

**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 The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's (SWBTS's) commitment to promote the Cooperative Program.

Southwestern Seminary is deeply grateful for the faithful support we receive through the Cooperative Program from the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, which gifts are made possible by the sacrificial tithes and offerings of faithful Southern Baptists in our congregations. The central importance of the Cooperative Program is repeatedly proclaimed by President Adam W. Greenway, as cooperation – including the Cooperative Program – is one of four “pegs” of his “big tent” vision for Southwestern Seminary, articulated in his first Chapel address to the seminary community as president in the spring of 2019 and many times subsequently. Appreciation for the vital support of the Cooperative Program is regularly proclaimed by seminary administrators and faculty in their speaking engagements across the nation in churches, associations, and state conventions, specifically noting the importance of Cooperative Program funding in subsidizing the tuition of our students. In the seminary's promotional materials for prospective students, the value of the Cooperative Program scholarship resulting in a 50 percent discount in tuition is noted among other scholarship opportunities. Additionally, during each commencement, a statement is published in the commencement program thanking Southern Baptist churches for their CP support, including the exact amount of money from the Cooperative Program that supported that particular semester's graduates. Students also regularly hear affirmations of the Cooperative Program in the classroom, chapel services, and special events on Seminary Hill as a continual reminder of the importance of the Cooperative Program. Further, specific classes about the history, function, and funding of the Southern Baptist Convention include the history and current work of the Cooperative Program.

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

No faithful student of Southwestern Seminary will fail to regularly hear of the importance of the Cooperative Program during his or her course of studies. This administration is hopeful that the encouragement of Cooperative Program faithfulness that is repeatedly extolled on and from Seminary Hill will result in ministers who will lead their congregations to support with great generosity this God-given and God-honored mechanism for funding Southern Baptist missions and ministry.

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

Southern Baptist theological education is unique among the broader world of seminaries and divinity schools in many ways – biblically, theologically, ethically, etc. – and the generous funding provided through the Cooperative Program is one of the key differences. Consistently, Southern Baptist seminary tuitions and fees are among the lowest in theological education across the world because of the funding of Southern Baptists given faithfully through the Cooperative Program. Without the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptist theological education would be vastly more expensive for future ministers and missionaries, which would likely diminish significantly the number of available theologically educated ministers and missionaries. Southwestern Seminary is unalterably committed to our partnership with the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention since it is only because of those churches that we exist. Indeed, Southwestern Seminary joyfully affirms that it is the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention we are first called to serve in the training of their pastors, ministers, missionaries, and more. Southern Baptist congregations' faithful support of the Cooperative Program is a vital ongoing and undergirding link to Southwestern Seminary and our mission.

4. Please give examples of how SWBTS 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*).

This administration of Southwestern Seminary is committed always to operating within the guidelines of the SBC Business and Financial Plan, with all fundraising appeals falling with the guidelines of that plan. The seminary does not make direct appeals to churches for inclusion in their budgets or take other actions in violation of the SBC Business and Financial Plan.

### **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 SWBTS'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.

Southwestern Seminary is providentially located in the Fort Worth-Dallas Metroplex – one of the most ethnically diverse metropolitan areas of the nation. With that geographical setting – and the future hope of every “nation, tribe, people, and language” (Rev. 7:9 CSB) worshiping the Lamb – Southwestern Seminary is committed to doing all it can to serve ethnic churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by providing training and resources that meet their needs.

The seminary Board of Trustees is ably led currently by Chairman Philip Levant, pastor of Iglesia Bautista La Vid in Hurst, Texas, who has also given energy and insight to the institution's Hispanic Initiative Office, including participating in a recent conference for Hispanic pastors to make them aware of the seminary's resources and seek their participation in the life of the seminary. Southwestern Seminary offers the Master of Theological Studies degree in Spanish and both on-campus and fully online.

In addition to Spanish, Southwestern Seminary also offers other coursework in Korean, Mandarin, and Cantonese, including a Korean-language Doctor of Ministry degree. A vibrant international student life animates Seminary Hill, with international student fellowships for Korean, African, Chinese, and Indian students. The seminary's English Language Institute assists international students to become better prepared for the rigors of academic work in English as a second language. Southwestern Seminary students also are regularly exposed to the ministry of ethnic leaders through their participation in chapel worship services.

In the 2018-2019 academic year, there were 1,774 non-Anglo students enrolled, up from 1,735 in 2017-2018. In the spring of 2019, Southwestern Seminary trustees approved an institutional recalibration that included a reduction in the total number of full-time faculty. This necessary recalibration, however, did not negatively alter the percentage of non-Anglo faculty at Southwestern Seminary.

### **Caring Well Response**

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

Consistent with the objectives of the Caring Well initiative, Southwestern Seminary is committed to strengthening our policies in order to better protect students and the entire seminary community by creating a safer environment for all. To that end, we have taken the following steps in recent months:

- created a new administrative leadership position, Dean of Women, with responsibilities to include serving as the first point of contact for any women with concerns or complaints;
- updated admissions policies to prohibit anyone who is listed on a sex offender registry from being admitted as a student;
- reviewed and updated administrative, student, and personnel policies to ensure compliance with expectations for mandatory reporting;
- finalizing plans to implement sexual abuse awareness training for all faculty, staff, and students; and
- transitioning from a seminary campus security team to a campus police force consisting entirely of professional, sworn officers. After hiring a new chief of police with more than 30 years police experience, the seminary now has 12 sworn police officers with an average experience of nearly 30 years in major metropolitan departments and only 3 security officers, with plans to be 100 percent sworn officers during 2020. Previously, there were only 4 sworn officers with average experience of 4-5 years, none in major metro departments, and 14 security officers.

Southwestern Seminary supports all efforts in the life of the Southern Baptist Convention to better educate our churches – both ministers and members – about the biblical, moral, and legal obligations to oppose sexual abuse in our midst and to minister effectively to those harmed by such sinful activity.

## Metrics

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

The most important metric for the success of Southwestern Seminary is the enrollment of residential students pursuing the Master of Divinity degree as a percentage of the overall enrollment. Southwestern Seminary offers a comprehensive range of theological education, offering baccalaureate, graduate, and doctoral academic degrees to train men and women called to ministry to serve the many and diverse needs of the local church and the Southern Baptist Convention. Nevertheless, the core degree program of Southwestern Seminary is the Master of Divinity, offered primarily for the training of pastors for the local church, which has been the core mission of our school since its founding in 1908 by Baptist pastor and educator B.H. Carroll. Therefore, among all the good, necessary, and noteworthy ministry assignments undertaken by Southwestern Seminary, the best measure of our success is the degree to which training pastors for the local church remains central to our mission and work, and thereby the number of students who will graduate and serve as pastors of our Southern Baptist churches.