



Randolph Street Baptist Church

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Dear Church Leader,

I trust this letter finds you and your family well. I would like to take a moment to introduce you to our Academy of Biblical and Theological Studies (ABTS). Over the past two years the Academy has offered graduate level courses designed to thoroughly train men and women in the context of the local church in Appalachia. These classes have been taught by reputable scholars from seminaries around our region. We have profited much from these men and their understanding of God's Word.

A few months ago the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary approached us concerning the possibility of establishing an educational partnership with ABTS. After much discussion we have formally entered into this partnership as we desire to see theological education a part of the Appalachian church context. This partnership allows a student in our region to pursue an accredited Master of Divinity or a Master of Arts degree without relocating to Louisville. The Master of Divinity student can complete 48 hours of the total 94 hours through classes taught in Charleston. A Master of Arts student can complete 21 hours through classes taught in Charleston. The remaining hours will be completed through week long classes in Louisville and online classes.

There are many benefits to this opportunity. First, keeping our men in the context of the local church is invaluable as they pursue theological education. Second, for current pastors, this provides you an opportunity to remain in your ministry while pursuing an accredited Seminary degree. Third, the cost of the overall program will be significantly cheaper through ABTS. The M.Div. student will receive 30 hours of his program at Academy costs only. This means he will be paying SBTS tuition rates for only 64 hours. The Master of Arts in Theological Studies (M.A.T.S.) student will pay 21 of the 48 hours at Academy tuition which means this student will be paying SBTS tuition for only 27 hours.

A number of our current ABTS began their M.Div. and M.A.T.S. studies by taking the conference class at Together for the Gospel. This Fall we officially launch our first partnership class with New Testament Introduction I. Dr. Brian Vickers, professor of NT at Southern Seminary, will be teaching this class. The first class will be Saturday, August 23, from 8am-12pm at Randolph Street Baptist Church. The weekend seminar is scheduled for September 26-28. As a part of the fall schedule, we will be hosting our 4th Appalachia Conference on Theology and the Church on November 14th & 15th with Dr. Derek Thomas as our guest speaker. Visit the Academy website for more information. Our Spring class, Hermeneutics, will be taught by Dr. Stephen Wellum from Southern Seminary. Dates and information regarding this class will be published on our website at a later time.

We have included information below that will help you better understand this partnership. If you have any questions you can call me (304-926-4118) or Randy Jones (304-989-4435). We would love to see this partnership with Southern Seminary be a help to you or those in your fellowship who desire an accredited theological education.

You can find more information about this partnership and upcoming classes by visiting our Academy website: www.AppalachiaAcademy.org. Let us know if we can serve you in any way.

For Christ's glory in Appalachia,

Jason McClanahan, Lead Pastor

To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:21

Programs Offered through the Academy of Biblical and Theological Studies (ABTS)

Audit: Anyone can attend these classes for free.

Track 1 - Certificate of Theological Studies: The track 1 student will complete courses and assignments through the Academy only. Upon completing 10 classes the student will receive a Certificate of Theological Studies. We will offer 2-4 classes each year. This track is not connected to our educational partnership with SBTS.

Track 2 - Master of Divinity or Master of Arts: The track 2 student will be enrolled at ABTS and SBTS and will participate in classes at both institutions. Please see information below.

Academic Options for Track 2 Student

Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS): The MATS is a 48 hour program. SBTS has agreed to allow 21 hours to be completed through the Academy in Charleston. These are credits that will be transferred into SBTS but earned through the ABTS. The remaining 27 hours would be completed through online, hybrid and J-term (week-long intensive) classes in Louisville.

Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling (MABC): The MABC is a 51 hour program. SBTS has agreed to allow 21 hours to be completed through the Academy in Charleston. These are credits that will be transferred into SBTS but earned through the ABTS. The remaining 30 hours would be completed through online, hybrid and J-term classes in Louisville or conference classes offered by SBTS.

Master of Divinity - Christian Ministry (M.Div.): The M.Div. is a 94 hour program. SBTS has agreed to allow 30 hours of credits to be completed through the Academy in Charleston. These are credits that will be transferred into SBTS but earned through the ABTS. Also, the M.Div. student will be allowed to complete another 18 credit hours through the Ministry Apprenticeship Program (MAP) at Randolph Street under the direction of the pastoral staff. So, the M.Div. student can complete 48 hours in Charleston through classroom and the apprenticeship program. The rest of the program would be completed through online, hybrid and J-term classes in Louisville.

SBTS & ABTS Class Schedule: The ABTS will offer 10 SBTS core classes over a five year period. The chart below lists the classes that will be offered. The 18 hour MAP program will be offered on a 3 year rotation. The student can enter the program at any time during the 5 year rotation.

Class Rotation - Academy					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
ABTS & SBTS Partnership Classes	Introduction to the NT I	Systematic Theology I	Systematic Theology II	Systematic Theology III	Introduction to Church History I
	Biblical Hermeneutics	Introduction to Church History II	Introduction to OT I	Introduction to the NT II	Introduction to the OT II
	MAP - Leadership	MAP - Proclamation	MAP - Outreach	MAP - Leadership	MAP - Proclamation
ABTS Only Classes	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

What is M.A.P.?

M.A.P. is the ministry apprenticeship program that consists of three 6 hour classes. Practically speaking, MAP is field education courses designed to provide a format for learning and practical ministry training. The MAP classes will include regular meetings for discussion and ministry in the student's local church.

Who will teach the ABTS/SBTS partnership classes?

For the Academy/SBTS partnership classes, we will continue to bring in various outside scholars to teach each of these core classes. We are committed to bringing in men who are not only scholars, but men who deeply love the Word of God and the Church. In the past we have had Jim Hamilton, Andreas Kostenberger, Steve Lawson, Tom Nettles, Stephen Nichols, Brian Vickers, Bruce Ware, Greg Gilbert, Stephen Wellum and others teach our classes. Our pastoral staff, along with guest lecturers, will lead the MAP curriculum.

At which institution does the student enroll if he/she desires to pursue an accredited degree?

All Track 2 students will have a dual enrollment. The student must enroll at SBTS in order to complete the online, hybrid or J-term courses. Likewise the student must enroll at ABTS in order to complete the classes in Charleston.

What is the cost for completing the M.A. or M.Div. program through the educational partnership?

This is a major benefit of this partnership. All classes completed at the Academy are ABTS tuition only. These classes will be transferred to SBTS at the completion of the program. As you will see from the summary below, the M.A. or M.Div student will experience a significant savings by completing their program through ABTS. Below is a summary of the costs.

Master of Divinity: 30 hours of the program will be ABTS tuition only. The other 64 will be SBTS tuition rates (see below). MAP courses are SBTS tuition rates.

Master of Arts: 21 hours will be ABTS tuition only while all other hours will be SBTS tuition rates (see below).

Is financial aid available?

Yes, limited financial aid is available to those who demonstrate need. The student must fill out an Academy financial aid application. For more information please contact our church office (304-342-3257).

Schedule of Fees

School	Church Status	Tuition	
		Track 1	Track 2
SBTS	Member of SBC Church	N/A	\$242/hour
	Not a member of SBC Church	N/A	\$484/hour
ABTS	Member of RSBC	\$50/class	\$75/class
	Not a member of RSBC	\$100/class	\$150/class
	*A student may audit any class offered at ABTS for free.		

What is the format of classes offered at the Academy? We will offer one Fall semester class and one Spring semester class. Our class schedule typically consists of two Saturday classes and one major weekend seminar. The weekend seminar includes the professor preaching during our Sunday gathering. There will also be other lectures assigned for the student to listen to before and after the weekend seminar.

Example of Curriculum Master of Arts (Theological Studies)				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
ABTS	Introduction to NT I	Systematic Theology I	Systematic Theology II	Introduction to NT II
	Biblical Hermeneutics	Introduction to Church History II	Introduction to OT I	
SBTS Online, Hybrid or J-Term *Not necessarily in this order.	Introduction to OT II	Introduction to Church History I	Systematic Theology III	
	Introduction to Christian Philosophy	Survey of Christian Ethics	Worldview and Culture Elective	
	Introduction to Missiology	Personal Evangelism	Free Elective	

Example of Curriculum Master of Divinity (Christian Ministry)					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
ABTS	Introduction to the NT I	Systematic Theology I	Systematic Theology II	Systematic Theology III	Introduction to Church History I
	Biblical Hermeneutics	Introduction to Church History II	Introduction to OT I	Introduction to the NT II	Introduction to the OT II
SBTS Online, Hybrid or J-Term *Not necessarily in this order.	Elementary Greek	Christian Preaching	Elementary Hebrew	Survey of Christian Ethics	History of Baptists
	Greek Syntax and Exegesis	Applied Ministry	Hebrew Syntax and Exegesis	Introduction to Missiology	Free Elective
	Pastoral Ministry	Personal Spiritual Disciplines	Personal Evangelism	Free Elective	
		Preaching Practicum		Free Elective	
MAP	Integrative Seminar I - Leadership (6 hours)	Integrative Seminar II - Proclamation (6 hours)	Integrative Seminar III - Outreach (6 hours)		

5 Year Master of Divinity Schedule

Black = class taken at ABTS with ABTS tuition only

Blue = class taken at ABTS with SBTS tuition & ABTS tuition

Red = class taken through SBTS - online, hybrid or J-term

Year 1			
Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Introduction to the NT I		Biblical Hermeneutics	Pastoral Ministry
Elementary Greek		Greek Syntax and Exegesis	
Integrative Seminar I - Leadership (6 hours)			

Year 2			
Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Systematic Theology I	Applied Ministry	Introduction to Church History II	Preaching Practicum
Christian Preaching		Personal Spiritual Disciplines	
Integrative Seminar II - Proclamation (6 hours)			

Year 3			
Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Systematic Theology II		Introduction to OT I	Personal Evangelism
Elementary Hebrew		Hebrew Syntax and Exegesis	
Integrative Seminar III - Outreach (6 hours)			

Year 4			
Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Systematic Theology III	Introduction to Missiology	Introduction to the NT II	Free Elective
Survey of Christian Ethics		Free Elective	

Year 5			
Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Introduction to Church History I		Introduction to the OT II	
History of Baptists		Free Elective	