David Cloud gives thirteen reasons why he is not a Southern Baptist which may be read at http://www.wayoflife.org/database/whynotsbc.html. However, it seems to be a trend for many independent Baptist churches and schools to affiliate themselves with the Southern Baptist Convention.

http://www.tntemple.edu/news-blog/affirmed  TTU affirmed by The Tennessee Baptist Convention (Edited by DCB) - With at least two former GARBC approved schools now waving the SBC flag it should come as no surprise that Tennessee Temple University has also been accepted into the SBC fold. “At this year’s Tennessee Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, TTU had a booth for the first time in the history of our school.” “During the session, the Tennessee Baptist Convention unanimously adopted a resolution of support as follows” “WHEREAS, Tennessee Temple University has adopted the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as its doctrinal position; and” “WHEREAS, Tennessee Temple University has a lifelong Southern Baptist as its president and most of its faculty members are Southern Baptists; and WHEREAS, Tennessee Temple University is enjoying a season of refreshing that includes the possibility of relocating to a more suitable environment on the property of a Southern Baptist Church.”

http://www.tntemple.edu/ Tennessee Temple University’s new home is Southern Baptist Church Woodland Park Baptist, Chattanooga, Tennessee. With TTU firmly in the Southern Baptist fold one begins to wonder what all the fuss was about initially when Lee Roberson separated from the SBC? Has the SBC changed?

http://woodlandpark.org/ministries/missions/missionconf/  Mission Conference 2014 – February 5-9
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Bill Brown (Edited by DCB) - Southern Baptist Woodland Park Baptist’s mission conference keynote speaker was Dr. Bill Brown who was “President of Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio for 10 years”. Cedarville was once an approved GARBC school when the GARBC had its approval system but is now an approved school of the Ohio Southern Baptist Convention. Brown was also president for ten years at the Southern Baptist “Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee” and is “currently serving as the Chancellor at Cedarville University”. Has the Southern Baptist Convention changed or have the churches and schools aligning themselves with the SBC changed?

http://www.thehighlands.cc/leadpastor (Edited by DCB) Highland Park Baptist Church where Dr. Lee Roberson was pastor for so many years is now under the leadership of Dr. Jeremy Roberts. Roberts has taken the “…dead downtown church in Highland Park” to become “…a thriving contemporary congregation in the northern suburbs of Chattanooga.” In missions the Church of the Highlands now partners “…with other Southern Baptists because they send missionaries all over the world and are great with helping hurting people through their disaster relief ministry. While we partner with Southern Baptists for missional purposes, we remain completely autonomous and also engage in non-Southern-Baptist mission efforts.” One of the non-SBC efforts is C3 Global.

http://myc3global.com/board-and-advisory-team On the advisory team of C3 Global is Eric Dykstra and his wife Kelly. According to http://freegrace.tv/#/about-us “Eric & Kelly Dykstra are Lead Pastors of The Crossing Church.” C3 Global is certainly a mixture. For instance Dykstra’s church “The Crossing is affiliated with the Baptist General Conference, C3 Global, and The Champions Network” NOTE The Champions Network is a product of Joel Osteen.

http://www.thehighlands.cc/worship “Biblical Forms of Worship:

Standing - They will stand in awe of the God of Israel. Isaiah 29:23.
Singing - I will be glad and exalt in You; I will sing praise to Your name, 0 Most High. Psalm 9:2.
Sitting - Then David the king went in and sat before the Lord, and he said, "Who am I, 0 Lord God..." 2 Samuel 7:18.
Clapping - O clap your hands, all peoples; shout to God with the voice of joy. Psalm 47:1.
Bowring - Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship. Exodus 34:8.
Praying - In the morning, 0 Lord, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch. Psalm 5:3.
Dancing - Let them praise His name with dancing. Psalm 149:3.” Note all the verses quoted come from the Old Testament. Dr. Thomas Strouse handles this in his sermon Praise Him in the Dance preached 9/10/2014 found at http://www.bbc-cromwell.org/sermons.shtml.

Conclusion: What lies ahead? With whom will today’s independent Baptists be affiliated in another ten to twenty years if the Lord terrifies? Praise the Lord there are some who will continue to obey “…be ye separate..and touch not the unclean thing…”
Because of Calvary,
David C. Bennett, D. Min.