



In I Corinthians 3:5-9, Paul speaks of Christians and their relationships as “God’s field” and “God’s building.” This implies forever new furrows, new crops, new harvests; and it depicts new rooms, more space, and additional relatives. That is precisely what has transpired since the inception of CBF North Carolina almost ten years ago. New fields of mission and ministry, and new structures of fellowship and leadership have emerged almost over night.

The current mission statement of CBFNC is: *“Bringing Baptists of North Carolina together for Christ-centered ministry.”*

**BRINGING: A Special Method**

“Bringing” is a gentle force whose engine room is love. It’s twin sisters are “leading” and “guiding.” It’s mortal enemies are “driving,” “forcing,” “coercing.”

The first word in our mission statement stands with arms outstretched shouting, “WELCOME” to everyone. It is positive not negative. It is proactive not reactive.

“Bringing” is the work of a shepherd not a cowboy. There were about as many cowboys as shepherds in first century Palestine.

Yet, Jesus chose the “shepherd” to depict his nature, not the cowboy. Shepherds lead sheep. Cowboys drive cattle. (John 10:11)

**BAPTISTS: A Special People**

CBF North Carolina is incurably Baptist. In fact one of the prime features of the fellowship is to celebrate our Baptistness. There is abroad in the land a terrible idea—to remove Baptist from the names of our churches. Not so for CBF. We want to restore that noble name to a place of respect and honor. Ours is a worthy Baptist heritage and hope.

In 1607 Baptists entered history as freedom fighters. To this day, being Baptist means freedom—free churches, free consciences, free classrooms all within a free country. Baptists stand for integrity and authority of the Scriptures, along with soul competency to interpret them. We stand for the autonomy of local congregations, the equality of every church member, and priesthood of every believer. We stand for religious liberty and the separation of church state.

We believe that there is a Christian way to be human, a Baptist way to be Christian, a CBF way to be Baptist, and a North Carolina way to be a CBFer.

**NORTH CAROLINA: A Special Place**

We celebrate CBF National with offices in Atlanta, Georgia, and the incredible implications of doing missions in a world without borders. We are grateful for the 132 missionaries under appointment, the 163 chaplains endorsed, the 18 state and regional networks, and the 13 partnering seminaries.

Yet, our focus is ministry in the Old North State. From Murphy to Manteo we are shaping the present and future of the Baptist presence in our home state.

Through five Task Forces (Missions, Faith Development, Leadership Development, Communications, and Administration) we are determined to be an embodiment of Jesus Christ, an extension of Christ, in our time, in our

state. We mean to be what Christ was while he was on this earth.

On the North Carolina state seal there is a Latin phrase: “Esse Quam Videri.” That means “To Be, Not To Seem.” We dare to be North Carolina Baptists for now, for tomorrow.

**TOGETHER: A Special Relationship**

In I Corinthians 3:9, Paul tells the Corinthians and us that, “we are laborers together with God.” This means that we are “together,” not alike. Our diversity enriches us.

Here is what we stand for together:

- A free church hermeneutic
- A free church theology
- Pastor/Laity Partnership
- Male/Female Equality
- Church/State Separation

And we stand for all this under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The sole parameter for our faith and fellowship is “Jesus Christ is Lord.”

**FOR CHRIST-CENTERED MINISTRY: A Special Purpose**

Ours is a new way to be Baptist and a new way to do missions. The focus for our missions endeavor internationally is World A—the people on Earth who have the least opportunity to know Jesus Christ. The focus for our work in North Carolina is the Jesus agenda in Luke 4:18-19.

We pack light and travel lean. Our thrusts are to start churches, train leaders, develop disciples, and foster fellowship.

We are not a denomination, a convention, an association, or an alliance. We are a fellowship of Christians bent *on bringing Baptists of North Carolina together for Christ-centered ministry.* We invite and encourage you to join us.