



2020 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.

The mission of Spurgeon College is to educate the next generation of leaders to impact the world in the workforce. Spurgeon College will maintain its focus on biblically-based degrees as well as providing students with disciplines that can train them to work in the marketplace. Through its residential and online degree programs, Spurgeon College offers students a rigorous academic environment designed to prepare them for their ministry calling.

This past year, Spurgeon College experienced continued growth of its Accelerate program, which is designed to enable students to earn a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies and a Master 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.

Moreover, Spurgeon College shifted its BA, Counseling Psychology degree to a BA, Biblical Counseling. This new curriculum will provide a base of knowledge in the sufficiency of Scripture and its interpretation for the task of counseling and soul care, in service to the biblically mandated mission and ministries of the local church.

Additionally, to complement its BA degrees in Christian Ministry, Biblical Studies, Business Leadership, Intercultural Studies and Student Ministry, Spurgeon College added new Teaching and Communications degree options. Students may earn a BA, Interdisciplinary Studies with emphases in either Elementary or Secondary Social Studies Education. In tandem with our partnership with Liberty University, these students may also earn their Master of Arts in Teaching online in just one additional year. Spurgeon's BA, Communications provides students specific training in journalism, public relations, rhetoric, visual communications, and several other communications-related disciplines.

Spurgeon College also continued development of its FUSION program. We launched FUSION: North America which takes the same robust missions training for international missions, and applies it to our own continent. This tract equips and then sends students to train underneath and learn from church planters in some of the hardest-to-reach cities in North America. Upon returning to campus from service, Spurgeon 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.

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

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is still committed to emphasizing the Master of Divinity degree as its primary track for ministry preparation. Additionally, our residential Master of Arts degree

offerings train students theologically for multiple roles within ministry and serve those seeking more 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 2019, we had our largest Timothy Track MDiv class yet with 25 students. Timothy Track enables residential students to earn their degrees 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 concurrently studying to earn their M.Div. degree. The program also offers students significant cost savings in tuition through scholarships during their first year of study.

Additionally, we shifted our MA, Christian Counseling degree to an MA, in Biblical Counseling. This new curriculum will provide a base of knowledge in the sufficiency of Scripture and its interpretation for the task of counseling and soul care, in service to the biblically mandated mission and ministries of the local church. The degree change better aligns with who we are as an institution that is for the church.

Once again, Midwestern Seminary expanded its online course offerings and degree programs in 2019 as well. This provides more opportunities for online students to practically apply their knowledge within a ministry context. Through practicum-based coursework, students work with ministry leaders in the field for hands-on ministry training. This education format further enables 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.

Our doctoral program has continued to grow in health and numbers. Offering a modular format where students can maintain their current ministry work, students come to our Kansas City campus for a one-week seminar and then complete other pre- and post-course research and writing through an online format. Concerning our professional doctorates (D.Min, and D.Ed.Min), these tracks are designed for persons seeking high-level competence in the practice of pastoral and other ministry leadership roles within the local church. Students who typically take two-to-three seminars annually can continue ministering in their places of full-time ministry service while pursuing professional doctoral education.

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 or three seminars yearly can remain in their places of full-time ministry service while pursuing research doctoral education.

Additionally, we added two new emphases to our Ph.D. program this past year: Biblical Theology and Biblical Counseling. We are confident that these two new emphases will help to train and develop students to be maximally prepared in both of these fields.

In 2019, we saw continued growth of our residential Ph.D. program known as “the Residency” which now has over 40 students. This cohort, led by Dr. Owen Strachan, directly benefits Ph.D. students by merging independent advanced theological research with mentorship and oversight—adding regular, intensive engagement with faculty and other theological leaders within the 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 2019 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.

In 2020, Midwestern will have continued focus upon two programs (which are the same two we mentioned last year): Accelerate and FUSION. The reason we repeat the same two programs from last year is because these two programs are of vital importance to Spurgeon College. The Accelerate program enables students to get into their ministry context more quickly and affordably. This “fast track” allows qualified students to receive the best education they possibly can, in the shortest amount of time.

Additionally, continued focus will be upon the FUSION program, which provides first-hand missions training and experience like no other opportunities. The FUSION: North America tract is needed, and we are confident that it will give students a critical education when it comes to planting churches in North America. Additionally, new partnerships are constantly being explored for Spurgeon College. Overall, both of these programs present opportunities for Spurgeon 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.

Spurgeon College implemented a fresh Contextualized Leadership Development Program, known as the FTC Institute, to position itself to better serve local churches and those who desire further theological training in those settings. The FTC Institute is a front door to Midwestern Seminary and Spurgeon College. Through conferences, church/organization partnerships, and forthcoming online features, the FTC Institute allows churches or individual Christians to drink from the vast pool of resources for the Church available through Spurgeon College and Midwestern Seminary.

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

In 2020, Midwestern will, once again, place primary emphasis on the Master of Divinity degree, particularly the residential 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.

As mentioned last year, there is now an increased focus upon women's ministry concentrations. Students studying at Midwestern Seminary for a Master of Divinity degree can earn a concentration in women's ministry, and those working toward degrees through the Midwestern Training Network can obtain a Master of Theological Studies with an emphasis in women's ministry. The main impetus for Midwestern Seminary in offering these degree concentrations is to more fully serve the local church, specifically in the area of women's ministry. Within the context of the seminary's mission of developing and maintaining strong local churches, that means we must properly educate and train members for service in each distinctive ministry within the church. Women have long-served vital areas within the local church and played key roles in spreading the gospel. These concentrations will afford them the opportunity to develop their God-given spiritual gifts and abilities to an even fuller extent.

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

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. The professional doctorate is a key program that equips pastors and other ministry leaders to be on the front line of controversial issues concerning the church. A key to this is regular innovation and adaptation built upon Midwestern's core degree programs.

In 2020, Midwestern will continue to refine the format of modular doctoral seminars in its professional degrees – D.Min., D.Ed.Min.–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.

As stated in the above section, 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 research doctoral education. We will continue to offer a Ph.D. program that is affordable and comprehensive. Advanced education, such as our professional doctorate and Ph.D. programs, are crucial in preparing ministers to boldly yet winsomely confront a lost and dying world.

In 2020, 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. Last year, we introduced two new Ph.D. emphases, in Biblical Counseling and Biblical Theology, to broaden the scope of ministry training available to Ph.D. candidates. Additionally, we plan to continue to promote and invest in training through "The Residency," which will offer unique opportunities on campus for those able to relocate to our Kansas City campus.