



SOUTHWESTERN

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Dear trustees of the SBC Executive Committee,

It is my great privilege to write to you with a ministry update from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. We are thankful, here in Fort Worth, for your leadership and trusteeship over so many of the administrative processes of the Southern Baptist Convention. You are in our prayers constantly.

The Lord Jesus Christ has richly blessed us this fall. He has bound, and continues to bind, the hearts of the Southwestern family together with a renewed zeal and focus on our mission to equip the next generation of Southern Baptist leaders for the various ministries to which He has called them. In addition to His gracious provision of a strong incoming class from 25 countries, speaking 13 different languages, we just commissioned and sent out over 270 new graduates at our commencement this December. And though we are thankful for these who have come and these who have been sent, we are not satisfied with past trends but wait expectantly, while we redouble our efforts in recruitment and retention, for the Lord to bring even more to train at Seminary Hill. Throughout the semester, faculty, students and staff told me about the renewed spiritual vitality in Chapel. Faculty from sister seminaries communicated to various members of the Southwestern family that they and their colleagues were praying for Southwestern in these days. These and many more mercies have been poured out on us by our Lord this semester. May I tell you about the kind of place Southwestern is today?

Southwestern is a place where the authority of the Bible for doctrine and practice is celebrated. We remain steadfastly committed to the Scriptures. They inform every aspect of what we do and how we do it at Southwestern Seminary. At Southwestern, theology undergirds practice. As I tell my systematic theology classes each semester, the most important thing you will ever think is what you think when you think about God, because it will determine every other aspect of your existence.

Southwestern is a place where disciples are made from the nations for the nations. Southwestern students come from all over the world for a few years of intensive, transformational training that will remain with them throughout a lifetime of ministry. As Southwestern graduates, they are dispersed among every tribe and nation of the world. This is what our fifth president, Dr. Robert Naylor, meant when he said, “The sun never sets on Southwestern Seminary.” At all hours of the day, all over the world, Southwestern graduates are making disciples of all nations.

Southwestern is a place where all Southern Baptists are welcome. We would not have it any other way. After all, it is the generosity of all Southern Baptists that comes to us through the

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Post Office Box 22040 | Fort Worth, Texas 76122 | 817.923.1921 ext. 3010 | FAX: 817.923.0610 | www.swbts.edu

Cooperative Program, support for which we are deeply thankful. Southwestern's culture is not defined by this or that theological position preferred by some but not by all Southern Baptists. We are committed to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, not one particular viewpoint permitted by it.

By God's grace we continue to hone our recruitment and retention strategies. Our faculty is currently in the process of revising and updating the Southwestern MDiv, making it more effective and efficient. As always this exceptional and experienced group of men and women dedicate themselves to teaching and mentoring our students. Southwestern faculty live out their classroom instruction alongside our students in the coffee shop, at their churches and with their families. Our students see how biblical content and doctrine transforms practice, deepens piety, increases spiritual vitality and kindles a passion for making disciples.

Southwestern is a place where once you are a member of our family, you are always family. When our students arrive at orientation to begin their first semester of classes, I let them know that they are now Southwesterners. When our students graduate, I let them know that anyone who holds one of our degrees will always be a part of the Southwestern family. This means that whether on campus or off campus, as current students or as graduates, Southwestern stands ready to assist them as members of our family. Whether this is with books from our library, with the expertise of our faculty, with the ministry service of our students or with our constant prayers for them, for their families and for their congregations, their Southwestern family is here when they need us.

May I invite you to visit our campus? I would love for you to see what decades of generosity from the Cooperative Program and our ministry partners have provided for the work of the kingdom here in Fort Worth. Such generosity equips us so that year after year we can continue to make disciples from the nations for the nations.

You are welcome here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. Bingham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

D. Jeffrey Bingham
Interim President