



SOUTHWESTERN

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

January 12, 2017

Executive Committee
Southern Baptist Convention
901 Commerce St. Ste. 700
Nashville, TN 37203-3629

Dear Executive Committee Members:

Below I give my report of what is transpiring at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In the short space that I have, there is no way adequately to tell the story, but let me simply hit a few highlights. The rumor has been that we have been losing enrollment. That is not true. We have lost quite a number of Cooperative Program supported students because we have placed a much heavier emphasis on personal evangelism, and that appears not to be popular these days. However, what is more important is that through our *Global Theological Innovation* program we now have 137 seminaries and campuses involved in our seminary consortium. Not only are we making more than 100,000 library volumes available (that they have never had before) to each of these campuses, but also we are welcoming their students, who will be the future professors at those seminaries. Because they do not count for cooperative program funds, not being Southern Baptists, they do not show up on our count of Cooperative Program assistance. But they are coming in remarkable numbers. The total number of students on the campus includes more than eight hundred students from around the world. Until such time as our future pastors show an interest in evangelism, we are happy to continue making this contribution even though it costs the Seminary more. Our Chinese Theological Studies Initiative is off the ground and running, and we have faculty and staff personally translating the gospel into the Mandarin language.

Mathena Hall will be completed by the summer. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for October 18, 2017. This building will emphasize missions and evangelism and will house our Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions as well as our college. It comes with the most advanced technological methods of working externally with these students who only can come occasionally to the campus. This continues to be a major impact at Southwestern.

Further, regarding evangelism, our students and faculty have accounted for more than 1,800 professions of faith in the last three years. This does not include what they have done in their churches but only what has been done as a direct part of the ministry here at the school. This spring, our on-campus MDiv enrollment has actually grown, and we are grateful for that indication of the blessings of God since our requirements are considerably in excess of those in our other seminaries with the exception of one.

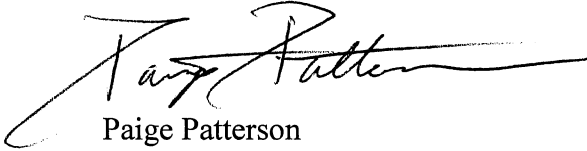
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We are very grateful for the Southern Baptist Convention and all that is done for us, but we are also very grateful for how God is using the school at this time internationally. To my knowledge, there has never been an international theological engagement that is anything like the one underway. Thank you for helping to make it a possibility also.

God's blessings upon you.

Until He comes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paige Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paige Patterson

PP:hs