in preaching, counseling, education, and cross-cultural ministry. In addition, all students are required to participate in the Practical Missions Program of the school and are encouraged to be involved in churches during their seminary days.

In response to the distinct training needs among Southern Baptists, the Seminary offers the following degree programs: Associate of Divinity, Associate of Christian Education, Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies, Master of Christian Education, Master of Arts in Christian Education, Master of Missiology and Intercultural Studies, Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry, and Doctor of Philosophy. The following degree programs are offered at the Northeast campus: Associate of Applied Science, Master of Divinity. A Certificate Program is also available to students attending the Northeast campus.

Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary desires to glorify Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This purpose is achieved by:

• Teaching the Bible as the verbally-inspired Word of God, wholly without error as originally given by God, and sufficient as our infallible rule of faith and practice;
• Maintaining high academic standards and promoting reverent scholarship;
• Teaching that people should be faithful in the Lord’s service through the local church;
• Demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit as His gifts are exercised; and
• Training people to do evangelism at home and cross-culturally.

Articles of Religious Belief

Article I: The Bible

We believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, wholly without error as originally given by God, and is sufficient as our only infallible rule of faith and practice. We deny that other books are inspired by God in the same way as the Bible. Please see position paper on following page.

Article II: God

We believe in the one true and living God, the creator and sustainer of all things. He is infinite, eternal, unchangeable, and is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father is the head of the Godhead, and into His hands the kingdom shall be delivered. The Son is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament, Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary, hence the God-Man. He died on the cross to redeem man, rose again from the dead to justify the believer, ascended to the right hand of God where He intercedes for us, and in the Father’s own time will return in visible, personal form to overthrow sin and judge the world. The Holy Spirit is the one sent from God to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, of judgment, and to regenerate and cleanse from sin. He is the resident guide, teacher, and strengthener of the believer.
Article III: Satan and Sinful Man

We believe that man was created innocent, that he was tempted by Satan and sinned; because of this men have been born in sin since that time and are by nature the children of wrath. We believe that Satan is a personal devil who with his angels carries on the work of iniquity in this world. Sin is basically rebellion against God, and the end of sin is eternal separation from God.

Article IV: Salvation

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Savior from sin. He atoned for our sins on the cross and rose again for our justification. Apart from Jesus Christ there is no salvation. All men are under condemnation through personal sin, and escape from condemnation comes only through the righteousness of Jesus Christ. This righteousness is imputed to the believer by grace through faith. The Holy Spirit regenerates the one who makes the life commitment to Jesus, and the life begun in regeneration is never lost.

Article V: Resurrection

We believe in the final resurrection of all men, just and unjust. We believe that those who commit their lives to Jesus Christ during this life will be raised to everlasting life, but those who are not committed to Jesus Christ in this life will be raised to everlasting condemnation.

Article VI: The Church

We believe that a New Testament church is a voluntary association of baptized believers in Christ who have covenanted together to follow the teachings of the New Testament in doctrine, worship, and practice. We believe that the only two church ordinances are baptism and the Lord’s Supper. We likewise believe that only those who are committed to Jesus Christ as Lord are scriptural subjects for baptism and that immersion is the only proper mode of baptism. We believe that the Lord’s Supper is a memorial to the Lord’s death. The bread symbolizes His body which was given for us. The fruit of the vine symbolizes His blood which was shed for us. We believe that a church is a democratic organization served by two types of officers, pastors or bishops and deacons.

Article VII: Civil Government

We believe that God established civil government. We likewise believe in the complete separation of church and state.

Article VIII: Baptist Distinctives

We are Baptists because we believe that Baptists stand for distinctive truths to which other denominations do not adhere. We believe that we cannot compromise these truths without being disloyal to our Lord and to His Word. We do seek to cooperate with all others who are committed to Jesus Christ as Lord.
Addendum: To Be Signed by All Professors

I do solemnly promise and engage not to inculcate, sanction, teach, or insinuate anything which shall contradict or contravene, either directly or implicitly, any element of the foregoing statement of religious beliefs. Now, therefore, the undersigned in the presence of God declares that he or she consents, agrees, and binds himself/herself to all of the foregoing without any reservation whatsoever. He or she further agrees that he or she will immediately notify in writing the administration of the Seminary should a change of any kind take place in his or her belief that is not in accord with this statement.

Mid-America and the Bible

A Position Paper

One of the defining hallmarks of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary is our high view of the Bible as the pure and true Word of God. This commitment to the Bible was one of the motivating reasons for the birth of the Seminary. Our founders recognized the urgent need for a seminary where every professor would believe all of the Bible. The need for such a seminary is as urgent, if not more urgent, today. Throughout our history, churches and individuals have supported the Seminary because of this distinctive commitment to the Word of God. We have communicated to students that if they come to Mid-America they will receive solid biblical/theological training and preparation for ministry.

It is important that we communicate clearly the fact that our commitment to the Bible never changes. It is imperative that we do this to be faithful to the Lord, to fulfill our educational purpose, to undergird the confidence of our supporters and students, and to keep our distinctiveness at the forefront.

How do we best do this? For years, we have all used the word inerrancy to express our position. Language, however, has a way of changing. Over a period of years, words that express concrete ideas can lose the precision and sharpness which they once communicated as they are used in different contexts and given added connotations. During the past few years, there have been those who have sought to add an elasticity to the word inerrancy and broaden its meaning. Thus, while we are all avowed inerrantists in the classical sense of the word, the best place for us to focus in communicating our unchanging commitment to the Bible is with Article I on the Bible in our Articles of Religious Belief. Article 1 affirms that:

“We believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, wholly without error as originally given by God, and is sufficient as our only infallible rule of faith and practice. We deny that other books are inspired by God in the same way as the Bible.”

In this article the Seminary makes a clear and unambiguous statement about the Bible. Each year when we sign the Articles and verbally affirm our agreement