

# 2020 Goals and Accomplishments

Please describe accomplishments, relative to each of your convention assigned Ministry Assignments, in the past year that create "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary receives.

## **I. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.**

L.R. Scarborough College, the undergraduate school of The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, seeks to provide the highest quality undergraduate education to prepare students for service in the church, marketplace, mission field, and beyond. For the 549 students enrolled in the 2018-19 academic year, Scarborough combined a classical curriculum with Christian orthodoxy based on the Bible to cultivate students with a biblical worldview and a globally focused vision for life and ministry. This past academic year, Scarborough College launched two new degree programs — the Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies and the Bachelor of Arts in Humanities.

The faculty of Scarborough College is composed of scholar-ministers who have published widely in their respective academic disciplines and who serve the local church in various capacities, with many coming to their faculty roles from church ministry positions. Students at Scarborough College, therefore, benefit not only from faculty members with impressive academic achievements, but also with extensive practical ministry experience. Unlike some undergraduate schools, 100 percent of Scarborough College full-time faculty have earned terminal doctoral degrees in their respective fields of study.

In addition to rigorous academics, students at Scarborough College are part of a vibrant community with student life activities fashioned to shape their Christian faith. With opportunities ranging from dorm meetings to twice-weekly chapel services, Scarborough College students are regularly encouraged to participate in the broader spiritual life of Southwestern Seminary as well as to be active participants in the life of local churches during their studies. Additionally, students are strongly encouraged to participate in at least one international mission trip while pursuing their academic degree. Through spiritual life and missions involvement, students are able live their callings while they pursue their education, rather than simply waiting until completion of their studies.

## **II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.**

The primary purpose of The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is to provide theological education for individuals engaging in Christian ministry. At the heart of that calling is the training of pastors for the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. The seminary does much in addition to training future pastors, but it will never do anything more urgent and critical than providing more faithful ministers for the local church. The core academic degree for the training of pastors is the Master of Divinity degree, offered through the various graduate schools of the seminary. These schools also offer other master's degrees in various disciplines of service to the local church, including theology, church music and worship, educational ministries, biblical counseling, missiology, apologetics and philosophy, and various other specialized academic programs. For the 2018-19 academic year, 2,342 students were enrolled in master's degree programs offered both residually as well as through distributed learning.

## **III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.**

The purpose of the professional doctoral programs (Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry) at The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is to provide advanced professional training beyond the master's degree level for individuals engaging in Christian ministry. As doctoral degree programs, students enrolled are expected to pursue a high standard of expertise in ministry reflection and practice. Students are challenged to think biblically and critically about practices of ministry and to articulate and demonstrate a robust biblical and theological vision for ministry practice. D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. concentrations include church revitalization (added in

the 2019-2020 academic year), text-driven preaching, pastoral leadership, international and North American missions, biblical counseling, educational leadership, family ministry, childhood ministry leadership, and student ministry leadership. During the 2018-19 academic year, 310 students were enrolled in professional doctoral programs at Southwestern Seminary.

#### **IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.**

The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary offers the Doctor of Philosophy degree through all five of its graduate schools and offers the Doctor of Musical Arts degree through the School of Church Music and Worship. For the 423 students enrolled in research doctoral programs at Southwestern Seminary during the 2018-19 academic year, these programs prepared persons of exceptional ability to serve as teachers in specialized areas of theology and as pastors, chaplains, denominational leaders, or authors. The Ph.D. program emphasizes the attainment of expertise in a theological discipline, resting upon competence in both biblical and modern languages and demonstrated through quality research and critical evaluative skills, resulting in a significant contribution to the student's chosen field of study. Ph.D. study requires a high degree of originality, independence, analytical research, judgment, and skill in articulating research findings.

**Based on each of SWBTS' Convention assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2020 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how SWBTS is accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?**

#### **I. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.**

Founded in 2005, Scarborough College is still establishing itself as a well-known option for distinctively Christian undergraduate education. Both our faculty and our recruiting team are working tirelessly to engage high school students and parents in the Fort Worth-Dallas Metroplex and beyond to introduce them to degree programs and student life experience offered by Scarborough College. As we continue our conscientious commitment not to participate in governmental (Title IV) funding, we will need to carefully monitor and structure Scarborough College to make sure we are able to deliver a program that is the highest in academic quality and is competitively priced. We continue to monitor the need for new academic degrees and program concentrations to expand opportunities for future students at Scarborough College.

#### **II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.**

Southwestern Seminary is committed to offering the highest quality theological education that is both affordable and accessible. In an age of unprecedented technological advance, we currently have a wider variety of delivery methods for theological education than we have had at any point in our history. This reality opens a host of opportunities for students to pursue theological education while serving in a local church or serving on the mission field. While embracing this fact, we remain institutionally committed to the primacy of a residential model of theological education. It is undeniable that something unique and distinct happens when students are in a classroom together with a professor engaged in "life on life" education and discipleship. Southwestern Seminary will continue to grow our distributed learning pathways while working to revitalize on-campus theological education at Seminary Hill.

#### **III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.**

Professional doctoral programs offer unique educational opportunities for students who have already earned a master's degree and gained a level of practical ministry experience. As those currently serving in ministry know,

the culture is rapidly changing and we must be willing to assess and adapt our methods in order to be as effective as possible in reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Just this year, we launched a new concentration in Church Revitalization for our Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry programs. In partnership with the newly-established Center for Church Revitalization at Southwestern Seminary as well as state convention partners, we are pleased to offer a cohort-based program for those who seek to be better equipped in helping legacy churches experience renewal and revival. We continue to seek new opportunities to offer advanced professional degree programs to serve those actively engaged in Christian ministry.

**IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.**

Southwestern Seminary's Doctor of Philosophy program coursework is now delivered in both residential and flexible access formats, affording students the opportunity to pursue fully-accredited research doctoral education from anywhere in the world. Our research doctoral programs over the past year have experienced renewed growth, and we are currently in the process of evaluating concentrations, program structures, and delivery methods in order to build a culture focused on the highest level of Christian scholarship in service to Christ and the church.