

SEMINARY ASSESSMENT & MOU FRAMEWORK

A Guide for Evaluating Seminaries and Building Effective Ministry Partnerships

This framework is designed to help ministry partners, theological institutions, and supporting organizations assess the health, capacity, and mission effectiveness of seminaries while also establishing clear expectations through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). A strong assessment process and a well-defined MOU promote accountability, partnership clarity, institutional development, and long-term ministry impact.



Assessment Purpose

A seminary assessment helps identify strengths, needs, opportunities, and strategic priorities. It provides a practical way to evaluate mission alignment, academic quality, leadership capacity, student formation, infrastructure, and institutional sustainability.



Why the MOU Matters

A Memorandum of Understanding creates a shared understanding between partners. It clarifies roles, goals, responsibilities, timelines, reporting expectations, and areas of collaboration so that the partnership can serve the seminary effectively and faithfully.

Six Core Areas of Seminary Assessment

- 1 Mission & Identity** — Clarity of doctrinal commitments, institutional purpose, and ministry vision.
- 2 Academic Programs** — Strength of curriculum, learning outcomes, delivery methods, and program relevance.
- 3 Faculty & Leadership** — Qualifications, leadership structure, governance health, and faculty development.
- 4 Student Formation** — Spiritual growth, ministry preparation, mentoring, and student support systems.
- 5 Resources & Technology** — Library quality, facilities, digital tools, and instructional resources.
- 6 Sustainability & Partnerships** — Financial stewardship, strategic planning, external relationships, and long-term capacity.



Recommended Assessment Indicators

- Clear mission and theological identity
- Accreditation or recognized academic standards
- Qualified faculty and leadership succession
- Healthy enrollment and student retention
- Contextualized training for church and ministry needs
- Adequate library, classroom, and technology resources
- Evidence of governance, planning, and accountability
- Capacity for growth and collaborative partnership



Essential MOU Components

- Purpose and scope of the partnership
- Shared goals and expected outcomes
- Roles and responsibilities of each party
- Financial commitments and stewardship expectations
- Communication, reporting, and review process
- Timeline, renewal terms, and termination clauses
- Project activities, training, or resource support
- Mutual commitment to integrity, mission, and cooperation



An effective seminary partnership begins with wise assessment and is strengthened through a clear MOU. Together, these tools help institutions and ministry partners serve the church with excellence, accountability, and lasting impact.