

## WACO REGIONAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION INFORMATION PACKET



The Waco Regional Baptist Association is a voluntary network of Baptist churches in Central Texas who have chosen to cooperate in order to extend and embody the good news of Jesus Christ.

### How does the Waco Regional Baptist Association help your church?

The Waco Regional Baptist Association is a voluntary network of Baptist churches in Central Texas who have chosen to cooperate in order to extend and embody the good news of Jesus Christ. The primary way that we cooperate is through our ministry teams which are comprised of leaders and members of the many diverse churches in the region. Through these teams, your church finds both an outlet for ministry and a source of ministry expertise. Members from your church can find a place to multiply their experience and knowledge and spiritual gifts by joining the ministry team that best matches their interests. Your church can also call upon any of the ministry teams to bring the gifts of that larger body of Christ to strengthen and assist your church.

All of the ministry teams work in cooperation and consultation with the Director of the Association and are accountable to the Association.

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# Ministry Teams

## Church Revitalization Ministry Team

**PURPOSE:** The Church Revitalization Ministry Team serves the Waco Regional Baptist Association by assisting churches to develop and implement a process to help them to grow.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Develop and employ a specific revitalization process lasting a maximum of five months that supports and equips the congregation, pastor, staff, and lay leadership with the intention of sustaining church growth for the following five years.
- Approve and prioritize churches that apply to be engaged in the church revitalization process, including recommending matching funds that the Association might make available for the process.
- Evaluate and improve the process based on results and feedback.

## Community Ministries Team

**PURPOSE:** The Community Ministries Team serves the Waco Regional Baptist Association by assisting with the promotion, planning and evaluation of the community ministries coordinated by the WRBA and by exploring additional opportunities for service as they develop.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Link the church for greater ministry opportunity and impact to the various community ministries of the WRBA and the community at large.
- Procure and coordinate volunteer and financial resources for the community ministries of the WRBA which include Restorative Justice Ministries; Student Ministries on the campuses of MCC and TSTC; and Hunger Ministries.
- Discover local ministry opportunities, promote special events, and offer training in the areas of community ministry.

## Leadership Development Ministry Team

**PURPOSE:** The Leadership Development Ministry Team serves the Waco Regional Baptist Association by training, equipping, developing and motivating church leaders.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Support and provide leadership for the Baptist University of the Americas extension classes and similar opportunities as they arise.
- Explore opportunities for orientation and coaching for new WRBA ministers.
- Make conflict resolution and mediation services available to WRBA churches.
- Assist churches in training lay leaders.
- Organize conferences, retreats, and/or other meetings to provide encouragement and leadership development for pastors and church staff.
- Notify church leaders about leadership resources and events sponsored by other entities that might be beneficial and appropriate.
- Foster the formation of Covenant Groups for Ministers in the WRBA.

# Ministry Teams

## Networking and Missions Ministry Team

**PURPOSE:** The Networking and Missions Ministry Team serves the Waco Regional Baptist Association by facilitating the involvement of churches and individual members in global and local missions by connecting them with other congregations that are already engaged.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Identify and keep a current database of the major mission projects in which WRBA churches are involved.
- Publicize through a variety of channels these mission opportunities for other WRBA churches and members to join.
- Facilitate the organization of mission teams for mission trips and projects as needed.
- Maintain an up-to-date list of available resources for training and participating in mission trips.
- Assist individuals in connecting with global and local missions opportunities when requested.
- Assist churches in identifying individuals and/or churches that might fill needs on their mission teams when requested.

## Missions Development Ministry Team

**PURPOSE:** The Missions Development Ministry Team serves the Waco Regional Baptist Association by establishing new churches and by supporting and developing existing mission churches.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Establish new Waco Regional Baptist Association churches by:
  - Studying demographic information and identifying growing population centers and unreached people groups.
  - Assessing prospective church planters with a comprehensive process to help the church planter and spouse and the sponsor church to be aware of the assets and weaknesses of the planter.
  - Reviewing applications for membership in the Waco Regional Baptist Association, including discussions with each applicant (pastor and key lay leaders) regarding doctrine, church polity, support of the Association, the role of the Association in church life, and the responsibility of cooperating churches to the Association.
2. Support and develop existing new church starts by:
  - Meeting quarterly with the leadership of the new church starts and give encouragement and strategic counsel.
  - Provide coaching to the pastors of the new church starts.
  - Provide organizational support for administrative matters.
  - Making recommendations regarding cooperative covenants and financial support from the Association for mission churches.
  - Reviewing church loan applications, supplemental ministerial salary support, and land purchase agreements in which the Association is involved.