

Joint Covenant between First Baptist Church, Dobson, the Surry Baptist Association, and Iglesia Bautista Buena Vista

This covenant has been approved by all parties represented as demonstrated by the signatures at the end of the document.

The provisions of this covenant shall serve as the administrative, doctrinal and logistical guide between all parties involved until such time as amended by mutual consent or until such time as the language mission becomes an organized sister Baptist church.

The ongoing administration of the provisions of this covenant is assigned to the Hispanic missions committee and made up of elected representatives of the mission, sponsor church and the association. The following provisions are expressly addressed as a part of this covenant and shall be observed and herein agreed:

MEMBERSHIP

- A. Members of the Hispanic mission shall be considered to be members of First Baptist Church, Dobson, NC, hereafter referred to as the "sponsoring church."
- B. Members may be received by the mission at any regular service in a manner that agrees with the constitution of the sponsoring church. When received by the mission, their names will be submitted at the next business meeting of the sponsoring church to be added to the church membership rolls.
- C. When members of the mission are dropped or transferred, a written notification will be sent to the sponsoring church secretary.
- D. Persons received into membership by the mission must meet the essential membership requirements of the sponsoring church. Membership orientation will be given by the mission pastor.

PASTOR

- A. The mission pastor will be recommended by the Hispanic mission committee and called jointly by the sponsoring church and the mission.
- B. Dismissal of the mission pastor will require joint action by the mission and the sponsoring church.
- C. The mission pastor will subscribe to the articles contained in The Baptist Faith and Message.
- D. The mission pastor will be a full member of the church council and should attend council meetings.

- E. Guest preachers or interim pastors must be approved by the Hispanic mission committee in advance, unless they are ordained Southern Baptist ministers.
- F. The mission pastor, if he is an ordained Southern Baptist minister, will be authorized to perform all of the routine pastoral ministries to the mission congregation, including serving the Lord's Supper, baptizing candidates for membership, conducting weddings and funerals. Otherwise, such duties will be performed by the pastor of the sponsor church. If the mission pastor is awaiting ordination, ordinances will be performed by the pastor of the sponsor church.
- G. The mission pastor should attend meetings of the association.

OTHER MISSION OFFICERS AND MINISTERS

- A. The mission is encouraged to elect members to perform the duties of treasurer, secretary, Sunday School director, WMU director, and Brotherhood director for the mission. The sponsor church is encouraged to help train and offer direction to the mission.
- B. The mission is authorized to recommend the calling and/or ordination of deacons to the sponsoring church. Deacons will not be called or ordained without approval of the Hispanic mission committee and the sponsoring church.
- C. Deacons who are members of the mission will function as deacons for the mission when approved by the missions committee and the sponsoring church. The chairman of the Hispanic mission deacon body shall be designated as an ex-officio member of the deacon body of the sponsoring church and encouraged to attend meeting of the sponsoring church deacon body.

DOCTRINES

The pastor and members of the Hispanic mission should be in agreement with the doctrines contained in The Baptist Faith and Message and with the expressed doctrinal position of the sponsoring church as contained in the articles of faith of the sponsoring church.

USE OF SPONSORING CHURCH PROPERTY

The Hispanic mission may be assigned the following space for their use on the days and hours indicated.

- A. The sanctuary may be used each Sunday afternoon from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm on a regular basis. All other usage of the sanctuary or other space not assigned to the mission by this covenant will be prearranged with the pastor of the sponsoring church at least two weeks in advance.

- B. Rooms are assigned to the Hispanic mission for regular use at all times until a mutually agreed change is made.
- C. Care, clean-up and maintenance of rooms assigned the mission are the responsibility of the Hispanic congregation and volunteer teachers. It is expected that the language congregation will maintain the rooms assigned to its use in the same general condition as other church property.
- D. There will be occasions when the sponsoring church will have a need to use the rooms assigned the mission. Arrangements will be made with the mission pastor at least two weeks in advance.
- E. Other articles of sponsoring church property or equipment may be used by the mission when authorized by the pastor of the sponsoring church.
- F. The mission will not be expected to pay a rental fee for use of buildings or equipment belonging to the sponsoring church.
- G. The mission pastor will be given a key to the church building and will be responsible for opening and closing the building for mission services.

MISSION FINANCES

- A. The mission will collect and submit its offerings to the secretary of the Surry Baptist Association who also acts as the treasurer for the Yadkin, Elkin, Surry (Y.E.S.) Hispanic Ministry.
- B. The mission will not incur any financial indebtedness without approval of the sponsoring church and the association.
- C. The Y.E.S. Hispanic Ministry is responsible to pay the mission pastor salary and allowances and all other mission operating expenses until such time when the missions committee, the sponsoring church, and the Y.E.S. committee have agreed that the mission has trained leaders to accept financial responsibility.
- D. When all parties have agreed to the readiness of the mission to accept financial responsibility, the mission will elect a treasurer who will be assigned the administrative duties to maintain an accurate record of all income, expenses, and bank accounts.

JOINT ACTIVITIES/SERVICES

- A. In the interest of developing a good relationship and fellowship between the sponsoring church and the mission, it is desirable to have joint worship services and other fellowship activities periodically.

- B. Joint services or fellowship activities will be arranged by mutual agreement at least 30 days in advance.

RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The mission pastor and congregation are encouraged to develop close communication and relationships with other Southern Baptists, both within the sponsoring church family and all other Southern Baptist Convention agencies within normally accepted communication channels available to all Southern Baptist churches.

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION/HMB FUNDING

- A. It is the policy of the Language Ministries Department of the Baptist State Convention that a sponsor church be appointed before funding can be negotiated with an association for a new Language mission.
- B. In order to receive funds from the BSC/HMB the name "Baptist" must be included in the name of the mission.
- C. The association will receive a monthly supplement to be used to cover part of the salary for the mission pastor. Start-up funding will be jointly agreed upon by the BSC/HMB, association, sponsor church and representatives of the Language Missions Committee. Funding will remain at the agreed level (unless Cooperative Program giving reaches unexpected low levels) for three years. An annual review will be held each fall to determine the progress of the Language mission. Following the three years funding level, assistance will decrease each year until no funding is being received. The number of years of decrease will be determined in the fall review. Duration of funding will not continue beyond a total of eight years. Any change to this funding policy cannot be done without joint agreement with all parties involved in the funding process.
- D. The mission pastor will mail a monthly report to the convention office, to the sponsoring church pastor, and to the associational office before the 5th of each month in order to receive the supplement. The agreed amount will be sent to the association for distribution according to the agreement of the funds requested.

WHEN THE MISSION BECOMES A CHURCH

- A. The goal and desires of the sponsoring church and the mission are for the mission to grow and to constitute into a sister Baptist church as rapidly as possible.
- B. The decision to constitute itself into a Baptist church rests entirely with the mission after consultation with the missions committee and the sponsoring church.

CHANGES

- A. The provisions of the covenant can be changed by mutual agreement between the sponsoring church, the mission, association, and convention official representatives.
- B. Except for assignment of space, property or equipment, proposed changes must be submitted in writing by the initiating group to the other groups 90 days in advance of the date of the proposed change. Such changes must be voted on and accepted by the sponsoring church and the mission before the change becomes an effective part of this covenant.

SIGNATURES

SPONSORING CHURCH

Van Sankard
(pastor)

3-5-95

(date)

MISSION

Rosalino Rojas

(pastor)

3-5-95

(date)

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

John D. Jones

(Language Missions Representative)

3-5-95

(date)

SURRY ASSOCIATION

Wayne Treadler

(Director of Missions)

3-5-93

(date)

YADKIN, ELKIN, SURRY HISPANIC MINISTRY

Paul Fariello

(chairman)

March 05, 1995

(date)