



The mission of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is to train young men and women for future Christian service. In this mission, we partner with the local church. Each applicant is required to submit a Church/Pastoral Recommendation Form from the church that holds his/her membership.

We take your endorsement very seriously. Your endorsement is the testimony of your congregation as to the perceived fitness of the applicant for Christian leadership.

If the church is unwilling to offer their unhesitating affirmation of the applicant, please enclose a letter on official church letterhead stating the rationale for the church's decision.

## Statement of Affirmation

Applicant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

**“We affirm that the applicant is a member in good standing of this church and demonstrates the appropriate character, ability, and knowledge as necessary for one seeking ministerial leadership”**

**PLEASE CHECK BOTH BOXES**

YES NO

This statement was approved by the church or an appropriate church authority.

This applicant is a member of this church.

*If the applicant is not a member of your church, please note the rationale for your action on a separate piece of paper.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *date applicant became member*

\_\_\_\_\_ *date of church affirmation*

\_\_\_\_\_ *name of church*

\_\_\_\_\_ *address of church*

\_\_\_\_\_ *denominational affiliation*

\_\_\_\_\_ *city*                      *state*                      *zip*

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your understanding of the applicant's vocation/educational goals \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please evaluate the applicant in the following areas. Make comments on the back of next sheet for any Below Average or Poor responses. Feel free to use that space for any other comments as well.

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	No Information
Character (person of moral and spiritual integrity)	5	4	3	2	1	N
Judgment	5	4	3	2	1	N
Emotional stability	5	4	3	2	1	N
Maturity	5	4	3	2	1	N
Commitment to church-related vocation	5	4	3	2	1	N
Potential for effective ministry	5	4	3	2	1	N
Skill in relating to others	5	4	3	2	1	N
Financial responsibility	5	4	3	2	1	N
Spouse/family relations	5	4	3	2	1	N
Academic/intellectual abilities	5	4	3	2	1	N
Leadership potential	5	4	3	2	1	N

Do you know of any physical, mental or emotional problems which might hinder effective work in Christian ministry?  
 yes  no If yes, please elaborate.

Do you know of any physical, mental or emotional problems which might hinder the applicant's academic progress?  
 yes  no If yes, please elaborate.

Do you know of any personal habits (sexual behavior, drug/alcohol use) or personal prejudices which might hamper service in a church-related position?  
 yes  no If yes, please elaborate.

Would you recommend this person to a church-related position upon completion of training?  yes  no

Do you recommend this person for admission?  yes  no If yes, please check one:  
 With confidence  With some reservations  With reluctance

What characteristics do you consider to be the greatest strengths or talents of the applicant?

What characteristics do you consider to be the greatest weaknesses of the applicant?

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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*signature of pastor/church leader*

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*email of pastor/church leader*

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*name of pastor/church leader (please print)*

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*phone of pastor/church leader*

This form is confidential and will become the property of SBTS and will not be returned to the student. Should the applicant be denied or otherwise not enroll, SBTS is under no obligation to disclose the contents of the application to the applicant, nor will SBTS release any information to a party legally unrelated to SBTS unless required to do so. Upon enrollment, the application becomes a part of the student's permanent academic record and, as such, is subject to the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Thank you for your thoughtful responses.

Please return this form to:

**Admissions Office**  
**The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**2825 Lexington Road**  
**Louisville, Kentucky 40280**