



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Jason K. Allen, Ph.D.

The President's Summary Statement

Over the past three years, through intensive planning and constant prayer, every aspect of Midwestern Seminary has been retooled to equip 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.

Additionally, it is our unwavering belief that the seminary's determination to exist for the local church is biblically mandated and denominationally needed. We are confident that as we strengthen Christ's church, He will strengthen us. Our biblical mandate calls us to train actual, committed servants for the church, and it is exactly this that we will pour all of our energies and resources into doing.

It is not lost on this seminary's administration that our mission 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. So goes the pulpit, so goes the church; and so goes the ministry of the Word, so goes the equipping of the saints for the service of the church. From an institutional vantage point, we are placing renewed emphasis upon 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.

When we further contemplate what has taken place at the seminary over the past year, it is clear to see the Lord's evident blessings. Institutional momentum on every front continues to progress forward at a brisk pace within the denomination and greater evangelical world. Exciting things are happening by the week, and God is giving us grace to strengthen the things that remain.

Among the many exciting events aforementioned, two stand out: the dedication of the Spurgeon Library and the SBC & the 21st Century symposium.

It brought me significant personal and institutional joy to dedicate the Spurgeon Library and Jenkins Hall on Oct. 20, after some eight months of construction. The Spurgeon Library is the fulfillment of a vision to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ for the academy, for the church, and for the glory of God through the preservation and presentation of Charles Spurgeon's personal library and related artifacts. This amazing facility was made possible by the incredible generosity of Bill and Connie Jenkins, of Paoli, Ind. Making the event all the more memorable was that we were able to play host to three of Charles H. Spurgeon's descendants—Hilary Spurgeon, the wife of the late great-grandson, David; as well as Richard Spurgeon and Susannah Spurgeon-Cochrane, the great-great-grandchildren—all of whom made the trip to Kansas City from the United Kingdom.

The Spurgeon Library houses more than 6,000 books and artifacts from C.H. Spurgeon's personal library collection. Focal points of the room include a preaching rail, a desk used by Spurgeon in his office, and a replica of the pulpit he preached behind at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London. Spurgeon embodied all that is right about biblical ministry and all that the contemporary church must recover in the 21st century: biblical faithfulness, evangelistic fervor, self-sacrificial ministry, power in the pulpit, social awareness, and defense of the faith.

The "SBC & the 21st Century," held on Sept. 28-29, was the first of a triennial series of symposiums dedicated to addressing significant issues about the SBC and its future. Keynote speakers included Dr. Frank Page, Dr. Ronnie Floyd, Dr. Thom Rainer, Dr. David Dockery, Dr. Albert Mohler, and Dr. Paige Patterson and myself. The goal for the symposium was to offer insight and assessment of the SBC and its future; and in planning the event, we believed the need for addressing such issues was self-evident, and we pray the results will make a substantial contribution at every level of the SBC moving forward. In addition to the presentation, a partnership was formed with B&H Academic on a book project comprised mostly of the presentations delivered at the symposium. Additional chapters will be contributed by Dr. David Platt, Dr. Danny Akin, Dr. Walter Strickland, Dr. Collin Hansen, and Dr. Justin Taylor. The book will be available to the general public at the SBC's annual meeting in June 2016.

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 that the Lord has brought Dr. Owen Strachan to serve as Associate Professor of Christian Theology & director of the Center for Theological and Cultural Engagement after serving at Boyce College for a number of years. Dr. Strachan brings valuable insight about today's cultural climate and biblical integrity in this area to our faculty, and his reach goes well beyond our denomination as he serves as president of the Council on Biblical Manhood & Womanhood. We also are pleased to announce the largest fall enrollment in the seminary's history. In fact, this past spring, our accreditor, the Association of Theological Schools, named Midwestern Seminary as one of the fastest growing seminaries in North America. Our doctoral program continues to expand at a robust rate with its modular format appealing to students from across the nation; and the first 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. Midwestern Seminary and Midwestern Baptist College's online presence continues to grow 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 You program, all of our online courses have been tailored to meet students' individual ministry education and training needs.

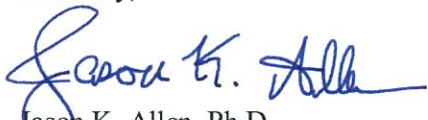
Within our Institutional Administration division, the Lord has allowed us to continue to increase our financial health. In light of the fiscal challenges associated with theological education, we are cautious to steward this area of responsibility with utmost care. Our business model operates in a way that appropriately stewards and maximizes the overwhelming generosity of Southern Baptists and makes the work of training students for gospel service possible. We are well-aware that Midwestern Seminary could not exist without the faithful giving of Southern Baptists. 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 50 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 the people of the Southern Baptist Convention know of the immense gratitude Midwestern Seminary has 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/branding and advancement have continued to be blessed by the Lord and extremely fruitful. Enrollment and retention are the lifeblood of an institution, and we take this stewardship responsibility

very seriously. 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. Additionally, our Midwestern Training Network continues to grow almost daily, as we now partner with more than 100 churches across the region – providing educational opportunities for those who are unable to uproot from their current ministry settings for full-time, on campus training. The ultimate aim of this division is that more pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and ministers will be thrust into Kingdom service well into the future. Another way this is accomplished is through the launching of a valuable resource called FTC.com. This website has seen over a million visitors in its six months of existence, as it is daily providing useful articles, wisdom and insight on topics and issues facing today’s ministry leaders. Our Institutional Relations staff truly understands the necessity of recruiting, admissions, retention, and promoting Midwestern Seminary in today’s theological education environment. Lastly, but certainly not least, is the incredible financial blessing the Lord has provided through the work of our Advancement team. This past summer, Midwestern Seminary received the largest gift in school history – a \$7 million lead gift toward a student center from Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mathena of Oklahoma City. The need for a campus student center has been evident since the school’s inception in 1957. This extraordinarily generous gift has enabled our administrative team to move forward with campus master planning and has turned the dream of a student center into an impending reality in the not-so-distant future. Additionally, other extremely kind seminary friends have substantially supported the school’s Legacy Fund, which make 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 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*. 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. This institution will continue to be faithful to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention and 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 a large initial "J" and "A".

Jason K. Allen, Ph.D.

President

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary