

**BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION**

**Instructions for Ministerial Aid Applicants  
2010-2011**

Dear Students,

Along with this letter, you will receive an application packet for ministerial aid for the 2010-2011 academic year. The information in the *Student Handbook* should answer most of your questions about the ministerial aid program (available on convention website – [mbcb.org](http://mbcb.org)). If you do have questions after reading these materials, you may call our Board's Campus Representative at your college, or contact our Board Secretary, Mrs. Ruthie Courtney, at (601) 853-4436 or email at [rcourtney53@comcast.net](mailto:rcourtney53@comcast.net).

The Ministerial Aid Program is designed to provide direct financial assistance to undergraduate ministerial students who have made a commitment to, and are preparing for Southern Baptist church related vocational ministries. The vocations covered by this program are local church staff ministers, evangelists, and missions through the International Mission Board or the North American Mission Board (including chaplains and student workers). Social ministries, volunteer ministries, and church ministries which are not ministerial level (for example: child care workers, secretaries, Sunday School teachers, pianists, etc.) are not covered under this program. Specific information about the BME mission and policy is contained in the *Student Handbook*. Please note that a service obligation is part of the ministerial aid program. Recipients are expected to serve in a Southern Baptist church or mission organization for a time equal to that in which they receive ministerial aid (see *Financial Aid Agreement*). Failure to comply with this agreement will require repayment of these funds.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

**If this is your first time to apply for ministerial aid**, complete the application form, testimony about your call to ministry, and sign the Financial Aid Agreement form. These should be returned to your Campus Representative no later than September 8, 2010. When you arrive on campus in August, you must also go the Campus Representative's office and sign up for an interview with our Board. These interviews are fifteen minutes long and are for the purpose of reviewing your application to be sure that you fully qualify for assistance from the Board of Ministerial Education and that you fully understand the obligations which are involved in the ministerial aid program. An interview is required as part of the application process. Give the two lay reference

letters enclosed in the packet to two people who know you well (teachers, employers, etc.) *Do not give them to fellow students to complete for you!* The pastor's reference letter should go to your current pastor unless you have only been in the church a short while. In that case you may give it to your former pastor. The references should be mailed directly to our Board Secretary by September 10, 2008. Her address is noted on these forms.

**If you have received ministerial aid within the last three years**, you only need to complete the application form and turn it in to your Campus Representative by September 8, 2010. We have the rest of your records on file. You are required to participate in the campus interview in order to receive ministerial aid. Sign up in your Campus Representative's office at the beginning of the semester for a convenient interview time.

The Board of Ministerial Education rejoices in your commitment to ministry and looks forward to serving you as you prepare for our Lord's work.

Sincerely,

Ruthie Courtney

**Blue Mountain College**

Campus Representative: Dr. Ronald Meeks

Interview Date: September 10, 2010

**Mississippi College**

Campus Representative: Ms. Lynda Street

Interview Date: September 17, 2010

**William Carey College**

Campus Representative: Dr. Daniel Caldwell

Interview Dates: September 14-15, 2010

**Board of Ministerial Education – P.O. Box 1843, Madison, MS 39130 – Ruthie Courtney, Secretary**

**BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION**  
Mississippi Baptist Convention

**APPLICATION FOR MINISTERIAL AID**

**I. Personal**

College \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

College Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Your cell phone no. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ Married ( ) Yes ( ) No Number/Ages of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Current Academic Load: \_\_\_\_\_ hrs.

Classification: Fr. Soph. Jr. Sr. Degree Sought: \_\_\_\_\_ Major Subject \_\_\_\_\_

Area of ministry for which you are preparing \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Point Average \_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

License/Ordination ( ) Yes ( ) No Public Commitment to Ministry ( ) Yes ( ) No

Church \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Work Information (Salaried Jobs, current and past)**

A. Church Related Work (Include church name, location, dates, and type of service) Monthly Income

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Non-Church Related Work (business name, location, dates of work) Monthly Income

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**III. Student Application Agreement**

- A. I have read the accompanying statement of policy of the Board of Ministerial Education and agree to abide by its terms.
- B. I agree to report any changes in the above information promptly to the Board's Campus Representative.
- C. I authorize the Financial Aid Office of this college to make available to the Board of Ministerial Education any relevant financial information which I have supplied.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student I.D. Number \_\_\_\_\_

2010

Please describe briefly for the Board of Ministerial Education your call to ministry and the work you feel called to do.

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

**LETTER OF REFERENCE**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Friend:

The student named above has given your name as a personal reference on an application for ministerial aid from the Board of Ministerial Education. It is our understanding from the above identified student that he/she has made a public commitment to a church-related ministerial vocation. Please return this form to the address noted on back so that this student's application may be considered.

**Please check the response that most accurately corresponds to your opinion or impression.**

1. CALL TO THE MINISTRY  
\_\_\_\_\_ Strong conviction about his/her call  
\_\_\_\_\_ Seems to be questioning or doubting his/her call  
\_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.
  
2. EMOTIONAL STABILITY  
\_\_\_\_\_ Stable and mature for his/her age  
\_\_\_\_\_ Average stability and maturity  
\_\_\_\_\_ Unstable or immature for age  
\_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.
  
3. DESIRE TO PREPARE HIMSELF/HERSELF ACADEMICALLY  
\_\_\_\_\_ Outstanding initiative in study habits and self-discipline  
\_\_\_\_\_ Average study habits and self-discipline  
\_\_\_\_\_ Poor study habits and self-discipline  
\_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.
  
4. PROMISE IN THE MINISTRY  
\_\_\_\_\_ Outstanding potential in ministry  
\_\_\_\_\_ Good potential in ministry  
\_\_\_\_\_ Evidence of potential not apparent  
\_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.
  
5. PERSONAL COMPATIBILITY (ability to get along with others)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Likes people, outgoing and good leadership potential  
\_\_\_\_\_ Relates well to individuals but not groups  
\_\_\_\_\_ Relates well to groups but not individual people  
\_\_\_\_\_ Poor interpersonal relationships  
\_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.

6. MARITAL AND FAMILY STATUS

- \_\_\_\_\_ Married
- \_\_\_\_\_ Single
- \_\_\_\_\_ Married, but now separated or divorced
- \_\_\_\_\_ Children (If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_)

7. FAMILY BACKGROUND

- \_\_\_\_\_ Stable Christian home
- \_\_\_\_\_ Christian home, but unstable
- \_\_\_\_\_ One or both parents not Christian
- \_\_\_\_\_ Poor home life (Please elaborate below)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parents divorced or separated
- \_\_\_\_\_ Raised by single parent or guardian
- \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.

8. PARTICIPATION IN CHURCH ACTIVITIES

- \_\_\_\_\_ Very faithful and supportive
- \_\_\_\_\_ Active most of the time
- \_\_\_\_\_ Irregular in attendance and support
- \_\_\_\_\_ Not active at all
- \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.

9. FINANCIAL NEEDS

- \_\_\_\_\_ No family support or employment and needs all possible help
- \_\_\_\_\_ Some family support or employment, but needs some help
- \_\_\_\_\_ Able to pay own expenses
- \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond

10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION I FEEL IS IMPORTANT

- \_\_\_\_\_ Please check here and write on bottom of this page or on separate sheet.

Please sign this recommendation in the space below, understanding that the above information will be treated as confidential and is for the exclusive use of the Board of Ministerial Education in determining the student's eligibility for ministerial aid. Please send this letter to:

Mrs. Ruthie Courtney, Secretary  
Board of Ministerial Education  
P.O. Box 1843  
Madison, MS 39130-1843

Your prompt reply will help us better serve our ministerial students!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Reference \_\_\_\_\_ Date

Phone number if you would not object to responding to inquiry over the phone:  
\_\_\_\_\_. Your relationship to this student: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**PASTOR'S LETTER OF REFERENCE**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Dear Pastor:**

The student named above has given your name as his/her home pastor on an application for ministerial aid from the Board of Ministerial Education. It is our understanding from the above identified student that he/she has made a public commitment in the church to a Southern Baptist church-related ministerial vocation. Please complete and return this form to the address noted on the back of this sheet so that this student's application may be considered.

1. CALL TO THE MINISTRY

- \_\_\_\_\_ Strong conviction about his/her call
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seems to be questioning or doubting his/her call
- \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.

2. EMOTIONAL STABILITY

- \_\_\_\_\_ Stable and mature for his/her age
- \_\_\_\_\_ Average stability and maturity
- \_\_\_\_\_ Unstable or immature for age
- \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.

3. DESIRE TO PREPARE HIMSELF/HERSELF ACADEMICALLY

- \_\_\_\_\_ Outstanding initiative in study habits and self-discipline
- \_\_\_\_\_ Average study habits and self-discipline
- \_\_\_\_\_ Poor study habits and self-discipline
- \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.

4. PROMISE IN THE MINISTRY

- \_\_\_\_\_ Outstanding potential in ministry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Good potential in ministry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Evidence of potential not apparent
- \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.

5. PERSONAL COMPATIBILITY (ability to get along with others)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Likes people, outgoing and good leadership potential
- \_\_\_\_\_ Relates well to individuals but not groups
- \_\_\_\_\_ Relates well to groups but not individual people
- \_\_\_\_\_ Poor interpersonal relationships
- \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.

6. MARITAL AND FAMILY STATUS

- \_\_\_\_\_ Married
- \_\_\_\_\_ Single
- \_\_\_\_\_ Married, but now separated or divorced
- \_\_\_\_\_ Children (If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_)

7. FAMILY BACKGROUND

- \_\_\_\_\_ Stable Christian home
- \_\_\_\_\_ Christian home, but unstable
- \_\_\_\_\_ One or both parents not Christian
- \_\_\_\_\_ Poor home life (Please elaborate below)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parents divorced or separated
- \_\_\_\_\_ Raised by single parent or guardian
- \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.

8. PARTICIPATION IN CHURCH ACTIVITIES

- \_\_\_\_\_ Very faithful and supportive
- \_\_\_\_\_ Active most of the time
- \_\_\_\_\_ Irregular in attendance and support
- \_\_\_\_\_ Not active at all
- \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond.

9. FINANCIAL NEEDS

- \_\_\_\_\_ No family support or employment and needs all possible help
- \_\_\_\_\_ Some family support or employment, but needs some help
- \_\_\_\_\_ Able to pay own expenses
- \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know applicant well enough to respond

10. PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO MINISTRY

- \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant has made a public commitment to ministry in my church. Date \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant has been licensed/ordained in my church. Date \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant has made a public commitment to ministry in another church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant has been licensed/ordained in another church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ To my knowledge, applicant is not licensed/ordained and has not made a public commitment to ministry.

10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION I FEEL IS IMPORTANT

- \_\_\_\_\_ Please check here and write on bottom of this page or on separate sheet.

Please sign this recommendation in the space below, understanding that the above information will be treated as confidential and is for the exclusive use of the Board of Ministerial Education in determining the student's eligibility for ministerial aid. Please send this letter to:

Mrs. Ruthie Courtney, Secretary  
Board of Ministerial Education  
P.O. Box 1843  
Madison, MS 39130-1843

Your prompt reply will help us better serve our ministerial students!

PASTOR'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AGREEMENT

In applying to the Board of Ministerial Education (BME) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) 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 vocational ministerial students come through the Cooperative Program and are allocated to the Board of Ministerial Education 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 Board of Ministerial Education 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 Board of Ministerial Education, 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 or seminary will count for one year in which financial aid was received, and that two years of service in a bi-vocational ministry on a Southern Baptist church staff after completing my college or seminary training will also count for one year in 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 personal file in the records of the Board of Ministerial Education to be kept current, I will inform the Secretary of the Board of Ministerial Education about the places and tenures of my church-related vocational ministry until such time that the period of my obligation to the Board of Ministerial Education 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
BME Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date