



# Seminary: Church Endorsement Form Guidelines

## General Information

The admission process at Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary (CSBS) is a vital and serious step of stewardship and accountability on the part of CSBS, the applicant and his or her church. We consider church endorsement to be a very serious matter and encourage you as a church not to approach it as a mere formality. Your candid and honest assessment of this applicant will be an important guide for us in deciding whether or not to admit this person. In this light, we expect the church endorsement to accurately reflect the following attributes for the applicant.

## Specific Concerns:

1. A genuine and growing faith. Although the applicant may not be perfect, there is no major question regarding either the reality of their Christian commitment or the positive, maturing nature of their observable faith.
2. Evidence of proven and potential leadership ability. The applicant has been sufficiently connected and involved in the life and ministry of the church to evidence positive qualities of leadership consistent with the Biblical model of the servant. It is preferred that the applicant has experienced some leadership exposure and has some positive history of effective leadership in this church.
3. A consistently positive witness and reputation in the church and community. The applicant, while again not perfect, exhibits positive qualities of Christian living and has a positive reputation inside and outside the church. This includes his or her moral reputation, family relationships and financial responsibilities.
4. Evidence of people skills and abilities conducive to ministry. The applicant should exhibit the ability to relate positively and effectively to people. This includes his or her dealings with anger, conflict, differing opinions and change.
5. Evidence of a "teachable spirit". The applicant should exhibit some ability to receive Godly counsel/correction, accept being held accountable and be self-controlled.
6. Evidence of affirmation and support. The applicant's spouse and family should exhibit some level of positive support rather than hostility or disagreement. In like fashion, the church should be willing to genuinely support the applicant in prayer and financially when needed and appropriate as a demonstration of their confidence in and commitment to the applicant's preparation.

If it is the belief of the church and/or its leadership that the applicant either does not meet the above expectations or has not been involved in the church long enough to make a valid assessment, church endorsement should be either denied or delayed until areas of deficiency or question are appropriately addressed.



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Each applicant for admission to the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary must have the approval of a local church body. The following statement should be read to the church and approved by formal vote of the congregation.

## Statement

Having evidenced that \_\_\_\_\_, an applicant for admission to the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary, is: (please check all that apply)

- An individual of profound commitment to the Christian faith as evidenced by participation in the life of this church;
- An individual of personal moral integrity;
- An individual whom this church would recommend for a responsible leadership role in church life;
- An individual of such character that we would be willing (theoretically) to hire him/her for Christian ministry;

We express our approval of his/her desire to enter the work of the professional ministry and recommend him/her for admission to the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary. We pledge our continued interest and prayerful support.

## Church Endorsement

Name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Church Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Church Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your response! Please mail directly to the seminary at this address:  
Admissions Office • Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary • 200 Seminary View • Cochrane, AB T4C 2G1 • Canada*