



Membership Application

Part One – Check List, Application & Statements

Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists
Denominational Endorsement Application and Accountability Form

860 Johnson Ferry Rd., Ste. 140-280
Atlanta, GA 30342
www.sbcevangelist.org
cosbe@sbcevangelist.org



CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST EVANGELISTS Membership Application Form – Part One

Checklist and Instructions for Denominational Endorsement & Request for Membership with Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists

- Complete the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists Membership Application Form (following.)
- Sign the included **“Affirmations of Accountability”** based on the Lausanne Covenant for Itinerant Evangelists (**Part IX.**)
- Obtain and provide along with this Membership Application Form a letter of endorsement from your pastor, and two letters of recommendation from other sources.
- Include two current high-quality photographs of yourself with Membership Application Form, along with a copy of your Driver’s License or State ID Card, and one other form of identification.
- Give consent and sign form for Background Check Consent (Part Two of this application; click on gold tab on website “Membership Application Part Two;” download, fill out, and include with the main application, “Membership Application Part One.” The two have to be submitted as separate documents.)
- Have participated in an evangelistic training event such as a conference, retreat, school or class. We highly recommend the [Billy Graham School of Evangelism](#), offered online through Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.
- Complete interview by an officer of COSBE, in person or by telephone.
- Attach a brief, typewritten autobiography which includes your family background, salvation experience, call and commitment to evangelism, and any other significant events marking your walk with the Lord.
- Return completed Membership Application Form to COSBE, along with non-refundable application fee of \$175 for Vocational Evangelist, or \$150 for Bi-Vocational Evangelist. If accepted, your application fee will be applied to your first year's membership dues. This fee also covers the cost of your background check. Checks may be made payable and sent to:

Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists
860 Johnson Ferry Rd, Suite 140-280
Atlanta, GA 30342



CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST EVANGELISTS Membership Application Form – Part One

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name_____

Ministry Name_____

Group Name (if applicable)_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Mobile Phone_____

Home Phone_____

Business/Other Phone_____

Current email address _____

Web Site Address_____

Marital Status:

Married

Remarried

Single

Widowed

Divorced

Comments _____

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II. MINISTRY FOCUS INFORMATION

A. Evangelistic Focus Designation; please check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chalk Art Ministry (ART) | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspirational Speaker (IS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biblical Health Evangelism (BHE) | <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Conference Evangelism (MCE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Evangelism (C) | <input type="checkbox"/> Music (Revivals and Crusades) (ME) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concert Artist Evangelism (CA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Evangelism Ministry (MM) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crusade Director (CD) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Work Evangelism (MWE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Evangelism (CE) | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach Evangelism (OE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clowning Ministry (CL) | <input type="checkbox"/> Prison Ministry (P) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comedy Ministry (COM) | <input type="checkbox"/> Street Evangelism (SE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling Seminar Evangelism (CSM) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship/Financial Seminars (SFS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collegiate Student Evangelism (CSE) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Evangelism Ministry (SPE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drama Ministry (D) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ventriloquism Ministry (V) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harvester Evangelist/Preacher (E) | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Evangelism Ministry (WM) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Revivalist Evangelist/Preacher(ER) | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Evangelism Ministry (YE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illusionist Evangelism (IL) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

B. Applying for Vocational or Bi-Vocational Evangelist status?

Vocational Evangelist

Is available on a full-time basis for focused evangelistic ministry in local churches, and other kinds of evangelistic activity, international and otherwise. The Vocational Evangelist is responsible to determine to what extent he can be involved in other areas of ministry and still maintain his focus, agenda, and title of "Full Time Vocational Evangelist." COSBE Vocational Evangelists understand that Membership Fees are due annually no later than September 30 in the amount of \$150, and shall be paid by check sent to COSBE via mail or online via PayPal at <http://sbcevangelist.org/Pay-Membership-Dues.html>.

Bi-Vocational Evangelist

Has a working interest and involvement in "The "Work of The Evangelist," while also doing other tasks both religious and secular, being paid for same, and having responsibilities that would prohibit full-time effort toward the work of evangelism. The Bi-Vocational member of COSBE has no voting rights pertaining to the election of officers, inductees to the COSBE Hall of Faith, or otherwise. Election as a COSBE officer is also forfeited but a presidential appointment in any other capacity is allowed.



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COSBE Bi-Vocational Evangelists understand that Membership Fees are due annually no later than September 30 in the amount of \$125, and shall be paid by check sent to COSBE via mail or online via PayPal at <http://sbcevangelist.org/Pay-Membership-Dues.html>.

C. Do you have your spouse's full support in your calling to evangelistic ministry?

Comments: _____

III. EVANGELISTIC EXPERIENCE

Please give us a brief overview of the scope of your evangelistic ministry, including the following specifics:

A. Year entered ministry: _____

B. Year entered evangelism: _____

C. Brief Overview of Your Ministry:

D. Number of and type of evangelistic events per year and since you entered full-time evangelism:

• Revivals _____

• Crusades _____

• School Ministry _____

• International Mission Trips _____



Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists
Ephesians 4:11-12

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- Concerts _____
- Other (Explain.) _____

E. Number and type of evangelistic events per year before you entered full-time evangelism: _____

F. Do you give your time and energies to the pursuit of evangelism, and is evangelism your primary source of income?

- Yes
 No

G. If your answer is no, briefly explain:

IV. HOME CHURCH INFORMATION

Current church membership: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church's Phone: _____

Church's Email: _____

Church's Website: _____

Pastor's Name: _____



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Name of Local Baptist Association: _____

Does your church support the Cooperative Program? _____

Do you tithe to your home church? _____

Do you and your family faithfully support your Pastor? _____

V. MORAL BEHAVIOR AFFIRMATIONS

Please affirm the following statements. If you cannot, please explain why on a separate piece of paper.

- I have never sued a church or church staff member.
- I have never been terminated from a job for immoral conduct.
- I do not currently drink alcoholic beverages, use illegal drugs, or abuse prescription drugs.
- I do not use nor condone profanity.
- I do not practice fornication, adultery, homosexuality, nor any kind of illicit or immoral sexual activity.
- I am not a pedophile.
- I am not addicted to nor do I view pornographic materials.
- I am committed and faithful to my family, and (if married) to my spouse.
- I am not a pastor, church staff member*, or agency employee.
 - *A Bi-Vocational Evangelist may serve on staff at a church. Please check this box if you are serving on staff at a church and applying for Bi-Vocational Evangelist Status.
- I meet the requirements of my home state's conference of evangelists**.
**While membership with your home state's conference of evangelists is not required, it is strongly encouraged.

I AFFIRM ALL OF THE ABOVE STATEMENTS.

Signed _____ Date _____



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VI. EDUCATION

Please list your educational accomplishments and highest level of schooling.

Institution	City/State	Year of Graduation	Degree Earned
-------------	------------	--------------------	---------------

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

VII. CHURCH OR DENOMINATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Please list any churches or agencies where you have served; your position; dates.

Name of Church or Agency	Position	Dates
--------------------------	----------	-------

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

VIII. MINISTERIAL STATUS

Ordained for full-time ministry? _____

Date of Ordination: _____

Ordaining Church, Pastor and/or Ministry: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



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In submitting this Membership Application, I recognize the Executive Committee of the Conference of the Southern Baptist Evangelists (COSBE) to be the body designated to validate and endorse qualified Southern Baptist Evangelists. I hereby agree to cooperate with their policies and programs. I also recognize that it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee of COSBE to grant and/or withdraw validation and endorsement.

Therefore, in the opinion of the Executive Committee of COSBE, should I prove by temperament, disposition, attitude or conduct to be unsuited for membership, and should it decide to withdraw or terminate my membership, I agree to respectfully abide by their decision.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

IX. CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST EVANGELISTS AFFIRMATIONS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Please read through, consider and affirm by signing below the following Affirmations of Accountability agreed to by all participating members of COSBE.

We the members of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists do hereby, before the Lord and each other, affirm the following statements concerning our accountability as Vocational Evangelists:

- A. We confess Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as Lord and Savior and declare our obedience to the Great Commission, our willingness to advance its purpose, and our availability to fulfill its meaning.
- B. We align ourselves with the doctrinal position of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message and reaffirm our belief that the Bible is the infallible, inerrant Word of God.
- C. We assert the call of the Vocational Evangelist is an authentic New Testament call; thereby, we approach our vocation with the same degree of preparation



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and integrity as is demanded of other Christian vocational skills.

- D. We are accountable to the local church where we are members by participating in its programs and supporting it with our tithes. We will strive to conduct our ministries so as to build up the local body of believers by proclaiming the great doctrines of the scriptures.
- E. We acknowledge that conviction of sin is a work of the Holy Spirit and we will extend the invitation to accept Christ as Lord and Savior with integrity, and without coercion or manipulation.
- F. Our priorities are: first, to a disciplined devotional life, ensuring our personal spiritual development; second, to our families, demonstrating our commitment as companions and parents; third, to those with whom we minister giving evidence of the creditability of our message.
- G. As servants of God we confirm our duty to live morally clean, pure, holy lives. What we proclaim in public, we are obligated to practice in private.
- H. We declare to be faithful and responsible under God in the reporting of all our finances and statistics.
- I. We need and desire to be filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit in order that we may be thoroughly prepared and thoroughly empowered.
- J. We seek to promote evangelism with integrity through every segment of our ministries and, in so doing, we expect the same standards from those with whom we serve.

I AFFIRM ALL OF THE ABOVE STATEMENTS.

Signed _____ Date _____

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X. BACKGROUND CHECK CONSENT

Please fill out the two-page, separate document in addition this main application, which is a Disclosure, Notice and Authorization Form, authorizing us to conduct a background check on you.

XI. Frequently Asked Questions

Concerning the application for new members, we hope the following Q & A “conversation” will be helpful.

Q. Must this Membership Application process be adhered to by all potential COSBE members?

A. *Yes and No.*

- *YES: You must meet all the standards of the affirmations. For instance, if for any reason you do not qualify for your State Evangelists’ Conference or Fellowship, you cannot be a member of COSBE. This is an added safeguard for the integrity of COSBE membership.*
- *NO: You do not have to go through the thorough background check for new members. However, your decision to forego this check will require explanation to the COSBE Executive Committee prior to acceptance of your membership application.*

Q: Why do a background check?

A: *COSBE was created as a fellowship and supportive organization, promoting the ministry of the vocational evangelist back in 1959. During those early years, an immoral person and con-artist became a member; certainly, leadership at the time had no idea of who he really was, and the scope of his deceit and immorality. It has taken over forty years to recover from some of the damage he did. A background check minimizes the possibility of dishonest and immoral people using the name of COSBE and good will gained from membership within COSBE to perpetrate crimes. It also helps with liability issues and provides an extra layer of accountability, integrity, and seriousness to our organization. This standard is used by other mission-supporting and mission-sending organizations, and gives greater authority to the endorsement process.*

Q: Why do we pay a membership fee, and what do I get out of it?

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A: *Your membership in COSBE provides you with a national platform and denominational endorsement; annual presence and promotions amongst pastors and leadership throughout the Southern Baptist Convention and opportunity to meet the same each year at the annual meeting in June; and fellowship, support, encouragement and learning opportunities with other evangelists who understand the joys and trials of evangelistic ministry!*

Membership fees are virtually the only source of income for COSBE, besides occasional donations. The fees obtained from members are vital, and help pay for many necessary expenses, including the following:

- *COSBE Websites, Online Directories, and Virtual Stores*
 - www.sbcevangelist.org (Your profile listed on this site, along with other information about our organization and evangelistic resources.)
 - www.voiceoftheevangelist.org (You can upload your own books, CDs, sermon DVDs, etc. to sell on the Voice of the Evangelist site!)
- *Annual Southern Baptist Convention expenses: COSBE booth, exhibition, and promotional ads; worship service and social activities for pastors, featuring COSBE evangelists; annual retreat*
- *Email and Event program software subscription (Constant Contact)*
- *Quickbooks Online account*
- *Banking and bookkeeping fees*
- *IRS annual report filings*
- *COSBE post office box, address and phone service*

Q: Why such a lengthy application?

A: *In previous years, applicants had two applications to complete, depending on what year a person joined. This application has been streamlined! In addition, the prayerful filling out of such a form both teaches us what God expects of us and reminds us that The Office of The Evangelist must be held to the highest biblical standards.*

Q: How do I count my years in vocational evangelistic ministry?

A: *When answering the question about how many years have you been in evangelism, do not count years in the pastorate or in a staff or denominational capacity. Count only the years during which full-time evangelism has been your sole ministry.*



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Q: If I have been out of evangelism for less than five years, and was previously a member of COSBE, do I have to go through the application process all over again? Or can I just pay my dues and be a member again?

A: *Likely, you will not have to complete the application process again and can be reinstated with a minimum of reinstatement process. But some conversations with current leadership will be needed, and possibly a new background check.*

XII. Final Words

Thank you for your interest in Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. It is our prayer that God will use you to bring many souls into the kingdom. We look forward to getting to know you, and to working together to see His kingdom purposes fulfilled.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact one of our officers listed on the website at <http://sbcevangelist.org/Officers.html> or via email at cosbe@sbcevangelist.org.

In Christ, your fellow laborers in the harvest,
The Executive Committee of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists

"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Matthew 9: 37-38