

BGCT Ministerial Financial Assistance
(Renewal Form)

Dear SCS Student,

Students attending a Baptist¹ church may be eligible for Ministerial Financial Assistance (MFA) from the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT). Freshman and sophomore students qualifying for MFA receive \$50 per semester hour. Qualifying junior and senior students receive an additional \$25 per semester hour. Qualifying graduate students receive \$100 per semester hour.

To be eligible, the student must be:

- An active member of a Baptist church.
- Planning to pursue vocational Christian ministry, as evidenced by a personal testimony.
- Certified for ministry by a Baptist church, either by license, ordination, or statement of certification.
- Enrolled in the SCS Bachelor of Arts in Ministry or Master of Arts in Ministry program.

To reapply for MFA, please submit the following documents:

- ❑ **One-page reaffirmation** (double-spaced) of your call to church-related vocational ministry and a desire to continue receiving the BGCT Ministerial Financial Assistance.
- ❑ **Certification Renewal Form** (attached). The student fills out pages 1 and 2 of the form. The pastor or approved church leader fills out pages 3 and 4 of the form.

Email all documents to Cheryl Temple at ctemple@stark.edu.

Application Due Dates

2020 Fall Semester: August 24th
2021 Spring Semester: January 26th
2021 Summer Semester: June 8th

Qualifying undergraduate students who accept the MFA must complete the MNST 3344 Supervised Ministry course and select a supervisor that holds membership at a Texas Baptists church.

For questions, please contact Cheryl Temple at 361-991-9403 or ctemple@stark.edu.

¹ First year students must be certified by a Baptist church. Annual renewal of MFA will require certification by a cooperating Baptist General Convention of Texas church. Please visit texasbaptists.org/churches for a list of cooperating churches.

CERTIFICATION RENEWAL FORM

Ministerial Financial Assistance for Students Preparing for a Church-Related Vocation Baptist General Convention of Texas

Pastor or Church Leader and Student,

Each applicant to the Ministerial Financial Assistance program of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT), must **annually** reaffirm their call to church-related vocational ministry **and** furnish evidence, by way of written testimony of the pastor (or church leader) of the student's involvement with, support of, and commitment to a local cooperating BGCT church.

The forms below (*student* and *pastor/church leader*) will provide the necessary evidence.

In providing this evidence, the church commits their support, along with other BGCT churches, to this ministry student.

Thank you for honoring this sacred trust.

The Theological Education Council, BGCT

TEXAS ★ BAPTISTS
BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS

To be completed by STUDENT

STUDENT COVENANT

Whereas *Texas Baptist* churches have committed their cooperative missions funds to providing financial assistance to men and women who are preparing for ministry vocations in the church and,

Whereas *Texas Baptist* universities have committed to providing theological education that prepares students for vocations in church-related ministries and,

Whereas I have sensed the call of God in my life to prepare for a vocation in a church-related ministry (such as pastor, church staff, missionary, chaplain);

I hereby enter into a covenant relationship with the churches of the *Baptist General Convention of Texas* to honor the sacred trust they have placed in me through their financial support and,

Should I come to a point in my understanding of God's will for my life that I no longer sense a call to a church-related vocation,

I will immediately inform university officials and no longer accept this financial assistance provided by the churches of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

CERTIFICATION RENEWAL FORM

Ministerial Financial Assistance for
Students Preparing for a Church-Related Vocation
Baptist General Convention of Texas

STUDENT INFORMATION SECTION

Name: _____ Permanent Address:
Street: _____
Email: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
Name of Church: _____ Name of School: _____

To be completed by STUDENT

During the preceding academic year I have been involved with, supportive of, and committed to the ministries of this BGCT church in the following ways:

Paid leadership responsibilities: _____

Volunteer leadership or service: _____

Other involvement or means of support: _____

Sign the following reaffirmation, give this form to your pastor or church leader to complete (pages 3-4), then return the completed forms along with any other materials required by your institution:

I hereby reaffirm my covenant with the churches, my sense of calling to a church-related vocation and my desire to continue to receive the Ministerial Financial Assistance provided by the churches of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and I promise to remain in compliance with the requirements of the BGCT and this partner institution.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

CERTIFICATION RENEWAL FORM

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Baptist General Convention of Texas

To be completed by PASTOR OR CHURCH LEADER

CHURCH CERTIFICATION SECTION

(Check ✓ and complete the appropriate sections below)

Statement of Certification:

If the church has not ordained or licensed this student, the following statement must be affirmed by the congregation.

We hereby certify that _____
(name of student)

- *is involved with, supportive of, and committed to the ministries of this BGCT church*
- *has shown evidence of a divine call to church-related vocational ministry*
- *has shown sincere commitment to a career in church-related ministry*
- *has demonstrated a Christian life-style*
- *is the kind of person our church would be comfortable recommending as a minister to serve in a church-related vocational position*

This congregation affirmed this student's involvement in our church as noted on page 2 of the form. This congregational certification has been acted upon by:

(check all that apply)

- Ordination of student on _____
(date)
- Licensing of student on _____
(date)
- Adoption of statement of certification above by congregation on _____
(date)
- Adoption of statement of certification above by others (specify below) representing the congregation on _____
(date)

Representing the congregation:

- Church Committee
- Deacons
- Elders or other governing board
- Council of church staff members
- Other *(please describe)*: _____

I have talked with this student to discuss (1) the student's sense of call to church-related vocational ministry and (2) ways that the student might be involved in service at our church.

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I affirm this student's certification renewal application for Ministerial Financial Assistance.

Pastor's or Church Leader's Name (Printed) _____

Position at Church _____

Telephone Number _____

Signature _____

Date _____

CHURCH INFORMATION SECTION

Church Name and Address

Name of Church: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Denominational Affiliations

Baptist association _____ City, State _____

Baptist state convention _____

Baptist affiliations, national _____

Signed: _____ Signed: _____
(Pastor or church approved leader if student is pastor) (Church Clerk)

Please email completed form to Cheryl Temple at ctemple@stark.edu.