



## **Church Affiliation**

Immanuel is an autonomous church which cooperates with other churches of like faith and order.

### ***What does it mean to be autonomous?***

To be autonomous means we are self-governed, free from outside control, and self-contained. We cooperate:

- on the local level with the Long's Peak Association (LPA)
- on the state level with the Colorado Baptist General Convention (CBGC)
- on the national level with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)

### ***What is the Southern Baptist Convention?***

- It is a partnership of churches joined in common beliefs and goals that cooperate through organization and resources to send missionaries to every corner of the world.
- It is the largest association of Christian churches in America. One of every 10 churches in America is affiliated with the SBC. (40,000 churches and 16 million members – more than most other denominations combined)
- It is the most diverse association of churches. SBC churches include every race, nationality, and ethnic group. Each Sunday, services are held in over 100 languages in the U.S. In our state this includes Korean, American Indian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Rumanian, Hmong, and Hispanic Southern Baptist Churches.
- It is one of the fastest growing groups in the nation. The SBC baptizes over 1000 per day in the U.S. and begins nearly 4 new churches a day!

### ***Why not just be an independent church?***

There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there is in most other denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs. For example;

- Every SBC church chooses its own pastor
- Every SBC church owns its own resources and assets.
- Every SBC church determines its own program.

### ***What are the advantages of affiliating with the SBC?***

- It allows us to fellowship with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made "creed." The Bible is our only authority.
- It allows our church to participate in the largest mission organization in the world. Through the SBC Cooperative Program we help support over 10,500 missionaries working with over 1,497 people groups around the world.