

PARTNERSHIP COVENANT BETWEEN THE SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS AND STILLMAN COLLEGE

Preamble

During Reconstruction, Dr. Charles Stillman, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, conceived of an institution for the education of African American ministers. Dr. Stillman's conception gave birth to Tuscaloosa Institute, chartered by the Presbyterian Church in 1875, and opening its doors in 1876. By the middle of the twentieth century, that institute had become a liberal arts college. Named after its founder, Stillman College has evolved into a place where one can earn a bachelor's degree at a church-related institution regardless of race or gender, and often despite meager monetary means. Of the over one hundred fifty educational institutions opened by the Presbyterian Church, today, Stillman is the only Historically Black College or University (HBCU) of these institutions that continues to receive a portion of the annual Joy Offering from the Presbyterian Church (USA). The continuing mission of Stillman College is to prepare students for leadership, scholarship, and service in society.

The Synod of Living Waters is a regional governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA) with 12 presbyteries across Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee, as well as parts of Arkansas and Missouri.

Purpose

The purpose of this covenant is to define the nature and scope of the relationship mutually agreed to by Stillman College of Tuscaloosa, Alabama (hereafter referred to as Stillman, or the College), and the Synod of Living Waters of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The covenant relationship herein describes and encourages mutual understandings and mutual support such that both institutions may be enabled to better serve their unique missions in achieving the Great Ends of the Church.

Mutual Affirmations

The Synod of Living Waters and Stillman College uphold education as a continuing priority of the Church. As parties to this covenant, it is therefore mutually affirmed that:

1. Our involvement in education is rooted in the Bible and the Reformed tradition.
2. Our common mission is guided by "The Great Ends of the Church."

3. Our continuing commitment is to be involved together in service to God and society through education.
4. Our continuing partnership in mission is declared in this covenant, setting the basic guidelines for the joint and separate responsibilities.

The Commitments of Stillman College

In affirmation of the covenant, Stillman commits to offer a program of quality education in the liberal arts and sciences with the concept of the wholeness of life as interpreted by the Christian faith. The College further pledges to demonstrate an active concern for social justice and human mercy among its various publics and society at-large.

- Require study of the Bible and its relationship with history and culture for all would-be graduates;
- Offer opportunities for corporate worship for the entire campus community;
- Provide opportunities for the exploration of the relationship between religious faith and other facets of life;
- Establish standards of excellence and maintain accreditation by appropriate academic associations and agencies;
- Provide Synod a report of the programs and activities of the College in its Annual Report, and such other mutually agreed upon reports as may be timely, reasonable, and useful;
- Share in the development of professional and lay leadership for the church;
- Serve as a host for Church governing bodies and their agencies, providing leadership and facilities for conferences, retreats, workshops, training sessions for Church groups.

The Commitment of the Synod of Living Waters

- Undergird the College spiritually by praying for its administration, faculty, students and friends, invoking God's favor upon the President and Trustees;
- Promote understanding of the educational opportunities offered at the College through Synod publications;
- Offer a source of ministers and laity as speakers for regularly scheduled chapel services, retreats, and conferences at the College;
- Sponsor conferences, retreats, meetings and training events of the Synod in the

College facilities periodically;

- Encourage presbyteries and churches to consider holding some of its conferences, retreats, meetings and training events in the College facilities periodically;
- Promote attendance at the College by encouraging youth in the Synod to consider enrolling as students;
- Encourage individuals, congregations and presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod to provide financial support to the General Fund of the College;
- Provide financial support for the College by regular benevolent giving in accordance with an objective funding formula developed by the Synod's Division for Synod Ministries;
- Provide annually for the receiving of a Report from the College, with such details as may prove useful for purposes of promotion and funding support;
- Publish an Annual Report of the College in the Minutes of Synod.

Review of the Covenant

This Covenant shall be reviewed every five years by a team composed of at least two persons appointed by the Synod's Division for Synod Ministries and at least two persons appointed by the College's Board of Trustees. It is expected that the President of the College will be present for such reviews.

Special review of the covenant relationship can be initiated either by Stillman or Synod. Review by appropriate committees of Stillman and of Synod may be needed if major forthcoming decisions change the nature of the covenant.

Formal Approval

This Covenant shall be effective upon formal approval by the Board of Trustees of Stillman College and by the Synod of Living Waters, and signed by the Synod Executive and Stated Clerk and by the President of the College and the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Clerk of the Synod and by the President of the College and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

This Covenant recognizes the fact that Stillman College has a covenant relationship with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and may develop covenants with other governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (USA) or with other church bodies with which our

denomination is in correspondence.

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

REPRESENTING
STILLMAN COLLEGE

REPRESENTING THE
SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS



President

Synod Executive



Chair, Board of Trustees

Stated Clerk of the Synod

Date: 4/1/16

Date: _____