



## 2018 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 Gateway's efforts to promote the Cooperative Program both internally and externally as Gateway personnel engage Southern Baptists.

Gateway Seminary promotes the Cooperative Program in a variety of ways. Every student is introduced to the Cooperative Program during new student orientation – either in person or through video – by the President. He outlines how the Cooperative Program works and challenges students to be its avid supporters during their ministry. He also illustrates for students the direct financial benefit the Cooperative Program provides by subsidizing their seminary educational expense. As part of its curriculum, the Cooperative Program is emphasized in courses on Baptist polity and practice, as well as pastoral ministry and church administration. The seminary also promotes the Cooperative Program by including a tagline referencing the Cooperative Program on all its major publications, referencing the Cooperative Program frequently in chapel services and missionary prayer events, and including a reminder of the contribution of the Cooperative Program on student bills. Seminary speakers, including the President, voice appreciation for the Cooperative Program in almost all public speaking venues in Southern Baptist churches and other settings.

2. How effective is Gateway Seminary in creating an awareness and appreciation for the Southern Baptist Convention and its model for cooperative missions and cooperative funding? What level of confidence does Gateway have that its graduates will continue to engage and invest in SBC missions and ministries?

Gateway has demonstrated a significant commitment to raising awareness of and appreciation for the Southern Baptist Convention among its constituents. We prioritize Southern Baptist organizations for campus events, support Southern Baptist entities and the work they do around the world, and host primarily Southern Baptist speakers in chapel services. We have recently changed our name to *Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention*. It is hard to imagine how we could identify any more clearly our support for and identification with Southern Baptists. Since students choose our school, based partly on this historic commitment, and witness that commitment reinforced by our actions, it is highly likely most students will engage and invest in Southern Baptist missions and ministries in the future.

3. Please articulate for Southern Baptists how Gateway perceives the role of the Cooperative Program to fund theological education in the West. What value does Gateway place upon its partnership with SBC churches through the Cooperative Program?

Gateway Seminary – apart from God’s sustaining grace – would not exist without the Cooperative Program. There have not been enough Southern Baptists in the West to build a seminary of this strength without the cooperation of many other churches in the effort. For this reason, and in gratitude to God for the generosity of the churches, Gateway places a high value on the Cooperative Program. We recognize our partnership with the churches and serve them by providing graduates to lead them, training the students they send us for global ministry leadership, and respond directly to their requests for speakers, conference leaders, and other assistance.

4. How does Gateway Seminary benefit from and utilize CP funds in fulfilling Gate’s ministry assignments?

The Cooperative Program is the foundational financial support system for Gateway Seminary. It is also more than financial support; it represents the prayerful support and encouragement many churches also provide. Without the Cooperative Program, the seminary would be forced to either curtail its program or significantly increase the cost to students (making it likely many would no longer be able to attend seminary). Gateway uses all Cooperative Program funds in direct support of its core mission. We use Cooperative Program funds to support academic services and scholarship assistance to students.

### **Ethnic Participation**

5. Please give a descriptive report of participation of ethnic churches and other ethnic leaders in the life and ministry of your entity. Over the past 12 months, (2016 – 2017) has your seminary seen changes (increase or decrease) in the number of ethnic leaders among the faculty and within the student body?

Gateway Seminary is a leading institution in the Southern Baptist Convention related to ethnic leaders. For more than 20 years, the student body at Gateway has been about 40% Anglo, with the majority coming from the nations of the world. This diversity is reflected in both the staff and faculty. We have been called by national accreditation leaders the most multi-cultural seminary in North America. For this reason, there is no appreciable change in the past year. We continue to be what we have been for years – a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural ministry training center.

### **Mental Health Resource**

6. In response to a Ronnie Floyd motion, June 2013, Houston, TX, requesting the Executive Committee and SBC Entities to assist churches with mental health ministries, the Executive Committee appointed an advisory group in the Fall 2013, to determine ways in which Southern Baptist entities and SBC churches can best help those who are in need of mental health assistance. The final report of this advisory group was presented to Dr. Frank S. Page, Fall 2014. In the 2015 and 2016 Ministry Report(s) the following question was asked of each SBC entity:

*Please give a progress report on what Gateway has implemented to assist SBC churches with training and equipping people with mental health challenges and how will Gateway continue to seek ways to work in cooperation with SBC entities and others to address the severe challenges imposed by mental illness?*

For the 2018 Ministry Report please provide the following:

If Gateway feels that reporting on this subject is within its purview, or falls within the scope of its ministry assignment(s), or has made any progress in the area of assisting churches with training and equipping people with mental health challenges, or has developed or identified resources to assist SBC churches in the area of mental health ministry, please provide a detailed progress report.

Gateway Seminary recognizes the prevalence of mental health challenges in contemporary culture. We address those challenges in courses on pastoral ministry and pastoral counseling. We also have a specialized degree program – Master of Christian Counseling – which focuses more intently on mental health issues. The seminary also supports employees and students who face mental health challenges. We provide access to counseling and benevolent assistance to those who need help paying for this care.

7. What has proven to be Gateway's most reliable metric indicating future accomplishments of, or challenges to Gateway across all of its ministry assignments? Why is that metric the one Gateway believes is most important to watch relative to each ministry assignment?

The most important internal metric is enrollment, more specifically full-time equivalency (FTE) production. This is a prime indicator of many issues related to the overall health of the institution. We track our total FTE production, not just SBC fundable FTEs, in analyzing this data and planning for the future.

The most important external metric is the overall health of churches, particularly churches in the Western United States. The seminary reflects and depends on the churches. When they struggle – spiritually, financially, etc. – the seminary also struggles. We monitor issues like baptismal rates, total receipts, etc. for churches on a regular basis. Seminary leaders meet annually with Western State Executive directors to strategize how the seminary can most directly meet the needs of churches in the West.