

Southern Baptists to pay for Texas shooting victim funerals

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A group affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention has offered to pay funeral expenses for the 26 people killed in Sunday's church attack.

The North American Mission Board has made the offer on behalf of the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention, [Baptist Press reported](#).

Twenty-six people were killed and 20 others wounded during when gunman Devin Kelley opened fire Sunday morning at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. Among the fatalities were Bryan Holcombe, who was set to deliver the sermon Sunday, along with seven other members of his extended family. Pastor Frank Pomeroy and his wife Sherri, who were not at the church at the time of the attack, lost their 14-year-old daughter, Annabelle.

Southern Baptist pastors are currently in Sutherland Springs to provide grief counseling and SBC President Steve Gaines and SBC Executive Committee President Frank S. Page were set to arrive today. Page said the Baptist leaders hope to "show their love" to the church and town.

"The First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas, represents who we are as Southern Baptists -- a conservative, multi-generational church led by a bivocational, godly pastor. [The church] reflects the core of who we are. I call Southern Baptist churches to pray for these dear people," Page told Baptist Press.

Religious leaders will also be taking part in a community prayer service held tomorrow at a high school near Sutherland Springs.