

Cooperative Program:

1. With an understanding that SBC entities which 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.

Midwestern Seminary fully understands the value and importance of promoting and advancing the Cooperative Program. In doing so, we have taken both internal and external measures to ensure the CP is well-promoted. Within, Midwestern has established a campus-wide atmosphere which fosters an awareness of the Cooperative Program and support for its continued vitality. We recognize our accountability to the local churches of the SBC, which send those 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 churches to serve Christ's kingdom. These students are regularly taught and understand the benefits of the CP 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 institution requires a course in Baptist History, 30% of which is devoted to the Southern Baptist Convention and thus, by natural extension, the Cooperative Program. Students are required to read One Sacred Effort, to work through the One Sacred Effort Workbook, to write a paper on the Cooperative Program, and to watch the DVD on this topic produced by the Executive Committee.

Midwestern will not hire a full-time faculty member, or member of its core administrative staff, who does not demonstrate an awareness of the Cooperative Program and commitment to the missions and entity efforts funded by it. Courses given 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. New Student Orientation has become 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 written regularly on the importance of and Midwestern's appreciation of the Cooperative Program stating, in part, "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.”

From an external standpoint, Midwestern Seminary’s admissions and recruiting teams regularly discuss the impact of the CP upon potential students at events both local and nationwide. Presenting an understanding of the benefits that the CP provides 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.

Midwestern trusts that these measures, combined with a visible SBC *esprit de corps*, will cause each class of graduates, and 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, denomination, and greater evangelical world – of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Program through many avenues. It does so through faculty to students in the classroom; it does so through its numerous chapel services, major lectureships, and campus events; 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 regular emphasis and exposure to the value of cooperative missions and cooperative funding, we are confident that MBTS graduates will hold even more to deeply held conviction for and support of churches working together through the CP. Midwestern sees itself playing a vital role in ensuring the rising generation embraces and understands 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 that the CP is the finest and most effective missionary-sending endeavor imaginable, particularly in difficult social and cultural times such as these, when the ability of any one church to support the work of North American and International missions can be easily threatened by economic headwinds. Additionally, being situated in the heartland and outside of the “Bible Belt,” Midwestern Seminary 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, 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. All of this could not be possible without the generosity of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program.

4. How does MBTS benefit from the Cooperative Program?

Most notably, Midwestern Seminary benefits from the Cooperative Program in that approximately half of the institution's operating budget is funded by the CP. This funding enables Midwestern Seminary 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 both at home and abroad. Additionally, the generous giving and cooperation of Southern Baptists is essential to all that God accomplishes through Midwestern Seminary. For example, our students can obtain their theological education at a fraction of the cost of a state or other private university 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 leaders, ethnic churches and other ethnic church leaders in the life and ministry of your entity. Over the past 12 months, (2015-2016), has your seminary increased or decreased 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. In obtaining such unity, we have sought to create programs of study and 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, the institution has developed programs delivered in Korean, and other Asian language, and Spanish, ranging from the Bachelors level to Professional Doctoral practice and research.

The most visible sign of our commitment to cross-cultural and multiethnic fellowship is the array of speakers—which in recent years have included several African-Americans, accompanied by speakers reflecting such countries as South Korea, Romania, Cuba, Sudan, Indonesia, Poland, and Great Britain—who have come to speak at various events. In addition, Midwestern regularly partners with churches that minister to differing ethnicities for evangelism emphases, ongoing training and conferences. This is most noticeable among our Fusion students' interaction with the multiethnic cultures of urban Kansas City.

Midwestern's trustee board, staff, and faculty do comprise those who represent different ethnicities, but in number there is still room and need for growth. With the strengthening of our Asian Studies Department, Midwestern Seminary has seen a slight increase in the number of ethnic leaders among the

faculty. While not where we desire it to be, the student population at Midwestern, over the past two decades, has seen steady growth in this regard. A greater focus at the administration level in recent years is pervading the entire campus, and displays a devoted commitment to progress in this area into the years to come.

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 & 2016 Ministry Report(s), the following questions was asked of each SBC entity:

Please give a progress report on what MBTS has implemented to assist SBC Churches in training and equipping individuals 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 2017 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.

Midwestern seeks to equip God-called men and women to serve the local church, and one such way 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 who intend to go into the field of Christian Counseling. These degrees prepare the student to enter graduate degree programs, if they choose to pursue their studies further. 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 a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Counseling are designed to help students meet the educational requirements for licensure in Missouri as a licensed professional counselor. In addition, Midwestern offers the Master of Theological Studies in Counseling for Korean students. The 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 student who desire to practice professional counseling at the highest level of clinical competence. The Doctor of Counseling 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.

Wherever possible, Midwestern desires to produce graduates who are aware of the severe challenges facing local churches in regard to mental illness, and Midwestern Seminary desires to partner with the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention in addressing these issues where possible.

MBTS Specific Ministry Inquiries

7. What has proven to be MBTS's most reliable metric indicating future accomplishments of, or challenges to MBTS, and why is that metric the one MBTS believes is most important to watch?

The most reliable metric for indicating the future accomplishments or challenges for Midwestern Seminary is the state and health of the Cooperative Program. Throughout its history, Midwestern Seminary has been and still is an institution of and for the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. We are committed to the confessional and doctrinal statements that define the Southern Baptist Convention. Regardless of total financial amount given, healthy support of the Cooperative Program across the denomination shows churches working together, bound by a common confessional agreement, seeking to fulfill the Great Commission. This is the shared purpose and desire of Midwestern and, thus, the Cooperative Program is the most important metric to watch.

8. Understanding the seminary ministry assignment(s) to "*....assist churches by programs of master's level, professional doctoral and research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators...*" how does MBTS counsel students to pursue different degree programs?

The first step in the process is determining whether a student is truly called to ministry. Once this determination is clarified, students who enter the programs of Midwestern do so with fairly clear vocational objectives. They have formed a basic sense of where they will eventually serve and what degrees and types of learning, very generally, pertain to their goals. Nevertheless, from the outset of their interest in attending Midwestern Seminary – including the recruiting and application stages – the faculty and staff of Midwestern are useful to students at every stage of this process. From enrollment to graduation, based on information, data, and communication generated by the each student's own self-description combined with his/her actual performance in various disciplines, Midwestern Seminary faculty and staff are able to guide students to the optimal area of study for their ministry needs. The

seminary attempts to assist the student in recognizing the areas of service for which he/she may be specially gifted, sometimes recognizing this giftedness before the student has done so. A vital part of the counseling process is the faculty and staff's own assessment of what the local church needs, so that students can plan their careers, not in a vacuum, but with due consideration as to what they can best contribute to the work of present work of ministry.

9. Can you predict the long term viability and sustainability of multiple campuses for MBTS? Does the growing number of online students impact future projections along this line? Please explain.

Midwestern believes that long term viability and sustainability of extension campuses come in the form of those that are church-based and are located in settings where there is a pre-existent culture and desire for on-ground theological education. Midwestern Seminary has also endeavored in partnering with churches, pastors and ministry leaders through our Midwestern Training Network. This program affords students and churches opportunity, through an online format, a unique opportunity to personalize one's ministry education experience through practicums, one-on-one study, and mentorships. Otherwise, all of Midwestern's extension campuses are geared to work in conjunction with Midwestern's online course offerings, as a student cannot complete an entire degree at an extension campus.

10. What is the most newsworthy feature, initiative or issue currently orbiting around the programs of MBTS? Please explain.

From an academic standpoint, there are many newsworthy issues currently orbiting around the programs of Midwestern Seminary, including the institution's ongoing focus on rightly emphasizing its in-residence Master of Divinity program. Additionally, the doctoral initiative, "The Residency" is significant in that it provides a unique opportunity for Ph.D. students to study, be mentored, and serve in various capacities around campus – providing experience and insight few doctoral graduates possess. From an institutional standpoint, the approval of Midwestern Seminary's Trustees to move forward with construction of a 39,000 square foot student center in the heart of campus is significant. In what has been a campus need since the institution's inception in 1957, a student center provides an urgently needed space considering the seminary's strong growth over the past five years. The proposed two-story center will house a cafeteria, conference rooms and staff offices, a bookstore and café, recreation areas for family use, a gymnasium/walking track; racquetball courts and fitness rooms. With a \$7 million lead gift from the Mathena family, a \$1 million matching grant from the Mabee Foundation, a \$200,000 gift from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, and numerous other gifts from seminary supporters, the \$12 million project is well on its way to being completed debt-free.