

**BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION
of the
Mississippi Baptist Convention**

**STUDENT HANDBOOK
2010-2011 Academic Year**

**Blue Mountain College
Mississippi College
William Carey University**

BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION HISTORY

The Board of Ministerial Education was created by the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting in 1885 and was granted a Charter of Incorporation in 1886. Its purpose, as stated in its Charter, is to aid ministerial students to secure a college education.

The Board consists of nine members elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention with terms staggered in such a way that the term of three members expires each year. Members may be elected for two consecutive three-year terms. Representatives from the Mississippi Baptist college campuses and the Secretary of the Board serve as ex-officio members of the Board of Ministerial Education.

An amendment to the constitution of the Mississippi Baptist Convention was approved in November 1987 which expanded the work of the Board of Ministerial Education to include all qualified church-related vocation ministerial students beginning in the Fall of 1988. In 2008-2009, the Board of Ministerial Education provided monthly financial assistance to 220 ministerial students at Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, and William Carey University.

In addition to monthly grants, the Board has six scholarships in trust with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation: the Therman V. Bryant Scholarship, the William Clawson Scholarship, the Hardy R. Denham Scholarship, the Ernest Pinson Memorial Scholarship, the Carpenter-Gandy Scholarship and the William N. Washburn Scholarship. Proceeds from these funds are used to aid deserving ministerial students each year.

BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION Mission Statement

The purpose of the Board of Ministerial Education is to assist in the education of ministers committed to serving vocationally in Southern Baptist ministries in local churches, evangelism, foreign missions and home missions. The ministry vocations encompassed in this purpose are governed by Ephesians 4:11-12: "to prepare God's people for works of service."

The Board of Ministerial Education reaffirms its commitment to the education of people committed to the Southern Baptist ministries of local churches, evangelism, foreign missions and home missions. The Board accepts the fact that Southern Baptists promote a broader spectrum of ministry vocations within Baptist life. However, the funding for any and all who may eventually work in some capacity other than a ministerial capacity within a church or denominational missions is insufficient. Therefore, this limitation has been devised to ensure adequate support for Church-Related Vocation Students entering SBC ministry vocations through local churches, evangelism,

foreign missions and home missions.

The Board of Ministerial Education recognizes that some Church-Related Vocation Students will select majors which indicate the student's desire for ministry. These majors include Biblical Studies, Religious Education, and Church Music. Other Church-Related Vocation Students may select college majors to broaden personal boundaries and later focus on their theological training by pursuing theological degrees on the masters level.

The Board of Ministerial Education espouses the following guidelines for students receiving Board of Ministerial Education funding.

- ** Board of Ministerial Education funding will be given to all qualified, full-time, undergraduate students who plan to enter Southern Baptist ministry vocations through local churches, evangelism, foreign missions or home missions.
- ** Ministries outside the auspices of local churches, evangelism, foreign missions and home missions are legitimate ministries, but are not eligible for Board of Ministerial Education grants.

The final determination of whether Church-Related Vocation students do or do not fall within these guidelines will be made after the interview process for these students by the full Board of Ministerial Education. The Board may ask for a written clarification by any student when a question arises about that student's future plans. Appeals of Board of Ministerial Education decisions may be made in writing to the Board.

While the Board of Ministerial Education acknowledges that ministry occurs in many areas other than the stated boundaries, this Board is charged by the Mississippi Baptist Convention to administer funds used in the education of students who qualify for Board of Ministerial Education grants. To that end the Board of Ministerial Education will execute the administration of those funds in accordance with this Mission Statement and the Bylaws of the Board of Ministerial Education, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

2010-2011 SCHEDULE FOR MINISTERIAL AID APPLICATIONS

Applications Due to Campus Representatives: September 8, 2010

Campus Interviews: Blue Mountain College -- September 10, 2010
Mississippi College – September 17, 2010
William Carey University--September 14-15, 2010

Board of Ministerial Education Review of Applications: Sept. 21, 2010

BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION MEMBERS

Terms Expire 2010

Mr. Kendall Moore, Madison
Dr. Jimmy Stewart, Gulfport
Rev. Tom Washburn, Jackson

Terms Expire 2011

Dr. Elgen Hillman, Hattiesburg
Rev. Tim Mims, Picayune
Mrs. Paula Walters, Laurel

Terms Expire 2012

Mr. Connie Drown, Corinth
Dr. Ron Mitchell, Corinth
Rev. Steve Wilson, Brandon

Ex-Officio Board Members:

Dr. Ronald Meeks, Blue Mountain College
(Campus Representative)
Ms. Lynda Street, Mississippi College
(Campus Representative)
Dr. Daniel Caldwell, William Carey University
(Campus Representative)
Mrs. Ruthie Courtney, Madison
(Board Secretary)

Board of Ministerial Education, P.O. Box 1843, Madison, MS 39130-1843

BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION POLICY
Matters Pertaining to Student Aid

I. QUALIFICATIONS

A. Recipient must be enrolled as a full-time (12 semester hours or the equivalent) undergraduate Church-Related Vocational Student in one of our Mississippi Baptist colleges.

B. Recipient must have made a public commitment to a church-related ministry before his/her church.

C. Recipient must furnish an official letter of recommendation from the Southern Baptist church of current membership:

1. Authentication of licensing and/or ordination is acceptable in lieu of such a letter.

2. In the event recipient's membership in current Southern Baptist church is less than six months, then a letter of recommendation from the Southern Baptist church of previous membership shall be required.

D. Recipient must maintain a C (2.0) average academically.

E. Recipient must conduct himself/herself according to Christian ethics and scriptural morality. He/she must not use harmful drugs (including alcoholic beverages and tobacco) or exhibit personal habits that otherwise discredit a Christian lifestyle. Spouse of recipient should be supportive of the ministerial commitment and conduct himself/herself in a manner consistent with a wholesome Christian witness. Questions on these matters will be referred to the Board of Ministerial Education to determine appropriate action.

F. Recipient must successfully complete the doctrinal course which is designated and offered by all of our Mississippi Baptist colleges by the end of their second year of ministerial aid. Three (3) semester hours are granted in the course toward graduation.

G. Married couples who are both qualified CRV students may both apply for ministerial aid. Ministerial service obligations may be fulfilled by either/or both students.

H. Exceptions to these policies may be considered at the discretion of the Board of Ministerial Education.

II. Because the funds allocated to the students by this Board are Cooperative Program funds, each recipient should:

A. Be a member of and attend regularly the Sunday worship services and the mid-week prayer service in a cooperating Southern Baptist church.

B. Be required to attend a monthly meeting of all Church-Related Vocational (CRV) ministerial students receiving aid from the Board of Ministerial Education

III. TYPES OF AID PROVIDED BY THE BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

A. Monthly Grants

B. Scholarship Grants

C. Emergency Aid

IV. MINISTERIAL AID SERVICE OBLIGATIONS

Ministerial aid service obligations may be fulfilled by service in the following areas:

A. Paid ministerial level positions in a Southern Baptist church (part-time or full-time). Internships with ministry responsibilities in a Southern Baptist Church may count for up to 50% of a student's service obligation, subject to Board approval.

B. Summer missions through the North American Mission Board, the International Mission Board (including BSU), and state or associational missions. Camp staff positions will be handled in the same manner as internships.

C. Full-time appointed mission service through the North American Mission Board or the International Mission Board.

V. REPAYMENT OF MINISTERIAL AID GRANTS

Students who fail to complete their ministerial education and service obligations to the Board of Ministerial Education will be required to repay their ministerial aid grants.

A. Individuals who are not enrolled in school and/or not serving in a CRV (church-related vocational) status within a local Southern Baptist church or mission board for a period of six consecutive months will be considered inactive.

B. Individuals with inactive status will be expected to begin repayment of BME grants immediately following the six month period. The schedule of repayment will be one year for each year of ministerial aid received. The repayment schedule will not exceed six months plus the period of time aid was received, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Ministerial Education.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AGREEMENT

In applying to the Board of Ministerial Education (BME) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) for financial aid, I, the undersigned student, acknowledge my understanding of the following and do agree to the conditions for financial aid herein stated.

1. I understand that the monies used for financial aid for church-related vocation ministerial students come through the Cooperative Program and are allocated to the BME in the annual Cooperative Program budgets of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. It is my understanding that this financial aid is designated for disbursement only to students committed to, and who later actually engage in, full-time Southern Baptist local church-related vocational ministry, evangelism or SBC missions. I understand that such financial aid funds, if approved, are for the purpose of preparing me for a Southern Baptist church ministry.

2. I further understand and agree that if for any reason I do not continue in my college work until graduation, and/or do not go on to serve as a Southern Baptist local church minister, evangelist, or SBC missionary, I am legally obligated to pay back to the BME of the Mississippi Baptist Convention the amount of money given me in financial aid while in college.

3. I further understand that for each academic year I receive financial aid from the BME, I am obligated to serve one year in a Southern Baptist church-related full-time ministry after completing my college and/or seminary training. I also understand that two years of part-time service in a ministerial capacity on a Southern Baptist church staff while a student in college and/or seminary will count for one academic year for which financial aid was received, and that two years of service in a bi-vocational ministry on a church staff after completing my college and/or seminary training will also count for one academic year for which financial aid was provided. Internships on a Southern Baptist Church staff and camp staff positions in SBC sponsored camps may count for up to half of the ministerial service obligation.

4. I further agree that in order for my personnel file in the records of the BME to be kept current, I will inform the Secretary of the BME about the places and tenures of my church-related vocational ministry until such time that the period of my obligation to the BME has elapsed.

My understanding and acceptance of the terms of this binding agreement, and my pledge to abide by the terms stated above, are acknowledged by my signature below.

DATE _____ STUDENT _____