



1—Project Name: Ministry Student Retreat

2—If this grant is being requested on behalf of an external organization, what is that organization's name and connection with Texas Baptists?

N/A

3—Please request the minimum amount needed—with a maximum of \$20,000 possible—in order to accomplish the project's goals.

\$18,000.00 (*budget attached*)

4—Overview: Give a one paragraph description of the project.

Texas Baptists will host a 3-day retreat for ministry students from all Texas Baptists higher education institutions. This unique event will take place in Waco, Texas, immediately preceding and during the 2026 Texas Baptists Annual Meeting. The retreat is designed to offer a rich experience of spiritual formation, practical training, ministry connections, and encouragement specifically tailored for Texas Baptists ministry students. In addition to dedicated retreat programming, students will have the invaluable opportunity to attend the annual meeting, fostering their engagement with the convention both now and in the future.

5—STRATEGIC: How will this project make Texas Baptists stronger?

In a time when many local Baptist congregations are experiencing a shortage of leaders, it's crucial for Texas Baptists to take proactive steps to support and connect with ministry students throughout their education. Engaging with these future leaders early on should lead to a greater number of dedicated individuals serving our churches for years to come.

6—SIGNIFICANT: What is the anticipated long-term impact of this project?

This retreat is designed to equip the next generation of Baptist ministry leaders and strengthen their connection to the broader Texas Baptists family. The specialized formation students will receive at the retreat is vital for their present and future spiritual and professional growth, particularly as they continue their academic journeys and serve in their local congregations. Furthermore, their direct participation in the annual meeting will deepen their commitment to historical Baptist distinctives and underscore the profound impact of Texas Baptists' ministry, both within Texas and globally, through our churches and partners. This intentional investment will help cultivate the kind of Christ-centered leaders our Texas Baptist congregations critically need as we move forward.

7—SUSTAINABLE: How will the grant help this project become self-supporting?

The retreat is designed to demonstrate its value to Texas Baptists higher education institutions by showcasing the significant positive impact it has on their ministry students, thereby encouraging these institutions to budget for future ministry retreats. We believe that witnessing their students' increased passion for and commitment to Texas Baptists post-retreat will prompt financial investment. This, in turn, will strengthen the students' connection to their respective schools, ultimately fostering a pipeline of dedicated alumni serving in ministry.

The inaugural retreat will focus on future ministry leaders receiving Texas Baptists' Ministry Financial Assistance. Building on the inaugural retreat schools will be asked to support future retreats through assuming cost for transportation. We recognize that not all future Texas Baptists ministry leaders are studying at TXB-related institutions. Future iterations of the Ministry Student Retreat will expand the pool of participants by allowing external institutions to fund participation for a limited number of eligible ministry students. We believe a successful launch with our partner institutions will establish a program worthy of continued Texas Baptists support.

8—INNOVATIVE: How will this project break new ground?

Currently, there isn't a dedicated retreat of this kind for ministry students. Our team believes now is an opportune time for this event as we continue to build relationships with the over one thousand ministry students currently studying at our institutions and develop sustainable events supporting TXB ministry students.

9—INVOLVING: How will the churches served by Texas Baptists be included in this project?

This ministry student retreat will directly and profoundly impact the churches these students currently serve and will lead in the future. The practical training and spiritual encouragement they receive at the retreat will immediately bless the congregations they are called to serve, fostering stronger, more vibrant communities.

How many churches will be involved? With a goal of 88 students participating, we anticipate the retreat will directly benefit at least 88 churches.

10—INTERESTING: How will this project produce helpful stories and encourage donor engagement for future ministry support?

The ministry student retreat offers a rich source of stories and opportunities to engage donors for future support. We can gather powerful testimonials directly from ministry students through video interviews, written reflections, and "before and after" narratives, showcasing their personal growth and renewed calling. Additionally, we'll highlight tangible outcomes by capturing students learning new skills, demonstrating deepened connections, and emphasizing how the retreat immediately impacts their service in churches. These authentic, compelling narratives will deeply resonate with potential donors.

11—Has this project received previous TBMF grants? If YES, list years and amounts.

N/A

12—Is this request for an ongoing project with a new name? If YES, what was the former name of the project?

N/A

Budget for Ministry Student Retreat 2026

The inaugural retreat will gather Texas Baptists ministry students from our partner higher education institutions. The event will focus on future ministry leaders receiving Ministerial Financial Assistance (MFA) from Texas Baptists. In addition to the allocation of TBMF requested funds the Theological Education office of Texas Baptists will provide funds for retreat speakers/leaders.

Allocation of TBNF Requested Funds

Item	Amount	Notes
Travel Assistance	\$5,000.00	TXB partners with 10 universities and their respective undergraduate and graduate ministry programs; based on MFA enrollment numbers travel is allocated per the ten universities and Truett Seminary. Each school will be asked to bring a group of their ministry students.
Hotel Rooms	\$9,300.00	Projecting that schools will bring 8 students that will need 2 nights at a hotel (2 per room)
Meals	\$3,700.00	5 meals are planned for 88 students
Total	\$18,000.00	