**Central Baptist Theological Seminary**

**"Economics of Ministry: From Classroom to Congregation"**

From classroom to congregation, we will address the interrelated challenges that impact the economics of ministry through an integrated, three-pronged approach. The project will be coordinated by a Project Director along with an Advisory Committee that will provide input, monitor progress, and inform seminary practices relative to student debt, financial literacy, and prospective partnerships. The goals of our combined efforts are the flourishing of vocations and congregational health.

* Objective #1 - **Research:** Provide financial coaching to an incoming class cohort with moderate, prior educational debt; engage students in financial planning and survey instruments. Track students five years beyond graduation to understand impact of debt and improved financial literacy on ministry longevity and effectiveness.
* Objective #2 - **Education**: Offer an innovative initiative to equip students for successfully launching ministry start-ups. Provide supplemental financial coaching in conjunction with refashioned entrepreneurial leadership coursework to develop essential skills for managing financially healthy ministries into the future.
* Objective #3 - **Collaboration**: Engage congregations through collaborative partnerships that exchange ministry internships for financial support. Convene key stakeholders for an "Economics of Ministry Summit" to heighten awareness, encourage funding support, and potentially enhance ministry compensation.

Progress to date, collaboration of Project Director and President's office:

* Diverse Advisory Committee selected to drive the project's three-pronged initiative; this body convenes for its first work session March 27.
* Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) enlisted as partner; MMBB plays key role in Economics of Ministry Summit scheduled for October 1, 2015.
* Project publicized through variety of media; letters inviting new students to participate in the pilot cohort ready in anticipation of fall applicants.
* Experienced financial coach solicited to work with our students, and expert researcher recruited to assist with design of the research prong.

Important resources:

* Auburn Center for the Study of Theological Education [www.auburnsem.org/study](http://www.auburnsem.org/study)
* Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board [www.mmbb.org](http://www.mmbb.org)
* In Trust Center for Theological Schools [www.intrust.org](http://www.intrust.org)

Project Director: Angela Jackson, angela.jackson@cbts.edu, 785-969-7596