

COVENANT BETWEEN THE SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS AND LOUISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

I. Nature of the Covenant

This covenant is established by the Synod of Living Waters and the Board of Trustees of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary for the purpose of clarifying the relationship between the Seminary and the Church as they seek in common mission to be faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

II. Parties to the Covenant

A. The parties to this Covenant are the Synod of Living Waters (hereinafter referred to as the "Synod") and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (hereinafter referred to as the "Seminary").

The Synod is a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as defined in the Book of Order, Form of Government, Chapter Three (G-3.04) with jurisdiction as set forth in the Book of Order. As a governing body of the Church, the Synod is committed to and expresses the functions of the Church as stated in the Book of Order, Foundations of Presbyterian Polity. This covenant is being established during a period in which, pursuant to action of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the number of synods is being reduced. The intention of the parties to this covenant is that the covenant would remain in effect with respect to whatever synod or synods may result from merger or combination with the Synod.

The Seminary has been established by the Church and assigned the task of educating men and women to participate in the redemptive ministry of Jesus Christ in an increasingly pluralistic world. In 1853 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (Old School) voted to establish "in the West a theological seminary of the first class," and this seminary was founded at Danville, Kentucky. The present Seminary was created in 1901 out of a union of that seminary with another seminary started in 1893 by the Synods of Kentucky and Missouri of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. From 1901 until the reunion of the denominations in 1983, Louisville Seminary was the only seminary jointly sponsored by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

B. The Synod has expressed its purpose and role as follows:

"The mission of the Synod of Living Waters is to witness to Jesus Christ in partnership with our presbyteries, their congregations and the General Assembly."

The mission of the Synod in theological education is to inform, stimulate, coordinate, and channel the commitments of Presbyterians in the Synod, to encourage their more active involvement in the church's traditional concern for high quality training of the church's leadership and an educated clergy.

C. As the only theological institution supported by both former Presbyterian denominations, the Seminary has felt a particular responsibility to preserve the values of the Presbyterian tradition. The Seminary rejoices in its roots in the Reformed tradition, in the two former branches of American Presbyterianism, and in its support from both North and South, East and West. It endeavors to use this strength in reaching out to American Presbyterians as a whole—and to the world. While its primary constituency is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Seminary is also committed to the ecumenical movement in its implications for the theological task of the future and the wholeness of the body of Christ.

The Seminary is an institution created by and for the Church. Its primary goal is to serve the church by training its leadership. Its educational purpose is to educate men and women to become faithful and effective ministers of the Word and Sacrament and to perform other ministries in the life of the Church. The Seminary has been distinctive for the excellence of its training of pastors and other church leaders for both small and larger churches, and it has reflected one of the distinctive marks of the Calvinist tradition—the emphasis upon an educated clergy and educated leaders to serve the people of God.

The Seminary also tries to communicate a vision of the wholeness of the church's mission though its understanding of the Church's mission cannot be understood apart from the global character of Christianity in the modern world. In addition, the Seminary long has been concerned to help its students and the Church identify, understand, and respond to the critical moral and ethical issues in the world today. It sees both of these emphases as part of the Reformed tradition and as necessary to embody the depth and richness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In trying to be faithful to the wholeness of the Church's mission, the Seminary sees itself as part of the Church and part of its witness to the world.

Theologically, the Seminary is committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, to the Scriptures as unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ and therefore the standard by which faith and life are to be directed; and to the confessional standards of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Its affirmation of the Lordship of Jesus Christ includes a recognition of God's revelation in Jesus Christ as God incarnate, God's redeeming love in Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and God's call to the Church to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Its affirmation of the authority of the Scriptures includes a recognition of the Bible as the gift of the Holy Spirit and a witness to the Word of God as revealed by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Its affirmation of the authority of the confessions of the Church includes its willingness to be guided, nurtured, and informed by the confessional standards of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

III. Responsibilities

A. The Seminary.

1. The Seminary is an educational institution related to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and from time to time may be in a covenant relationship with other governing bodies (councils) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Currently, the Seminary is in covenant relationship with the Synod of Living Waters and the Synod of Mid-America.

The direction and control of the Seminary is exercised through a Board of Trustees consisting of no less than twenty-five (25) and no more than thirty-seven (37) members. So long as this Covenant shall be in effect, the Seminary agrees that the membership of its board of trustees shall include no fewer than three persons who are members of congregations or presbyteries that are part of the Synod.

The property of the Seminary is held in the name of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. As provided in the Seminary's Articles of Incorporation, Article XIII, "In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the corporation will be turned over to one or more organizations that are themselves exempt as organizations described in sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding sections of any prior or future law, or to the federal, state, or local government for exclusive public purpose. The board of trustees shall consult with appropriate representatives of the governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) before dissolving the property of the corporation."

2. The Seminary recognizes that its primary responsibility is the training of men and women for ministry. Thus, it is a professional school for candidates seeking ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament and other ministries in the life of the Church, as well as a graduate educational institution committed to high academic standards.

3. The Seminary also strives to be an educational resource not only for students preparing for ordination but also to pastors and church members through continuing education and other educational programs.

4. The Seminary seeks to be a theological resource for the Church in interpreting the gospel in the world and for shaping the witness and ministry of the Church. It sees its role as contributing to and participating with the Church in proclaiming God's grace to a broken world.

B. The Synod

In carrying out its mission in theological education, the Synod will seek to:

1. Work with the Seminary to insure common understanding of the Synod's partnership with it in the work of the Seminary.

2. Encourage sound educational and fiscal planning by the Seminary, respecting its unique role in American Presbyterianism and the theological education of its particular student body, and maintaining continuity with the historic values of the Reformed tradition and Presbyterian

involvement in theological education.

3. Support presbyteries in recruiting candidates for the Seminary.
4. Work with the Seminary to inform presbyteries and congregations of needs and opportunities in theological education as these specifically relate to the mission of the Synod and the Seminary.
5. Cooperate with the Seminary in supporting and implementing theological education for ministers of Word and sacrament and church members at the congregational, presbytery, and synod level.
6. Encourage the financial support of the Seminary through the Fund for Theological Education among the presbyteries of the Synod.

C. Mutual support and understanding will further be sought and implemented by:

1. A concerted effort by the Synod and the Seminary to interpret to the Synod the primary role of the Seminary in the Synod's mission;
2. The prayers and encouragement of the Synod in the Seminary's work and mission;
3. The assistance of the Synod in encouraging candidates to study at the Seminary;
4. Synod's aid in placing graduates, in developing continuing education for pastors and church members, and in continuing dialogue about the mission of the Church.
5. The Seminary's consultation with Synod about campaigns with governing bodies. The Seminary is free to approach individuals and congregations for gifts, trusts, wills, and bequests.
6. The Seminary's providing to the Synod an annual report, audit, and minutes of the open sessions of the Board of Trustees.
7. The Synod's providing to the Seminary its annual audit, minutes of Synod meetings, and minutes of the meetings of the committee(s) charged with responsibility for the Seminary.

D. This Covenant shall be effective for a period of five years from the date of its execution by the Seminary and the Synod. This covenant will be reviewed by the Seminary and the Synod after four years through a joint task force comprising three individuals appointed by the Board of Trustees and three individuals appointed by the Synod's Institutions Committee or its successor. This task force will have responsibility to review the covenant and recommend possible changes in the statement to the Seminary Board and the Synod. If recommended changes from the task force are acceptable to both the Seminary and the Synod, each party, through appropriate action, will endorse the covenant for an additional five-year period. However, if recommendations from the special task force are not acceptable to both the Seminary and the Synod, representatives from the Seminary, as approved by the Board, will work directly with the Synod's representatives with the purpose of developing an acceptable covenant.

A special review of the covenant relationship can be initiated by the Seminary and/or the Synod if there are anticipated major decisions by the Seminary or the Synod which could change the nature of the covenant relationship.

IV. Formal Approval

A. By the Synod

This covenant shall be entered upon its approval by the Synod in a regular stated meeting and execution by the Moderator and attestation by the Stated Clerk of the Synod.

B. By the Seminary

The Seminary shall enter into this covenant upon its approval by the Board of Trustees and execution by the President and attestation by the Secretary of the Seminary.

C. Implementation and Recognition

This Covenant shall become operative when executed and attested by both parties. This Covenant and any appendices shall be printed in the Minutes of the Synod. This Covenant shall be binding upon the Seminary and the Synod and their successors and assigns.

This Covenant shall be summarized in the Seminary catalog and made available to members of the Seminary faculty and staff and other constituencies as appropriate. The Synod through its Institutions Committee and the Seminary through relevant committees of the Board of Trustees shall seek other appropriate ways to give recognition to this covenant.

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

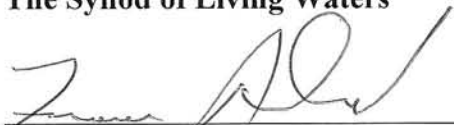
By: Michael Jinkins, President

Date: _____

Attest: Anita Eerdmans, Secretary

Date: _____

The Synod of Living Waters



By: Terrance Newland,
Synod Executive

Date: 12/15/18

Attest: Stated Clerk of the Synod

Date: _____