

Cooperative Program:

1. With an understanding that SBC entities who receive Cooperative Program funding share an equal responsibility to promote and advance the Cooperative Program, please give a description of MBTS's efforts to promote the Cooperative Program both internally and externally as MBTS' personnel engage Southern Baptist.

Promotion and advancement of the Cooperative Program sits firmly atop Midwestern Seminary's priority list. In doing so, we have taken measures, both internally and externally to ensure the CP is well-promoted. From within, Midwestern Seminary possesses a campus-wide atmosphere which fosters an awareness of the Cooperative Program and support for its continued vitality. We understand our accountability to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, which send us students who are called of God to study and grow spiritually and academically toward becoming pastors, missionaries, and ministry leaders. Once trained, Midwestern then sends its graduates back into the local churches, both domestically and abroad, to serve Christ's kingdom. Our students, from undergraduates to doctoral-level, are regularly taught the benefits of the CP in the classroom and at seminary events and become deeply committed to the Cooperative Program and to the ministries funded by it, especially with the knowledge of the extent to which the CP funded their studies. To that end, the faculty and staff make much of the Cooperative Program in contexts such as lectures, preaching engagements, and other venues.

Beyond these informal measures, the Midwestern requires a core course in Baptist History, one-third of which is devoted to the Southern Baptist Convention, and thus, by natural extension, the Cooperative Program. Requirements for students along these lines include: reading [One Sacred Effort](#), working through the [One Sacred Effort Workbook](#), writing a paper on the Cooperative Program, and watching the DVD on this topic produced by the Executive Committee.

Additionally, Midwestern will only hire full-time faculty members and members of its core administrative staff, who demonstrate an awareness of the Cooperative Program and have a commitment to the missions and entity efforts funded by it. Courses offered at all levels emphasize the privilege that Southern Baptist students have not only to access the resources offered by the IMB and NAMB—both funded through the Cooperative Program—but also to experience a clear sense of partnership between local, autonomous churches and the larger goals that they can accomplish through cooperation. Also, New Student Orientation, which is held twice annually, is one of the most strategic venues in which the importance of the Cooperative Program can be emphasized, especially in terms of how its existence alters the cost-structure of the education soon to be received.

Further, Midwestern's President, Jason K. Allen, has previously written on the importance of and Midwestern's appreciation of the Cooperative Program stating the following, "Whether the Cooperative Program supplies 100 percent of an SBC seminary's budget or one percent, from an ownership standpoint, the amount is irrelevant. Southern Baptists have built, funded, and own their seminaries.

Any cleavage between the seminaries and the churches that own them is a malicious act against which the denomination must guard. As it relates to ownership and governance, the issue is not just current funding, but past funding and present ownership. This generation bears a moral stewardship to our Southern Baptist forebears who built six great seminaries. We honor them when we keep the six Southern Baptist seminaries faithful to the denomination.”

Externally, Midwestern Seminary’s admissions and recruiting teams regularly explain the impact of the CP to potential students at events both locally and nationwide. Such benefits are also presented on the institution’s website for SBC and non-SBC students alike to read and understand. By providing an understanding of the benefits that the CP affords Southern Baptist students, scores of potential and matriculating enrollees more fully understand and value the CP. Further, on numerous occasions, the president, faculty and staff members speak and lecture to audiences across the country. During those times, they often note the myriad benefits the Cooperative Program affords Midwestern Seminary as compared to many other denominations not possessing this valuable asset.

Midwestern trusts that these measures will cause each class of graduates, as well as onlookers throughout the evangelical world and beyond, to see the decisive advantages of Baptist identity, cooperation, and mission.

2. How effective is MBTS 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 MBTS have that its graduates will continue to engage and invest in SBC missions and ministries?

Midwestern regularly creates an awareness and expresses appreciation – to the seminary community, to local and regional churches, and to the greater evangelical world – of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Program through many avenues. This can occur through faculty interaction with students in the classroom; it does so during messages and interactions in numerous chapel services, major lectureships, and campus events – which reach both students, local ministry leaders, and seminary friends alike; it does so through its branding, recruiting and community relations; and it does so through its writing in mediums such as books, blogs, websites, and articles in Baptist Press and other media outlets. Through such regular emphasis and exposure to the value of cooperative missions and cooperative funding, we are very confident that MBTS graduates will hold even more to their deeply-held convictions for and support of churches working together through the CP. Midwestern sees itself playing a vital role in ensuring the next generation of pastors, ministry leaders, and missionaries embrace and understand the opportunity for Great Commission advance available through the Cooperative Program.

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

Midwestern believes, without doubt, that the Cooperative Program is the finest, most effective missionary-sending endeavor imaginable, particularly in the difficult social and cultural times in which we live and minister. Also, it has withstood the test of time, and will continue to fund denominational work in North American and International missions even when faced with threatening economic headwinds. Midwestern Seminary, situated uniquely in the country's heartland, has an opportunity to train the next generation of pastors, ministers and missionaries to reach an area of our country in desperate need of the gospel. The CP plays a vital role in keeping this seminary operational in this capacity. Thus, there is no question that Midwestern treasures the fact that SBC churches entrust our institution to train their students who, in turn, will return to serving the local church upon graduation. We truly thank the Lord for His provision through the generosity of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program.

4. How does MBTS benefit from and utilize CP funds to help fulfill MBTS' ministry assignments?

Predominantly, Midwestern Seminary benefits from the Cooperative Program in that approximately half of the institution's operating budget is funded by the CP. Thus, Midwestern Seminary is enabled to serve the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by educating and training the next generation of pastors, ministers, and missionaries to accomplish the Great Commission as Acts 1:8 states, "in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Southern Baptists' generosity and support is vital to all that God accomplishes through Midwestern Seminary. One prime example is that our students can obtain their theological education at a fraction of the cost of most other state or private universities while receiving top-notch training that is in line with our denomination's doctrinal and confessional statements. This means that, in many cases, students can graduate and enter the pastorate, ministry, or mission field more quickly with little or no debt.

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?

Midwestern Seminary understands that cross-cultural and multiethnic fellowship and ministry is at the core of our Savior's call to unity within the body of Christ. Our institution has diligently sought to create programs of study as well as informal learning experiences that address the educational needs of multiethnic Christian communities. Some of our degrees are specifically tailored to students who anticipate overseas, and thus cross-cultural, missionary service. Additionally, Midwestern Seminary has developed programs delivered in the Korean, Chinese, and Spanish languages--ranging from the Bachelors level to Professional Doctoral practice and research—with the intent of reaching a broader range of ethnicities.

The area that most visibly displays our commitment to cross-cultural and multiethnic fellowship is the array of guest speakers—which in recent years has included African-Americans, as well as speakers from

countries like South Korea, Great Britain, Romania, Cuba, Sudan, Indonesia, and Poland—who have come to speak in our chapel services and at various campus events. Midwestern also regularly partners with churches in the urban core of Kansas City and in the local region that minister to differing ethnicities for evangelism emphases, ongoing training, and conferences. Additionally, campus events, such as our annual Ready Conference for students and For the Church National Conference, feature multicultural and multiethnic speakers and worship leaders.

Further, Midwestern’s trustee board, staff, and faculty comprise people who represent several different ethnicities, but in number there is still room and need for growth. With the continued growth of our Asian Studies and Hispanic Studies Departments, Midwestern Seminary has seen a slight increase in the number of ethnic leaders among the faculty. While we are not where we would like to be in our student population at Midwestern, over the past two decades, the institution has seen steady growth in this regard. With continued emphases on recruitment in multicultural areas, we look forward to continued increases in our student population.

Mental Health Resource

6. In response to a Ronnie Floyd motion, June 2013, Houston, TX, requesting that the Executive Committee and SBC Entities assist churches with mental health ministries, the Executive Committee appointed an advisory group, 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 MBTS has implemented to assist SBC churches with training and equipping people with mental health challenges and how will MBTS 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 MBTS 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.

One of the many ways that Midwestern Seminary seeks to equip God-called men and women to serve the local church is through overall soul care – including dealing with mental health challenges.

Midwestern College offers a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies and Counseling Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry and Counseling Psychology to prepare students intending to serve

Christ in the field of Christian Counseling. These degrees prepare our students to further their education through graduate degree programs, if they so choose to pursue that route. From a general undergraduate degree standpoint, all Bachelor of Arts students are required to take the Introduction to Psychology course that gives an overview of the scientific study of the behavioral and mental processes of human beings.

The Master of Arts in Counseling and Master of Divinity with a concentration in Counseling degrees are designed to help students meet the educational requirements for licensure in Missouri as a licensed professional counselor. Additionally, Midwestern Seminary offers the Master of Theological Studies in Counseling for Korean students thus providing Christian counseling to other ethnicities. Our overarching goal is to provide the student with the skills required to deliver appropriate mental health counseling services to individuals in either a ministry or private setting. From the general graduate degree standpoint, all Master of Divinity students are required to take the Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling course that includes a biblical basis for care, a model of care, and problem areas that require pastoral care-giving.

The Doctor of Counseling degree is a program of professional study for students who desire to practice professional counseling at the highest level of clinical competence. The D.Coun. degree is unique in its practice of a Clinically Descriptive and Biblically Prescriptive counseling model. This model combines the best practices of the behavioral sciences to describe emotional issues and applies biblical concepts to solve emotional issues. This treatment approach is compatible with counselors who desire to join correctly the Christian perspective with contemporary scientific methodology and clinical techniques of the counseling profession.

Midwestern Seminary desires to have graduates with an acute awareness of the severe challenges facing local churches in regard to mental illness, and we further desire to appropriately partner with the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention in addressing these issues whenever and wherever possible.

MBTS Specific Ministry Inquiries

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

The most reliable metric for indicating the future accomplishments or challenges for Midwestern Seminary is the state and health of the Cooperative Program. Midwestern Seminary has been, throughout its history, and still is an institution of and for the churches and people of the Southern Baptist Convention. We are thoroughly committed to the confessional and doctrinal statements that define the Southern Baptist Convention, such as the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*, the *Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, and the *Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy*. Regardless of total financial amount given, healthy support of the Cooperative Program across the denomination puts on display, for the rest of the evangelical world, churches working together, bound by a common confessional agreement, seeking to fulfill the Great Commission. This is the shared

purpose and desire of Midwestern Seminary and, thus, the Cooperative Program is the most important metric to watch.