

Q&A – Denomination

"Do You Affiliate with any particular denomination?"

The answer to this is "Yes" and "No". Allow me to explain... Technically, we are an independent church with our own ability to license and ordain. Our church government allows us to experience all of the same safeguards and accountability mechanisms as a typical denominational church would; yet, our independence enables us a delightful freedom when it comes to missions, assets, and polity. Of course, this is not to say that we are a lone-ranger church, nor am I implying that denominations are in any way "bad."

First of all, we belong to and help lead a national church planting organization called the Association of Related Churches (see www.relatedchurches.com). Through the A.R.C., Substance rubs shoulders with some of the most progressive and fastest growing churches in the U.S.

But more importantly, through the A.R.C., Substance has had a significant hand in helping to launch over forty different churches in our first five years alone. Soon, we will be a part of helping to launch a church every four days! In fact, church planters come from all over the U.S. to learn from the Substance model on any given Sunday. Thus, we not only have a large quantity of fellowshiping friends, but our church government creates a pleasant interdependence with several other dynamic churches from around the U.S.

Secondarily, although we aren't an official "denominational church" we are "close friends" with many different denominational networks. For example, we work along-side many churches in the Evangelical Covenant Church and the Assemblies of God. Even more, we've helped plant many denominational churches from Southern Baptist to Evangelical Free. So, Substance has a network that crosses over a good number of church boundaries.

Of course, if you have any specific questions about our church government, we're always excited to share about it. But feel free to check out the Q and A's that specifically address governance issues.