

# YES OR NO?

*Is Mclean Bible Church (MBC) in violation of its Constitution?*

- **Purpose:** This document is meant bring to light the fact that MBC is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), a violation of MBC's Constitution.
- **Pastoral Standard:** Church leadership is built on truth and trust. They should set the standard for integrity, honesty, and biblical leadership.
- **Call to Action:** The congregation can no longer be apathetic about the lack of transparency MBC leadership displays.

*“There are six things that  
the LORD hates,  
seven that are an abomination  
to him: haughty eyes, a lying  
tongue, and hands that shed  
innocent blood, a heart that  
devises wicked plans, feet that  
make haste to run to evil, a  
false witness who breathes out  
lies, and one who sows discord  
among brothers.”*

*Proverbs 6:16-19*

*Please note this document is not meant to make judgement on the SBC, MBC's new mission, or church planting.*

# MBC FOUNDING MISSION STATEMENT

*Impacting Washington with the message of Jesus Christ.*

- The mission of MBC was to make an evangelical impact on Metro Washington with the message of Jesus Christ.
- This specific vision led to making disciples among everyone we interacted with, including the influencers and policy makers in Washington, therefore, impacting the nations and even the world.
- We believed that this was a strategic mission because of the following reality: “Change Washington, change the world.”
- Why has the mission changed?



# MBC REQUESTS AFFILIATION

*MBC requests formal affiliation with the SBC in September of 2017.*

- MBC requested formal affiliation with the SBC through the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV) in September of 2017, the same month David Platt started. Affiliation, which includes affirming the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message 2000, is strictly prohibited in MBC's Constitution.
- MBC's new mission is now that of the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) Send Network (of the SBC) which is "to see the Church grow through church multiplication."
- MBC's affiliation status makes MBC the same as the other 47,500 Southern Baptist Churches.
- The SBCV, in their 2017 Annual Report (pg 70), confirms MBC's formal request for affiliation.

2017 Church Affiliation Report



## Church Affiliation / Partnership Report

### CHURCHES REQUESTING PARTNERSHIP

CENTRAL			
Bethlehem Baptist Church	N. Chesterfield	Dr. John Wiley	Unique
CENTRAL-WEST & SOUTHSIDE			
Calvary Baptist Church	Danville	Rev. Richard Markham	Unique
County Line Baptist Church	Java	Rev. Michael McDowell	Unique
Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida	Piney River	Rev. Evan Johnson	Unique
Jonesboro Baptist Church	Roseland	Rev. David Huffer	Unique
Lynchburg Chinese Christian Church	Lynchburg	Without a Pastor	Unique
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Dillwyn	Rev. Danny Smith	Unique
Winfall Baptist Church	Gladys	Rev. Phil Stevens	Unique
NORTH			
Hope Hill Church	Manassas	Rev. John Kuzins	Dual
McLean Bible Church	Vienna	Rev. Dale Sutherland	Unique
Redeemer Baptist Church	Bristow	Pastor Michael Godfrey	Unique





- **MBC's Constitution:** The legal document that binds MBC together in its mission and purpose.
- **Constitution: Article I: Section 2:**  
**Affiliation:** This church shall not, and cannot, be affiliated with any denomination, but shall remain independent for the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Constitution: Article III: Amendments to the Constitution:** Section 1: Article I, Section 2; Article II; and Article III, Section 1, cannot be changed or amended in any way in this church.
- **MBC's leadership has violated the constitution and is still currently in violation of it.**



## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I - THE NAME, PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION

#### SECTION 1. NAME

The name of this church shall be the McLean Bible Church.

#### SECTION 2. AFFILIATION

This church shall not, and cannot, be affiliated with any denomination, but shall remain independent for the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### SECTION 3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this church shall be the assembling of ourselves and others together to worship and glorify God (John 4:23-24); to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as a means of reaching unbelievers (Matt. 18:18-20); to instruct and edify believers in Christian living by fellowship and the teaching of the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 4:12-13; 1 John 1:3,7); and to win the lost to Christ through the propagation of the Gospel throughout the world as set forth by God's Word (Rom. 10:14; Mark 16:15-16).

### ARTICLE II - STATEMENT OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

#### SECTION 1. THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God," by which we understand the whole Bible is inspired in that holy men of God "were moved by the Holy Spirit" to write the very words of God. We believe that this divine inspiration extends equally to all parts of the writings as they appeared in the original manuscripts. We believe that all Scriptures center about the Lord Jesus Christ and that no portion, even of the Old Testament, is properly read, or understood, until it leads to Him. We believe that all Scriptures were designed for our practical instruction (Matt. 5:17-18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

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### ARTICLE III - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

#### SECTION 1.

Article I, Section 2; Article II; and Article III, Section 1, cannot be changed or amended in any way in this church.

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# PROOF OF SBC AFFILIATION

- Correspondence from the Executive Director of the state convention on September 14, 2017, stating that MBC officially applied for affiliation with the SBC through the SBCV (state convention).



**From:** [REDACTED]@sbcv.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2017  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Update regarding McLean Bible Church and David Platt

I want to share an update with you related to McLean Bible Church and David Platt (President of the International Mission Board of the SBC):

**(1) McLean Bible Church has applied to affiliate/partner through the SBC of Virginia. McLean Bible Church is a very large church in Northern Virginia. In 2016 and 2017 the church did contribute through the Cooperative Program. In the past year, McLean has given over \$60,000 to help support SBCV related church plants. I recently met with their Lead Pastor, and they want to now officially partner through SBCV. This church is also a lead church in the DC area with our North American Mission Board efforts.**

(2) Since February David Platt the IMB president has been an interim teaching pastor at McLean Bible. McLean Bible has extended a call to David for him to serve now on an ongoing basis as teaching pastor, while he continues to serve as IMB president.

As executive director I want state that our team and I believe the SBCV as a whole will be able to be a good partner to McLean Bible Church as they continue to seek to boldly proclaim God's Word and make disciples. We will seek to be a good partner as this church learns more about how to partner with and through Southern Baptists ministries. Likewise, we respect and will be prayerful for David, his wife Heather and their family, as he serves Southern Baptists and continues to preach and lead. I am thankful leaders at McLean and SBC leaders like David Platt, and others, see the value of partnership with SBC of Virginia churches in strengthening and mobilizing churches to make disciples and plant churches. On a personal note, I will continue to seek to be a good brother and partner with David and all our SBC leaders, as well as all our churches, including new churches that seek to partner in our fellowship, like a McLean Bible Church.

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For more information about this topic and other frequently asked questions, visit [IMB.org/FAQ](http://IMB.org/FAQ).

Sincerely your brother in Christ,

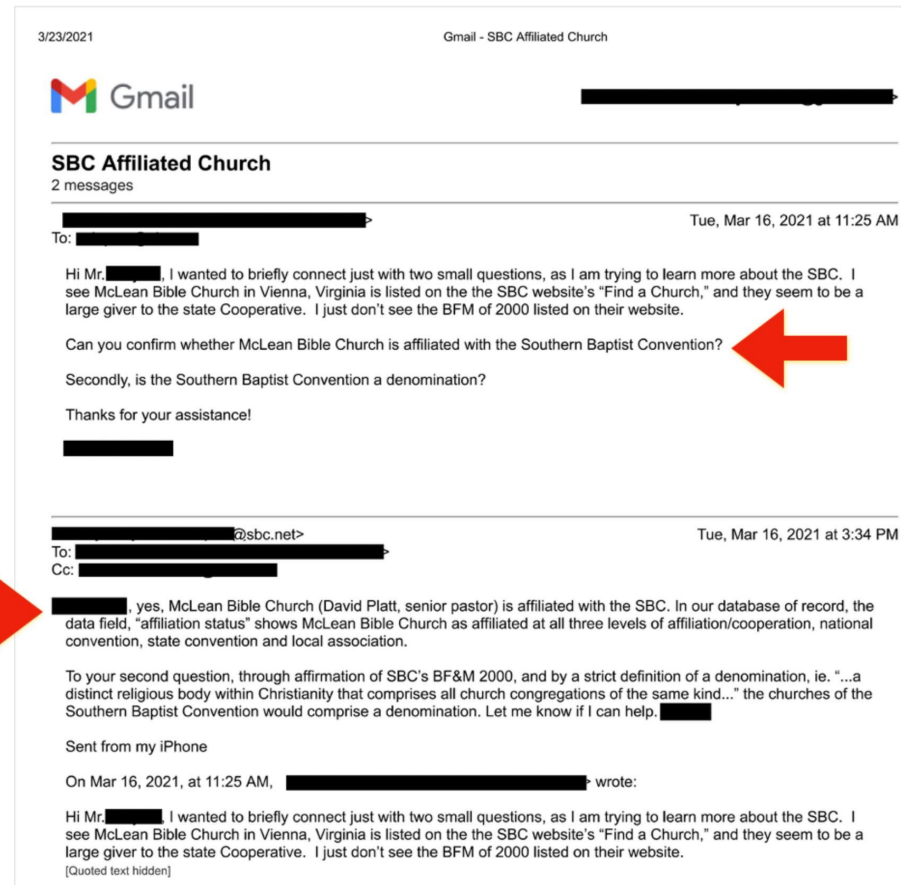
[REDACTED]  
Executive Director  
SBC of Virginia

*Strong Churches with a Bold Commitment to the Great Commission*  
[sbcv.org](http://sbcv.org)

# MORE PROOF OF SBC AFFILIATION

*According to the SBC, MBC is affiliated at all three levels of affiliation.*

- Executive committee of the SBC confirms in writing McLean Bible Church (David Platt, senior pastor) is affiliated with the SBC at all three levels of affiliation: national convention, state convention, and local association.
- Correspondence from the Executive Director for Church Affiliation on the SBC's Executive Committee.





# ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

- The 2017 Annual Report for the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia lists McLean Bible Church (page 70) on their Church Affiliation Report.
- MBC has given more than \$375,000 through the state cooperative program to the Southern Baptist Convention according to recent annual reports (page 103 of SBCV 2018 Annual Report, page 106 of SBCV 2019 Annual Report, and page 33 of SBCV 2020 Program Guide and Reports)
- The Southern Baptist Convention's online Church Directory lists McLean Bible Church
- The Dun and Bradstreet profile for McLean Bible Church records MBC as “Doing Business as a Southern Baptist Church.”
- Christianity Today reported on September 14, 2017 that “McLean (Bible Church) is new to the Southern Baptist Convention.”

The image shows a screenshot of the Dun & Bradstreet website profile for McLean Bible Church. Red arrows highlight specific information: one points to the search bar on the top right, another points to the 'Doing Business As' field which lists 'Southern Baptist Church', and a third points to the 'Company Description' section. The profile includes the church's name, address (8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22182-1742), phone number (703-639-2000), and website (www.mcleanbible.org). A map on the right shows the church's location. The 'ON THIS PAGE' sidebar lists various report types available for this entity.

Company Profile	
McLean Bible Church	
go to McLean Bible Church's website	
8925 Leesburg Pike Vienna, VA 22182-1742	
703-639-2000	
MCLEANBIBLE.ORG	
ON THIS PAGE	
Financial Statements	
Credit Reports	
Top Competitors	
Company Snapshot	
Related Companies	
Available Contacts - Free Plug-in!	
Industry Information	
Doing Business As	Southern Baptist Church
Website	www.mcleanbible.org
Address	8925 Leesburg Pike Vienna, VA, 22182-1742 United States
Phone	(703) 790-5590
Company Description	McLean Bible Church is located in Vienna, VA, United States and is part of the Religious Organizations Industry. McLean Bible Church has 10 total employees across all of its locations and generates \$835,786 in sales (USD). (Sales figure is modelled).

# MBC PLANTING SBC CHURCHES

*In addition to a clear violation of MBC's Constitution:*

- What was formerly a non-denominational church has now planted dozens of SBC churches.
- New City Network (NCN), is MBC's church planting ministry. NCN also adopted the "SBC's Baptist Faith and Message 2000" as their doctrinal statement. All NCN church plants must affirm the "SBC's Baptist Faith and Message 2000" as their doctrinal statement.
- How are NCN and MBC related?
  - NCN was created by and is led by a team at McLean Bible Church, in conjunction with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) Send Network.
  - NCN is organized according to its own Articles of Incorporation "to be an auxiliary of McLean Bible Church, Inc." Churches cannot receive funds from NAMB unless they are an SBC church, and specifically one affiliated at the national level. Clint Clifton, President of NCN, is employed by NAMB.



In Partnership With



McLean Bible Church



North American  
Mission Board

## How are New City and McLean Bible Church related?

New City was created by and is led by a team at McLean Bible Church, in conjunction with the North American Mission Board's Send Network. New City Network is the church planting ministry of McLean Bible Church. NCN is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is an integrated auxiliary of McLean Bible Church.



- McLean Bible Church, in violation of its own governing document, continues planting Southern Baptist Churches as evidenced in the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia's (SBCV) 2019 Annual Report (page 54).

# Churches Planting Churches

## New Church Planting Partnerships

The new partnerships in this report represent those within the reporting year of October 2018 through September 2019.

CHURCH PLANT/CHURCH PLANTER	PARTNER CHURCH	PARTNER CHURCH PASTOR	CHURCH PLANT LOCATION
Agape Chinese Christian Church/Dexu (Andrew) Yuan	McLean Bible Church	David Platt	Fairfax
Annandale Bible Church/Leduan Reina	McLean Bible Church	David Platt	Annandale
Christ Revealed Church/Evariste Kapinga	Open Door Baptist Church	Bernie Jernigan	Ashburn
CityLight Church/Nate Crew	McLean Bible Church	David Platt	Falls Church
Fullness of Christ Church/Fisseha Tesfaye	McLean Bible Church	David Platt	Alexandria
Fullness of Christ Church/Fisseha Tesfaye	Mount Hermon Baptist Church	Steve Chromy	Alexandria
GracePointe Church/Bill Dumphy	Hampton Roads Fellowship	Miguel Davilla	Williamsburg
Hope Church Martinsville	Hope Church	Brian Edwards	Martinsville
Iglesia Biblica Bautista Emanuel/Giovanny Ortiz	McLean Bible Church	David Platt	Leesburg
Image of Christ Church/*Planter S.A.	McLean Bible Church	David Platt	Boyds, MD
Impact Evangelical Church/Dawit Agegnehu	McLean Bible Church	David Platt	Springfield
New Valley Church/Kelvin (K.J.) Washington	Village Church	Steve Gentry	Waynesboro
Pillar Church DC/Jared Huntley	McLean Bible Church	David Platt	Washington, DC
Redeemer Baptist Church/Michael Godfrey	Loudoun Valley Baptist Church	Jacob Baum	Bristow

# IS MBC AFFILIATED WITH THE SBC?

- At MBC's congregational meeting, on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021, David Platt was asked the following question four times.
  - **Question:** "Simple question, yes or no, is McLean Bible Church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention?"
  - **Answer:** Each time his response was obscure and evasive, as to whether MBC is "affiliated," which is a violation and prohibition of the church's governing document. At one point David goes so far as to answer, "depending on what you mean by that (affiliation), it would affect my answer to your question."

David Platt and the elders were confronted about McLean Bible Church's membership in the SBC during the March 2021 congregational meeting. In that meeting, the below exchange happened:

Church Member: "Ok, so just, let me ask my question just one last time. Is McLean Bible Church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, yes or no?"

Answer by David Platt: "I'm not sure, I'm honestly not sure how else to answer your question. Like, if what you mean by affiliation is, or if what I mean, if what anyone means by affiliation is working together with other churches to plant 43 churches in metro DC, uh, to send missionaries, including some from our church family overseas to support disaster relief in response to hurricanes, to support Yemeni refugees, then the answer is yes. If you or anyone else, or I, by affiliation in thinking we are submissive to a denominational structure, that we are helping direct and guide, the answer is no."

Church Member: "Ok, so you are making a distinction between affiliation and partnership, correct?"

David Platt: "I'm giving anyone the freedom to make that distinction. I am saying we partner together in all these ways that I've just mentioned."

# NO RESPONSE FROM ELDER BOARD

March 31, 2021 MBC Congregational Meeting

- **The Motion:** A motion was put forward to enact the following:
  - For the elders to hold a vote to dismiss and remove David Platt from office of teaching pastor at a special meeting called for that purpose, on the grounds of personal spiritual misconduct, specifically lying and deceit (Constitution: Article XI, Section 1. (c)).
  - For MBC to end its affiliation with the SBC immediately to bring MBC back into obedience to its Constitution (Constitution: Article I, Section 2.(b)).
- To date (June 21, 2021) there has been no response from MBC elder board regarding the motion put forth on March 31, 2021.



## ARTICLE IX - PASTORAL STAFF

### SECTION 1. PASTOR-TEACHER

A. DUTIES. The pastor-teacher shall be an ex-officio member of all councils and committees and shall serve as an elder with full voting privileges. The pastor-teacher shall be responsible for all regular services of the church and for the general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the body. His primary duty shall be to preach and teach the Word of God. He shall be directly responsible to the Board of Elders.

B. SELECTION. The pastor-teacher shall be selected by unanimous vote of the Board of Elders after the preliminary procedures that they deem necessary have been fulfilled (e.g., interview by search committee, preaching one or more times before the congregation, personal interviews by the Board, etc.). The elders' selection shall be confirmed by the congregation at a regular or special congregational meeting by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the votes cast. Notice of the time and place of the meeting as determined by the Board of Elders shall be given from the pulpit for two (2) successive Sundays prior to the meeting, and shall also be published in the Church bulletin. He shall remain in office for an indefinite period of time.

C. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE. The Board of Elders has the right to dismiss the pastor-teacher by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board at a meeting called for this purpose. Dismissal may be on the grounds of endorsing a doctrinal position in disagreement with that of McLean Bible Church (Article II), personal spiritual misconduct (e.g., lying, cheating, stealing, immorality, etc.), or organizational misconduct (e.g., unsubmitive spirit to the Board of Elders, unwillingness to fulfill his assigned duties, etc.). The pastor-teacher shall cast no vote in such deliberations.

D. RESIGNATION. If the pastor-teacher voluntarily desires to resign, he shall submit written notice to the Board of Elders at least sixty (60) days prior to the effective date. The Board of Elders shall decide upon the appropriate details of his departure.

*"There are six things that **the LORD hates**, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, **a lying tongue**, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, **a false witness who breathes out lies**, and one who sows discord among brothers." Proverbs 6:16-19*