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REBECCA L. GARDNER, Chairman
DANIEL L. AKIN, President

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, a seminary that seeks to equip students to serve the church and to fulfill the Great Commission. It is my prayer that our seminary would be an institution that is consumed by the Great Commission. Southeastern has been blessed in recent years. Our student population has grown to more than 4,700 students, and this is our 11th year of record enrollment.

God has been very, very good to us. With the growth of the College and the Seminary, we are on pace to break 5,000 students in the near future. God continues to bless Southeastern Seminary as we hold fast to the gospel and remain fervent in our commitment to fulfill the Great Commission.

We continue to remind ourselves of this foundational truth: The church can live without the seminary, but the seminary cannot live without the church. When seminaries do their job well, they provide an invaluable service to the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. We see that as our calling and we see that as central to our identity.

It is my joy to share with you some of the new and exciting things that we are doing at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Let me begin with our graduate programs. At the graduate level, we continue to have a thriving Master of Divinity program and are constantly working to develop degrees that will equip students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission. We have just launched a number of new programs for Ministry to Women, in particular, our M.A. in Ministry to Women and Biblical Counseling, our Master of Theology in Women Studies, and the Doctor of Ministry in Ministry to Women. These degree programs put Southeastern at the forefront of educating and equipping women for ministry in accordance with our complementarian theology. We believe there is no better place for women in ministry to study than at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

We have also launched a series of Church Revitalization degrees that we are really excited about in partnership with Thom Rainer and Church Answers. With Dr. Rainer teaching in the program, we will be offering a M.A., M.Div. and D.Min. in Church Revitalization. Lifeway Research tells us that 70% of the churches in the Southern Baptist Convention are either declining or they have plateaued. There is perhaps no greater need for our Convention today than that we would revitalize churches. So Southeastern is ready to meet that need by training pastors to lead these churches out of complacency and onto the mission that God has called all of us to be in terms of reaching our neighbors for Jesus Christ.

The College at Southeastern, in addition to our incredible graduate program, is doing a tremendous job and growing at a rapid pace. We are investing heavily in our undergraduate students. This year we are celebrating the College's 25th anniversary. We continually say that The College at Southeastern is more than a college, it is a calling. So whether our students become teachers, business people, lawyers, missionaries or pastors, we believe God has a plan for them to be involved in His mission. We want to equip students to give their lives for the cause of Christ in the church, among the nations, and in every aspect of society.

We believe that we are uniquely placed in our state to do this. Think about our confession: we are the only evangelically accredited four year college in North Carolina affirming four doctrinal

statements. Our curriculum: with a vast spectrum of majors and minors and the history of ideas program as the centerpiece, we are training students to think well and to think Christianly. Our community: our House System is thriving, helping cultivate student communities that foster Great Commission living, academic excellence, community identity, and enduring friendships that will last for a lifetime. We really believe that The College at Southeastern is a special place and we are thankful as we continue to watch it grow each year.

Let me talk to you about our North Carolina Field Minister Program. In partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety and Joe Gibbs with Game Plan for Life, we are providing theological training through our college to long-term inmates who will then live on mission in their respective assignments within our prison system. These students have sentences of more than 12 years, most are 40 years to life. And yet, we are equipping them to transform the prison community from the inside through evangelism and discipleship training. We are offering a Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Ministry through The College at Southeastern, and we now have more than 70 students in the program preparing to serve within our prison system. We will see our first graduating class in May 2021.

We also continue to focus on theological training overseas. Southeastern maintains a global focus that reaches from North America literally to the ends of the earth. We don't just take theological training seriously in North Carolina, we also extend that training beyond the walls of Wake Forest into other parts of the world through what we call our Global Theological Initiatives (GTI). Our goal is to provide global theological training, and our partnerships now include places like Brazil, Mexico, Uganda, Dominican Republic, Ukraine, Korea, and Hong Kong. Soon we hope to lay the foundation to start a government-approved seminary in the country of Vietnam. Through our Persian Leadership Development Program, aimed at providing church leaders with theological education in their own language of Farsi, today we have now more than 1,000 Farsi speakers taking classes online with Southeastern. There is really no other program like this in the world. God is working mightily among the Farsi speakers in Iran and America and Southeastern is delighted to be a part of this incredible initiative.

At Southeastern, we are consumed with a global focus. We are certain in our doctrinal conviction. We are committed to ministry preparation. And we are characterized by a spiritual vibrancy. So thank you, Southern Baptists, for your prayers and your support. Our focus remains for all of our students, faculty, and staff, to be about the business of going and making disciples of all the nations. It is our calling to equip every student to serve the church and to fulfill the Great Commission. By His grace and for His glory, we want to do this until King Jesus returns again. We hope to be a faithful Great Commission seminary until that day.

Danny Akin,
President

**Enrollment Figures by Degree Programs and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
as Per the SBC Funding Formula**

	2014- 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019
Special Students					
Credit Only	193	320	288	458	888
Certificate/Diploma	263	255	353	467	552
Special Student Total	456	575	641	925	1,440
Prebaccalaureate & Baccalaureate					
Associate of Divinity	30	23	23	23	17
Associate of Arts	14	12	5	3	11
Bachelor of Arts/Science	424	418	396	475	514
Prebaccalaureate & Baccalaureate Totals	468	453	424	501	542
Basic Programs					
Master of Arts	532	608	611	703	739
Master of Church Music	6	2	2	1	-
Master of Theological Studies	48	169	125	266	204
Master of Divinity	1,382	1,206	1,209	1,225	1,231
Basic Programs Total	1,968	1,985	1,947	2,195	2,174
Advanced					
Master of Theology	66	74	70	67	74
Doctor of Ministry	221	218	254	271	262
Doctor of Education	74	77	83	86	90
Doctor of Philosophy	178	197	205	205	193
Advanced Total	539	566	612	629	619
Total Unduplicated Headcount	3,431	3,579	3,624	4,250	4,775
Cooperative Program Funded FTEs					
Full-Time Equivalent Students	2,106	2,155	2,161	2,337	2,412
<i>Unfunded FTEs</i>					
Over 70 Hours BA Deduction	(75)	(76)	(69)	(65)	(68)
Online SBC FTE Students	(377)	(430)	(495)	(555)	(655)
Adv Degree Students Past Time Allowance	(219)	(226)	(247)	(255)	(295)
Non-SBC FTE Students	(101)	(145)	(136)	(246)	(209)
<i>Total Unfunded FTEs</i>	(771)	(877)	(947)	(1,121)	(1,227)
Total Cooperative Program Funded FTEs	1,335	1,278	1,214	1,216	1,185
Graduates					
Prebaccalaureate & Special	3	20	39	46	42
Baccalaureate	62	57	52	69	46
Basic Programs	311	291	312	283	336
Advanced	39	79	68	70	84
Total Graduates	415	447	471	468	508

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 Southeastern 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: Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is fully supportive of the work of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group. SEBTS has worked to ensure that our campus has the resources and training necessary to help prevent sexual abuse and provide an environment where those who have suffered from abuse at any time in their life can receive the care and support they need to flourish.

1. What is the entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care?

SEBTS employs the use of background checks for all employees, and background checks are also included as a part of the application process for all prospective students. If someone has been convicted of a sex abuse crime in the past, this effort will allow us to take the steps necessary to help ensure that no one on campus is put at risk.

Our Student and Employee Handbook makes the SEBTS policy clear that we do not tolerate abuse, neglect, and exploitation. We also encourage the reporting of even suspected incidents.

SEBTS has a Counseling Center that is available to all on campus for those seeking help on a variety of issues. This center is equipped to deal with domestic and sexual abuse issues and is prepared to assist with intake, initial counsel, and then make referrals to other professionals when necessary. In addition, our Student Life Staff has been trained to notify Campus Security authorities in all reported or suspected cases. Similarly, our Residence Life Staff has been trained on recognizing signs of abuse and harassment and on proper reporting protocols. We have worked with the senior leadership of this institution as well as with our security department to develop an “emergency response team” and “emergency response team protocol” on how to identify and report potential threat.

In order to raise awareness among our student body, we have instituted a policy in which all of our incoming students are required to watch a training video that helps inform students on how to recognize and report harassment and abuse as part of New Student Orientation training. This video training features the insight and advice of a local lawyer who specializes in domestic and sexual abuse litigation.

Regarding curriculum for ministry preparation, our Biblical Counseling professors address abuse and trauma in several classes. M.Div. students receive instruction on how

to handle abuse and response to accusations of abuse in the BCO5500: Introduction to Biblical Counseling, and faculty is currently taking steps to add significant portions of the *Church Cares* curriculum to BCO5500. This addition includes a number of the videos from the curriculum and making the book that accompanies the curriculum required reading. The reporting requirements are also taught in BCO7501: Practicum 1, and covered in B06570: Counseling Parents and Children during lectures that address counseling children and parents in the midst of/after instances of abuse. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and counseling abused and traumatized adults are dealt with in BCO6551: Counseling Problematic Emotions. In a Doctor of Ministry seminar, DMN 8161: The Minister as Person and Professional, the *Church Cares* curriculum will be required reading.

2. What additional steps has the entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas?

Since the annual meeting in Dallas, SEBTS has taken the opportunity to review all policies and procedures to make sure they are current and comprehensive. In addition, though unrelated to the actions in Dallas, but related to the topic of abuse awareness, prevention, and care, SEBTS' Director of Campus Security has been established as our Title IX Coordinator. Title IX encompasses the federal regulations that educational institutions are required to follow to cover issues of protection in the cases of sexual abuse and misconduct.

SEBTS has also implemented a Threat Assessment Tool. This program is a web-based application provided through a company called CLPS Consultants in partnership with Utica, SEBTS' liability provider. This tool provides a standardized method of investigating and recording various kinds of threats to the SEBTS campus and community. The tool also analyzes the results of any investigation and makes recommendations on the further handling of and monitoring of involved persons. Campus Security and many personnel from Student Life have been trained on the use of this program for investigative purposes.

3. How is the entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?

Those in leadership at SEBTS have all read the Caring Well report produced by the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group, and have made our students aware of the resource. We fully support the work of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group and desire to continue to see this effort provide relief and care for the victims as well as help to train to protect victims in the future.

SEBTS will have in place, by the next Annual Meeting, a requirement for all students to complete the Caring Well certificate as well as additional certificate work focused on sexual abuse prevention and care for victims.