



TEXAS. TEJAS.

No matter how you say it, our state is changing.

Currently, one-third of our Texas Baptist congregations are non-Anglo. In addition, among our new churches, three-fourths represent ethnic congregations. These numbers, combined with our growing population, represent the dramatic shift in demographics over the past few years. Every day through the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Associational Ministries, Texas Baptists are working to change with our state. Associational Ministries help sponsor the annual African-American Fellowship and Hispanic Convención meetings. They also provide cross-cultural training to churches, network and resource ethnic churches and support the unique needs of bivocational ministers. In addition, during the first half of 2002 the BGCT's Church Starting Center helped start 105 churches across Texas; including 11 African-American, an Indonesian, 61 Hispanic, four Korean, a Russian-Slavic and 12 multi-ethnic Baptist churches. All this is done to promote diversity and leadership in our churches and in our lives.

The Southern Baptist Convention of Texas does little to address the diversity issues facing our state. They do not sponsor fellowship meetings or the Hispanic Convención. Only the BGCT recognizes the implications of our changing demographic makeup. Although there are many voices and languages representing our state, if we open our churches and our hearts to all of our brothers and sisters, we will always be blessed with the universal language of Jesus' love.

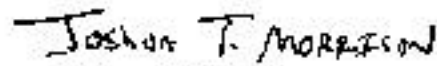
We believe in the Associational Ministries so much that we are pleased to endorse these words with our names. We are weary of SBC leaders recommending that you decrease support to these programs when our state is growing and needs your help the most.

Concerned Texas Baptists


Alex Camacho
Pastor
Primera de McKinney


John D. Ogletree, Jr.
Senior Pastor
First Metropolitan Church


David G. Keith
Pastor
Carlton Baptist Church


Joshua T. Morrison
Pastor
Olin Baptist Church


Ruben Chairez
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Primera Iglesia Bautista



Responses to this ad may be sent to the Baptist Standard. These responses will be forwarded to Concerned Texas Baptists.