

Every Association needs

Every Association needs to have a *Passion for Christ and His Kingdom.*

It is not about us, it is about God and His Kingdom. God is already working in our Association; we must discover where and join Him there. The Association must remain culturally relevant. We must find new ways to empower leaders through small groups, networks, peer-mentoring, personal consultations, etc. Stronger churches should come along side weaker ones and partner with them in ministry. **We can do more together as a family of churches than any individual church can do alone!**

Every Association needs to have *Prayer for Empowerment.*

We have a Scriptural responsibility to pray for those who serve among and with us. You can be sure every pastor, staff member, and church leader, needs God's strength to serve Him in today's culture. We must have the power of God to accomplish His agenda. Again, it is a Kingdom agenda that should drive our Association. **We must be faithful in praying for one another!**

Every Association needs to *Position Itself as Servants.*

Our Association must strive to keep its focus on serving churches. Churches are designed by God to carry out His mission! The Association is **not** a church. The Association exists to assist, support, encourage, and serve the church. We must devote ourselves to strengthening the local church. Associations assist; Churches do the work of ministry! The local church is on the front lines of ministry. The church does not take second place to the mission organizations (IMB, NAMB, etc.). Those organizations exist to assist the church!

Every Association needs to have *Partnership Among Its Churches.*

The Association is a family of churches on mission together locally and globally. Each Association needs to determine its God-given purpose and develop an effective strategy to accomplish it. Each church is a collection of people with God-given talents and spiritual gifts. As we bring churches together we gain an army of strength that no one church can have alone. **Together we can accomplish more for God's Kingdom as we unselfishly share and serve with one another under a common vision for the Kingdom!**

Every Association needs to *Plant New Churches.*

New churches tend to be able to reach the unchurched easier than established ones. Every church should be involved in some element of church planting. **We must provide financial assistance, training, and regular encouragement to church planters as they begin new congregations in our Association and elsewhere!**

Every Association needs to *Provide A Team-based Organization.*

The best delivery system for an Association to help its churches is ministry teams. This is because people on teams typically serve in the area of their passion, are self-motivated, and can respond quickly to needs in their area of passion.

Every Association needs to *Partner With Outside Agencies.*

As our Association focuses in on God's Kingdom it is easy to become overwhelmed with the challenge of the task. Partnerships are a great asset in pursuing the God-given vision we have for our Association of churches. State and national agencies are eager to help associations and churches. **We are not in this alone!**

Every Association needs to *Promote Cooperative Mission/Ministry Efforts.*

We must develop a unified strategy among our churches to discover and evangelize the unchurched people of our area while encouraging involvement in global, national, and regional mission endeavors. Is God calling our family of churches to engage a specific people group or country with the Gospel? Churches that are too small to conduct their own mission partnership are encouraged to partner with sister churches to reach others locally, regionally, or internationally.