



Partner Congregation Program Application:

SBC 21 seeks to strengthen Black congregations by providing opportunities for Partner Congregations (pastor and four team members) to step away from the persistent obligations of daily and weekly parish life and engage in a learning/mentoring/coaching environment for strengthening your congregation as well as for personal renewal and reflection. Congregation Resource Center Training Events are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for being introduced to new and creative ways for planning and implementing various forms of ministries, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, for strengthening relationships, renewing a sense of call, meeting and serving neighbor in a new way, finding joy and purpose in ministry, creating opportunities where members of the congregation can exercise their gifts for ministry □ are common themes of CRC training events.

2013 Schedule for Congregation Resource Center Training Events (TBD)

Getting Started

Please take time to read the enclosed brochure thoroughly, even if you have applied in the past.

Note to all applicants

Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century (SBC 21) strives to give fair and thoughtful attention to each proposal submitted for this program. In order to do so, the proposals must be legible and comparable in length and sequence. Thus, SBC 21 reminds pastors and congregations to be sure that their applications meet the minimum requirements noted below.

Proposals that do not meet the following standards will not be considered for participation.

1. The complete Proposal Narrative includes Parts A, B, and C and all questions are numbered.
2. For ease of readability, Proposal Narratives should be presented in 12 pt. Times New Roman font.
3. Proposal Narratives must be double-spaced (not single-spaced or space-and-a-half) with no more than 23 to 24 lines per page with 1-inch margins.
4. Use only one side of the page.
5. The Proposal Narrative must not exceed 5 pages
6. All forms should be those provided in this packet or as downloaded from the SBC 21 Web site. Congregations using or creating other forms will not be considered for approval.

Application Elements

A completed application must provide all the information requested below. All application materials become the property of SBC 21.

Cover Page

Fill out the information using the first two pages; this should be the top page of your application. Please do not send a cover letter in addition.

Part - A Congregational Profile

Please answer the following questions.

Date: _____

Name of Pastoral Charge (Congregation), Cooperative Parish or Circuit _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address (if different from street address) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone number _____ Fax number _____

E-mail address _____

Full name of Pastor _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home telephone number _____ Fax number _____

E-mail address _____ Cell phone number _____

Name of church contact person _____

Title or position _____

Home address _____

Telephone number _____ Fax number _____

E-mail address _____

Jurisdiction _____ Conference _____ District _____

Membership Size _____ Average Worship Attendance _____

Rural

Suburban

Urban

Partner Church Team: Please list the 5-member Partner Church Team (Pastor & Lay) that will attend SBC21 Training. Please list the team names as they appear on their drivers license or legal document and their contact information including email address. The pastor must attend training with the PC Team.

1)		Pastor
	Team Members & Contact Information	Position or Ministry
2)		
3)		
4)		
5)		

Pastor's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Part – B

Congregational & Community Information

1. What is the mission of your church? Do you have a mission and/or vision statement? If so, what are they?
2. Provide the date of founding and number of years at your present location. Describe any especially illuminating or distinctive historical events in the life of this church.
3. Provide the names and tenure of the last four pastors.
4. List the ministries, both internal and outreach, in which your church is involved.
5. Include a one-page summary of the congregation's current annual budget. (This page need not be counted as part of the 10 page limit for the Proposal narrative.)
6. Who lives in the community surrounding your church? What is the church's involvement in the community, and how is the community reflected within your congregation?
7. How does your congregation understand its role in the community?
8. What are the demographics of your congregation? What are the demographics of your community relative to the number of unchurched?
9. What critical program needs have you identified within your community that is not addressed by others?
10. Please list expectations/hopes from a shared partnership with an SBC 21 Congregation Resource Center?
11. Have your team ever attended an SBC 21 CRC Training Event? If so, where and when, and is the team's configuration the same as before?

Application Proposal Narrative

Write a Proposal Narrative that provides the information requested in Part - B below. The Proposal Narrative should take up no more than 10 typewritten, double-spaced pages with 1– inch margins using only one side of the paper, a readable font and type size (12 pt. Times New Roman). Be sure to number the questions (B-1, for example) and provide the information fully and in the order presented below. Number all pages consecutively.

Part – C **Rationale for your Participation**

1. Begin with a summary statement describing the overall character of your congregation.
2. Provide a clearly articulated rationale for engaging in the program. Include a discussion about why this is an appropriate time for your Partner Congregation Team to participate in the program.
3. Give a brief description of the process by which the congregation determined whether to submit a proposal. Favorable consideration will be given only to proposals that provide evidence of broad congregational support for the program.
4. Provide a statement written by the PC Team that describes the intended benefits, both for the pastor and for the congregation, of your team's participation in the program. This statement should summarize the congregation's views and should be incorporated into the body of the proposal.
5. Tell how the pastor and his/her team will communicate and share insights from their participation in the program.

Questions? Need More Information

Please contact **Reverend Dr. Fred A. Allen, National Director**
Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century
General Board of Discipleship
P.O. Box 340003
Nashville, TN 37203-0003
1908 Grand Avenue
Nashville, TN
Toll Free #: 877-899-2780, ext. 1722 or 1721
FAX: 615-340-7183
Email: fallen@gbod.org
Email: pholman@gbod.org

Application Submission

The SBC 21 National Office requests that all proposals be printed on one side only, then stapled or clipped. Please do not submit proposals in binders or any other kind of covering. Do not send additional attachments, brochures, pictures or other information. **A completed application must include one original and three copies (total: four sets) of all required materials.**

Please return the completed application, with attachments to:

**Reverend Dr. Fred A. Allen, National Director
Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century
General Board of Discipleship
P.O. Box 340003
Nashville, TN 37203-0003
1908 Grand Avenue
Nashville, TN 37212**