



## 2019 Southwestern Ministry Inquiries

### Cooperative Program:

1. With an understanding that SBC entities which receive Cooperative Program funding share an equal responsibility to promote and advance the Cooperative Program, please give a description of efforts to promote the Cooperative Program both internally and externally as Southwestern engages Southern Baptists.

Southwestern promotes the Cooperative Program through events and classes which impact students from the point of matriculation through graduation. The administration extols the virtues of the Cooperative Program when addressing new students at orientation each year and first year students learn the value of the Cooperative Program in required courses on spiritual formation. In the second and third years of the master's degrees, the Cooperative Program is again promoted through the Baptist history class as well as through the pastoral ministry class. Students can also learn of the benefits of the Cooperative Program through advanced electives in stewardship. At the point of graduation, all students and external constituents in attendance are reminded of the value of the Cooperative Program through an announcement made both orally and in writing that communicates the exact dollar amount of the education for the graduating class that was provided by the Cooperative Program. The president and professors and recruiters also regularly promote the Cooperative Program when visiting local Southern Baptist Churches.

2. a. How effective is Southwestern 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 Southwestern have that its graduates will continue to engage in SBC missions and ministries and support funding these ministries through the Cooperative Program?

Southwestern is highly effective in creating an awareness and appreciation for the Southern Baptist Convention and its model for cooperative missions and cooperative funding. The values of the Southern Baptist Convention are presented through the Baptist Heritage course, pastoral ministry courses, and stewardship courses. The president and the speakers he selects, regularly promote the values of the Southern Baptist Convention through chapel services and special events. The SBC model for cooperative missions and cooperative funding is presented as an essential element of the seminary's Introduction to Missiology course. Within this course, students learn about this model from professors who have directly benefitted from this model during their times of service with the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board. Southwestern has a high level of confidence that the above measures ensure that its graduates will continue to engage and invest in SBC missions and ministries.

- b. Please describe in detail the terminology you and your team use to help students and personnel to understand the value of the SBC Business and Financial Plan VI, section D. “In no case shall any convention entity approach a church for inclusion in its church budget or appeal for financial contributions.” Please provide anecdotal examples of students making the discovery that the Cooperative Program methodology is amazing and a gift from the Lord.

Southwestern’s Office of Institutional Advancement conducts training with every development officer. This training specifies that they “are never to solicit funds directly from the churches of the SBC.” The Office of Institutional Advancement also never appeals to the churches of the SBC directly through any mail or email communication.

Every semester, numerous students develop a new appreciation for the Cooperative Program methodology through the Baptist history, pastoral ministry, and stewardship courses. Of particular note, every semester, the amount of Cooperative Program funding provided for the graduates is spotlighted during the graduation ceremony. This results in a number of conversations between students and graduates and graduates and their families about the amazing contribution of the Cooperative Program to the SBC seminaries.

3. Please articulate for Southern Baptists how Southwestern perceives the role of the Cooperative Program to fund theological education. What value does Southwestern place upon its partnership with Southern Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program?

Southwestern sees Cooperative Program funding as absolutely essential to the provision of theological education. The institution was founded in 1908 to provide theological education for preachers who would reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The institution’s one hundred and ten year history of faithfulness to this task has been made possible only by the generosity of the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program.

4. How does Southwestern benefit from and utilize CP funds to help fulfill its ministry assignments?

Although Southwestern has a student body size of 3,966 and the blessing of an endowment given directly to the institution by faithful individuals and churches over the course of its history, the institution is only able to provide its high quality education due to the generous funding of the Cooperative Program. While tuition and endowment income are important to the operation of the institution, having a third consistent income source from the Cooperative Program provides a firm foundation for the operational budget. Each year approximately 15% of Southwestern’s total income is provided by the Cooperative Program. This support is essential to the continued operation of the seminary. In a national culture where esteem is dropping

rapidly for the biblical education of God-called men and women for ministries which fulfill the Great Commission and glorify God, Southwestern depends on Cooperative Program funding to provide affordable education for the students the local churches send to us. Our founding fathers and subsequent administrations wisely chose not to seek government funding to supply the lifeblood of seminary operations, instead trusting the Lord to provide what is needed for operation through His people. This relationship with the churches of the SBC ensures the continued operation of the seminary, regardless of the degradation of the surrounding culture.

### **Ethnic Participation**

5. Over the past 12 months, (2017 – 2018) has Southwestern seen changes (increase or decrease) in the number of ethnic leaders among the faculty and within the student body? Please provide an update.

The faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has an ethnic diversity that approximately matches the diversity of Southern Baptist churches. Ethnic minorities represented among the current faculty include African-American, Korean, Hispanic, Chinese, German, Jewish, and others. The faculty diversity this year is very similar to the faculty diversity last year (23 in 2016-2017, 26 in 2017-2018).

A large ethnic minority exists at the institution among the student population. Southwestern's online Master of Theological Studies program is offered entirely in Spanish to provide education for the growing Hispanic population in the United States and for Spanish-speaking ministers in other countries. Southwestern's Financial Aid Office offers minority student scholarships to all qualifying ethnic students. Overall, the number of ethnic students enrolled at Southwestern this year closely matches the number of ethnic students enrolled last year (1,704 in 2016-2017, 1,735 in 2017-2018).

### **Mental Health Resource**

6. In response to a Ronnie Floyd motion, June 2013, Houston, TX, requesting that the Executive Committee and SBC Entities assist churches with mental health ministries, the Executive Committee appointed an advisory group, Fall 2013, to determine ways in which Southern Baptist entities and Southern Baptist churches can best help those who are in need of mental health assistance. The final report of this advisory group was presented to Dr. Frank S. Page, Fall 2014.

In the 2015 and 2016 Ministry Report(s) the following question was asked of each SBC entity:

Please give a progress report on what your seminary has implemented to assist Southern Baptist churches with training and equipping people with mental health challenges and how will your seminary continue to seek ways to work in cooperation with SBC entities and others to address the severe challenges imposed by mental illness?

For the 2019 Ministry Report please provide the following:

If Southwestern feels that reporting on this subject is within its purview, or falls within the scope of its ministry assignment(s), or has made any progress in the area of assisting churches with training and equipping people with mental health challenges, or has developed or identified resources to assist Southern Baptist churches in the area of mental health ministry, please provide a detailed progress report.

Southwestern continues to provide assistance to local churches working with people with mental health challenges through two main avenues. First, the institution's Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling is designed to train counselors for the local church who are equipped to speak the truth of God's Word to those with mental health challenges. This degree program presently has three full-time faculty dedicated to instruction in this area. Student enrollment stands at 113. Second, Southwestern continues to offer conferences each year to assist local church staff and laity in the development of skills necessary to address mental health challenges.

7. What specific efforts is Southwestern making to protect against sexual abuse?

Southwestern's trustees and administration have taken a firm stance that seeks to protect all Southwestern community members from sexual abuse. Public statements by trustees and the interim president in May 2018 specifically "denounced all abusive behavior, any behavior that enables abuse, any failure to protect the abused, and any failure to safeguard those who are vulnerable to abuse."

In an effort to establish a work environment in keeping with that public statement, Southwestern's administration required all Southwestern employees to complete sexual harassment prevention training. This was accomplished with 100% compliance by end of August for all summer and fall employees.

Southwestern's efforts to protect the student body include a strong position on abuse in the seminary's ethical conduct policy. This policy condemns, "Behavior, verbal, physical, or emotional, which is demeaning, harassing, or abusive of another person; and behavior that is profane or vulgar." The policy further details reporting expectations as follows:

In the attempt to make this a truly responsible and redemptive community, it is expected that students, faculty, administration, and staff will jointly accept the responsibility of reporting such actions as may be unacceptable, unethical, or detrimental to a Christian academic community or to the ministries that they serve. All apparent violations of the ethical conduct policies are to be reported to the Vice President for Student Services for timely investigation and such action as may be necessary.

In spring 2019, Southwestern will partner with MinistrySafe to provide child sexual abuse prevention training for Southwestern students. All employees who interact with children are already required to complete this training.

Southwestern also protects against sexual abuse through the employment of a campus police department, who are well equipped to correctly handle any accusation of sexual abuse. Salient features of the police department's efforts in this area include: safety training for all dorm residents every semester, police officer training on non-stranger sexual assault by the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office, women's self-defense training, and the establishment of a special sexual assault allegation team, who are particularly trained to interact with all Southwestern persons making an allegation of sexual assault.

8. What has proven to be Southwestern's most reliable metric indicating future accomplishments of, or challenges to Southwestern across all of its ministry assignments? Why is that metric the one Southwestern believes is most important to watch relative to specific ministry assignments? Southwestern's mission is to assist the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by the biblical education of God-called men and women for their respective ministries, which fulfill the Great Commission and glorify God. Given this mission to serve the local churches of the SBC, the most reliable metric for measuring success continues to be the number of graduates we send back to the local churches.