



2016 Ministry Inquiries

Cooperative Program:

1. With an understanding that SBC entities which receive Cooperative Program funding share an equal responsibility to promote and advance the Cooperative Program, please give a description of Golden Gate's efforts to promote the Cooperative Program.
 - a. President Iorg personally leads a 30 minute training session on the Cooperative Program at every new student orientation at the primary campus; regional directors provide a similar orientation at every regional campus.
 - b. The Cooperative Program is featured as a section in a class called "Baptist Heritage and Practice" which is required for every MDIV student.
 - c. The Cooperative Program is regularly mentioned in chapel, at every donor banquet, at every report or preaching opportunity by Golden Gate personnel at Southern Baptist affiliated meetings.
 - d. The Cooperative Program is highlighted in student billing and promotional materials related to financial aid.
2. What are the expected outcomes of GGBTS's efforts to raise awareness of Cooperative Program funding?
 - a. Faculty, staff, and students will demonstrate an understanding of and growing appreciation for the Cooperative Program.
 - b. Students will lead their churches or future churches to participate wholeheartedly in the Cooperative Program.
3. Please articulate for Southern Baptists how GGBTS perceives the role of the Cooperative Program to fund theological education in the West. What value does GGBTS place upon its partnership with SBC churches through the Cooperative Program?
 - a. The Cooperative Program is the primary method of funding theological education for Southern Baptists in the Western United States. Its importance cannot be overstated!
 - b. The Cooperative Program is the means by which Southern Baptists in the West have participated with their national denominational partners to fund and grow a major seminary in a location where such a school could not likely be solely supported by local gifts.

4. Please explain the “value add” of Cooperative Program funding for GGBTS, and how is this different from any and all other sources of funding.
 - a. The Cooperative Program is unique in its voluntary nature and cost effective since very few seminary resources are expended to “raise” these funds.
 - b. The Cooperative Program adds value because it communicates to the faculty, staff, and students at Golden Gate that they are valued by their denominational partner churches.

Ethnic Participation

5. Please give a progress report of ethnic participation within the GGBTS, including active involvement of ethnic churches and church leaders, across all levels and aspects of the GGBTS ministry—such things as board of trustees composition, senior administrative staff, other professional staff, support staff, faculty, and ethnic church and church leader composition of any external advisory groups—demonstrating progress, if any, in ethnic participation over the past two decades (1996-2016), giving special attention to progress over the past five years (2011-2016).
 - a. Golden Gate has been called “the most multi-cultural seminary in the United States” by leaders of the Association of Theological Schools.
 - b. Golden Gate has demonstrated intentionality in recruiting, hiring, promoting and servicing all manner of ethnic groups and ethnic ministry leaders. Since the Golden Gate student body is usually only about 40% Anglo, hiring from its diverse student body and from among its diverse graduates means the faculty and staff reflect this diversity.
 - c. Golden Gate is currently teaching in more than a dozen languages in its CLD centers and bilingual programs.
 - d. Golden Gate uses an intentional diversity of chapel speakers from all ethnicities.

Mental Health Resource

6. What programs, ministries or strategies has the GGBTS implemented to assist SBC Churches in training and equipping individuals with mental health challenges and how will GGBTS continue to seek ways to work in cooperation with SBC entities and others to address the severe challenges imposed by mental illness?
 - a. Golden Gate offers a Masters of Christian Counseling degree specifically designed to prepare church-based counselors with the skills necessary to recognize mental health challenges and direct persons to appropriate care.

- b. Golden Gate requires a class in Christian Counseling for every MDIV student and the curriculum includes recognizing mental health challenges and directing persons to appropriate care.
- c. Golden Gate provides access to mental health professionals for students who need assistance, assists with benevolent resources to help pay for mental health care for students, and provides referral services to Golden Gate employees who need mental health care or are assisting persons to obtain this care.

GSSBC Specific Ministry Inquiries

7. What has proven to be GGBTS most reliable metric indicating future accomplishments of, or challenges to the GGBTS, and why is that metric the one GGBTS believes is most important to watch?

The most important metric is student enrollment. Without students, there is no seminary.

8. Please provide a status report of GGBTS's baccalaureate program, including origins, current status, and expansion/growth. Also, what is distinctive about GGBTS's baccalaureate experience at your seminary that distinguishes it from other Baptist colleges including CBU, as well as other CA divinity schools, colleges and universities?

Golden Gate does not have a baccalaureate program.

9. Understanding the seminary ministry assignment(s) to "*....assist churches by programs of master's level, professional doctoral and research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators...*" how does GGBTS counsel students to pursue different degree programs?

a. Golden Gate does a thorough job during the recruitment and enrollment process of communicating to students their various degree program options. Students are vetted related to their future ministry goals and directed toward the most suitable program of preparation to accomplish those goals.

b. All students are assigned an academic advisor from the faculty who provides further and continuing counsel related to degree program selection/adjustment by students as they progress through their seminary training experience.

10. Please give a status report of GGBTS's additional campuses where theological education/training is being conducted? How does having additional campuses strengthen Southern Baptists' ability to penetrate *lostness* across North America and around the world?

a. Golden Gate currently operates five campuses (San Francisco, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Denver, and Vancouver, WA); more than 60 CLD learning centers; and an online program offering four degrees.

- b. These locations enable Golden Gate to offer training across the Western United States in relatively close proximity to the major population centers. By locating training as close to the churches and church leaders as possible, we are a front-line asset in building churches that penetrate lostness in North America.
11. Can you predict the long term viability and sustainability of multiple campuses for GGBTS? Does the growing number of online students impact future projections along this line? Please explain.

Our growing number of online students will change the scheduling and course delivery options at the regional campuses outside California, but it does not yet preclude the need to continue offering face-to-face instruction at those locations.

12. Does GGBTS have written and formal guidelines for Admissions Office personnel to follow when determining whether or not a prospective student qualifies for the Southern Baptist student discount? If so, please attach a copy of the written guidelines.
- a. Golden Gate has written and formal guidelines determining the enrollment status of every student. To be recognized as a Southern Baptist student eligible for the Southern Baptist tuition rate, a student must submit a church endorsement form as part of their application packet from a church that self-identifies as Southern Baptist.
 - b. After initial enrollment, Southern Baptist students must maintain their affiliation and active membership in a local Southern Baptist church during their studies at Golden Gate Seminary to continue to pay the Southern Baptist tuition rate.
13. Please give a status report on the sale of the Mill Valley property, relocation and start up in the Ontario, CA area, and the process of renaming of the seminary? And, what impact have these changes had upon GGBTS's ability to provide theological education and training for future SBC pastors and leaders?

- a. Golden Gate will close its Mill Valley location on June 3, 2016 and open its Ontario Campus on July 5, 2016. The project is on time and on budget for a timely relocation. The seminary will begin classes at the Ontario location in August 2016.
- b. Golden Gate has requested the Southern Baptist Convention change its name to Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention. The first vote, of two required votes, was overwhelmingly affirmative. The final vote will be in June 2016 and, if approved, the seminary will immediately begin operating under the new name.
- c. The sale and relocation have positioned Golden Gate/Gateway Seminary for remarkable stability and growth for the next 30-50 years. The seminary will soon have two new state of the art campuses to anchor its work in California, will have increased its endowment by \$40 million (to a total of \$65 million), will have its primary campus in or next to the two fastest growing counties in the Western United States, and will be debt free.

14. Would you consider a change in ministry assignment to develop seminary education locations in strategic international locations in cooperation with the IMB?

Golden Gate would welcome the opportunity to partner with the IMB for global theological education.