

Institutional Relations Committee
05/18/26

Theological Education Council
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Item of Consideration: Recommendation for re-endorsement of Houston Christian University's graduate and post-graduate ministry degree programs for Ministerial Financial Assistance (MFA)

Highest Authority for this item: Institutional Relations

Originating Source: Director of Theological Education & Theological Education Council

Background:

Houston Christian University (HCU) offers four graduate ministry-related degree programs and one post-graduate program eligible for Texas Baptists MFA program. Since the 2020 Theological Education Council's (TEC) review Houston Christian University continues its commitments to provide a Christ-centered biblical education for the church and for the city through development of innovative degree programs, partnerships with constituent churches, creation of the DMIN program, and practical workshops/conferences. TEC reviews institutions on a five-year cycle to assess and reaffirm graduate and post-graduate programs. HCU's review includes one new program (noted in italics) slated for its initial 3-year review. The following Truett programs were slated for TEC review in 2025:

- MA in Theological Studies
- MA in Biblical Languages
- MA in Christian Leadership
- Master of Divinity (MDIV)
- Doctor of Ministry*

Truett Re-Endorsement Visit:

On October 28, 2025, a visiting team consisting of Dustin Slaton (TEC and IRC member), Bobby Contreras (TEC & IRC member) and Dr. Stephen Stookey (Director, Theological Education & Institutional Engagement, BGCT) visited HCU to review MFA eligible programs for reaffirmation.

Visiting Team's Report:

The visiting team was warmly welcomed by Dr. Phil Tallon, Dean, School of Christian Thought. Meetings were held through the day with the following:

- Dr. Phil Tallon
- HCU graduate and DMIN students
- HCU ministry partners
- HCU School of Christian Thought faculty
- HCU President, Dr. Robert Sloan

The visiting team observed the following related to HCU's programs:

- accomplishes institutional core goal to provide a Christ-centered biblical education for the church and for the city;
- noted educational programs that are rooted in Scripture and are theologically consistent with Texas Baptists principles;
- noted increased attention to partnerships with constituent churches;
- noted rigorous academics with strong practical ministry focus;
- creates understanding of and appreciation for Texas Baptists with students receiving MFA;
- institution maintains a clear missional identity and programmatic focus;
- noted regular evaluation and requisite changes to graduate/post-graduate ministry programs, and;
- meets MFA academic objectives.

Background Attachments: None

Recommendation: Re-endorsement of the following graduate/post-graduate ministry programs at Houston Christian University for Ministerial Financial Assistance is recommended:

MA in Theological Studies
MA in Biblical Languages
MA in Christian Leadership
Master of Divinity (MDIV)
Doctor of Ministry