



Ministerial Financial Assistance Scholarship

RENEWAL APPLICATION

School of Christian Studies
1900 W. 7th Street CMB 1276
Plainview, TX 79072
806-291-1160

Name: _____
Semester or School Year: _____
Campus: _____
Student ID Number: _____

For office use only:	
_____ Approved	_____ Denied
Amount Awarded:	
Major:	
# hrs enrolled:	hrs completed:
Current GPA: Campus:	
Date: Approved by:	
Sent to Financial Aid: _____	

Check Which Box Applies: [] **UNDERGRADUATE RENEWAL APPLICANT**
[] **GRADUATE RENEWAL APPLICANT**

BGCT MINISTERIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

Recipients of the BGCT MFA Scholarship must:

- Show evidence of a divine call to a career in vocational or bivocational Christian ministry,
- Demonstrate a lifestyle of commitment to the principles of the Christian life,
- Be an active participant of a BGCT affiliate. Renewal applicants must be an active participant of a **LOCAL** BGCT church.
- Annually submit a typed personal testimony expressing your call to a career in vocational or bivocational church, denominational, or parachurch Christian Ministry
- Annually provide an endorsement of your calling from your church,
- Be an active member of WBU's Ministerial Fellowship,
- Be in compliance with the Guidelines that were furnished by the Christian Education Coordinating Board of the BGCT.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- BGCT Ministerial Financial Assistance Scholarship Application** – Complete the Student Information Section by printing clearly in ink. Sign and date the agreement. Note that for application purposes, the academic year runs from July 1 through June 30.
- Personal Written Testimony:** (see space provided in this application)
Submit an essay expressing how you continue to pursue your personal call to a career in vocational or bivocational church, denominational, or parachurch Christian ministry. Please be as specific as possible regarding the type of ministry you are pursuing and include events in your life during the past year that have helped to affirm and clarify this call.
- Church Certification**
 - **Renewal Applicants** – have your local cooperating BGCT church official complete the Church Section of the Church Certification Renewal form.
 - **Certificate of License/Certificate of Ordination** – applicant shall furnish WBU with evidence of a call to church related vocational ministry in the form of a certificate of license to the gospel ministry and/or a certificate of ordination to the gospel ministry from a Baptist church, if applicable.
- Academic Requirement** – All recipients of this scholarship are required to be successfully working toward a major or minor in Religion or Religious Education, or the equivalent Church Music major and External Degrees Program. **It is a requirement for the recipients of this financial assistance scholarship to take MNST3000 Introduction to Ministry** (at your first opportunity) and, **MNST3301 Spiritual Formation or THST3100 Christian Spirituality**

- Return your completed application and supporting documents to:**
Wayland Baptist University
School of Christian Studies
1900 West 7th Street, CMB #1276
Plainview TX 79072
Email: christianstudieswbu.edu

If you have any questions, please contact the School of Christian Studies at 806-291-1160 or email your questions to Dr. Stephen Stookey, Dean of the School of Christian Studies (stookeys@wbu.edu).



WAYLAND
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY™

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: _____ ID Number: _____

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Permanent Phone: _____ College Phone: _____

College Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email:

Academic Year & Semester(s) applying for (Choose one below):

Summer: _____ Fall: _____ Winter: _____ Spring: _____

Classification: ___Freshman ___Sophomore ___Junior ___Senior ___Graduate

Major: _____ Specialization: _____

Minor: _____

Note: Ministry students are required to check their email address regularly for ministerial fellowship communication.

**WHICH BGCT MINISTERIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE YOU APPLYING FOR?
(Check one)**

- BGCT MINISTERIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNDERGRADUATES (RENEWAL)** for full or part time undergraduates, affiliated with a local Baptist General Convention of Texas church who began receiving the BGCT MFA scholarship prior to this academic year.

o Semester/Year these required classes were completed or scheduled to be completed:

_____ **MNST 3300 Introduction to Ministry**

_____ **MNST3301 Spiritual Formation or THST3100 Christian Spirituality**

BGCT MINISTERIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHOLARSHIP FOR GRADUATES (RENEWAL) for full or part time graduates, affiliated with a local Baptist General Convention of Texas church who began receiving the BGCT MFA Scholarship for Graduates prior to this academic year.

Required class: **THST5351 – Baptist History.**

AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

- o I affirm that I am a ministry student committed to a career in vocational or bivocational church, denominational, or parachurch Christian ministry.
- o I affirm that I am an active participant in good standing of a Baptist church.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is correct and complete. I agree that Wayland Baptist University has my permission to verify it. I understand that any false statement made herein will void this application.

I authorize the release of any information concerning my records to Wayland Baptist University to any organization or agency necessary for the administration of this award, processing this application, and submitting required reports. I understand that this authorization will remain in effect unless I revoke it in writing to the Religion & Philosophy School Office.

I accept the rules and regulations that are a part of the BGCT MFA program and attest that the acceptance of the ministerial financial assistance establishes a contract between the BGCT and myself.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

BGCT MINISTERIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In recognition of the divine call felt by those who minister, the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) provides financial assistance to students in Texas Baptist schools who are preparing for careers in church related vocational ministry.

Four participants are recognized in the Ministerial Financial Assistance Program (MFA) – the ministry **student** who, responding to God's call, is set aside by a **local church** which pools resources with cooperating churches and entrusts these resources to the **BGCT** and partner **schools**.

1. **The student** is the cause, result, and chief benefactor of the ministerial financial assistance program. Every effort should be put forth to help the student in the process of discerning God's perfect will for his or her life. Every effort should be made by the student to evidence a divine call to church related vocational ministry. Commitment of the student to the local church, to a sense of call to ministry, to the Cooperative Program, and to the BGCT, should be reviewed regularly and systematically to assure the highest and best use of mission funds.
2. **The local church** is the key factor in the efforts of Texas Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission. The local church is the reservoir from which flows the called leadership of the denomination. It is the local church that certifies to the world that it recognizes divine gifts for ministry in individuals. It is the local church that provides funds, through the Cooperative Program, to assist students preparing for a career in church related ministry.
3. **The BGCT** is a steward of Cooperative Program gifts received from the local church and is a servant of the churches through its staff and related institutions. The use of Cooperative Program funds is a sacred application of mission money. The use of these funds places aid for ministry training and theological education in the highest possible priority level. Acceptance of these funds from the Cooperative Program calls for the very best and most dedicated efforts from those who receive support.
4. **The school** is the provider of the ministry training, ministry guidance and theological education supported by Cooperative Program receipts. It is the recipient of both funds and ministry students from the local churches. The school establishes a sacred trust when it accepts a student for preparation for church related vocational ministry.

The MFA program is administered primary by participating **schools** working in cooperation with the **BGCT**, cooperating **local churches**, and **ministry students**. This cooperation is vital in the entry stage as well as each year of the renewal stage throughout the educational career of the student.

The success of this program depends upon the cooperation of ministry students, churches, universities and the denomination.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

- o I have read and recognize that the acceptance of the BGCT Ministerial Financial Assistance Scholarship establishes a contract between Wayland Baptist University and myself and agree to:
- o Make every effort to clearly demonstrate my divine call to ministry,
- o Be supportive of the Baptist General Convention of Texas,
- o Support the local church through consistent attendance and involvement,
- o Be supportive of the Cooperative Program,
- o Continually affirm and develop my personal call to ministry,
- o Be supportive of Wayland Baptist University and its mission,
- o Affirm that the moneys received through this scholarship should be considered a sacred trust from the Baptist General Convention of Texas on my behalf in response to God's calling on my life,
- o Acknowledge that upon renewal, I must be involved with, supportive of, and committed to a local BGCT Church, and
- o Accept the rules and regulations that are part of the BGCT MFA program.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

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

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)