

BGCT Ministerial Financial Assistance

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 apply for MFA, please submit the following documents:

- One-page affirmation (double-spaced) of your call to church-related vocational ministry.
- Letter of recommendation from your pastor (or other church approved leader if student is the pastor).
- First-Year Certification Form (attached). The student fills out pages 4 and 5 of the form. The pastor or approved church leader fills out pages 2 and 3 of the form.

Send all documents to:

ATTN: Financial Aid
Stark College & Seminary
7000 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

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.

FIRST-YEAR CERTIFICATION FORM

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

Dear Student and Church Leader:

In recognition of the special call of God sensed by those who minister, churches affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) provide financial assistance to Baptist* students who are preparing for church-related vocational ministry at a Texas Baptist university.

Four participants are involved in the Ministerial Financial Assistance (MFA) program – (1) **the student** who, responding to God’s call to a vocation in church-related ministry, is set aside by (2) a **local Baptist church** that pools resources with other cooperating Baptist churches and entrusts these resources to (3) the **BGCT** and its (4) partner **universities**.

Each applicant for the MFA program must show evidence of a divine call to church-related vocational ministry, must demonstrate a life-style of commitment to the principles of Christian life, and must be an active member of a Baptist* church.

The student is required to provide certification from his or her church in **one** of the following forms:

- a certificate of ordination to the gospel ministry, **or**
- a certificate of license to the gospel ministry, **or**
- a statement of certification recognizing a call to church-related vocational ministry (such as pastor, church staff, missionary, or chaplain).

The student is also required to provide a letter of recommendation from his or her pastor (or other church approved leader if student is the pastor).

In certifying a student, the church joins the Baptist General Convention of Texas and related universities in being faithful stewards of mission funds entrusted to them by Texas Baptist churches to provide tuition assistance for students.

Thank you for joining in this sacred trust.

The Theological Education Council, BGCT

TEXAS ★ BAPTISTS
BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH LEADERS (Page 2 & 3)

Complete and sign the *Church Certification* and *Church Information* sections.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS (Page 4 & 5)

Sign and date the *Student Covenant*, complete the *Student Information Section*, and return completed forms to:

ATTN: Financial Aid
Stark College & Seminary
7000 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

****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.***

FIRST-YEAR CERTIFICATION FORM

Ministerial Financial Assistance for Students Preparing for a Church-Related Vocation 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 an active member of our 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 5 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.

FIRST-YEAR CERTIFICATION FORM

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

I affirm this student's 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: _____
(Pastor or church approved leader if student is pastor)

Signed: _____
(Church Clerk)

FIRST-YEAR CERTIFICATION FORM

Ministerial Financial Assistance for Students Preparing for a Church-Related Vocation 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)

STUDENT INFORMATION SECTION

Name of Student: _____

Permanent Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Name of School: _____

Name of Church: _____

Church Address: _____

FIRST-YEAR CERTIFICATION FORM

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

To be completed by STUDENT

During the preceding academic year I have been an active member of a Baptist church and have been involved with, supportive of, and committed to the ministries of this church in the following ways:

Paid leadership responsibilities: _____

Volunteer leadership or service: _____

Other involvement or means of support: _____

Sign the following affirmation, give this form to your pastor or church approved leader if student is pastor to complete (*pages 2 & 3*), then return the completed forms along with any other materials required by your institution:

I hereby affirm my covenant with the churches, my sense of calling to a church-related vocation and my desire 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: _____

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