

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Assessment and Accountability

NO.: AAC 09-20

COMMITTEE DATE: May 29, 2009

BOARD DATE: June 4, 2009

BETHEL UNIVERSITY

Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Theological Studies, and the Certificate of Theological Studies

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Foreign Corporation Certificate of **Bethel University** to award the **Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Theological Studies, and the Certificate of Theological Studies.**

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.

Contact: Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

April 2009

Bethel University

Master of Divinity
Master of Arts in Theological Studies
Certificate of Theological Studies

INTENT

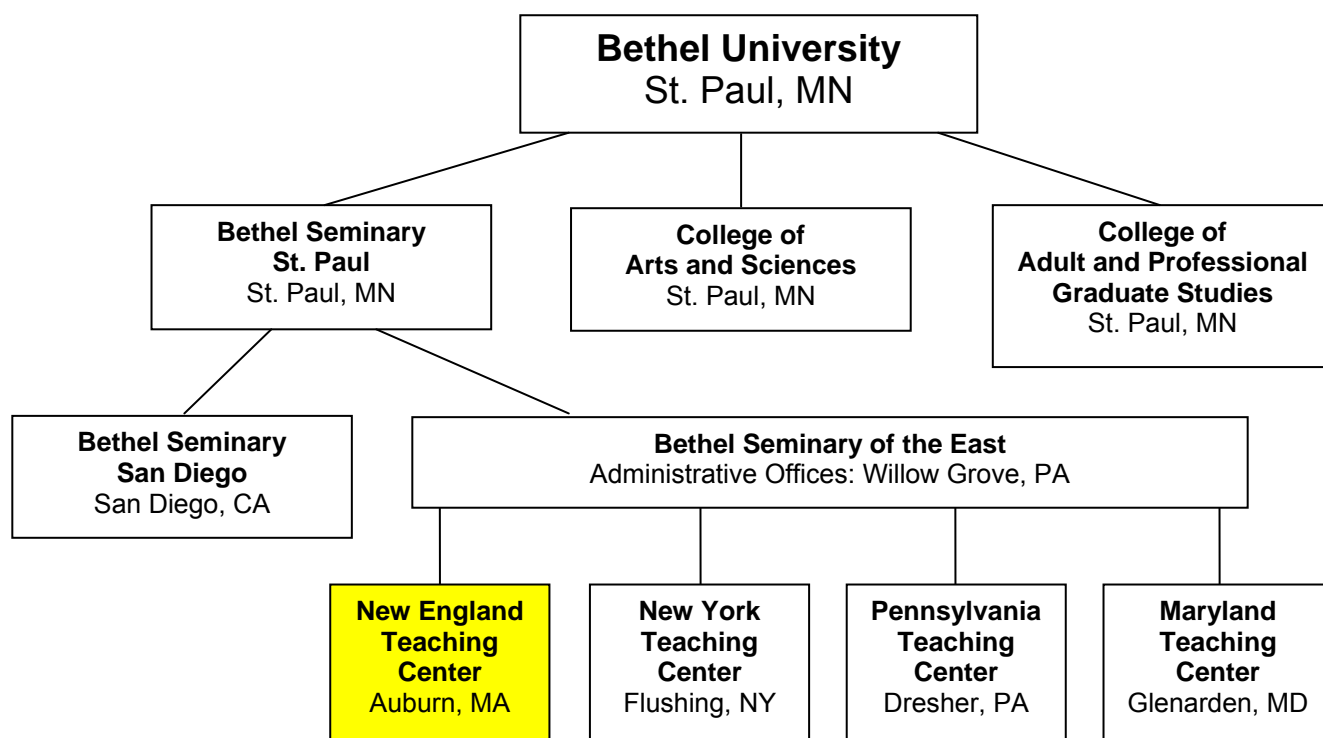
Bethel University filed a petition with the Board of Higher Education to seek approval to offer the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Theological Studies, and the Certificate of Theological Studies at Bethel's New England Teaching Center located in Auburn, Massachusetts. The proposed Master of Divinity (M.Div.) seeks to prepare students for ordained ministry and for general pastoral and religious leadership responsibilities in congregations and other settings. It seeks to graduate people who have knowledge of and experience in the Christian faith, who give evidence of emotional and spiritual maturity, who relate to others with integrity, and who possess skills for ministry. The proposed Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) is intended for students whose ministry and professional goals do not include the senior pastorate but who seek to integrate their theological studies with their vocations and interests. The program will provide a basic understanding of theological disciplines for further graduate study, for general education purposes, and for associate ministry positions. The Certificate in Theological Studies program was developed to provide a limited course of study for individuals who are not pursuing a degree and who desire to be equipped to serve in lay ministry positions.

INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Bethel University is based in St. Paul, Minnesota, with approximately 6,200 students from 48 states and 29 countries enrolled in undergraduate, graduate, seminary, and adult education programs. Bethel began as a seminary for Swedish Baptist immigrants in 1871 and in 1914 combined with a secondary academy, which later became a junior college. In 1947, the addition of a four-year liberal arts college created Bethel College & Seminary. The institution reorganized as Bethel University in 2004 to reflect its broad scope of programs. Bethel is sponsored by the Baptist General Conference.

Bethel University has a College of Arts and Sciences, a College of Adult and Professional Studies and Graduate School, and Bethel Seminary. In addition to the Minnesota location, Bethel Seminary has a seminary in San Diego, California, as well as a cluster of four teaching centers on the East Coast entitled Bethel Seminary of the East (acquired in 2002). The teaching center located in Auburn, Massachusetts, is called the New England Teaching Center. The additional three teaching centers are located in Dresher, Pennsylvania; Flushing, New York; and Landover, Maryland. See figure A.

Figure A: Bethel University Organizational Chart



The New England Teaching Center follows the core mission of Bethel Seminary, which states:

The passion of Bethel Seminary is to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ among all people in culturally sensitive ways. As a Spirit-empowered, biblically grounded community of learning, Bethel strives to develop and equip whole and holy persons to serve and lead so that churches and ministry agencies can become all they are called to be and do all they are called to do in the world for the glory of God.

The New England Teaching Center further explicates its commitments in the following manner:

- Dedicated to preparing a task force of Christian leaders to reach the diverse cultures of the northeastern United States
- Committed to helping students contextualize the gospel so it can be communicated with relevance in the cultural and ethnic communities our students represent
- Offers significant mentorship emphasis with local church mentors offering guidance to students
- “Custom-made” seminary education to meet individual, career, and personal needs
- Grounded in a biblically-based, evangelical approach to ministry
- Emphasizes spiritual formation complementing intellectual understanding

Academic programs in Bethel Seminary are approved by Bethel Seminary faculty rather than by the institution’s board of trustees. The Master of Divinity program was approved in October 1999, and the Master of Arts Theological Studies and certificate programs were approved by the faculty in May 2004.

Bethel University is accredited by the North Central Association and by the Association of Theological Schools.

ACADEMIC AND RELATED MATTERS

The three proposed programs for the New England Teaching Center are very closely aligned with their counterpart programs currently offered at Bethel Seminary's other sites (St. Paul, San Diego, New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland). Bethel University faculty teams review and approve courses to be offered at the New England Teaching Center.

Admission Requirements

Students applying to any of the three proposed programs must hold a bachelor's degree and must complete and submit the following materials:

1. A formal application for admission and the required personal statements with a nonrefundable fee of \$20 (online application fee is \$25).
2. Official transcripts of college work from all schools attended.
3. If the applicant has attended another seminary, a transcript of their work must be sent to BSOE with a statement of honorable dismissal and recommendation.
4. A recommendation from the applicant's pastor.
5. A recommendation from church leadership where the applicant is a member.
6. A recommendation from an individual, such as a previous professor, current employer, or professional or ministry colleague.

Course Delivery

Bethel Seminary operates on a quarter system. Most of BSOE's courses are offered on an alternating year basis, with approximately half of the courses in the curriculum offered in a given year and the remaining courses scheduled the following year.

The majority of courses in the three proposed programs are offered in a classroom setting; students meet for three hours per week for ten weeks. In addition, these courses require ten hours of faculty-supervised online learning activities. Each year, three to six courses are offered as fully online courses, which may be either required or elective courses. Summer electives are offered and are typically scheduled as five-week intensive courses (six hours/session) and include ten hours of faculty supervised learning activities. All courses require 40 contact hours.

Proposed Master of Divinity *Curriculum (Attachment A)*

The Master of Divinity (M.Div) degree is a first professional degree that leads to ordination in the student's denomination. The proposed M.Div. curriculum combines theological foundations (Biblical studies, theology, church history), practical courses in ministry (homiletics, evangelism and church growth) and spiritual and personal formation experiences.

The M.Div. curriculum is comprised of 31 core courses (120 credits) and six elective courses (24 credits). One elective course must be taken as a Spiritual Formation elective. Students are also required to complete a final Senior Seminar, which provides students the opportunity to write and defend a confessional statement of their own doctrinal position within their Christian community's tradition. Research assignments, appropriate to specific courses and disciplines, are included in the curriculum. The degree is awarded upon the successful completion of 144 credits.

The majority of courses in the MDiv program are offered in a classroom setting; students meet for three hours per week for ten weeks. In addition, these courses require ten hours of faculty-supervised online learning activities. Each year, three to six courses are offered as fully distance courses; these may be either required or elective courses. Summer electives are offered and are typically scheduled as five-week intensive courses (six hours/session) and include ten hours of faculty supervised learning activities. All courses require 40 contact hours.

Projected Enrollments

	# of Students Year 1 2009-2010	# of Students Year 2 2010-2011	# of Students Year 3 2011-2012	# of Students Year 4* 2012-2013
New Full Time	2	2	3	4
Continuing Full Time	3	4	4	5
New Part Time	4	5	6	9
Continuing Part Time	22	24	28	32
Totals	31	35	41	50

Proposed Master of Arts of Theological Studies

Curriculum (Attachment B)

The MATS curriculum is comprised of 18 core courses (72 credits), five concentration courses (20 credits) and one elective course (four credits) for a total of 24 courses (96 credits). In addition to core courses in Bible, history and theology, as well as spiritual formation experiences and mentoring, the program intends to offer concentrations in Biblical and Theological Studies or Leadership Effectiveness.

Projected Enrollments

	# of Students Year 1 2009-2010	# of Students Year 2 2010-2011	# of Students Year 3 2011-2012	# of Students Year 4* 2012-2013
New Full Time	1	1	2	2
Continuing Full Time	0	1	2	3
New Part Time	2	3	3	3
Continuing Part Time	6	7	8	9
Totals	9	12	15	17

Proposed Certificate of Theological Studies

Curriculum (Attachment C)

The proposed CTS curriculum is comprised of five required courses and seven electives for a total of twelve courses (48 credits). Students select the seven elective courses based on their personal or professional ministry goals. Students can complete the program in two years.

Projected Enrollments

	# of Students Year 1 2009-2010	# of Students Year 2 2010-2011	# of Students Year 3 2011-2012	# of Students Year 4* 2012-2013
New Full Time	1	1	1	1
Continuing Full Time	0	1	1	1
New Part Time	1	1	1	1
Continuing Part Time	4	5	5	5
Totals	6	8	8	8

RESOURCES

Administration and Faculty

The New England Teaching Center is administered by the director who reports to the dean of the Seminary of the East housed in Pennsylvania. The dean is responsible for all academic and curricular matters including the scheduling of courses, supervision and evaluation of the faculty and the teaching experience. In turn, the dean of the Seminary of the East reports to Bethel Seminary's provost who serves as the executive officer of Bethel Seminary.

Faculty from the New England Teaching Center participate fully in all matters relative to Bethel University at large, including standing committees and faculty search committees. Faculty appointments are vetted by the faculty as a whole.

The New England Teaching Center has two resident faculty members and shares three additional faculty who also teach at the teaching centers in Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania. Each shared faculty member teaches one set of courses at his home site and one set of courses at a second site. This means that students at the New England Teaching Center take courses from the two resident faculty and other courses from the faculty in other centers on a rotating basis. The faculty hold advanced degrees. Bethel University intends to add a new faculty member by the academic year 2010-2011.

Fiscal Resources (Attachment D)

The budget includes a four-year projection of revenues and costs with a moderate increase of earnings over time.

Library

The New England Teaching Center Library has over 10,000 volumes at the New England Center Library, and the collection continues to be built based on curriculum needs. Students have access to the online catalog of resources on the Internet, including the other libraries within the Bethel library system (over 600,000 volumes) and the holdings of nine other major libraries in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region (over 2 million volumes). Students may order books and journal articles online, and they are delivered to their homes by priority mail, fax, full-text download, or as an e-mail attachment at no cost. Online journal databases provide students access to over 5,000 full-text journal titles and indexes to over 50,000 journal titles. Students may also study at the Hartford Seminary and Yale Divinity School libraries, but they are not permitted to check out books. Bethel is exploring the possibility of membership in The Boston Theological Institute as an additional resource for the New England Teaching Center students.

The library director is onsite at the New England Teaching Center during regular class meeting times. Additional assistance to students is provided by the assistant librarian and the technical

services assistant. A full-time reference librarian, located at the St. Paul campus library, is available toll-free by telephone and online.

Facilities and Equipment

The New England Teaching Center is located at the Faith Baptist Church in Auburn, Massachusetts. The Church recently constructed a new building and took into consideration the classroom and library needs when planning the new facility. Classroom space is adequate and is appropriate for the size and number of courses offered and projected to be offered in the next five years. Two computer workstations are available for student use, which includes full access to the resources offered to students at their home computers and additional CD-ROM resources not available online.

EVALUATION

Visiting Committee

The visiting team consisted of William Herzog II, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Life and Professor of New Testament, Andover Newton Theological School; Efrain Agosto, Ph.D. Interim Dean and Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Origins, Hartford Seminary; and Alvin Padilla, Ph.D. Academic Dean and Associate Professor of New Testament, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. The three-member visiting committee reviewed printed materials and carried out a site visit on March 3-4, 2008 where the Committee toured the facilities and met with administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

Findings

The visiting committee found that the three programs of study proposed are congruous with similar programs offered at regional and national theological institutions and are in compliance with the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. The Committee stated that the proposed programs are adequate in academic rigor, encompass a wide range of biblical and theological disciplines necessary for responsible service in communities of faith and provide the student ample opportunities for practical, hands-on learning. The strengths of the programs of study include:

- Church-based theological education
- Pairing students with mentors
- Small class sizes
- Faculty and staff wholly committed to the mission of the Seminary and its constituencies
- Ease of scheduling (one day per week for the duration of the entire program of study)
- Adult learning pedagogical model that allows for greater interaction of student and places the onus of learning on the learner
- Faculty who are significantly engaged in the life of local communities of faith

In regard to governance and administration, the Visiting Committee recommended that Bethel University's New England Teaching Center continue its strategic planning process, constitute a center-specific advisory board, and develop financial tracking methods separate from the other three teaching centers in the Northeast. In regard to the faculty and curriculum, the Visiting Committee recommended that faculty at the New England Teaching Center be more fully integrated into Bethel University's faculty policies and procedures, that the proposed Master of Arts in Theological Studies include additional research opportunities for students, and that the New England Teaching Center devote additional resources to the assessment of student learning outcomes. Lastly, the Visiting Committee recommended that grievance procedures for New England Teaching Center students be included in the Center's catalog.

Institutional Response

Bethel University provided further analysis of its strategic planning for the New England Teaching Center, including curriculum development, steps to increase student enrollment, and plans to enlarge classroom and office space and to hire additional faculty based on increased enrollment. In response to the Visiting Committee's recommendation, the New England Teaching Center Advisory Board was established in early fall 2008. The board consists of seven individuals who represent ecclesiastical, geographical, and cultural diversity, and who are qualified to assist in continuing quality graduate educational programs and in recruitment strategies for the New England Teaching Center. Bethel University recently completed the implementation of a new institution-wide financial accounting system that now allows for complete general ledger accounts for each school and for each of the four teaching centers, including The New England Teaching Center.

In regard to the consistent treatment of faculty across Bethel University, the University responded that the following statement was unanimously adopted by the board of trustees at their October 2008 meeting and will be published in the Bethel University Faculty Handbook, beginning with the 2009-2010 edition:

Rank, Promotion and Tenure

Bethel University seeks to promote consistent policies regarding rank, promotion, and tenure for all full-time faculty members. Faculty who were hired as a group in the 2002 merger of The Seminary of the East and Bethel University were granted exemption from the tenure and rank policies of the university. This means that those full-time instructors at the four Teaching Centers (New England, New York City, Philadelphia, and Metropolitan Washington, DC) were not assigned rank, were not required to apply for tenure, and are reviewed annually. The university has agreed to continue this practice for that discrete group, but has stipulated that all new full-time seminary faculty hired after January 1, 2009, regardless of teaching location, serve under current university employment policies.

Bethel University expanded the research requirements in its proposed MATS program and noted that Bethel faculty are developing a comprehensive assessment plan to refine learning outcomes to become increasingly more measurable and specific and to connect course assignments to stated learning outcomes at the New England Teaching Center. Faculty recently voted to implement the Integrative Portfolio Plan for all Bethel students beginning in the 2008-09 academic year. The Integrative Portfolio is intended to assess student learning (1) by questioning how learning is occurring for students in regard to both their learning objectives and the objectives of the course of study, (2) by gathering data into a portfolio that provides evidence of student learning, (3) by providing opportunities to interpret data related to understanding students' strengths, weaknesses, and areas of needed growth, and (4) by then capturing data for the purpose of decision making related to student learning outcomes and academic programs.

Bethel further developed the grievance procedure and clearly described the process students should follow toward resolution and reconciliation. The grievance procedure is published in both the Student Handbook and the New England Teaching Center Catalog.

PUBLIC HEARING

The required public hearing was held on May 28, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. in the Department of Higher Education's office. No comments were offered in opposition to the proposed program.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

After a thorough evaluation of all documentation submitted, staff is satisfied that the proposed Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Theological Studies, and the Certificate of Theological Studies meet the criteria set forth in 610 CMR 2.07 (3) (5) in the Degree-Granting Regulations for Independent Institutions of Higher Education. Recommendation is for approval.

ATTACHMENT A: Master of Divinity Curriculum Outline

Major Required (Core) Courses (Total # of courses required = 31)		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
BT501	Hermeneutics	4
CP511	Homiletics I w/Guided Learning Experience (GLE)	4
CP561	Homiletics II w/GLE	4
DC501	Discipleship in Community w/GLE	4
GC501	Introduction to Global & Contextual Ministry w/GLE	4
GC515	Evangelism & Church Growth w/GLE	4
HS501	Early Church to Reformation	4
HS502	Church in Modern World	4
HS620	American Christianity	4
ML513	Transformational Leadership	4
NT521	Elementary Greek I	4
NT522	Elementary Greek II	4
NT531	Intermediate Greek Grammar: Exegesis	4
NT561	The Gospels	4
NT562	Emergence of the Christian Community	4
OT521	Hebrew Language I	4
OT522	Hebrew Language II	4
OT551	Old Testament I: Genesis-Ruth	4
OT552	Old Testament II: I Samuel-Song of Songs	4
OT553	Old Testament III: Prophetic Books	4
PC501	Introduction to Pastoral Care w/GLE	4
SP511	Spiritual Formation I: Introduction Spiritual Disciplines w/GLE	4
SP551	Spiritual Formation II: Spiritual Disciplines w/GLE	4
SP651	Spiritual Formation III: Union with Christ w/GLE	4
TL501	Culture & Ministry	4
TS505	Christian Social Ethics	4
TS507	Systematic Theology I: Foundations of the Gospel	4
TS508	Systematic Theology II: Christology	4
TS509	Systematic Theology III: Holy Spirit & Salvation	4
TS510	Systematic Theology IV: Ecclesiology & Eschatology	4

TS791	Senior Seminar	0
	Sub Total Required Credits	120
Electives (6 courses; 24 credits, including at least one Spiritual Formation course)		
	SubTotal # Elective Credits Required	24
Curriculum Summary		
Total number of courses required for the degree		37
Total credit hours required for degree		144
Prerequisite, Concentration, Dissertation or Other Requirements:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ New Student Orientation Workshop (prerequisite) ◆ ML511 Introduction to Theological Education (prerequisite) ◆ TS791 Senior Seminar (Integrative Project) 		

ATTACHMENT B: Master of Arts in Theological Studies Curriculum Outline

Required (Core) Courses in the Major (18 courses; 72 credits)		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
BT501	Hermeneutics	4
DC501	Discipleship in Community w/Guided Learning Experience (GLE)	4
GC501	Introduction to Global & Contextual Ministry w/GLE	4
GC515	Evangelism & Church Growth w/GLE	4
HS501	Early Church to Reformation	4
HS502	Church in Modern World	4
NT511	The Gospels	4
NT512	Emergence of the Christian Community	4
OT501	Old Testament I: Genesis-Ruth	4
OT502	Old Testament II: I Samuel-Song of Songs	4
OT503	Old Testament III: Prophetic Books	4
SP511	Spiritual Formation I: Introduction Spiritual Disciplines w/GLE	4
SP551	Spiritual Formation II: Spiritual Disciplines w/GLE	4
TL501	Culture & Ministry	4
TS505	Christian Social Ethics	4
TS507*	Systematic Theology I: Foundations of the Gospel	4
TS508*	Systematic Theology II: Christology	4
TS509*	Systematic Theology III: Holy Spirit & Salvation	4
TS510*	Systematic Theology IV: Ecclesiology & Eschatology	4
	<i>*Students select 3 of the 4 Systematic Theology courses</i>	
	Sub Total Required Credits	72
<p>Concentration Courses (5) & Free Elective (1) (6 Courses; 24 Credits)</p> <p>Students select either Biblical/Theology Studies or Leadership Effectiveness Concentration.</p> <p>Students may choose any course in the curriculum for free elective provided prerequisites have been fulfilled.</p>		
	A. Biblical/Theology Studies Concentration Students select five Bible/Theology courses plus free elective	
	B. Leadership Effectiveness Concentration Students select five Leadership courses including ML513 plus free elective	
	Sub Total Elective Credits	24
<i>(Elective courses listed on MDiv Graduate Program Curriculum Outline form.)</i>		

Curriculum Summary	
Total number of courses required for the degree	24
Total credit hours required for degree	96
<p>Prerequisite, Concentration or Other Requirements: ♦ New Student Orientation Workshop (prerequisite)</p> <p>♦ ML511 Introduction to Theological Education (prerequisite) ♦ TS797 Summative Capstone Project (Senior Integrative Seminar)</p>	

ATTACHMENT C: Certificate of Theological Studies Curriculum Outline

Major Required (Core) Courses (Total # of courses required = 0)		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
SP511	Spiritual Formation I	4
BT501	Hermeneutics	4
TL501	Culture and Ministry	4
ML513	Transformational Leadership	4
TS507 TS508 TS509 TS510	Systematic Theology I: Foundations of the Gospel Systematic Theology II: Christology Systematic Theology III: Holy Spirit and Salvation Systematic Theology IV: Ecclesiology and Eschatology * Students will select one Systematic Theology course	4
	SubTotal # Core Credits Required	20
<i>Students may fulfill the remaining 28 credit requirement by taking any courses in the curriculum for which prerequisites have been met.</i>		
	SubTotal # Elective Credits Required	28
Curriculum Summary		
Total number of courses required for the degree		12
Total credit hours required for degree		48
<i>Prerequisite, Concentration, Dissertation or Other Requirements:</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ New Student Orientation Workshop ◆ Introduction to Theological Education 		

ATTACHMENT D: Budget

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	Actual	Projected			
	Fiscal Year Ended	Fiscal Years Ending May 31,			
	May 31. 2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
5101 Tuition	\$ 236,176	\$ 245,900	\$ 304,000	\$ 366,300	406,800
5108 Miscellaneous Fees					
5109 Graduation Fee					
5110 Application Fee					
5113 Doctor Of Ministries					
5320 Annual Fund/Sem East	71,718	60,000	61,200	62,500	63,000
5401 Endowment Income	13,869	10,000	10,200	10,500	10,500
5903 Miscellaneous Income	293	300	400	500	500
	322,056	316,200	375,800	439,800	480,800
6001 Salaries Staff & Admin	95,780	88,700	103,100	106,200	109,400
6021 Salaries Faculty F.T.	49,533	51,100	70,700	90,900	96,900
6022 Salaries Faculty P.T.	26,279	27,100	28,000	28,900	29,800
6201 Benefits	68,665	66,760	80,720	90,400	94,440
7001 Supplies and Expense	2,534	2,700	2,800	2,900	3,000
7005 Postage	3,192	3,300	3,400	3,600	3,800
7015 Telephone Charges	2,306	2,400	2,500	2,600	2,700
7201 Promotion	2,350	2,500	2,600	2,700	2,800
7206 Advertising - Other Prnt	145	200	300	400	500
7210 Printing	2,610	2,700	2,800	2,900	3,000
7301 Travel Departmental	10,001	10,400	10,800	11,200	11,600
7302 Travel New England Library	5,720	5,900	6,100	6,300	6,500
7320 Recruiting		10,000	10,300	10,700	11,000
7330 Expense Account	162	200	300	400	400
7501 Utilities	1,511	1,600	1,700	1,800	1,900
7551 Rent	11,695	12,100	12,500	12,900	13,400
7665 Professional Development	2,706	2,800	2,900	3,000	3,100
7701 Student Aid	4,415	4,600	4,800	5,000	5,200
7733 Bethel Grant	7,940	8,200	8,500	8,800	9,000
7772 Baptist Gen Conf Grant	375	400	500	600	600
7801 Equipment Purchase	4,363	4,500	4,700	4,900	5,200
7810 Library Books Purchase	2,027	2,100	3,200	5,300	6,500
7901 Other Expenditures	4,060	4,200	4,400	4,600	4,800
	308,369	314,460	367,620	407,000	425,540
Grand Total - Net Deficit	\$ 13,687	\$ 1,740	\$ 8,180	\$ 32,800	55,260