

August 13, 2021

Ashley Clayton, Executive Director  
SBC Cooperative Program  
VIA EMAIL

Dear Ashley,

Thank you for your recent email confirming your team's attempts to better clarify public communication of the "partnership in ministry" agreement entered into by McLean Bible Church and SBC ministries in 2016. While we celebrate all that God has done through that partnership over the past five years, we also recognize that this partnership is causing a growing sense of confusion and concern within our church family. These concerns are primarily related to the issue we raised in our initial communication to you earlier this year, which is the need to clearly communicate our status as a nondenominational Bible church, rather than the different representations presented publicly by the SBC that make it seem that we are, in fact, an SBC member church.

Our MBC elder Board recently completed a comprehensive internal review of the 2016 partnership agreement, and I wanted to share an update with you.

Based on this evaluation, the Board voted unanimously to withdraw from the 2016 partnership agreement with SBC ministry entities, effective immediately. We prayerfully believe that we can continue to pursue church planting and global missions work in ways that unambiguously and clearly communicate our status as a nondenominational Bible church.

We have instructed the staff of MBC to manage our immediate withdrawal from the partnership agreement in ways that minimize any negative or unintended impacts on ministry. If you have any questions at all on the practical implications of this decision, please let me know.

We praise God for many people who have come to faith in Christ, churches that have been planted, and missionaries who have been sent around the world through our partnership with ministries of the SBC, as well as many other gospel partners. We hope and pray that God will bless the ministries of the SBC in the days ahead for His glory as we all devote ourselves to the same mission: glorifying God by obeying the Great Commission he has entrusted to us.

Yours in Christ,



Larry Cooper, Chairman  
MBC Board of Elders