



In mission with the Presbyterian Church (USA)

January 28, 2015

Mr. William Scheu
Interim President
Columbia Theological Seminary
108 CH, Box 13F
Decatur, GA 30031

Dear William,

Enclosed is a signed copy of the Covenant between the Synod of Living Waters and Columbia Theological Seminary that was approved at our Synod meeting this past Monday, January 26, 2015. This Covenant has been signed by Richard Borie, our Stated Clerk. Could you please present this to the Columbia Theological Seminary board of directors at its next meeting for authorization and signature? If you could then send us a copy of the signed Covenant for our records, we would greatly appreciate it.

We are grateful for the relationship and ministry we share with Columbia Theological Seminary.

Sincerely,

Terry Newland
Synod Executive

Enclosure

COVENANT BETWEEN THE SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS AND COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

I. Nature of the Covenant

This Covenant is established by the Synod of Living Waters and Columbia Theological Seminary in order to define and maintain a relationship of common mission and mutual support in service to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

II. Parties to the Covenant

A. The Parties to this Covenant are the Synod of Living Waters (the "Synod") and Columbia Theological Seminary (the "Seminary").

1. The Seminary is an educational institution of the Presbyterian Church (the "PCUSA"), and a community of theological inquiry, leadership development and formation for ministry in the service of the Church of Jesus Christ. The Seminary is a corporation at law chartered on February 21, 1967, in the State of Georgia and is governed by a Board of Trustees.

The Seminary exists to provide:

- Educational services which prepare effective ministers of Jesus Christ for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.);
- An annual array of continuing education opportunities for both clergy and lay leaders in the church;
- A theological resource center for the church and wider community.

This covenant relationship with synods is deeply rooted in the history of the Presbyterian Church in this country. Established in 1828, the Seminary has furnished the Presbyterian Church with pastors and teachers for over 165 years. As early as 1857, the Synod of Alabama adopted the Seminary as "our own, placing its name among those of the institutions in the region which we called 'ours', and which we are to cherish and care for, support, help and encourage as our own."

Mississippi joined this covenant with the Seminary in 1925.

The force of these original agreements had continued uninterrupted, with a strong and continuing sense of shared mission between seminary and synod. Seminary graduates have faithfully served the church in this region, with several of its graduates being instrumental in the founding of Rhodes and Stillman College, and numerous other church-related educational, conference, and social service institutions throughout this part of the country. The mutual partnership between the Seminary and the

Synod is fundamental to the history of both.

2. The Synod, as a council of the PCUSA, exists to encourage and support the mission of the presbyteries and churches operating within its bounds, including the equipping of leaders for the church through theological education.
- B. The Seminary also has a similar covenant relationship with the Synod of South Atlantic, also a council of the PCUSA.

III. Responsibilities Under the Covenant

- A. It is the intention of both Parties that the relationship between the Seminary and Synod be strong and mutually supportive.
1. The Seminary summarizes its commitments as follows:
 - a. **Commitment to a biblically-based faith.** Its constant appeal is to the Bible as the Word of God revealed by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. **Commitment to doctrinal fidelity.** Since the Seminary is a PCUSA seminary in the Reformed tradition, all faculty members will be respectful of the theological tradition of the school, and a majority of the faculty must be members of the PCUSA. Additionally, because the Seminary's mission is the training of pastors and leaders for church, a majority of the faculty must serve or have served as pastors or have other significant church leadership experience.
 - c. **Commitment to institutional responsibility.** The Seminary will provide an annual report to the Synod.
 - d. **Commitment to racial-ethnic inclusiveness.** The Seminary commits itself to diversity and inclusivity, to ecumenicity, and to discerning the ongoing manifestations of God's presence in human affairs; and to nurture a personal and corporate faith which takes responsibility for our choices amid the political realities, the social institutions, and global context in which we live.
 2. The mission of the Synod in the world of higher education as it applies to the Seminary is to inform, stimulate, coordinate, and channel the commitments of Presbyterians in the Synod's region, and to encourage more active Presbyterian involvement in all the church's traditional concern for educational quality and wholeness. In carrying out its mission the Synod will:

- a. Pray for the Seminary, its students, faculty, and staff.
- b. Work with the Seminary to promote a common understanding of the Synod's partnership with the Seminary.
- c. Assist the Seminary in the recruitment of candidates for the ministry to study at the Seminary.
- d. Inform presbyteries and congregations of the importance of theological education, and work with the Seminary to encourage the funding of theological education through the PCUSA, annual and capital campaigns and individual gifts, trusts, wills and bequests.
- e. Encourage sound educational and fiscal planning by the Seminary
- f. The Synod will provide the minutes of Synod meetings and of Synod Council to the Seminary.

IV. Procedures for Covenant Review and Approval

- A. This Covenant will be reviewed by the Seminary and the Synod every four years, or as necessary. Any changes in the Covenant must be acceptable to both the Synod and the Seminary.
- B. This revised Covenant was approved by the Seminary at its Fall, 2014, Board meeting and by the Synod at its Winter, 2015, meeting.

V. Implementation and Recognition of the Covenant

- A. This Covenant shall be printed in the minutes of the Synod.
- B. This Covenant shall be summarized in the Seminary catalog and made available to members of the Seminary faculty, staff and other constituencies as appropriate. The Synod and the Seminary shall seek other appropriate ways to give recognition to this Covenant.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Covenant, effective as of
January 1, 2015.

1st day of January, 2015.

SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS

By: Richard A. Bowler, Jr.

Its Stated Clerk 1/26/15

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

By: Alvin E. ...

Its Interim President 1/26/15