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JOHN MATHENA, Chairman

JASON K. ALLEN, President

When submitting the yearly President's report, it always calls for a time to stop, reflect, and remember all that the Lord has done the previous year at Midwestern Seminary. It does not take long to recall God's incredible kindness in leading me to serve this great institution. I am constantly amazed to see what God is doing at MBTS, especially when I reflect upon our institution's history. I have learned much over the past seven years, but one thing I know to be emphatically true today is that God alone is worthy of the glory and honor.

One constant from the past seven years is that Midwestern Seminary has not strayed from its vision — *For the Church*. This is, and continues to be, why we exist. We are striving with all our God-given might to equip pastors, ministers, and missionaries for service in North American and international churches. This vision impacts everything we do, from the curriculum we teach to the culture we seek to cultivate, and it has been incredibly encouraging to see this vision take hold and spread throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

This past year has been particularly incredible in the life of our institution and for me personally. For the sake of clarity, I want to detail some of the significant happenings under the headings of how our institution is structured. Midwestern Seminary is comprised of three divisions: an academic division, an administrative division, and an institutional relations division.

Within academics, first, we praise God for another increase in student enrollment. Since 2010, the number of students has more than quadrupled — having over 4,000 students enrolled this fall — which is the largest number in the seminary's history. All glory be to Him for the growth at Midwestern Seminary over the past seven years. Pray that we will continue to steward these students well as we train them for service to our SBC churches, and ultimately, the kingdom of God.

Second, this year we welcomed three new faculty members to further equip us in providing the most effective training to our students. Dr. Jason DeRouchie of Bethlehem College and Seminary in Minneapolis was elected to Midwestern's faculty as research professor of Old Testament and Biblical Theology. In addition, Dr. Andrew King was elected the assistant dean of Spurgeon College and assistant professor of Biblical Studies. Finally, Dr. Thomas Kidd was hired as distinguished visiting professor of Church History.

Third, our M.Div. program, particularly at the residential level, continues to expand, and Midwestern Seminary and Spurgeon College's online presence also continues to increase at a rapid pace. This enables students from across the globe access to a state-of-the-art educational platform and the highest quality theological education. In addition, through our Online Connect program, all our online courses provide students with personalized access to mentors in the field and also meets their individual ministry education and training needs.

Fourth, in January we announced the addition of Fusion: North America to our current Fusion: International missions program at Spurgeon College. After a year of intentional preparation in evangelism and discipleship, students will spend their summer months serving in ministry alongside an IMB missionary or NAMB church planter. We are eager to see how expanding this program will positively impact our students, our partnership with IMB and NAMB, and our institution.

Fifth, in February, we announced the addition of two new Ph.D. emphases: biblical theology and biblical counseling. Student interest in the fields of biblical theology and biblical counseling has increasingly grown, and with the expertise of new faculty members, we are in a place to provide excellent scholarship that will prepare our students for a lifetime of serving well and faithfully for the church. Midwestern also launched the Masters of Arts in Biblical Counseling this year, shifting from an integrative approach to a biblical counseling approach that will better serve our institution's mission as we focus on training men and women for the local church.

Sixth, the third year of the Timothy Track M.Div. launched with its largest group to date (25 students). This has been a strong group of students, and they have indicated overwhelmingly that their experiences are helpful, substantial, and enjoyable. A continuing trend is that students are often citing the Timothy Track as a primary reason why Midwestern is at or near the top of their list of seminary choices, if not *the* reason why they choose to attend here.

Seventh, at our Spring trustee meeting, MBTS adopted the Nashville Statement as an additional confessional requirement. Relating to human sexuality and gender roles, this statement of faith expresses support for the biblical definition of marriage, for chastity outside of marriage, and for a link between biological sex and self-conception as male and female.

Eighth, the 65th commencement service on May 3, 2019, marked Midwestern's largest graduating class, conferring 218 degrees — 33 undergraduates, 153 graduates, 31 doctoral degrees, and one post-graduate degree. In addition, two students were among the first to complete Midwestern's Korean-language Ph.D. degree. We are thrilled to launch these theologically trained gospel ministers into kingdom service.

Ninth, this past November at ETS, MBTS was represented by more than 40 faculty members and doctoral students as they presented scholarly papers, the most from any one institution. High-level scholarship is amongst our training goals, and an excellent place for this to be showcased is the ETS annual meeting.

Next, within our Institutional Administration division, it is with a thankful heart that I can share that the Lord has allowed us to increase our financial strength. We continue to pursue a sustainable business model that appropriately stewards and maximizes the resources provided to us via the generosity of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program. We are well-aware that Midwestern Seminary could not exist, and fulfill its purpose to train men and women for the church, without the faithful giving of our churches. We pray that Southern Baptists will continue to faithfully channel these funds to their seminaries, and that God will continue to bless the efforts of His people through an ever-growing Cooperative Program. May the people of the Southern Baptist Convention know of the immense gratitude Midwestern Seminary has for all they have done and are doing to support the Lord's work here!

Second, at our Fall meeting, the trustees approved a \$2.5 million renovation project for our main research library. The three-story library building at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was constructed in 1958. Modifications to the library since then have been minor, and we desire our library to be modernized to facilitate a 21st century working and learning environment. The library project anticipates a total renovation of the existing facility and promises to create spaces for group and individual study, faculty offices, seminars, archives, and research centers. The project schedule targets completion during the summer of 2020 and restoration of full library operations in advance of the Fall 2020 semester. Our overarching desire in stewarding this resource is that the library would be a living instrument used to serve the church by equipping pastors and ministers of God's Word. We are grateful to God for this improvement of existing campus facilities and for the opportunity to make our campus more efficient and effective for

students. The Trustees also reviewed plans for a forthcoming renovation and addition to the Vivion House.

Fourth, Spurgeon College launched its first intercollegiate sports team through the NCCAA. The Spurgeon Knights basketball team is currently competing in its inaugural season. It has been a thrill to watch our students play under Coach Philip Parker's leadership, as the Midwestern community surrounds them in support and enthusiasm. In addition to men's basketball, we are overjoyed to announce that we will launch women's volleyball and men and women's soccer in the coming year.

Finally, within our third division, Institutional Relations, the first item of note is our flourishing in the fields of recruiting, admissions, marketing, retention and advancement — evidencing much fruit by the Lord's kindness. Our very best energies are spent expanding the mission and ministry footprint of the school through this department. Through this team's faithful efforts, we have reached record enrollment and seminary growth over the past seven years. The ultimate focus of this division is that more pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and ministers will be thrust into Kingdom service both in the present and well into the future.

Second, in June, during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, we hosted FTC Birmingham. The theme for the event was "The Future of Southern Baptist Ministry and Mission," and the panel included myself, Jamie Dew, Paul Chitwood, H. B. Charles, Jr., Ronnie Floyd, and Kevin Ezell. Almost 1,000 people attended the event, which allowed us to speak into current issues within the SBC and use our influence to positively impact the Convention.

Additionally, in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention, we hosted our annual Alumni and Friends luncheon. Typically, this event consists of institutional updates and a brief academic panel discussion. This year, we shifted our panel to encompass the idea of "Christianity and Culture" and used Dean Inserra's newest book as the fulcrum for our discussion. The panel discussed engaging nominal Christianity, and consisted of myself, Micah Fries, Dean Inserra, and Collin Hansen. Each year our Alumni and Friends luncheon awards a graduate with the *Alumnus of the Year* award, and this year, Dean Inserra was the honoree.

Third, on September 23-24, we held our national *For the Church* Conference in Kansas City. The conference sold out (1,100) and was a very edifying and encouraging time. Plenary speakers for the conference included myself, Crawford Loritts, Owen Strachan, Tony Merida, J. D. Greear, and Jared Wilson. Breakout speakers included Micah Fries, D. A. Horton, Christine Hoover, Dale Johnson, John Onwuchekwa, Dean Inserra, Dr. Andreas Köstenberger, Dr. Margaret Köstenberger, and many others.

Additionally, we were excited to launch our first-ever women's pre-conference to the annual *For the Church* Conference. While the main conference is geared toward pastors and ministry leaders (both men and women who serve in the local church), the pre-conference allows us to focus exclusively on women in ministry. Speakers included my wife, Karen Allen, as well as Abigail Dodds, Christine Hoover, and Trillia Newbell.

Fourth, our communications team helped design and launch the newest institutional resource website/podcast, which is hosted Dr. Andreas Köstenberger, called *The Center for Biblical Studies*. On this website, one will find hundreds of trusted resources concerning biblical studies. We are praying that this resource will grow and prove to be helpful to ministers as they seek to preach and teach God's Word to an ever-changing world.

Fifth, we have been blessed by many visiting scholars this year on Midwestern's campus. The Sizemore Lectures' guest this year was Dr. Peter Williams, principal of Tyndale House, who

addressed the topic of inerrancy and infallibility of the Scriptures. Dr. Denny Burk, director of the Center for Gospel and Culture at Boyce College and Southern Seminary, presented the C.W. Scudder Lectures on March 7. In the lecture, Burk addressed issues of homosexuality and transgenderism. On October 22-23, with a focus on preaching narrative texts, Dr. Don Carson delivered Midwestern's seventh annual Spurgeon Lectures on Biblical Preaching. To sit under the teaching of these men, who are among the most respected biblical scholars, was an inspiration to our seminary community.

It is undeniable that we share an incredible stewardship on behalf of Southern Baptists to train the next generation of pastors and ministry leaders *for the Church*. It is without hesitation that this institution will be faithful to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention and in fulfilling what they have charged us with by the way of ministry assignment and by the way of doctrinal convictions. We will strive to project forward and outward in our mission and ministry, and we will continually assess how our commitment to exist *For the Church* will direct us into the future. May we never cease to be thankful to God for the victories He has given us these past seven years, and may we never cease to serve Him in such a way that He is pleased to give us such victories going forward.

Sincerely,

Jason K. Allen, Ph.D.

President

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Ministry Goals and Accomplishments

(All SBC entities present informative ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February in compliance with the provisions of SBC Bylaw 18 E (12). Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has requested that the content of this report be taken from its 2020 Ministry Report, previously tendered to the Executive Committee.)

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

The mission of Spurgeon College is to educate the next generation of leaders to impact the world in the workforce. Spurgeon College will maintain its focus on biblically-based degrees as well as providing students with disciplines that can train them to work in the marketplace. Through its residential and online degree programs, Spurgeon College offers students a rigorous academic environment designed to prepare them for their ministry calling.

This past year, Spurgeon College experienced continued growth of its Accelerate program, which is designed to enable students to earn a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies and a Master of Divinity degree within five years. This program focuses on providing students the opportunity to engage more quickly in full-time ministry, while keeping their educational debt to a minimum.

Moreover, Spurgeon College shifted its B.A., Counseling Psychology degree to a B.A., Biblical Counseling. This new curriculum will provide a base of knowledge in the sufficiency of Scripture and its interpretation for the task of counseling and soul care, in service to the biblically mandated mission and ministries of the local church.

Additionally, to complement its B.A. degrees in Christian Ministry, Biblical Studies, Business Leadership, Intercultural Studies and Student Ministry, Spurgeon College added new Teaching and Communications degree options. Students may earn a B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies with emphases in either Elementary or Secondary Social Studies Education. In tandem with our partnership with Liberty University, these students may also earn their Master of Arts

in Teaching online in just one additional year. Spurgeon's B.A., Communications provides students specific training in journalism, public relations, rhetoric, visual communications, and several other communications-related disciplines.

Spurgeon College also continued development of its Fusion program. We launched Fusion: North America which takes the same robust missions training for international missions and applies it to our own continent. This tract equips and then sends students to train underneath and learn from church planters in some of the hardest-to-reach cities in North America. Upon returning to campus from service, Spurgeon College looks to retain these students, many of whom continue over the next three years to obtain a B.A. in Christian Ministry with a missions focus.

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

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is still committed to emphasizing the Master of Divinity degree as its primary track for ministry preparation. Additionally, our residential Master of Arts degree offerings train students theologically for multiple roles within ministry and serve those seeking more specialized training. Midwestern Seminary also offers multiple fully-online degrees for students needing a more flexible approach to theological education or are not in a position to relocate to our Kansas City campus.

In 2019, we had our largest Timothy Track M.Div. class yet with 25 students. Timothy Track enables residential students to earn their degrees and obtain invaluable ministry experience at the same time. By partnering with numerous local churches, Midwestern Seminary provides leadership experience for students within the context of the local church while concurrently studying to earn their M.Div. degree. The program also offers students significant cost savings in tuition through scholarships during their first year of study.

Additionally, we shifted our M.A., Christian Counseling degree to a M.A., Biblical Counseling. This new curriculum will provide a base of knowledge in the sufficiency of Scripture and its interpretation for the task of counseling and soul care, in service to the biblically mandated mission and ministries of the local church. The degree change better aligns with who we are as an institution that is for the church.

Once again, Midwestern Seminary expanded its online course offerings and degree programs in 2019 as well. This provides more opportunities for online students to practically apply their knowledge within a ministry context. Through practicum-based coursework, students work with ministry leaders in the field for hands-on ministry training. This education format further enables students to earn their degree via a program that is custom fit to their educational needs. Midwestern believes its quality online programs have many strengths for ministry training and seeks to provide further training through regular on campus interaction and with ministry leaders in their local areas.

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

Our doctoral program has continued to grow in health and numbers. Offering a modular format where students can maintain their current ministry work, students come to our Kansas City campus for a one week seminar and then complete other pre- and post-course research and writing through an online format. Concerning our professional doctorates (D.Min. and D.Ed.Min.), these tracks are designed for persons seeking high-level competence in the practice of pastoral and other ministry leadership roles within the local church. Students who typically take two to three seminars annually can continue ministering in their places of full-time ministry service while pursuing professional doctoral education.

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

The primary focus of the Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies degree is to prepare students to serve local churches as teachers, pastors, and leaders on the highest academic, professional, and spiritual level. The modular Ph.D. seminars involve five-day intensives held on Midwestern Seminary's campus and require significant pre-seminar and post-seminar research and writing. Similarly to our professional doctoral seminars, students taking two or three seminars yearly can remain in their places of full-time ministry service while pursuing research doctoral education.

Additionally, we added two new emphases to our Ph.D. program this past year: Biblical Theology and Biblical Counseling. We are confident that these two new emphases will help to train and develop students to be maximally prepared in both of these fields.

In 2019, we saw continued growth of our residential Ph.D. program known as "The Residency" which now has over 40 students. This cohort, led by Dr. Owen Strachan, directly benefits Ph.D. students by merging independent advanced theological research with mentorship and oversight — adding regular, intensive engagement with faculty and other theological leaders within the rhythm of the unique oncampus ministry culture of Midwestern. In this community context, The Residency continues to provide students with a unique avenue for following their calling to serve churches through the academy.

Based on each of MBTS' 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 MBTS is accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?

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

In 2020, Midwestern will have continued focus upon two programs (which are the same two we mentioned last year): Accelerate and Fusion. The reason we repeat the same two programs from last year is because these two programs are of vital importance to Spurgeon College. The Accelerate program enables students to get into their ministry context more quickly and affordably. This "fast track" allows qualified students to receive the best education they possibly can in the shortest amount of time.

Additionally, continued focus will be upon the Fusion program, which provides first-hand missions training and experience like no other opportunities. The Fusion: North America tract is needed and we are confident that it will give students a critical education when it comes to planting churches in North America. Additionally, new partnerships are constantly being explored for Spurgeon College. Overall, both of these programs present opportunity for Spurgeon College graduates and students to serve the church, both locally and across the globe, in ways that glorify God and interact positively with an everdeclining spiritual culture.

Spurgeon College implemented a fresh Contextualized Leadership Development Program, known as the FTC Institute, to position itself to better serve local churches and those who desire further theological training in those settings. The FTC Institute is a front door to Midwestern Seminary and Spurgeon College. Through conferences, church/organization partnerships, and forthcoming online features, the FTC Institute allows churches or individual Christians to drink from the vast pool of resources for the church available through Spurgeon College and Midwestern Seminary.

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

In 2020, Midwestern will, once again, place primary emphasis on the Master of Divinity degree, particularly the residential M.Div., as the gold standard degree for those seeking to serve local churches as pastors and ministry leaders. Through the Timothy Track, more residential students will be afforded the opportunity to obtain valuable, hands-on ministry experience while at the same time earning their degrees.

As mentioned last year, there is now an increased focus upon women's ministry concentrations. Students studying at Midwestern Seminary for a Master of Divinity degree can earn a concentration in women's ministry and those working toward degrees through the Midwestern Training Network can obtain a Master of Theological Studies with an emphasis in women's ministry. The main impetus for Midwestern Seminary in offering these degree concentrations is to more fully serve the local church, specifically in the area of women's ministry. Within the context of the seminary's mission of developing and maintaining strong local churches, that means we must properly educate and train members for service in each distinctive ministry within the church. Women have long-served vital areas within the local church and played key roles in spreading the gospel. These concentrations will afford them the opportunity to develop their God-given spiritual gifts and abilities to an even fuller extent.

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

Regardless of the many challenges facing higher education, cultural shift, or economics at home or abroad, Midwestern is committed to fulfilling its ministry assignment of providing affordable professional doctoral education. The professional doctorate is a key program that equips pastors and other ministry leaders to be on the front line of controversial issues concerning the church. A key to this is regular innovation and adaptation built upon Midwestern's core degree programs.

In 2020, Midwestern will continue to refine the format of modular doctoral seminars in its professional degrees (D.Min., D.Ed.Min.), as well as offer such in conjunction with other ministry partners to further equip ministers desiring professional doctoral education.

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

As stated in the above section, regardless of the many challenges facing higher education, cultural shift, or economics at home or abroad, Midwestern is committed to fulfilling its ministry assignment of providing affordable research doctoral education. We will continue to offer a Ph.D. program that is affordable and comprehensive. Advanced education, such as our professional doctorate and Ph.D. programs, are crucial in preparing ministers to boldly, yet winsomely, confront a lost and dying world.

In 2020, Midwestern will continue to refine the format of modular doctoral seminars as well as offer such in conjunction with other ministry partners to further equip ministers desiring research doctoral education. Last year, we introduced two new Ph.D. emphases in Biblical Counseling and Biblical Theology to broaden the scope of ministry training available to Ph.D. candidates. Additionally, we plan to continue to promote and invest in training through "The Residency," which will offer unique opportunities on campus for those able to relocate to our Kansas City campus.

ENROLLMENT

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Unduplicated headcount enrollment					
Prebaccalaureate (Dip-Ministering Wives)	28	39	56	46	60
CLD (taking Associate level courses)	71	129	160	222	418
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate)	365	398	483	562	579
Basic Degrees					
(MDiv, MACE, MACM, MACO, MA-)	795	1,000	1,256	1,526	1,735
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	682	971	1,056	1,169	1,208
Total	1,941	2,537	3,011	3,525	4,000
Credit Hours					
Prebaccalaureate (Dip-Ministering Wives)	57	84	95	74	139
CLD (taking Associate level courses)	405	525	710	773	687
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate)	6,647	6,940	8,159	9,357	10,622
Basic Degrees					
(MDiv, MACE, MACM, MACO, MA-)	9,147	12,022	14,670	17,531	19,131
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	3,896	4,925	5,948	6,833	7,427
Total	20,148	24,496	29,582	34,568	38,006
SBC Annual Formula FTE					
Annual Total	740	931	1,025	1,264	1,395
Three-year rolling average	602	743	899	1,073	1,228
New Student Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment					
Prebaccalaureate (Dip-Ministering Wives)	19	19	34	21	45
CLD (taking Associate level courses)	44	93	113	126	79
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate)	164	170	189	228	238
Basic Degrees					
(MDiv, MACE, MACM, MACO, MA-)	359	441	594	573	680
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	191	307	323	380	322
Total	777	1,030	1,253	1,328	1,364
Graduates					
Prebaccalaureate (Dip-Ministering Wives)	0	0	3	1	0
Undergraduate					
(Bachelor's & Associate [CLD graduates])	49	56	54	97	56
Basic Degrees					
(MDiv, MACE, MACM, MACO, MA-)	104	128	133	171	224
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	30	38	46	71	88
Total	183	222	236	340	368

Matter Referred by the Convention

During the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11–12, 2019, the Convention referred the following item to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: To request each SBC entity to provide an update on addressing abuse (Items 15 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, SBC Annual, p. 57, 63)

Motion: Phillip Bethancourt, Tennessee

“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects: what is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care; what additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; and how is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

Response: Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Spurgeon College are charged with the sacred trust of preparing God-called men and women for gospel ministry in and through the local church. The scourge of sexual abuse has long been a critical issue in the local church and we have taken aims to equip ministers to recognize sexual abuse, to accurately report such abuse when it occurs, and to train pastors, teachers, and leaders to prevent sexual abuse through best-practices policies and processes.

To this end, Midwestern Seminary and Spurgeon College contracted with MinistrySafe in 2018 and built their training into the onboarding of all students, faculty, and staff. Our mandated reporters receive training at various points of the year, and our Title IX Coordinators receive specialized training relating to sexual abuse under the direction of the Dean of Students annually.

Through the Dean of Students office, our institution coordinates with local churches and counseling ministries to provide care and healing for those experiencing the results of trauma caused by sexual abuse. Additionally, as part of our requirements related to federal guidelines published in the Clery Act and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, we regularly report to our constituencies our ongoing progress, training, and even incidents should they arise. Our policies can easily be found in our annual academic catalogs in the Student Handbook section, as well as in our reports, located on our website at: <https://www.mbts.edu/about/consumer-information>.