



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Jason K. Allen, Ph.D.

The President's Summary Statement

Confidence and trust in an institution within most any sphere is difficult to come by in our present day – much less an institution of higher learning. Amidst reports, and actualities, of the demise of colleges and seminaries across the country in areas such as moral/ethical issues or financial stewardship difficulties, Midwestern Seminary strives 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 four years, through intensive planning and constant prayer, every aspect of Midwestern Seminary has been geared toward equipping pastors, ministers and missionaries *for the Church*. 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 laser-focus that we understand and carry out our mission, which entails the assurance that Southern Baptist churches have 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 continue to emphasize our residential Master of Divinity program. This degree track is the gold standard in theological education, offering the complete toolkit for ministry service. While not every graduate will minister within a local church setting, seminary students should view their calling through the prism of serving the church. There is no better degree for preparing a student for ministry than the M.Div. We are grateful to the churches of the SBC for their confidence in this institution, sending students and entrusting us to further their theological education and training.

Each New Year, when we contemplate what has taken place at the seminary over the past year and set goals for the new one, it is clear to see the Lord's evident blessings. 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 aforementioned, two stand out: trustee approval to move forward with a forthcoming campus student center, and the launching of the Center for Public Theology.

During its Fall Trustee Meeting on Oct. 17-18, 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. The need for such a facility has existed since the school's inception in 1957, and now this need will become reality. The proposed 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. Of the nearly \$12 million

dollar cost of the facility, more than \$9 million has been raised, and the plan is to accomplish the project debt-free. We are grateful for the trust and confidence of our trustees in enabling us to move forward with this much-needed complex. All plans point to breaking ground on the project in April 2017.

At the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in June, Midwestern Seminary launched the Center for Public Theology under the direction of Dr. Owen Strachan. Due to a concern that the church struggles in knowing how to engage culture, the aim of the CPT is to prepare believers theologically to engage matters of society, politics and culture knowledgably and confidently, yet humbly and in a Christ-like spirit. The Center will carry out this task through a regular podcast entitled, "The City of God," and through public events hosted on campus. The Center's first major public event was the C.W. Scudder Lectures, which was held on Sept. 22-23. The guest lecturer was Dr. Kevin Vanhoozer of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and his lecture focus was "The Pastor-Theologian as Minister of the Gospel."

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 double the enrollment here. By any measure, this is a remarkable feat to which we give God all the glory. It is deeply encouraging to everyone at Midwestern Seminary to know that Southern Baptist churches are entrusting the training of the next generation of pastors and ministry leaders to our care. Our doctoral program continues to expand at a robust rate with its modular format appealing to students from across the nation, and this fall a residential aspect of the Ph.D. program, called "The Residency," was rolled out; and the third year of our Accelerate program, which enables students to earn bachelor's and M.Div. degrees in five years, has surpassed even our greatest expectations. Our aforementioned residential M.Div. program continues to expand, providing students with all of the tools necessary in theological education to prepare them well for their ministry calling. Midwestern Seminary and Midwestern Baptist College's online presence 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 of our online courses have been tailored to meet students' individual ministry education and training needs.

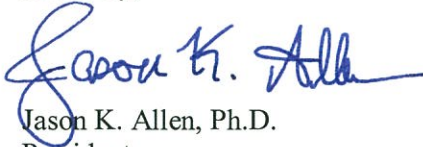
Within our Institutional Administration division, the Lord has allowed us to continue to increase our financial health. We are keenly aware of the numerous challenges associated with theological education, and our focus on stewardship of the resources we have been provided is something we take with utmost seriousness. Our business model operates in a way that maximizes the overwhelming generosity of Southern Baptists and makes the work of training students for gospel service possible. Looking forward, we will rely on, in even greater measure, the generosity of Southern Baptists as is evidenced by our budget, which relies on the Cooperative Program for nearly 35 percent of our budgetary needs. 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 Southern Baptists throughout our convention know of Midwestern Seminary's gratitude for all they have done and are doing to support the Lord's work here.

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 aforementioned record enrollment and seminary growth. The ultimate aim 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. Another way this is accomplished is through the growth of a valuable resource called FTC.com. This website has received millions of visitors in its year-and-a-half of existence, as it is daily providing useful articles, wisdom and insight on

topics and issues facing today's ministry leaders. 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 a \$1 million matching grant from the Mabee Foundation, as well as a \$200,000 gift from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention toward the student center project. Additionally, other extremely kind seminary friends have substantially supported the school's Legacy Fund, including a \$300,000 year-end gift, which makes a direct impact on every student through keeping tuition and fee costs low and allowing them to be deployed into ministry without crippling debt.

At Midwestern Seminary, we understand the complex world in which we minister. We understand the incredible responsibility that is ours to steward on behalf of Southern Baptists to train the next generation of pastors and ministry leaders *for the Church*. We understand that every decision we make points us in the direction of being faithful to the call that our great denomination has given us here in Kansas City. The people of the Southern Baptist Convention can be confident that this institution will continue to be faithful to her churches in fulfilling what they have charged us with by the way of ministry assignment and by the way of doctrinal convictions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason K. Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" being the most prominent.

Jason K. Allen, Ph.D.

President

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary