Slide 1:

How can one church share the Good News with the people of their neighborhood, the people of our state, and the 7.8 billion people in the world? Seems daunting to say the least. For almost 100 years Southern Baptists have realized that a solitary church can only do a little, but together we can do so much. This is the power of the Cooperative Program.

Slide 2:

Even the smallest church in our state can have a local, regional, national and global impact when they make the commitment of cooperation. Every church has a unique fingerprint of ministry. We each have different traditions, strategies and missions but we all can come together to focus on the Great Commission. How do we do this? This call to make disciples is rooted in generosity and cooperation.

Slide 3: So here’s how it works: **Through the Cooperative Program, your church funds and sends missionaries around the world, trains pastors and ministry leaders, plants churches, and changes lives for eternity.**

There was a time when every church picked a few missionaries and ministries they supported and gave directly to them.

*Ask: What are some problems with that approach?*

As you can imagine, this plan was chaotic and inconsistent. It would require every ministry to promote and solicit funds. This is still the practice of a majority of Non-Southern Baptist churches. The truth is that…

Slide 4: We can do more together!

*Ask: What are some benefits of cooperation?*

We can’t be everywhere and reach everyone, but if we give cooperatively, everybody wins. We can allow missionaries and ministries to focus on their specific mission and not on raising support.

Ask: Can you think of someone you know who has been assisted through the Cooperative Program?

***(Be ready to share a story after giving people the chance to contribute theirs.)***

If you’re new to Southern Baptists, you’ll want to know that all the money give through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goes to missionaries serving outside North America and the Annie Armstrong Offering goes to missionaries and ministries in the United States and Canada. The money we provide to the IMB provides a consistent flow of resources to the International Mission Board and the same is true for NAMB or the North American Mission Board.

The money we have given through the Cooperative Program also helps our future ministers afford seminaries, represents our core beliefs on relevant issues like the sanctity of life and religious liberty. It gives us a voice in our government.

Slide 5:

Here’s a snapshot of how Cooperative Funds are allocated in 2020. \_\_\_\_\_\_% stayed in our state and \_\_\_\_% went to missions and strategies outside our state and around the world. Keep in mind that the special offerings we talked about are not included in this chart.

Slide 6:

Let’s zoom in and reflect on what happens in our state through the Cooperative Program:

(Presenter: This is a great time to talk about Falls Creek conference centers, Oklahoma disaster relief, Baptist Collegiate Ministry, minister support, training events, and age-graded camps and conferences.)

Slide 7:

Share our state’s mission statement.

Ask: How can we as a church live out this mission in our part of the state and with the physical and people resources we have?

Slide 8: Also \_\_\_% of our funds given supports these affiliate ministries.

As you list these affiliates, invite the group to share any knowledge or story they have related to these colleges, state children’s home, or other affiliates.

Ask: What would happen if these institutions didn’t exist?

Slide 9:

Notice the percentage at the top right-hand side of this slide. That’s the amount that leaves our state for Great Commission purposes.

Ask: What does it say about our church that we give not only to have ministry, evangelism, discipleship and missions within our church but to our state, nation and world?

Slide 10:

So, here’s the big picture for our Cooperative Program gifts. When you think of churches all over the Southern Baptist Convention, including our state, it gets kind of exciting, because together we can accomplish so much more. We are reaching people we will never meet until we get to Heaven.

So, to conclude, let’s zoom out and reflect on the big picture. As we do this, I want to invite you to pray with me. Let’s pray with our eyes open for our brothers and sister’s who are, right now, serving and counting on our support to accomplish their mission.

Slide 11:

*Lord, we pray for those missionaries we support in places we may never get a chance to visit. We pray that you will open doors and give them an opportunity to share the gospel as they evangelize, disciple, plant, and multiply.*

Slide 12:

*Lord we pray for church planters all across North America as they reach people far from God. Our culture is ever-changing and North America represents people from all cultures and ethnicities. We pray that you will give them everything they need to reach all people. Thank you for the opportunity to play a part in their ministry.*

Slide 13:

*Father, we thank you that you are raising a new generation of pastors, ministers and leaders. We pray that you will equip them for the task ahead. Thank you for the opportunity to make their calling a reality.*

Slide 14:

*Lord, thank you for the leadership that you provide and the communicators who represent our voice on the national stage. We pray that you will give them wisdom, courage, and insight. Thank you for all the opportunities that we have to find ministries in our state, the nation, and the world. I pray for generosity to fill our hearts and gratitude for the opportunity to give. In Jesus name, amen.*

Slide 15: This final chart is a snapshot of how our money will be used in 2021. Let’s continue to pray that God gives us the opportunity to give and spread the good news that Jesus saves to our neighbors and the whole world.

Slide 16: *Offer a time for questions and thoughts. Invite your group to share this information with others.*