7,000 leaders each year in areas such as Sunday School, worship leadership, student ministry, Vacation Bible School, and more. Regional IBSA zone consultants help make these services highly accessible to churches, wherever their location. And webinars, distance learning, and downloadable web resources from IBSA and its partners can bring customized training right in to your church or home, at your convenience.

4. Quality church resources and events. In addition to the leadership development, training, consulting, and coaching that IBSA and national SBC staff provide directly, numerous high-quality resources are also available to your church and its leaders through IBSA and national SBC partners such as LifeWay Christian Resources. Events such as the Midwest and Illinois Leadership Summits, the annual Youth Encounter (for students), regional Church Resources conferences, the IBSA Annual Meeting, and national SBC conferences give churches continual opportunities to receive both inspiration and education. IBSA also provides a lending library with the latest discipleship and training resources that can be requested and shipped to your local church. “Ministry Grid” video training can be accessed privately, or utilized in virtual or small group training cohorts.

5. Online assistance. Through the online IBSA Resource Center (available via free registration for IBSA member churches), churches can receive self-guided, online training or resources in a variety of formats in countless areas of church ministry. And when you need personal help, our IBSA staff is only a phone call or e-mail away.

6. Quality communications. In addition to the informative and helpful IBSA website (IBSA.org), the IBSA Resource Catalog (3x/year), and numerous electronic newsletters, members of IBSA churches are eligible to receive their own, free, home-delivered subscription to the award-winning *Illinois Baptist* newspaper (16x/year). Plus the news is updated frequently at IllinoisBaptist.org.

7. IBSA facilities and camps. In addition to its state-of-the-art conference facility in Springfield, IBSA owns and operates two retreat centers, Streator Baptist Camp near Streator, Illinois, and Lake Sallateeska Baptist Camp near Pinckneyville, Illinois. These are available to your church for its own training and retreat events, and several preplanned events for multiple churches are provided each year in these relaxing getaway locations. Children’s and student camps are among the most popular in summer months.

8. Financial ministry assistance. Churches involved in evangelistic or church planting strategies may receive financial assistance from IBSA in support of those efforts.



IBSA has two camps facilities. Lake Sallateeska near Pinckneyville, and the one pictured here at Streator.

9. Tax exempt status. If your church does not have its own 501(C)(3) non-profit status, you may qualify for that status under the umbrella of IBSA.

10. Sex Abuse Prevention and Child Protection Services. Through its partnership with MinistrySafe, IBSA provides member churches with a highly discounted (only \$150/year – a savings of \$100) first year rate for MinistrySafe’s 5-part safety system, to help guard church ministries against predators and the evils of sexual abuse. The system includes awareness training, a skillful screening process, policies and procedures, background checks, and monitoring and oversight.

11. Legal counsel on religious liberty issues. Through its partnership with Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), IBSA provides a highly discounted (\$125/year) rate for a complete legal review by Christian attorneys of a church’s Constitution, Bylaws, building policies, employee handbooks, or any other guiding documents that help protect a church’s religious liberties. These attorneys are available by phone or e-mail year-round.

12. Pastoral transition assistance. IBSA can be especially valuable to churches without pastors, providing pastor search training and resources, an online resume' service, guest speakers or interim pastors, and other experienced consultation. IBSA can also assist pastors and churches in conflict resolution and/or negotiating staff separation or termination. IBSA can also provide limited financial assistance to pastors in transition.

13. Church staff benefits. Qualifying church staff from cooperating IBSA churches receive protection benefit (death and disability) insurance through the national SBC's GuideStone Financial Resources. GuideStone also provides retirement planning counsel and vehicles, as well as other financial services.

14. Services through the Baptist Foundation of Illinois (BFI).

In addition to financial services such as church loans and investment services at attractive, competitive rates, and complimentary Christian estate planning, BFI provides annual scholarships for both college and seminary students.



15. Children and family services.

Through the Baptist Children's Home and Family Services (BCHFS), your church will find resources for children facing difficulty and in need of residential care. Adoption home study and placement services are available. And regional "Pathways" counseling centers for both individuals and families are conveniently located throughout the state.



16. Networking and fellowship.

IBSA has almost 1,000 member churches and is starting an average of 15-20 new churches each year in Illinois alone. IBSA can connect you quickly with other churches or experienced church leaders who can assist your church in whatever challenges it faces. And when your church is ready to relocate, expand to a new site, or plant a new church, IBSA can assist you with those processes as well.

HOW THE
CP
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
WORKS



YOU GIVE YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO YOUR CHURCH.

YOUR CHURCH GIVES A PERCENTAGE OF ITS BUDGET TO IBSA.



IBSA INVESTS **56.5%** IN ILLINOIS MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES, AND SENDS **43.5%** TO THE NATIONAL SBC.



THE SBC SUPPORTS MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES IN NORTH AMERICA AND AROUND THE WORLD.


FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



(217) 391-3119



IBSA.ORG/CP



**This booklet provides a summary of the many benefits
available to your church as part of the Illinois Baptist family.
For more information, write or call your IBSA staff.**

Illinois Baptist State Association

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