

31 March 2014

Dear Pastor or Church Leader:

Thank you for your involvement with and investment in men and women whom God has called to ministry. We know this is a significant contribution to the present and future work of God's kingdom mission.

Your student has been a recipient of the Ministerial Financial Assistance Program. This program involves four partners: the student called to be a minister, a local Baptist church, the Baptist General Convention of Texas [BGCT], and a partner BGCT university [in our case, Howard Payne University]. These cooperate to assist and encourage our young ministers financially and in ministerial formation. Now, the student is at the stage of renewing his or her certification to continue participation in the program.

Beginning in 2014, the BGCT and the universities are asking our churches for a higher level of involvement in the certification renewal process. Those of you who have participated in the renewal process in the past will note this change. It is the hope of the BGCT and its partner universities that this change will help to encourage and foster an even closer relationship between our student members and their local churches during this formative period.

Again, thank you for all you do in the kingdom mission of our Lord.

Sincerely,

Donnie Auvenshine  
Dean, School of Christian Studies  
Howard Payne University  
1000 Fisk  
Brownwood, Texas 76801  
[dauvenshine@hputx.edu](mailto:dauvenshine@hputx.edu)

# 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

<b>STUDENT INFORMATION SECTION</b>	
	<p><b>Name:</b> _____ <b>Permanent Address:</b> <b>Street:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Email:</b> _____ <b>City, State, Zip:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Name of Church:</b> _____ <b>Name of School:</b> _____</p>
<b>To be completed by STUDENT</b>	<p><b>During the preceding academic year</b> I have been involved with, supportive of, and committed to the ministries of this BGCT church in the following ways:</p> <p>Paid leadership responsibilities: _____ _____</p> <p>Volunteer leadership or service: _____ _____</p> <p>Other involvement or means of support: _____ _____</p> <p>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:</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><b>Student's Signature:</b> _____ <b>Date:</b> _____</p>

# CERTIFICATION RENEWAL 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 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.

# CERTIFICATION RENEWAL FORM

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Pastor or church approved leader if student is pastor)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Church Clerk)