

***The Covenant
between The College of Wooster
and the Synod of the Covenant
for 2025 Renewal***

History

Throughout its history, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its predecessors have stressed the importance of higher education and maintained an active, supportive relationship with its church-related colleges. In the past, some colleges were owned by national denominational boards, and some were owned by synods. Still others maintained various types of formal and informal agreements with different governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church for their mutual benefit.

In 1968, the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recommended that synods divest themselves of ownership and control of the colleges. Different types of agreements were reached between each synod and the colleges therein. In what were then, the synods of Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky, the ownership and control of the colleges related to the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) passed to individual boards of trustees. In 1982 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. also recommended that the responsibility for the church's relationships to colleges should be lodged with synods, thus bringing the policies of the two antecedents of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) into accord.

In 1972, there was a reorganization of the structure of the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including the formation of new synod boundaries with new names. The synods of Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky became the Synod of the Covenant. The new synod invited the six colleges within its boundaries to discuss ways and means whereby the synod and the colleges could enter into mutually supportive relations. In 1987, the Synod of the Covenant was reorganized to include only the presbyteries within Michigan and Ohio. This new Synod of the Covenant continues to seek the same close and mutually supportive relationships with the three colleges that were within its boundaries: Alma College in Michigan, and The College of Wooster and Muskingum University in Ohio. This written covenant represents the mutual commitment and describes the relationship between the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), represented by the Synod of the Covenant (synod), and The College of Wooster (College), an independent institution within the boundaries of the synod.

Commitments of the Synod

On its part, the Synod of the Covenant, in order to carry out its responsibilities, makes the following commitments:

1. The Synod of the Covenant, or its designated representative, will be a partner with The College of Wooster in carrying forward the terms of this covenant.
2. The Synod will encourage interpretation of the mission of the College to presbyteries and congregations within its bounds.

3. Financial Understanding:

- a. The Synod of the Covenant, for the duration of this covenant, shall explore the use of its endowments and resources to support the educational program of The College of Wooster.
 - b. Individual donors from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) within the Synod of the Covenant may be asked to give directly to support the colleges within the synod, including The College of Wooster, without prior approval of the synod, presbytery or session.
 - c. When the College wishes to engage in non-recurring major fundraising efforts through congregations, the synod and appropriate presbyteries shall be informed. The synod will be supportive of the College as it seeks permission from the presbyteries to approach congregations.
4. The synod will encourage Presbyterian students to consider The College of Wooster as they make their choice of institution for higher learning.

5. Mission and Ministry Connections

- a. The synod will consult with the College, through its staff and faculty, concerning the religious and spiritual dimensions of life on the campus.
- b. The synod may utilize the resources and capacities of the College, in partnership with the ministries at the College, for its own educational growth, meetings and ministries.
- c. The synod intends to be informed and shaped by the counsel of the College in determining its mission directions.
- d. In turn, the synod will assist the College in identifying its mission to meet the changing needs of persons in contemporary society and strengthening its unique and total contribution to higher education, the church and society.

Commitments of the College

On its part, The College of Wooster in order to carry out its responsibilities, makes the following commitments:


1. The College of Wooster's Board of Trustees, as the College's representative, will be a partner with the Synod of the Covenant in carrying forward the terms of this covenant; and the College will continue to maintain a Presbyterian presence on the Board, making a reasonable effort to include at least one (1) Teaching Elder/Minister of Word and Sacrament among its membership.
2. Financial Understanding

The College of Wooster agrees to the terms written in part 3 of the Commitments of the Synod (above).

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3. The President of The College of Wooster, or his or her designee, will cooperate with the presidents of the other two colleges, or their designees, to offer counsel to the synod concerning the status of education in the synod and its presbyteries as these governing bodies strive to serve the educational needs of the day.
4. Mission and Ministry Connections
 - a. The College of Wooster agrees to work with the synod when conveying the mission and educational goals of the College to the presbyteries and congregations within the synod's bounds.
 - b. The College of Wooster will maintain its basic program as a vital source of church and community leadership. It will continue to offer an education sensitive to the religious pluralism of today's world, informed by its Christian heritage.
 - c. The college will provide a Christian presence on campus by fulfilling the following programs:
 - i. Providing worship opportunities to and information for students, faculty and staff
 - ii. Teaching credited courses in religious studies by full-time faculty
 - iii. Providing support to student religious/spiritual clubs and organizations
 - iv. Providing an openness on campus for a varied spectrum of religious belief and practice
5. Maintaining the position of the Henry J. Copeland Interfaith Chaplain and Director of Religious & Spiritual Life and supporting (financially and otherwise) a vital ministry through that office.
6. In cooperation with the Synod of the Covenant, as described above, The College of Wooster will continue to interpret and promote its purposes as an educational institution to prepare students to become leaders of character and influence.
7. The College of Wooster will assist the synod with finding areas of expertise among the College's faculty to see if there are faculty who might be willing to offer occasional training and continuing educational opportunities for the Presbyteries and member Churches of the Synod of the Covenant.

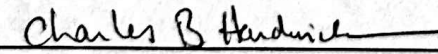
This agreement will continue for five years (until 2030) or until either partner requests a renewal (whichever may come first).



Anne E. McCall, President
The College of Wooster

1/15/25

Date



Rev. Charles B. Hardwick, Executive
Synod of the Covenant

1/15/25

Date
Pending Assembly
Approved 5/6/25