

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.

Midwestern College, through its residential and online degree programs, provides students who are called to ministry with a rigorous academic environment designed to prepare them to engage a rapidly changing culture. The ultimate goal of our academic programming is to prepare the next generation of pastors, missionaries and ministers for kingdom service *for the church*.

In 2016, Midwestern continued to populate and implement its Accelerate program, 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 enables these students to engage more quickly in full-time ministry, while keeping debt to a minimum.

Midwestern further developed its FUSION program as well. This unique missions training track offers students specialized equipping in serving local churches and evangelizing the lost around the globe. After rigorous academic and physical training in the first semester, by the second semester of their first year, FUSION students deployed into some of the most austere locations in the mission field. Upon returning, students continued toward the completion of their training over the next three years to a BA in Christian Ministry with a Missions Focus.

Midwestern College also continued its Contextualized Leadership Development and Adult Degree Completion emphases, which provide theological education both for adults who have yet to complete an undergraduate degree or who desire certificate training to assist their lay ministry. Such programs offer opportunities for these students to serve local churches in multiplied 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 equips students most fully and effectively to serve the church in pastoral ministry, Christian leadership, evangelism, missions and more. Our residential Master of Arts degrees train students theologically for multiple roles within the ministry and are for those seeking additional specialized training. Midwestern Seminary also offers 100-percent online degrees for those students needing a more flexible approach to theological education or cannot relocate to our Kansas City campus.

In 2016, Midwestern Seminary continued to provide and encourage students to pursue the Master of Divinity degree. Regardless of what new changes, thought, or direction may arise in theological

education, this degree is the gold standard degree for all those called of God to gospel ministry and who seek to serve local churches.

Midwestern Seminary expanded its online course offerings and degree programs, while providing more opportunities for online students to come to the main campus for instruction in a hybrid environment. Through practicum-based coursework, students worked with ministry leaders in the field for hands-on ministry training. This education format further enables students a degree 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.

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

The Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry degree programs 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-research and writing, and then students attend five-day on-campus intensives. Students taking two to three seminars a year can remain in their place of full-time ministry service while pursuing professional doctoral education.

In 2016, Midwestern's continual evaluation of professional doctoral emphases 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. Students taking two to three seminars a year can remain in their place of full-time ministry service while pursuing research doctoral education.

In 2016, Midwestern Seminary implemented "The Residency," which benefits 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 provides 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 2017 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 is well positioned to continue to prepare students to engage a rapidly changing global environment with the end goal of preparing men and women for kingdom service *for the church*. Whether future years bring further economic concerns or threats to religious liberty 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 regular innovation and adaptation built upon Midwestern's core degree programs.

In 2017, Midwestern will continue to grow its Accelerate, 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 will look to update its Contextualized Leadership Development Program to position Midwestern better to 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 to prepare students to engage a rapidly changing global environment with the end goal of preparing men and women for kingdom service *for the church*. Whether future years bring further economic concerns or threats to religious liberty 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 2017, Midwestern will continue to prioritize the Master of Divinity degree as the gold standard degree for those seeking to serve local churches as pastors and ministry leaders.

In addition, Midwestern Seminary will continue to prioritize its new Master of Theology degree designed specifically to provide a path for those who did not complete study in the biblical languages to do so on their way toward doctoral study.

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 2017, 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 to prepare students to engage a rapidly changing global environment with the end goal of preparing men and women for kingdom service *for the church*. Whether future years bring further economic concerns or threats to religious liberty 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 2017, 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 launch "The Residency," which will offer unique opportunities on campus for those able to relocate to our Kansas City campus.