



The Tennessee Baptist Convention recognizes a church in accordance with the definition given in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000:

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; Observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention recognizes **a new church plant** by the following qualifications:

1. A Mother church/sponsor church leadership responsible for the church plant.
2. A plan for a regular gathering of the church to carry out the biblical functions of a church.
3. A plan for a recognized church membership.
4. A plan to carry out the Great Commission.
5. Agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message.

