

It has been my privilege to work with our faculty, staff, trustees and students along with the expert advice and counsel of Dr. Bob Agee, former president of Oklahoma Baptist University, to produce an outstanding document that further refines and articulates our mission and assignment to impact the world with the Gospel. I have provided that below for your consideration and pray and trust it will be a great inspiration to you.

The entire scheme of our new core values statement, Veritas, Pietas, Missio—Know, Be, Do—is based on a thoughtful process of first knowing God's truth, then being and becoming what He would have us to be in terms of a thoughtful, committed disciple. Part of this process, in terms of devotion, also means strengthening our relationship with Jesus Christ and walking in fellowship and communion with the Holy Spirit. Contrary to most seminary experiences, it has been my observation that our students here at Midwestern, when they leave us to go into further mission work, experience and know a deeper and more fulfilling relationship with Jesus than when they first arrive.

The last key element of the mission statement is to "Do," and that involves us taking the great truths that God has instilled and embedded in our hearts and our lives and putting them into practice for the sake of the Kingdom. For students to be educated at Midwestern and for them not to be fully involved in evangelism, missions, discipling and church planting would be tragic indeed. The entire purpose and calling of this institution is to provide the Kingdom of God with its servants for the furtherance of the Gospel.

## Mission Statement:

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary serves the church by biblically educating God-called men and women to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

## Core Values:

### Veritas / Truth – "Know"

We believe that the Bible is the inspired, authoritative, inerrant Word of God, and thus it instructs, motivates, and guides us in all areas of ministry. We are committed to helping students to understand, communicate, practice, and defend biblical truth.

### Pietas / Devotion – "Be"

We seek to model and to instill in the lives of our students supreme devotion to the Lord. We seek to provide an atmosphere for students that cultivates consistent, disciplined, and balanced spiritual growth that validates their call to ministry. We strive to accomplish this through biblically-based teaching and by providing opportunities to develop a lifestyle of Christian love and integrity. We believe Christ-like relationships with God,

family, church, community, and world are essential and should be cultivated.

### Missio / Evangelism – "Do"

We believe it is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the Gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every Christian to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the primacy of the local church in the work of evangelism. We prepare students to worship God, evangelize the lost, edify believers, and establish biblically-based churches for the purpose of glorifying God.

We prepare students to be leaders who demonstrate commitment to ministerial calling, cultural sensitivity, and doctrinal integrity from a Southern Baptist perspective. We seek to develop leaders who exemplify and communicate the Great Commission in their ministry settings.

Through its exegetical, theological, and practical educational processes, MBTS will produce students who:

- believe that the Bible is inspired, authoritative and inerrant (2 Tim. 3:15-16; 2 Pet. 1:19; Matt. 5:17-18);
- understand and apply biblical truth (Rom. 15:3-5; John 17:17);
- exemplify biblical leadership and doctrinal integrity in ministry (1 Pet. 5:2-4);
- demonstrate Christ-likeness in seeking and cultivating all relationships (Eph. 4:30-32; Col. 3:12-13);
- manifest a developing and disciplined Christian life (Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Pet. 1:5-7; 1 Tim. 4:7); and
- commit themselves to fulfilling the Great Commission in worshipping God, evangelizing the lost, discipling believers, and establishing healthy biblical churches in culturally-relevant ways (Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 4:11-14; 1 Cor. 9:19-23).

Please be much in prayer for us as this is a daunting task to stay on focus and on target for the Kingdom's sake. As any aeronautical and space engineer knows, for a satellite or a space mission even to be one degree off target means a disastrously flawed and ineffective mission. Our desire is to be fully one hundred percent on target with no error, imbalance or misdirection in our assignment to biblically educate God-called men and women to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ. "The world is my Parish," John Wesley said, and for us at Midwestern Baptist Seminary we embrace the awesome and wonderful challenge of impacting our world for Jesus Christ.

*R. Philip Roberts*



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President