



## The President's Summary Statement

Confidence and trust in a person, much less an institution, in our present cultural environment is difficult to come by today. This applies to institutions of higher learning as well. Colleges and seminaries across the country are collapsing under the weight of moral/ethical issues and financial stewardship difficulties. However, Midwestern Seminary works tirelessly to maintain the trust and confidence of the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by adhering to our confessional statements and carefully stewarding the resources provided to our care.

Over the past five years, Midwestern Seminary has focused on the vision – For the Church, which more specifically entails the equipping of pastors, ministers and missionaries for service in North American and international churches. This vision touches on every aspect of seminary life: the curriculum we teach; the programs we offer; the events we host; the personnel we hire; and the community and culture we cultivate. It brings great institutional joy to see this vision being adopted locally, regionally, and across the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is with much strategic planning, thought, and prayer that we understand and carry out our mission, which entails the assurance that Southern Baptist churches have solidly-trained preachers of God's Word. In a culture where all things biblical and sacred are being cast aside at an alarming rate, a seminary's top priority must be to strengthen the preaching and teaching capabilities of its students.

From an institutional vantage point, we remain steadfast in an emphasis toward our residential Master of Divinity program. This degree track offers the complete toolkit for ministry service, and there is no better degree for preparing a student for ministry than the M.Div. We are grateful to our denomination and local churches for their continued confidence in this institution—entrusting us to further the theological education and training of the students they send to Kansas City.

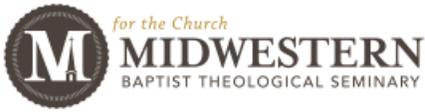
This past year has been one of significant reflection upon the goodness the Lord has shown to me personally and to our institution in general. Looking back on five years of service as president of Midwestern Seminary, it is clear to see the hand of God upon this place. From the conception of the vision, *For the Church*, to the construction of the Spurgeon Library and unprecedented enrollment growth, it has been amazing to witness and take part in such an incredible movement of God.

Institutional momentum and goodwill on every front continues to progress Midwestern Seminary forward at a brisk pace within the denomination and the greater evangelical world. We are thrilled with the amazing things we witness on a weekly basis, and God is granting us wisdom and grace in evaluating, strengthening, and improving every aspect of the organization.

Among the many exciting happenings this past year, two in particular stand out: the ongoing construction of the Mathena Student Center and trustee approval to move forward with a remodel of our Trustee Building.

During the Fall Trustee Meeting on Oct. 17-18, 2016, the Board voted unanimously to move forward with plans to construct a 39,000-square foot student center in the heart of Midwestern Seminary's campus. Beginning in late Spring of 2017, the work on the project began in earnest with significant earth moving and preparation. As the year ended, the main infrastructure and general outline of the building stands in place and the rock exterior, which matches our chapel complex, is being placed.

The two-story center will include a fully-equipped gymnasium; exercise and aerobic areas; education and recreational spaces; a campus bookstore and resource center; a new cafeteria and café; seminar-style



classrooms; offices for student services; campus events and select administrative staff; and commons areas to foster mentorship, discipleship, and campus community. The facility is currently on course to be completed in early summer of 2018 and is on-budget as well.

Additionally, during its fall meeting, Midwestern Seminary's Trustee board voted to move forward with plans to renovate the Trustee Classroom Building and old student center. Plans include consolidating faculty offices to one central location, as well as to consolidate all of the student services offices into one convenient location for student access. Such areas include the financial services office, admissions, information technology, registrar's office, housing office, and church partnership office. Demolition of the existing area began in late-December.

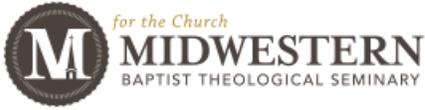
Midwestern Seminary is divided into three divisions: an academic division, an administrative division, and an institutional relations division. On the academic front, we are pleased to announce the largest fall enrollment in the seminary's history. In fact, over the past five years, the Lord has seen fit to more than triple the enrollment here. In 2010-11 total student enrollment stood at 1,107. As of fall 2017 that number surpassed 3,000. We continue to give God all the glory for the great work he is doing at Midwestern Seminary, and we do not take for granted one of these students that God has provided for us to steward and the local churches have sent for us to train in becoming the next generation of pastors, missionaries, and ministry leaders for the church.

Our doctoral program continues to expand at a robust rate with its modular format appealing to students from across the nation, and this academic year saw the first class of our residential aspect of the Ph.D. program, called "The Residency." The Accelerate program, which enables students to earn bachelor's and M.Div. degrees in five years continues to flourish. The Kern Foundation, which has provided significant grants toward this program, named Accelerate as one of their most successful programs.

Our M.Div. program, particularly at the residential level, continues to expand, providing students with the gold standard in theological education – providing all the tools necessary in theological education to prepare them well for their ministry calling. Midwestern Seminary and Midwestern Baptist College's online presence also continues to increase at a rapid pace, enabling students across the globe access to state-of-the-art and the highest quality theological education. In addition, through our Online Connect program, all our online courses provide students with personalized access to mentors in the field and also meet their individual ministry education and training needs.

Within our Institutional Administration division, the Lord has allowed us a continued strengthening of our financial health. Stewarding and maximizing the resources provided to us via the generosity of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program is of utmost importance. The CP truly separates Southern Baptists from other denominations and is vital to our success in training students for gospel ministry. We pray that Southern Baptists will continue to faithfully channel these funds to their seminaries, and that God will continue to bless the efforts of his people through an ever-growing Cooperative Program. May the people of the Southern Baptist Convention understand Midwestern Seminary's deepest gratitude for all they have done, and continue to do, to support the Lord's work here *For the Church*.

Our third division, Institutional Relations, efforts in the fields of recruiting, admissions, marketing, retention and advancement have continued to be blessed by the Lord and have been extremely fruitful. Our very best energies are spent expanding the mission and ministry footprint of the school through this department. Such efforts have resulted in the record enrollment and seminary growth over the past five years. The ultimate focus of this division is that more pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and ministers will be thrust into Kingdom service both in the present and well into the future.



Lastly, but certainly not least, is the incredible financial blessing the Lord has provided through the work of our Advancement team. This past fall, Midwestern Seminary received substantial gifts from an ever-growing support base. These kind seminary friends have also substantially supported the school's Legacy Fund, which directly impacts every student by keeping tuition and fee costs low and allowing them to be deployed into ministry without crippling debt.

As this has been a year of reflection, we thankfully acknowledge that God has given Midwestern Seminary a good five years, but in appropriately stewarding what He's done, we ask, "What would it look like for God to give us a good five decades?" Our prime focus will be continually existing *For the Church*. As an institution, we will seek to intentionally and appropriately steward our gains. We will strive to project forward and outward in our mission and ministry, and we will continually assess how our commitment to exist *For the Church* will direct us into the future. May we never cease to be thankful to God for the victories he has given us these past five years, and may we never cease to serve Him in such a way that He is pleased to give us such victories going forward.

Sincerely,

Jason K. Allen, Ph.D.  
President  
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary