

2016 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 provides a rigorous academic environment designed to prepare students to engage a rapidly changing global environment. Available online and on campus, our academic programing connects students to the practical realities of ministry-track careers with the end goal of preparing men and women for kingdom service *for the church*.

In 2015, Midwestern implemented our 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 allows these students to engage more quickly in full-time ministry, while minimizing delayed educational progress or student debt.

Midwestern continued to develop its unmatched FUSION program of specialized missions training to equip men and women for serving local churches in penetrating lostness around the globe. By the second semester of their first year, FUSION students were deployed into mission fields around the globe. 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 continued its commitment to providing theological education both for adults who have yet to complete an undergraduate degree or who desire certificate training to assist their lay ministry. Opportunities in Contextualized Leadership Development and Adult Degree Completion allowed Midwestern 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 offers the Master of Divinity degree as our primary track for ministry preparation. It equips students to serve the church in pastoral ministry, Christian leadership, evangelism, missions and more. Our residential Master of Arts degrees train students theologically and are designed primarily for lay leaders and those seeking additional specialized training. For those needing a more flexible approach to theological education, Midwestern offers degree programs that can be completed 100% online.

In 2015, Midwestern continued to provide and encourage students to pursue the Master of Divinity degree. Regardless of what new changes or directions may come, this degree is the

flagship degree for all those called of God to gospel ministry and who seek to serve local churches.

Midwestern offered a 5 year B.A. in Biblical Studies to M.Div. path for those men and women who have a clear calling to ministry and show academic aptitude. The ACCELERATE program allows these students to engage more quickly in full-time ministry, while minimizing delayed educational progress or student debt.

Midwestern continued to provide and expand 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. 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 degree program is designed for persons seeking a high level of competence in the practice of ministry for the church. The doctoral seminars involve five-day intensives held on the campus of Midwestern Seminary 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 professional doctoral education.

In 2015, Midwestern evaluated and explored professional doctoral emphases to ensure that the offered concentrations align with the needs of those engaging in the practice of ministry in local churches and missionary settings. This resulted in the addition of new emphases as well as the option of a path for a DMin graduate to pursue a PhD. 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 Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies degree is designed to prepare students to serve churches as teachers, pastors, and leaders on the highest academic, professional, and spiritual level. The doctoral seminars involve five-day intensives held on the campus of Midwestern Seminary 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 2015, Midwestern evaluated and explored research doctoral emphases to ensure that the offered concentrations align with the needs of those engaging in serving churches as teachers in the academy, pastor-theologians and theological educators on the mission field home and abroad. This resulted in the addition of new emphases as well as the option of a path for a DMin graduate to pursue a PhD. Further innovation took place in the area of incorporating online delivery to components of the seminar experience.

Based on each of MBTS' Convention assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2015 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 2016, Midwestern will look to revise its BA in Christian Ministry with a Missions Focus to a BA in Intercultural Studies to better equip students to serve in a variety of capacities and ministry settings around the world.

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.

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In 2016, Midwestern will continue to prioritize the Master of Divinity degree as the flagship degree for those seeking to serve local churches.

In addition, Midwestern will 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 2016, 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 professional doctoral education.

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