



FUNDING ROADMAP

What you need to know about the Greater Atlanta Baptist Network

The Greater Atlanta Baptist Network is a theologically-driven network of local churches committed to the protection and proclamation of the gospel. We exist to encourage pastoral fellowship and faithful ministry. When possible and appropriate, we provide limited funding to churches and church plants.

We believe that the churches and church plants most likely to receive God's blessing are those committed to the expositional preaching of his word, the careful shepherding of his members, and the plural leadership of his people. To receive our highest level of funding, a church or church plant will demonstrate a commitment to these three aspects of ministry.

A Word on Preaching, Membership & Leadership

Expositional preaching is preaching that takes a particular passage of Scripture as its subject for the sermon. This does not neglect the value of preaching on topics. However, Christians need most of all a steady diet of expositional preaching—the straightforward explanation and application of the Word of God.

Churches that practice membership & discipline know who the members of the church are and hold those members accountable to live pure and holy lives. We believe membership is a biblical principle found throughout the Scriptures. Though each church may practice membership & discipline slightly differently, every church should know which Christians are entrusted to their care. Such churches should seek to discipline them in grace and godliness with the biblical goal of restoration to the church family.

Churches with plural leadership recognize that the New Testament calls for elder leadership in churches. Paul, for example, told Titus to appoint elders in every church in Crete. We see that the basic pattern of leadership found in the Bible is one of a band of brothers overseeing the flock of God. This biblically-based pattern of church leadership not only provides accountability for the main, preaching pastor but it also provides increased shepherding for the people of God. Every church ought to raise up men who meet the biblical qualifications of eldership found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Qualified men ought to be recognized by the congregation for the good of the church and the good of the primary, preaching pastor in the church.



Different Levels of Funding

Every applicant must fill out our funding application. As you do, please keep the following funding roadmap in mind. Because our main goals are pastoral fellowship and faithful ministry, we desire a strong relationship with every funded church or church plant. Therefore, we offer three levels of funding. Each level is designed to encourage a relational connection within GABN. Each level reflects a certain level of commitment to and appreciation for GABN's vision.

- **Level 1 (\$2,500) – Attend 75% of the monthly GABN pastors fellowship.**

Our most regular activity as a network of churches is a monthly pastors fellowship. Dates for upcoming fellowships can be found on our website. We typically meet for an hour and a half. We hear updates, pray, discuss a book we've been reading together, and counsel one another through various situations in our ministry.

The GABN pastors fellowship is for preaching pastors because we want this to be a place where those who share the unique responsibility of leading their congregations through public teaching can be especially encouraged.

By attending the GABN pastors fellowship you are displaying a commitment not only to your own growth as a pastor, but to the growth of other pastors in the area. As these relationships develop over the years, we trust our city and state will be better served. We want the world to know that we are Christ's disciples by the love we have for one another. The pastors fellowship is one way to accomplish this grand purpose.

- **Level 2 (\$5,000) – Participate in 1-1 mentoring with an approved GABN pastor.**

Pastoral ministry can be isolating work. If you have been a pastor for any length of time then you know the pull on your schedule. You have your own time with the Lord to tend to. You may be a husband and father with responsibilities at home. You have messages to prepare so you can feed your sheep. You have members of your congregation who want your counsel. Finally, you have neighbors in your community that you are seeking to reach with the gospel. This is all wonderful work.

In the midst of all that work, however, sometimes we can neglect to diligently watch our life and doctrine. This is the goal of 1-1 mentoring. We think it's wise



for pastors to meet every six weeks or so with a brother to talk about ministry and to grow in his understanding of what it means to be a theologically-driven church committed to faithfulness in pastoral ministry. We fear many churches are motivated by the wrong metrics—church size, staff size, budget size, etc. God may bless us with this kind of success. But if he does not, we may still be successful. It is important to know how to measure success. 1-1 mentoring is designed to help us keep our eyes on God’s vision of church health.

- **Level 3 (\$7,500-10,000) – Receive a positive recommendation from the GABN mentor.**

This level funding depends upon a GABN mentor providing a positive recommendation to GABN’s Administrative Team. We realize that it’s easy to jump through hoops—attend a meeting and have lunch with another pastor. We are looking for more than attendance. A GABN mentor will seek to assess whether GABN should financially support a work at this significant level.

At GABN we pray that God blesses us with increased resources so we can support as many church plants as possible. We want every contributing church to know we are doing everything we can to support works that are faithful to God’s Word and committed to GABN’s overall vision. We cannot fund every worthy work, but we are doing all we can to get our resources into the hands of godly works. Requests for support will be assessed on a case-by-case and year-by-year basis. GABN may or may not support a church or church plant for more than one year. If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact our Moderator or Network Missionary.