

Institutional Relations Committee
05/18/26

Theological Education Council
05/18/26

Item of Consideration: Recommendation for re-endorsement of George W Truett Theological Seminary'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:

George W Truett Theological Seminary (Baylor University) offers seven 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 Truett Seminary continues its commitments to equip God-called people for gospel ministry in and alongside Christ's Church by the power of the Holy Spirit through development of innovative degree programs, creation of residency programs, expansion of the DMIN program, development of the academic/ministry centers (e.g., Wesley House, Anglican Episcopal House, Black Church Studies Program), and numerous annual practical workshops/conferences. TEC reviews institutions on a five-year cycle to assess and reaffirm graduate and post-graduate programs. Truett's review includes three new programs (noted in italics) slated for their initial 3-year review. The following Truett programs were slated for TEC review in 2025:

- Master of Theological Studies
- MA in Christian Ministry
- MA in Contextual Witness & Innovation*
- MA in Theology, Ecology & Food Justice*
- MA in Theology & Sports Studies*
- Master of Divinity (MDIV)
- MDIV/Master of Social Work
- Doctor of Ministry

Truett Re-Endorsement Visit:

On October 21, 2025, a visiting team consisting of Dan Upchurch (TEC member), Daniel Tanguma (TEC & IRC member) and Dr. Stephen Stookey (Director, Theological Education & Institutional Engagement, BGCT) visited Truett Seminary to review MFA eligible programs for reaffirmation.

Visiting Team's Report:

The visiting team was warmly welcomed by Dr. Todd Still, Dean of Truett Seminary. Meetings were held through the day with the following:

- Dr. Todd Still
- Truett academic and administrative leadership
- Current Truett MFA recipients

Additionally, the visiting team attended chapel.

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

- accomplishes institutional core goal to equip God-called people for gospel ministry in and alongside Christ's Church by the power of the Holy Spirit;
- noted the value of residential education in ministerial formation while also recognizing that not everyone seeking theological education can relocate to Waco, Texas, as evidenced by launch of campuses in San Antonio and Houston;
- noted educational programs that are rooted in Scripture and are theologically consistent with Texas Baptists principles;
- noted high success rate in placement of graduates in ministry positions;
- noted increased attention to residency and mentorship partnerships with constituent churches;
- noted creation of the Wesley House of Studies and Anglican Episcopal House as a reflection of Truett's unique role as an orthodox, evangelical, multi-denominational school in the historic Baptist tradition;
- noted Truett's significant role in training Texas Baptists future ministry leaders;
- noted Truett's clear affirmation of and active partnership with Texas Baptists;
- 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 George W Truett Theological Seminary (Baylor University) for Ministerial Financial Assistance is recommended:

Master of Theological Studies
 MA in Christian Ministry
 MA in Contextual Witness & Innovation
 MA in Theology, Ecology & Food Justice
 MA in Theology & Sports Studies
 Master of Divinity (MDIV)
 MDIV/Master of Social Work
 Doctor of Ministry