



**Cooperative Program:**

- 1. SBC entities, especially those which receive Cooperative Program funding, share an equal responsibility in promoting and advancing the Cooperative Program, in compliance with the Business and Financial Plan, Section VI, Part C (*Cooperative Program Promotion – Each Convention entity shall report on its efforts during the year in promoting Cooperative Program missions giving*). Providing examples, please describe Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's (SBTS's) commitment to promote the Cooperative Program.**

Since the advent of the Cooperative Program, it has served as a tangible expression of the partnership between Southern Baptists and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. From the first conversation with a prospective student to alumni gatherings, Southern seeks to instill gratitude for and commitment to the cooperating churches of the SBC and the furtherance of the Cooperative Program. The seminary works to promote the Cooperative Program internally in several ways. Prospective students learn during the admissions process how Cooperative Program giving makes their education affordable. As part of their degree requirements, Master's level students take a course entitled "Southern Baptist Heritage and Mission." One of the main objectives of this course is to instill a love for Southern Baptists and their cooperative efforts.

Non-master's students are required to complete a comprehensive online course educating them about the function and purpose of the Cooperative Program toward fulfilling the Great Commission. Weekly chapel speakers, drawn from primarily SBC churches, as well as special events, remind students regularly of the bond between Southern Seminary and the SBC. Finally, students are regularly reminded during the year, and graduates are particularly reminded during commencement services, how their education was provided in part from the countless hands of Southern Baptists through the provisions of the Cooperative Program. Externally, faculty and administration regularly speak in Southern Baptist churches, connecting the seminary with the local churches who support our mission. The annual meeting of the SBC, as well as numerous state conventions, also serves as a critical venue by which Southern Seminary leadership, faculty, and students engage with the convention and convey our gratitude.

- 2. How effective is SBTS in creating an awareness and appreciation for the Southern Baptist Convention and its model for cooperative missions and cooperative funding among the student body? What level of confidence does SBTS have that its graduates will continue to engage in SBC missions and ministries and support funding these ministries through the Cooperative Program?**

Just as every generation of Christians must appropriate the truths of the gospel for themselves, the rising generation of Southern Baptists must embrace the commitment to cooperative missions and funding. At Southern Seminary, we are proud of the efforts we have made so far to ensure the rising generation of pastors and ministry leaders understand the importance of the Cooperative Program and the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.



One of the best indicators of what our future graduates will do is what our recent graduates are doing. At Southern, we are proud to see graduates participating in Southern Baptist life through a variety of avenues from associational directors to state executives and entity heads. Most importantly are the local church pastors who, as graduates of this institution, are building on the foundation of commitment to the SBC laid during their time at Southern Seminary.

- 3. Please articulate for Southern Baptists how SBTS perceives the role of the Cooperative Program in funding theological education. What value does SBTS place upon its partnership with Southern Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program?**

The purpose and influence of the Cooperative Program permeate every endeavor at Southern Seminary. Southern exists to fulfill its mission of training students for ministry within Southern Baptist Churches and could not do so without the continued support of Southern Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program. Our desire is to serve the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by offering the best theological education available to the students they send us and then deploying those students back out into the congregations.

- 4. Please give examples of how SBTS operates within the guidelines of the SBC Business and Financial Plan as described in Section VI, Part D (*No Financial Appeals to Churches – In no case shall any Convention entity approach a church for inclusion in its church budget or appeal for financial contributions*).**

The Institutional Advancement office of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary does not solicit contributions from any Southern Baptist congregation. That is our longstanding policy, consistent with the Cooperative Program and the SBC Business and Financial Plan. This policy is consistently maintained and applied.

### **Ethnic Participation**

- 5. This past year a motion was made by Leroy Fountain asking the Executive Committee to give a progress update to ten recommendations adopted by the SBC in 2011 with respect to ethnic church and ethnic church leader participation in Southern Baptist life. The 2011 recommendation that specifically refers to our SBC entities is as follows:**

**“The Executive Committee to request from the Southern Baptist Convention entities to submit as part of its annual ‘data call’ [as described in Bylaw 18. E [12] a descriptive report of participation of ethnic churches and church leaders in the life and ministry of the respective SBC entity.”**

**Given this context, and using previous years’ submissions to this question as a model, please give a robust descriptive report of ethnic participation, including active involvement of ethnic churches and church leaders, across all levels and aspects of SBTS’s ministry—such things as senior**



**administrative staff, other professional staff, faculty, student body, support staff, other customer facing representatives, and written and spoken language resources—demonstrating progress, if any, in ethnic participation over the past eight years, 2011–2019.**

In all areas of the institution, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to ethnic diversity in our administrative staff, faculty, and student body. Ethnic diversity within the student body continues to grow. Our Online Hispanic Program increased by 20% to a total of 287 students. Felipe Castro continues efforts to recruit and promote Southern Seminary in the Spanish-speaking world, not only within the United States but also in Central and South America. Our faculty also continues speaking at events and conferences around the world as well as leading mission trips to various countries.

Dr. Dominick Hernandez continues his dual appointment as Director of the Online Hispanic Program and Assistant Professor of Old Testament. The program continues to grow not only in students and hours sold but also in course offerings taught by our faculty entirely in Spanish from Drs. John Klaassen, Miguel Nunez, Dominick Hernandez, and Juan Sanchez.

Southern Seminary embraces ethnic diversity through its curriculum by offering doctoral and master's degrees with concentrations in Black Church Leadership and Urban Ministry. The Master of Divinity in Missions and Evangelism (Great Commission Ministries) is offered entirely in Spanish. Other individual courses are taught in Spanish to provide students with additional curricular options to prepare for engagement in ethnic ministries throughout the SBC. The leadership of Southern Seminary remains committed to expanding its efforts and is continually evaluating the possibility of needed and viable program expansions to serve the needs of a growing number of ethnically diverse Southern Baptist churches.

### **Caring Well Response**

#### **6. How is SBTS making an effort to protect against sexual abuse? How will SBTS integrate aspects of Caring Well in its policies and practices, and engage across SBTS's broad constituency?**

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to the highest standards of care for every member of the seminary community and to preparing ministers of the gospel and servants of Christ to fulfill this responsibility wherever they are called and however they serve. The challenge of sexual abuse is a particularly urgent challenge, especially to Christians and our churches. Southern Seminary has made abuse awareness, prevention, and care a top institutional priority. We require all students, faculty, and staff to complete MinistrySafe, a third-party training and assessment tool. Furthermore, Southern Seminary has clear policies on all matters appropriate for such an institution, including mandatory reporting of the abuse of minors and other reporting responsibilities and instructions for care published in our student and employee handbooks. The seminary's policies and procedures have recently undergone a thorough legal review in order to make certain that all



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policies are appropriate, complete, and up to date. In this light, policies now even more thoroughly define reporting responsibilities and the procedure for reporting any abuse or suspected abuse. This policy is regularly re-communicated to the campus community through all available means.

Since the 2018 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, Southern Seminary has continued to make our commitment clear. Mrs. Garnetta Smith has been appointed as the seminary's Women's Support Coordinator, a cabinet-level position that functions as liaison and support for all women on campus, and with particular responsibility to women who experience or are aware of any harassment or abusive behavior.

Southern Seminary is committed to work fully with the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group and has gratefully received their report and findings and has also received the "Caring Well" curriculum and will be using this material as a useful resource in the preparation for curriculum and training for students, faculty, and staff.

### **Metrics**

- 7. What has proven to be SBTS's most reliable metric for indicating future accomplishments or challenges across all SBTS's ministry assignments? Why is that metric the most important to watch relative to specific ministry assignments?**

The percentage of total enrollment comprised by our Master of Divinity program forms our most reliable metric for evaluating the status of our academic programs. The Master of Divinity is our central degree program for preparing Southern Baptist pastors for churches, church planting, and mission work both at home and abroad. Southern Seminary currently has more M.Div. students than any Master of Divinity program in the history of Southern Baptist seminaries.