



*Pastor Eric looks on as a church member signs the church covenant.*



# Cooperative Program Is in Their DNA

*by Bill Wennersten, Church Planting Strategist, North Region*

One of the principles a church planter learns very early in the planting process is: “You build in up front what you want in the end.” This guideline insures that important values become part of the DNA of the new church.

**REFORMATION ALIVE BAPTIST CHURCH** (RABC) is a year-old SBCV church plant in the Washington, DC suburbs. Pastor Eric Redmond and his leadership team knew early on the ministry and missions values they wanted to see develop in the new church. Their desire is to see a church “full of compassionate and gracious believers transforming their community with the Gospel.” They value the Cooperative Program as one means to this end.

RABC is an enthusiastic 10% contributor to the Cooperative Program, knowing first-hand that its giving goes to support missions around the world, here at home, and through SBC seminaries and agencies. Especially in difficult economic times like today’s, such giving may seem generous enough. At RABC, however, they want to be involved in their community and beyond in more hands-on and practical ways. Desiring to live out scriptural

principles as a body “full of compassionate and gracious believers,” RABC has reached out to a widow and another family in the church who are struggling financially due to circumstances beyond their control. The church has agreed to assist them financially until their circumstances improve. The congregation sees this added giving as a way to live out the New Testament’s teaching to care for widows and those in need.

With an eye on the larger picture of missions in North America and “to the ends of the earth,” RABC understands that one congregation cannot take the Gospel everywhere it needs to go. As part of the solution to this challenge, they understand they must be part of a larger missional network of like-minded churches. The Cooperative Program of the SBC and SBCV provides them this network and encourages them by example to carry out the work of missions and caring at home. As a value instilled up front, the Cooperative Program is now very much a part of Reformation Alive’s DNA.

## RESOURCE

■ **Websites:**

[www.baptistsites.net/rabc](http://www.baptistsites.net/rabc)  
[www.sbcv.org/multipling](http://www.sbcv.org/multipling)

■ **SBCV Contact:**

Call 888-234-7716 for details from your region’s missionary.

■ **Consider:**

Are you encouraging your leadership team to value the Cooperative Program by your example?

