

Funding for TE in Africa

Innovations and Challenges

Historical Considerations

- ◆ We will be following the insights of Emmanuel Bellon in his “Theological Education in Africa: Business or Mission?”
- 1. Western Missionaries planted churches which created a need for trained church leaders.
- 2. Bible schools were started and funded by the missionaries.
- 3. At some point tuition was added as a second leg of income.
- 4. The missionaries transitioned out, leaving the school to the national conventions-unions or under their own control.
- 5. This transition often reduced a substantial, international, funding resource that was tied to the missionaries.
- 6. This transition also removed the subsidized employment that the missionaries provided which increased the expenses of the school as they now needed to replace these positions.

Historical Considerations – Continued

Facing reduced international income and increased staffing burdens, how have schools responded?

- ◊ Some have sought higher tuition rates.
- ◊ Some have sought a move to a for-profit university model.
- ◊ Some have sought either an increase in enrollment or a decrease in enrollment.
- ◊ Some have sought diversifying their income streams with various projects.

Streams of Income

- ◆ Diversity of contexts across Sub-Saharan
- ◆ Not a One-Size-Fits-All answer
- ◆ Every school has their own story and their own successes and failures.
- ◆ How many legs will provide adequate support for your school?
 - ◆ Tuition Leg
 - ◆ Donations Leg
 - ◆ Endowments? Projects? Rentals?

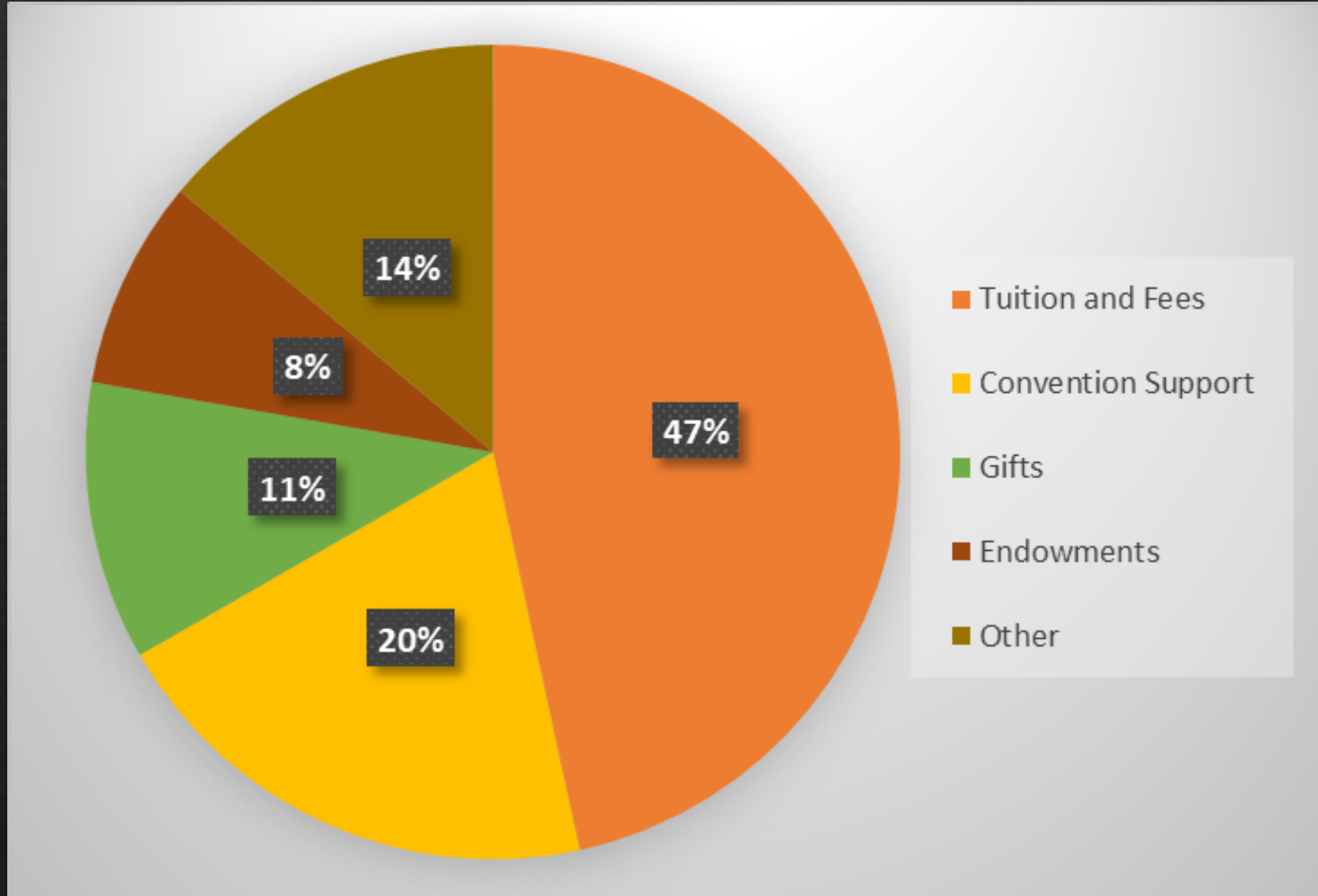
Alternative Income Streams

- ◆ Rental Properties
- ◆ Agricultural
- ◆ Animal Husbandry
 - ◆ Umambo Farm
- ◆ Endowments

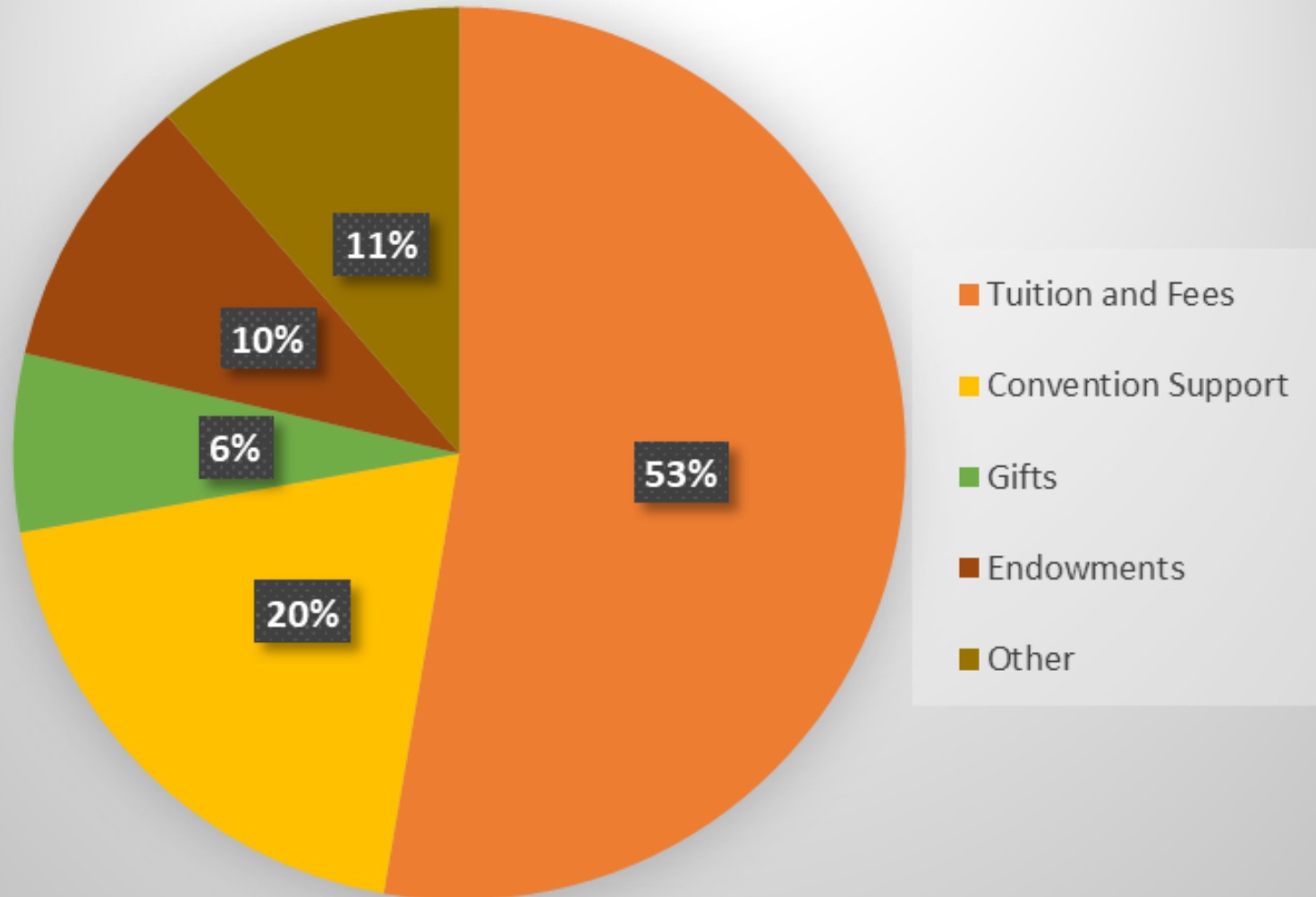


Income Ratios

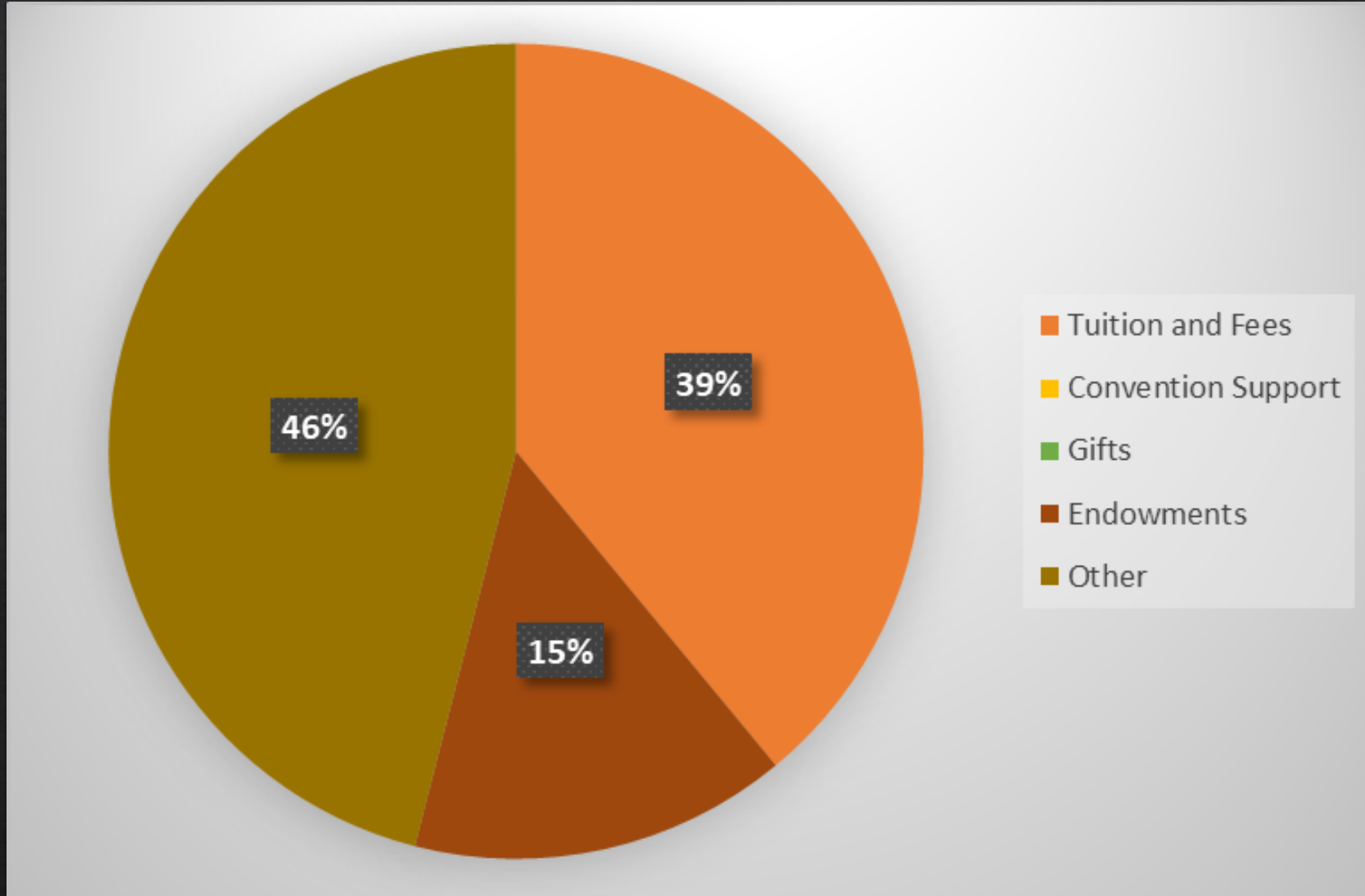
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



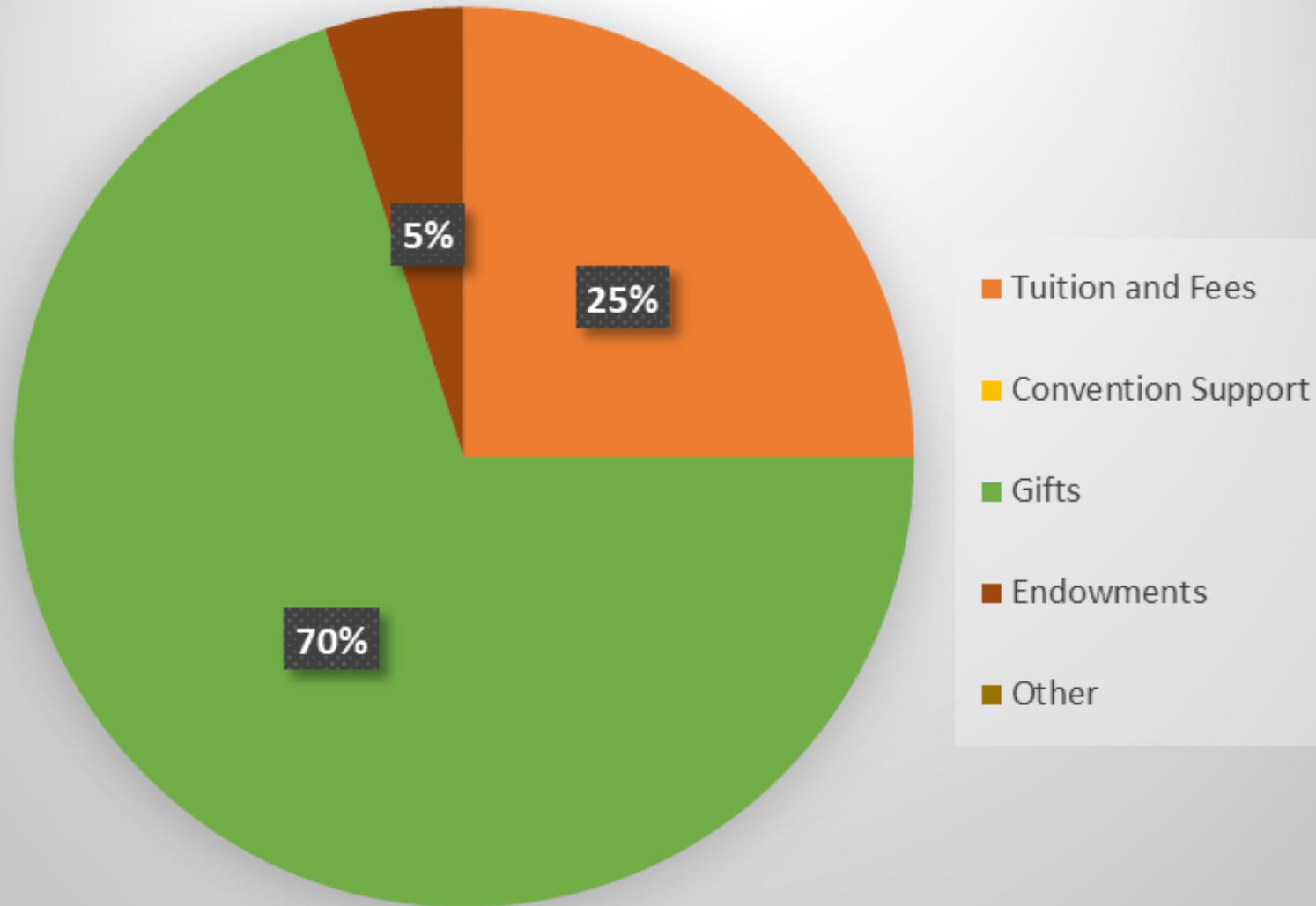
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



Baptist Theological Seminary of Zambia



Uganda Baptist Seminary



Current Challenges

- ◆ The Baptist seminaries in the Western world were primarily founded by the church conventions while most of the seminaries-theological schools in Africa were planted by the Western missionaries.
- ◆ This is one of the factors that contributes to a general lack of Convention-Union support for most seminaries across Africa.
- ◆ One of the few exceptions is the Nigerian Baptist Convention. The NBC has a long history of generously investing in the theological education of its pastors.
- ◆ What makes NBC exceptional?
 - ◆ Cooperative Program
 - ◆ Long runway

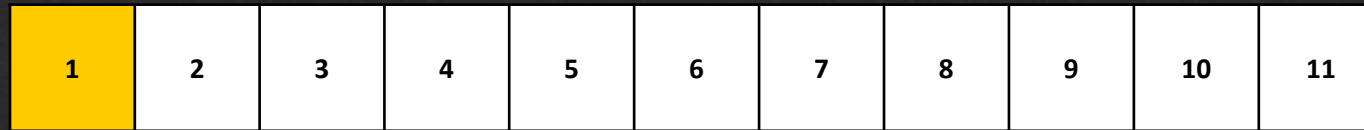
Long Term or Short Term Strategies?

- ◆ The pressing need to keep the doors open now must not override the vision casting for long-term solutions. We must think strategically both in the short and long term.
- ◆ Generational Stewardship
- ◆ “Ask yourself, “What would I have wanted my predecessors to do 10, 20, 30, 50 years ago in order to put the school in a better position today?”
- ◆ Once you answer that question, you should then do those types of things, so that the next generation receives something better.
- ◆ “Society grows great when older people plant trees under whose shade they shall never sit.”

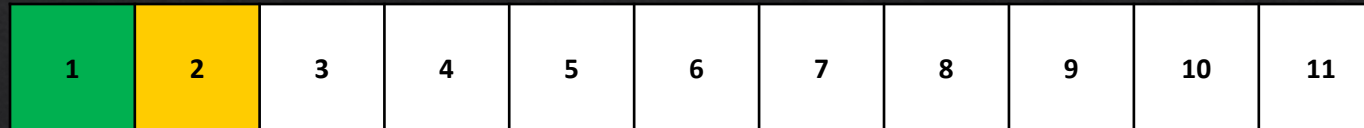
Trees for Training Trainers

“The best time to plant trees is 30 years ago. The second-best time is today.”

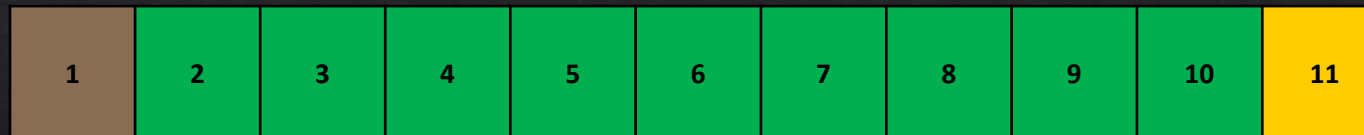
Year 1



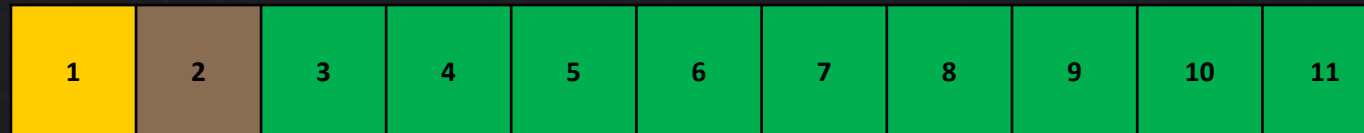
Year 2



Year 11



Year 12



Considerations

- ◆ While Seminaries are generally not financially profitable business models, they are profitable to the kingdom.
- ◆ Because Seminaries require diverse income streams, most Seminaries should consider putting more personnel and time into fund development.
- ◆ Seminary Leadership needs to be more than Academic Qualifications.
- ◆ I would love to hear from you on ways that you have struggled or ways that in which you have found a creative income stream. I hope that we can learn from each other and perhaps spark some ideas that can help our schools.