

A Covenant Between The Synod of Living Waters And Maryville College

Introduction

From its founding nearly 200 years ago, Maryville College has continued in partnership with the Synod to better serve both the mission of the Church and the mission of the College. Maryville College is grateful for the Covenant partnership with the Synod of Living Waters and looks forward to a new and renewed relationship, appreciative of past accomplishments and enthusiastic about new possibilities. As Gary Luhr, Executive Director of the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities writes for this new day, “We begin by no longer talking about church ministry *of* or *to* but ministry *through* higher education where the Church and the College are true partners in mission.”

Purpose

Looking to the future, Covenant commitments will both reflect and shape an authentic and dynamic partnership. The purpose of the Covenant is not only to define the nature and scope of the relationship, but also to be a living document whose real power is in the shared mission of the College and the Church in the lives of students, the Church and the world.

Maryville College – Past and Present

The College owes its existence to the vision and perseverance of the Reverend Isaac Anderson, a circuit-riding Presbyterian minister. He believed that what was then called the southern wilderness was in dire need of trained ministers and teachers, and on October 8, 1819, Reverend Anderson submitted a detailed plan to Union Presbytery, which in turn endorsed it to the Synod of Tennessee to establish the Southern and Western Theological Seminary. On October 19, 1819 the Synod approved the plan and thus began the long history of what was to become Maryville College and its close relationship with the Synod, the Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church.

Access to education has always been a core value of Maryville College: the first classes included Native Americans and African Americans; in 1875, Maryville College was the first college in Tennessee to award a B.A. degree to a woman; and in 1954, when state segregation laws were struck down by the United States Supreme Court, the College returned immediately to its earlier policy of admitting students of all races.

Isaac Anderson charged his students to “do good on the largest possible scale,” and from its inception, Maryville College has worked to live out that mission by developing thousands of leaders for the Church and the world.

In spirit and mission, the College continues Isaac Anderson’s legacy of learning, faith and service. Today, approximately 1,100 students from around the country and the world study

and live on the College's 320-acre campus. With more than 60 programs of study, extensive opportunities for service and worship, vocational exploration, international travel, and a world class performing and visual arts facility,

Dr. Anderson's Maryville College continues to transform the lives of students, as they, in turn, continue to go out and change the world.

Maryville College's Commitment to the Covenant

In the Presbyterian reformed tradition and as an integral part of the mission of the whole Church, particularly the Synod of Living Waters, Maryville College commits to excellence in:

- Liberal Arts, Learning and Faith
 - Extending the witness of the Church in the area of higher education.
 - Encouraging the College community and the Church to think carefully and critically about all matters in life, including religious, spiritual and ethical matters, and to reflect on issues of faith, meaning and value.
 - Providing multiple opportunities and resources for the exploration of vocation so that each person seeks to use his or her talents, passion and knowledge to serve the needs of the world.
 - Maintaining an exemplary religion department, which offers courses designed to help students critically examine and better understand the Judeo-Christian tradition as well as to gain a greater understanding of other religious traditions and perspectives.
 - Educating students in the context of the global society, providing opportunities for international exchange and fostering understanding for international students here on campus.
 - Promoting the dignity and respect for all persons and working toward a diverse community at every level of the College's life.

- Religious Nurture of Students
 - Providing for the religious nurture and support of the entire campus through its Campus Ministry program, which offers opportunities for weekly worship, study, service and fellowship.
 - Fostering the development of an understanding of religious faith consistent with the College's Statement of Purpose and its Faith and Learning Statement.
 - Exploring the development of a certificate program in Ministry and Church Leadership.

- Service to Community and World
 - Extending social witness and civic engagement in the community.
 - Promoting the exploration of world and societal issues of mutual concern to the College and the Church.

- Encouraging the commitment of students, faculty and staff for service to the Church, and for service to communities on the local, national and international level.
 - Building a community that places a high value on understanding, compassion, justice and peacemaking.
- Service to the Church (including individual churches, the Presbytery of East Tennessee, The Synod of Living Waters and the greater Church)
 - Developing students to assume roles of leadership in the Church through curricular and extracurricular programs.
 - Maximizing opportunities to work with the Synod and other church bodies in specific projects, such as Living Waters for the World.
 - Providing facilities and resources for meetings, retreats and individual study.
 - Sharing speakers, expertise and continuing education opportunities with the Church.
 - Providing an annual report to the Synod that includes action steps and updated information to reflect the College's commitment to the Covenant.

Synod of Living Waters Commitment to the Covenant

In light of the Presbyterian tradition's commitment to excellence in education as a faithful response to the all-inclusive character of God's relation to the world, and thus as an integral part of the mission of the whole Church,

- The Synod of Living Waters commits to:
 - Supporting and promoting opportunities for PC(USA) college students, in both Presbyterian-related colleges and at campus ministry centers to come together for worship, service, study and fellowship.
 - Using updated technologies and networks to consistently promote Presbyterian-related colleges, including Maryville, on its websites and in its print and electronic communications.
 - Exploring opportunities for Synod representatives and/or Presbytery executives to hold meetings and conferences at Presbyterian-related colleges, including Maryville.
 - Providing opportunities for College and Synod partnerships.
 - Recruiting Presbyterian students for Maryville and other Presbyterian-related colleges in the Synod.
 - Providing support for an annual Church and College Scholarship in the name of the Synod of Living Waters for PC(USA) students at Maryville College.
 - Assisting in the identification of potential nominees for the College's Directors and members of the College's Board of Church Visitors.
 - Sharing an annual report with the College that includes action steps and updated information to reflect the Synod's commitment to the Covenant.

Two Directors to Represent the Synod

The Nominating Committee of the Synod shall have the responsibility to nominate a Clergy person and a Lay person to be elected by the Synod as official representatives on the Board of Directors of the College. These two directors shall interpret and promote the mission of the College to the Synod, facilitate implementation of the Covenant, and participate in the review of the Covenant relationship. These directors shall meet the qualifications of other Board members and shall be elected to terms in accordance with the College By-Laws. The committee on Nominations of the Synod shall work very closely with The President of the College in selecting nominations to secure the strongest leadership possible for the College.

Publication of the Covenant

This Covenant between the Synod of Living Waters (PCUSA) and Maryville College shall be summarized by the College and the Synod in appropriate publications and media and made available to constituents of the College and the Synod as deemed appropriate.

Review and Renewal of the Covenant

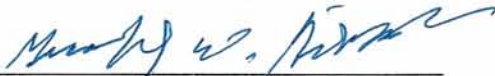
The Covenant between Maryville College and the Synod of Living Waters shall be reviewed by representatives of each body when deemed necessary by either the College or the Synod.

Formal Approval and Amendment of the Covenant

The Covenant between Maryville College and the Synod of Living Waters shall be effective when it is approved by the Directors of Maryville College and by the Synod of Living Waters. It shall continue in effect until rescinded by either party. It may be amended by mutual agreement of both parties.

The Synod of Living Waters and Maryville College do so covenant and agree:

REPRESENTING
MARYVILLE COLLEGE



PRESIDENT



CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DATE April 23, 2010

REPRESENTING
SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS



SYNOD EXECUTIVE



STATED CLERK OF THE SYNOD

DATE April 23, 2010