



April 6, 2021

Dear Mr. Clayton,

For several years now, McLean Bible Church has partnered with specific SBC entities and churches for the purpose of church planting, disaster relief, missionary funding, and other gospel-focused initiatives. This strategic partnership between McLean Bible Church and SBC entities began over four years ago when Lon Solomon was serving as our senior pastor, and it has continued under David Platt's current pastoral leadership of our church.

When we initially partnered with SBC entities, our understanding was two-fold: 1) that the SBC was a cooperative network of autonomous churches who work together to plant churches, support missionaries, and partner together in other ministry endeavors around the world; and 2) our particular strategic partnership with SBC entities would not be considered a denominational "affiliation" in a formal, organizational sense. This was important to us because McLean Bible Church has always been – and in fact still remains – an independent, non-denominational Bible church.

In a congregational meeting we held last week, an email exchange between you (presumably on behalf of the Executive Committee of the SBC) and one of our congregants was shared with us. This email exchange seemed to indicate just the opposite of our understanding stated above. Our elders have never given approval for our church to formally affiliate with any denomination. To be clear, we remain an independent, non-denominational Bible church. As such, we continually evaluate external partnerships with other churches and ministries to further our mission as a church, including partnerships with SBC entities as well as various other ministry organizations.

Though we are not formally a member of the SBC denominationally, we celebrate with you the various mutual ministry endeavors that we have supported – including the over 40 new churches that have been planted here in metro Washington, D.C., through our targeted and very synergistic partnership with SBC entities.

I hope that this clarification will assist you to appropriately position the work we are doing in partnership together – both internally and externally when asked. We value our partnership relationship, which clearly has born much fruit.

May God continue to lead our respective separate organizations as we each work to spread the Good News and bring glory to Him in the world.

Serving our Great Lord together,

Larry Cooper



Larry Cooper

Chairman, MBC Board of Elders

McLean Bible church

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