

Over the past several years, the faculty has had internal discussions about a change in our enrollment policy which we are implementing following this academic year. It has been our policy to only admit students who could sign a form indicating their agreement with the seminary doctrinal statement. Instead of affirming their agreement with the full doctrinal statement, in the future students will be asked to affirm their full agreement with our new Seminary Creed. The Creed represents our effort to restate fundamental theological convictions within a separatistic Baptist context.

As a seminary we are very clear about our biblical convictions, and we are also unapologetic about the theological unity our faculty enjoys. We know what we believe and the theological heritage that we want, by God's grace, to pass along to the next generation of ministry leaders. Yet, we recognize that seminary is a time for students to develop their own convictions through the diligent study of the Scriptures. We want our students to know what we believe and will teach but we also want our students to become convinced for themselves of what the Scriptures teach.

As a fundamental Baptist seminary, we would not, though, be comfortable without any theological boundaries. The Seminary Creed establishes the circle within which theological enquiry at DBTS may take place. While there has never been any official list of fundamental doctrines, our Creed attempts to state those theological convictions which have historically identified biblical Christianity. We exist to train men who are committed to the fundamentals of the Faith.

As a Baptist seminary, our primary mission is to train men of Baptist convictions, so we have also included a statement that reflects our Baptist convictions about believer's baptism and the authority of Scripture in the organization of the local assembly. The local church is the center of God's activity in this dispensation, so that remains our focus—helping local churches by training men to pastor and plant local churches across the USA and around the world.

As a separatist seminary, we are committed to the clear biblical principles regarding how believers and churches should respond to apostasy, to compromise with it, and to God's call to reflect His holiness in the midst of a wicked world. Our desire in the Creed is to express the core convictions of biblically based separatism. Because we believe that these convictions are essential to a faithful, obedient ministry, we also believe they are an essential component of our educational mission.

DBTS is unique in that it exists as the ministry of a local church, Inter-City Baptist Church, and that unique relationship has and continues to control our mission. We are committed to perpetuating a clear theological heritage and partnering with local churches to prepare men for Great Commission ministry. While pursuing and maintaining rigorous academic standards, we reject the spirit of the modern academy which often forsakes or minimizes theological pre-commitments under the guise of scholarship. We believe that this new enrollment policy carefully balances our commitment to our theological and ministerial heritage and our desire to provide an environment within which serious-minded seminary students may form and sharpen their biblical convictions.

The practical application of this change will be joined to the application and registration process. An applicant will need to sign a form indicating their full agreement with the Seminary Creed prior to being accepted for enrollment. Enrolled students will need to signal their full agreement with the Creed by signing a statement which will be included in the registration materials for each semester.

For the sake of His name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Doran". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

David M. Doran
President