

## An Open Letter to the President, Provost, and Chair of the Board of the Trustees of Hardin-Simmons University

*February 5, 2020*

President Bruntmyer, Provost McNair, and Chair Moore,

We send this letter to you out of a deep care and love for both Hardin-Simmons University and Logsdon Seminary.

We understand Hardin-Simmons experienced challenges over the last few years financially. Many beloved faculty and staff are no longer part of the university. We kept your tough decision making and actions in our prayers as you guided the university into the present as well as the future.

We send this letter for two reasons:

- 1) In support of our wonderful Logsdon Seminary
- 2) An invitation for dialogue with the Logsdon Alumni Council and other graduates

We understand a Hardin-Simmons Trustee meeting will happen soon and we want to make sure our testimonies regarding Logsdon Seminary are heard. We serve as pastors, ministers, chaplains, professors, teachers, denominational leaders, and many other professions inspired by Logsdon's mission.

Logsdon Seminary cultivated and prepared us for our callings. Logsdon Seminary proudly averages a 90% placement rating, meaning 90% of all students who graduate Logsdon Seminary go on to serve in a related field. This number is incredibly impressive and is evidence of the good work of the staff and faculty of Logsdon Seminary over the years.

Logsdon Seminary has been a Christ-centered place where we have found unity in the gospel of Jesus Christ, through the guidance of Scripture. While graduates serve in various contexts and capacities, we are brought together through preparation of the good news.

Logsdon Seminary has been a true education for students over the years. Rather than indoctrinate, Logsdon Seminary educates. Former HSU President Jesse Fletcher once said that an education serves a student best when it teaches a student "how to think over what to think." This serves Logsdon's graduates well as they do ministry under the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the real world and have to think/feel/do for themselves.

The faculty and staff of Logsdon Seminary has been top notch over the years. They have invested in students and continue to do so. The faculty and staff are committed to the mission of the seminary to equip students to respond to God's call through academic and spiritual formation

for a lifetime of servant leadership in the Kingdom of God. The seminary simply centers itself on the Lordship of Christ, guided by the authority of Scripture, focuses itself on the global mission of the church, and affirms historic principles of Baptist identity.

Thousands of individuals and hundreds of churches have experienced the positive impact of Logsdon Seminary graduates. We believe in both the importance of the seminary now and in the world moving forward.

We invite you into conversation surrounding how wonderful and important Logsdon Seminary is, as well as how we as graduates can help grow the university and seminary moving forward.

Signed,

**Kyle Tubbs; Church Starting Manager for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Atlanta, Georgia, Master of Divinity 2010; *President of the Logsdon Alumni Council***

**Scott Sharman; Senior Pastor of Alsbury Baptist Church in Burleson, Texas; Doctor of Ministry 2014; *Vice President of the Logsdon Alumni Council***

**Yvonne Harold; Pastor of Destined Ministries in Killeen, Texas; Master of Divinity 2016; *Secretary of the Logsdon Alumni Council***

**Meredith Adams; Art Teacher; Bachelor of Science, Minor in Religion 2006**

**Nathan Adams; Minister of Missions and Men's Ministry at Pioneer Drive Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas; Master of Arts in Family Ministry 2008**

**Addie Barnett; Writer and community facilitator of Grassroots Abbey; Master of Divinity 2016**

**Daniel D. Brockhan; Staff Chaplain at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, New York; Master of Divinity 2008**

**Matthew Broyles; Pastor to College and Young Adults at the First Baptist Church of Abilene, Texas; Master of Divinity 2012**

**Bethany Busby; Hospice Chaplin in Waco, Texas; Master of Divinity 2016**

**Ryan Busby; Pastor of Bosqueville Baptist Church in Waco, Texas; Master of Divinity 2013**

**Owen Clifton; High School Teacher and Baptist Deacon; B.B.S. Church Ministry 2005**

**Taylor Cruse; Master of Divinity 2017**

**Jonathan Davis; Senior Pastor of Beale Memorial Baptist Church in Tappahannock, Virginia; Doctor of Ministry 2019**

**Brian Edwards; Mental Health Counselor; B.B.S. Applied Theology 2002 and Master of Divinity 2005**

**Cody Favor; Pastor of First Baptist Church in Cisco, Texas; Master of Divinity 2006**

**Ferrell Foster; Prosper Waco, Texas; Doctor of Ministry 2016**

Amanda Hamilton; DFPS Adoptions Supervisor; Master of Divinity 2009

Paul D. Hamilton; Assistant Director of Housing Operations at Angelo State University, Master of Divinity 2009

Kristen Harris-Bridwell; Director of Christian Education of First Central Presbyterian Church in Abilene, Texas, B.B.S. 2009 and Master of Divinity 2013

Wes Henson; Minister of Youth at Trinity Baptist Church in Kerrville, Texas; Bachelor of Arts in Bible 2006, Master of Divinity 2009

Rosemary Hollingsworth; Licensed Professional Counselor; Master of Arts in Family Psychology and Family Ministry 2015

Summer Hoover; Current stay at home mom and former Senior High Director; Master of Arts in Family Ministry 2010

Abby Horrell Neinast; 6th Grade Teacher in Dimmitt, Texas TX; Bachelor of Arts 2006 and Master of Family Ministry 2010

John Hunt; Associate Pastor Calvary Baptist Church Waco, Former Instructor of Ministry at Logsdon Seminary; Master of Divinity 2010

Cory Hutchison Carter; Teacher at a Christian school; Bachelor of Science with a major in Theatre and a minor in Bible 2010

Becky Jackson; Pastor of Northwest Baptist Church in Ardmore, Oklahoma; Master of Divinity 2012

Erin James-Brown; Interim Pastor at Ravenswood Fellowship; Master of Divinity 2012

Marv Knox; Coordinator of Fellowship Southwest; Former editor of the Baptist Standard; Distinguished young alumnus of Logsdon; Distinguished alumnus of HSU; Bachelor of Science 1979

Jeffrey Lee; Field Personnel with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Skopje, Macedonia, Master of Divinity 2010

Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation, First Baptist Church, Columbia, Missouri; Master of Divinity 2017

Matt McGowen; Pastor Trinity Baptist Church of Sweetwater, Texas; Master of Divinity 2008

Matthew Morton; Bivocational Pastor & Welder; Master of Divinity 2013

Stephanie Nash; Senior Pastor of Second Baptist Church of Lubbock, Texas (retired); Master of Divinity 2013

Sarah Neeley; Chaplain at Christus Trinity Mother Frances in Tyler, Texas; Master of Divinity 2009

Cody Neinast; Minister of Youth and Education at the First Baptist Church of Dimmitt, Texas; Bachelor of Arts in Church Ministry 2007 and Master of Divinity 2011

Bryce Null; Lay-leader/technology chair at the First Baptist Church of Columbia, Missouri; Master of Divinity 2015

Brian Odom; Teacher of Latin and New Testament Studies at Geneva School of Boerne; Master of Divinity 2017

Jay Patterson; Small Business Owner; Bachelor of Science 2007 and Master of Divinity 2010

Charles R. Perkins; Minister of Missions Pioneer Drive in Abilene, Texas; Master of Arts in Theology 1994

Krystal Phillips; 3rd grade teacher, Master of Arts in Family Ministry 2011

Nolan Porter; Hospice Chaplain and Pastor; Doctor of Ministry 2017 and Master of Divinity 2013

Martha Pritchett; Public school teacher; Bachelor of Science in Education 1977

Emily F. Sharp; Teacher - Fort Worth ISD East side; Current Logsdon graduate student

Cinda Smith; Chaplain for Arkansas Hospice in Batesville, Arkansas; Master of Divinity 2014

Julie Sorrels; Marketing manager for Baptist Standard, B.B.A. 2003 and attended Logsdon Seminary 2013-2014

Benjamin Scott Stephens; High School English Teacher; Master of Divinity 2015

Larry Tarver; Director of Missions for the Abilene-Callahan Baptist Association in Abilene; Doctor of Ministry 2012

William M. Tillman, Jr.; Professor Emeritus, First holder of T. B. Maston Chair of Christian Ethics

Mark Traeger; United States Air Force Chaplain, Current Doctor of Ministry student

Benji Van Fleet; Pastor of FUMC Munday; Master of Divinity; 2015

Alena Vaughn; Associate Pastor of Missions at Sugar Land Baptist Church in Sugar Land, Texas; Master of Divinity 2017

Jessica Watson; Executive Director of Alignment Leadership; Master of Divinity 2017

Kyle Watson; Former Assistant Chaplain of McMurry University & member of Rockbridge Church in Cedar Park, Texas; Master of Divinity 2015

Tracy Wright Baker; Minister at United Christian and Presbyterian Church in Coleman, Texas; Master of Divinity 2010