



**WAYLAND**  
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY™

**TEXAS**  
**BAPTISTS®**

BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS

# Ministerial Financial Assistance Scholarship

## FIRST TIME 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 FIRST TIME APPLICANT**

[ ] **GRADUATE FIRST TIME APPLICANT**

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 member of a BGCT affiliate. Renewal applicants must be a member 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 June 1 through May 31.
  - Personal Written Testimony:** (see space provided in this application)
    - **First Year Applicants** – Submit an essay expressing your personal call to a career in vocational or bivocational church, denominational, or parachurch Christian ministry. Please be as specific as possible regarding the details of your call and what type of ministry you feel called to pursue. Include recent events in your life that helped to affirm and clarify this call.
  - Church Certification**
    - **First Year Applicants** – have your home church official complete the Church Section of the Church Certification 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.
  - Pastor Recommendation Letter** – Your church pastor or official must certify that you are actively involved and provide a written endorsement of your divine call to Christian ministry and your commitment to a career in vocational or bivocational church, denominational, or parachurch Christian ministry.
- 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: [christianstudies@wbu.edu](mailto:christianstudies@wbu.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](mailto:stookeys@wbu.edu)).



## 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 (1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR)** for full or part time undergraduates, affiliated with any Baptist church, who did not receive a BGCT MFA Scholarship during the previous academic year.  
Required classes:  
**MNST3000 Introduction to Ministry** (at your first opportunity)  
**MNST3301 Spiritual Formation or THST3100 Christian Spirituality**
- BGCT MINISTERIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHOLARSHIP FOR GRADUATES (1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR)** for full or part time graduates, affiliated with a local Baptist General Convention of Texas church who did not begin receiving the BGCT MFA Scholarship for Graduates prior to this academic year.  
Required class: **THST5351 – Baptist History**.

**AFFIRMATION STATEMENT**

- I affirm that I am a ministry student committed to a career in vocational or bi-vocational church, denominational, or parachurch Christian ministry.
- 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

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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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:

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* 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

<b>To be completed by STUDENT</b>	<p><b>During the preceding academic year</b> 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:</p> <p>Paid leadership responsibilities: _____ _____ _____</p> <p>Volunteer leadership or service: _____ _____ _____</p> <p>Other involvement or means of support: _____ _____ _____</p> <p>Sign the following affirmation, give this form to your pastor or church approved leader if student is pastor to complete (<i>pages 2 &amp; 3</i>), then return the completed forms along with any other materials required by your institution:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>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.</i></p> <p>Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____</p>
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*\* 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.*

## Ministerial Fellowship Biographical Data

This information will be shared with the Office of Church Services and the Ministerial Fellowship

Name _____	Date _____		
Local Address _____	Phone _____		
Permanent Address _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Phone _____
E-Mail _____			
Male _____	Female _____	Date of Birth _____	S.S. Number _____
Race or Ethnic Description _____			
Explain any physical or other limitations _____			
_____			

High School _____	Grad. Date _____
High School Honors and Organizations _____	
_____	

College Major _____	College Minor _____
College Classification _____	Do you plan seminary or graduate study? YES NO
If yes, where? _____	
College Honors and Organizations _____	
_____	

Vocational Choice _____					
If you would be interested in a staff position please indicate below...					
Music _____	Youth _____	Music/Youth _____	Pastor _____	Assoc. Pastor _____	Intern _____
Other _____	Part Time _____	Full Time _____			
Do you have transportation to get to a church staff position: YES NO					
Licensed by what church and date _____					
Ordained by what church and date _____					
Member of what church _____				How long _____	

Secular Experience

Position

Place

Dates

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Church Experience

Position

Place

Dates

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What languages you are fluent in \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies and interests \_\_\_\_\_

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Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's education \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's current employment \_\_\_\_\_

Children's names and ages \_\_\_\_\_

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If available, please attach a recent picture and a current resume.

I understand that this information may be shared with churches and qualified advisors of Wayland Baptist University.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_