

Goals and Accomplishments

Please describe accomplishments, relative to each of your convention assigned Ministry Assignments, in the past year that create "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary receives.

I. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.

Through its residential and online degree programs, Midwestern College offers students a rigorous academic environment designed to prepare them for their ministry calling. Our institutional vision is to provide academic programming that prepares the next generation of pastors, missionaries and ministers for kingdom service *for the church*.

In 2017, Midwestern College grew its Accelerate program, which is designed to enable students to earn a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies and a Master's of Divinity degree within five years. This program focuses on providing students the opportunity to engage more quickly in full-time ministry, while keeping their educational debt to a minimum.

Midwestern College also continued development of its FUSION program as well. This unique missions training track, which partners with the International Mission Board, offers students highly-specialized equipping for students' serving local churches and evangelizing the lost around the globe. During the school year's initial semester, students undergo rigorous academic and physical training, which prepares them for their second semester, where they are deployed into some of the most austere locations in the mission field. Upon returning, Midwestern College looks to retain these students, many of whom continue over the next three years to obtain a BA in Christian Ministry with a Missions Focus.

Midwestern College also provided theological education both for adults who have yet to complete an undergraduate degree or those who desire certificate training to assist their lay ministry through its Contextualized Leadership Development and Adult Degree Completion emphases. Such programs offer opportunities for these students to serve local churches in multiple ways in addition to traditional undergraduate education.

II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to emphasizing the Master of Divinity degree as its primary track for ministry preparation. This degree serves as the gold standard in theological education and equips students most fully and effectively to serve the church in pastoral ministry, Christian leadership, evangelism, missions and more. Our residential Master of Arts degree offerings train students theologically for multiple roles within ministry and serve those seeking additional specialized training. Midwestern Seminary also offers multiple fully-online degrees for students needing a more flexible approach to theological education or are not in position to relocate to our Kansas City campus.

In 2017, Midwestern Seminary continued to provide and encourage students to pursue the Master of Divinity degree, especially while in residence. Our Timothy Track program enables residential students to earn their degree and obtain invaluable ministry experience at the same time. By partnering with numerous local churches, Midwestern Seminary provides students leadership experience within the context of the local church while studying to earn their M.Div. degree. The program also offers students a significant cost savings in tuition through scholarships during their first year of study.

Midwestern Seminary expanded its online course offerings and degree programs in 2017 as well, while providing more opportunities for online students to practically apply their knowledge within a ministry context. Through practicum-based coursework, students worked with ministry leaders in the field for hands-on ministry training. This education format further enabled students to earn their degree via a program that is custom fit to their educational needs. Midwestern believes its quality online programs have many strengths for ministry training and seeks to provide further training through regular on campus interaction and with ministry leaders in their local areas.

III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

The D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. degree programs, also known as professional doctoral degrees, are designed for persons seeking high-level competence in the practice of pastoral and other ministry leadership roles within the local church. Additionally, the Doctor of Counseling degree prepares students to practice professional counseling at the highest level of clinical competence. Although it includes theory and research, the emphasis of the degree is on increasing professional skills. Overall, the professional doctoral seminars Midwestern Seminary offers involve rigorous pre- and post-course research and writing, and then students attend five-day on-campus intensives. Students taking two-to-three seminars annually can continue ministering in their places of full-time ministry service while pursuing professional doctoral education.

Midwestern's continual evaluation of professional doctoral emphases recently resulted in the addition of new emphases as well as the option of a path for D.Min. graduates to pursue a Ph.D. Further innovation took place in the area of incorporating online delivery to components of the seminar experience.

IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.

The primary focus of the Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies degree is to prepare students to serve local churches as teachers, pastors, and leaders on the highest academic, professional, and spiritual level. The modular Ph.D. seminars involve five-day intensives held on Midwestern Seminary's campus and require significant pre-seminar and post-seminar research and writing. Similarly to our professional doctoral seminars, students taking two-to-three seminars yearly can remain in their places of full-time ministry service while pursuing research doctoral education.

In 2017, Midwestern Seminary implemented "The Residency," directly benefitted Ph.D. students by merging independent advanced theological research with cohort-based mentorship and oversight, adding regular, intensive engagement with faculty and other theological leaders within the regular

rhythm of the unique on-campus ministry culture of Midwestern. In this community context, The Residency continues to provide students with a unique avenue for following their calling to serve churches through the academy.

Based on each of MBTS' Convention assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2018 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how MBTS is accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?

I. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.

Midwestern College's primary focus is to prepare God-called men and women for kingdom service *for the church*. Regardless of the many challenges facing higher education, cultural shift, or economics at home or abroad, Midwestern is committed to fulfilling its ministry assignment of providing affordable pre-baccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education. A key to this is continually assessing the institutions programs for efficiency and effectiveness, as well as how to best steward all the assets provided by the Lord through the generosity of Southern Baptists.

In 2018, Midwestern will continue to grow its Accelerate program, which enables students to get into their ministry context more quickly and affordably. Additionally, continued focus will be upon the Fusion program, which provides first-hand missions training and experience like no other opportunities. Both of these programs present opportunities for Midwestern College graduates and students to serve the church, both locally and across the globe, in ways that glorify God and interact positively with an ever-declining spiritual culture.

Midwestern College plans to implement fresh Contextualized Leadership Development Program ideologies to position itself to better serve local churches and those who desire further theological training in those settings.

II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.

Midwestern Seminary is well-positioned to continue preparing students to engage a rapidly-changing global environment with the end goal of preparing men and women for kingdom service *for the church*. Regardless of the many challenges facing higher education, cultural shift, or economics at home or abroad, Midwestern is committed to fulfilling its ministry assignment of providing affordable master's level theological education. A key to this is regular innovation and adaptation built upon Midwestern's core degree programs.

In 2018, Midwestern will continue to prioritize the Master of Divinity degree, particularly its in-residence M.Div., as the gold standard degree for those seeking to serve local churches as pastors and ministry leaders. Through the Timothy Track, more residential students will be afforded the opportunity to obtain valuable, hands-on ministry experience while at the same time earning their degrees.

Midwestern will continue to strengthen partnerships with local churches through the Midwestern Training Network and extension campuses offered at key partner churches in Ames, Iowa and St. Louis, Missouri.

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In 2018, Midwestern will continue to refine the format of modular doctoral seminars in its professional degrees – D.Min., D.Ed.Min., D.Coun. – as well as offer such in conjunction with other ministry partners to further equip ministers desiring professional doctoral education.

IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.

Midwestern Seminary is well-positioned to continue preparing students to engage a rapidly-changing global environment with the end goal of preparing men and women for kingdom service *for the church*. Regardless of the many challenges facing higher education, cultural shift, or economics at home or abroad, Midwestern is committed to fulfilling its ministry assignment of providing affordable professional doctoral education. A key to this is regular innovation and adaptation built upon Midwestern's core degree programs.

In 2018, Midwestern will continue to refine the format of modular doctoral seminars as well as offer such in conjunction with other ministry partners to further equip ministers desiring research doctoral education. We will also fully apply training through "The Residency," which will offer unique opportunities on campus for those able to relocate to our Kansas City campus.