

**GRADUATE
FIRST-YEAR
BAPTIST MINISTRY FINANCIAL
ASSISTANT (MFA) SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION**

Deadlines

October 1, 2021
(Fall 2021 & Spring 2022)

March 1, 2022
(Spring 2022 & Summer 2022)

DBU
DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

- Applicants must have a sense and show evidence of a divine call to a career in vocational or bi-vocational church-related Christian ministry.
- Applicants must be a member of a Baptist church their first year and an active member of a BGCT church every year after.
- Applicants must demonstrate a lifestyle of commitment to the principles of the Christian life.
- Application covers financial assistance through the academic year.
- Applicants must be working toward a graduate degree program within the DBU **Graduate School of Ministry** or pursuing a **ministry concentration** in a Doctoral program.
- Applicants must meet federal financial aid requirements.
- Application is for DBU Ministerial Financial Assistant (MFA) Scholarship as well.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- STEP ONE:** Ministry Student Scholarship Application

Please complete all blanks with the accurate information (pp 4-5).

- STEP TWO:** Personal Typed Testimony. You must submit an essay (250-word minimum) detailing your personal call to a career in vocational/bi-vocational church-related Christian ministry. Be as specific as possible regarding the details of your call and what type of ministry you feel called to pursue.

- STEP THREE:** (1) Church Endorsement and (2) Pastor Letter of Recommendation. Your church pastor or official must endorse you as an actively involved member with a divine call to Christian ministry, committing to a career in vocational/bi-vocational church-related Christian ministry (pp 6-7) and submit a letter of recommendation.

- STEP FOUR:** Return your completed application to the **Ministry Guidance Office in Office 209 in the College of Christian Faith on the 2nd floor of the Collins Learning Center or by mail, or e-mail**. You should include your name on every page to ensure all pages make it into the appropriate file.

GRADUATE FIRST-YEAR BAPTIST MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP

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

INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENT

Complete the *Student Information Section* (p 4),
sign and date the *Student Covenant* (p 5),
and return completed forms to the Ministry Student Office at Dallas Baptist University.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH LEADER

Complete and sign the *Church Certification* **and** *Church Information* sections (pp 6-7)
and submit a letter of recommendation from the pastor.

****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.***

Student Name (please print) _____

Student ID: _____

STUDENT INFORMATION

Personal Information

Permanent Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____

DBU E-mail: _____ **required: contact computer lab**

Personal E-mail: _____ **required**

Church Information

Name of Church: _____

Church Address: _____

Pastor/Church Leader: _____

Pastor/Church Leader E-mail: _____

Academic Information

Degree Program(s): _____

Ministry Concentration (*Doctoral Students Only*): _____

Academic Year Applying For: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Please return completed forms to the Dallas Baptist University Ministry Guidance Office.

3000 Mountain Creek Pkwy, Dallas TX 75211

Phone: 214.333.5574

E-mail: ministrygrant@dbu.edu

Fax: 214.333.5115

**GRADUATE
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FOR 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 church-related ministries 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, etc.);

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*.

During the preceding year, 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:

Paid leadership responsibilities: _____

Volunteer leadership or service: _____

Other involvement or means of support: _____

Sign the following affirmation, request your pastor (or other church approved leader if student is pastor) to complete pp 6-7, then return the completed forms along with any other materials required by your institution.

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.

Student's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

**GRADUATE
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FOR CHURCH LEADER**

Student Name: _____ Student ID: _____

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 _____
(student name)

- is an active member of our church,
- has shown evidence of a divine call to church-related vocational/bi-vocational ministry,
- has shown sincere commitment to a career in church-related ministry,
- has demonstrated a Christian life-style, and
- is the kind of person our church would be comfortable recommending as a minister to serve in a church-related vocational/bi-vocational position.

Please check the appropriate section below:

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:

- Ordination of student on _____.
(date)
- Licensing of student on _____.
(date)
- Adoption of the statement of certification above by congregation
on _____.
(date)

OR

- Adoption of the statement of certification above by:

- Church Committee
- Deacons
- Elders or other governing board
- Council of church staff members
- Other (please describe):

representing the congregation on _____.
(date)

- 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.
- I affirm this student's application for the Ministerial Financial Assistance.

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FOR CHURCH LEADER**

Student Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Church Leader

Pastor's or Church Leader's Name (Printed): _____

Pastor's E-mail Address: _____

Position at Church: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Church

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)

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E-mail: ministrygrant@dbu.edu