Statement of Purpose – Religion

Purpose: The statement of purpose is an essay clarifying the candidate's expectations from graduate work, which also evaluates the candidate's ability to communicate effectively in a written form. **Therefore, using ChatGPT or other AI writing tools would be detrimental to this process and are not to be used.** Statements may be submitted to Turnitin.com for evaluation by the committee.

Completion: Before admission to graduate programs in the School of Religion.

Instructions: Prepare an essay clarifying your expectations regarding graduate work. This essay must be typed and double-spaced with a length of 500-750 words. Identify each area in your essay by the corresponding number. The response should be comprehensive enough for the evaluation committee to understand why you should be admitted to the program. The essay should be submitted as part of the application process.

Please address the following areas:

1. Why is this area of emphasis the appropriate emphasis for you? How does the program align with your personal and/or professional beliefs or goals?

2. What are your expectations as a graduate student?

3. Describe your academic experience and ability. What knowledge, skills, and dispositions do you demonstrate that will enable you to be successful in a graduate program?

4. Briefly describe your ministry experience in either a lay or professional capacity, as well as your philosophy of ministry. How will you find the time to complete this program successfully?

5. Briefly describe your religious and spiritual background. What are you most passionate about regarding your religious beliefs or practices? Do you see any potential conflict between your belief system and Southern Adventist University's values?

6. Discuss any challenges you may have that could affect your effectiveness as a graduate student. How will you address these challenges to your effectiveness?

Evaluation: The essay will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Organization and clarity
2. Writing ability and mechanics
3. Motivation
4. Self-awareness
5. Logic and expression