

A COVENANT BETWEEN
THE SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS
AND **CENTRE COLLEGE**

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Covenant is to define the nature and scope of the relationship between Centre College of Kentucky (hereafter referred to as Centre, or the College), and the Synod of Living Waters (hereinafter called the Synod).

II. History of the Relationship

Chartered by an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky on January 21, 1819, Centre College enrolled its first class in 1820. The eighteen founding trustees to whom the charter was granted included such notables as Kentucky's first governor, Isaac Shelby; the world-renowned pioneer surgeon, Ephraim McDowell; and the prime mover of the group, Samuel K. Nelson, distinguished pastor of the historic Danville Presbyterian Church. The original college building on the campus in Danville remains in use today.

In 1824, the College became formally associated with the Synod of Kentucky of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Upon the division of the churches in Kentucky into separate synods associated respectively with the USA General Assembly and the US General Assembly, the US Synod, after unsuccessful litigation seeking control of Centre, formed a new college called Central University in the town of Richmond with Centre remaining associated with the USA Synod.

In 1901 by agreement of the synods the two colleges were merged on the Danville campus under the Centre name as a part of a continuing Central University which maintained other schools in law and dentistry for a period of years. The reunited College was from that time supported by both Synods, and from that time was associated with both denominations. The umbrella Central University was dissolved in 1916. In 1926 the College absorbed the previously separate Kentucky College for Women, also located in Danville.

The charter of the College was modified from time to time by agreement between the College and the Kentucky synods. The amendments of 1958 made the College trustees a wholly independent self-perpetuating body, its members to serve six-year terms.

When the Kentucky synods were merged separately into the new regional Synods of the Mid-South (PCUS) and Covenant (UPCUSA), the College trustees advised the two synods that Centre would withdraw from the maintenance of an active relationship with either until these synods had completed a review of their capabilities to sustain the multiple institutional relationships then devolved upon them, but would welcome conversations toward the establishment of new relationships whenever the time might seem propitious to the synods.

In 1979, Centre re-established a formal relationship with the Synod of the Covenant in response to its invitation. The College advised the Synod of the Mid-South of that action and renewed its statement of readiness to consider a similar relationship with the Synod of the Mid-South. Dialogue looking to such an action was initiated by the Synod in January 1980.

On January 18-19, 1988, at the First Stated Meeting of the Synod of Living Waters, the covenant relationship between Centre College and the Synod of the Mid-South became the inherited covenant of the newly formed Synod of Living Waters.

III. Parties to the Covenant

The Parties of this Covenant, Centre College of Danville, Kentucky, operating under its governing board, the Board of Trustees, and the Synod of Living Waters operating as a governing body, are separate entities. They are independent, neither being controlled by the other. They are, however, interdependent in that they must work together to accomplish their common purposes.

IV. Responsibilities Under the Covenant

A. The College

The Board of trustees reaffirms its commitment to the following purposes enunciated by it in 1963 and again in 1973 for general publication:

1. The primary purpose of the College is to foster the broad intellectual growth of its students. The curriculum is designed in the tradition of the liberal arts to encourage the student to acquire increased self-knowledge and a mature understanding of the physical universe and of man's culture. Centre seeks to provide an environment in which the student will develop the capacity to learn independently, to exercise reason free from prejudice, and to make incisive analytical and critical judgments.
2. It is an ultimate goal of the College that its students develop a mature sense of vocation and use their intellectual capabilities creatively for the purpose of enriching human society. The College is founded on the belief that learning has greatest value when disciplined by religious and ethical principles and by a continuing sense of responsibility to mankind. This spirit of responsible personal concern is fostered throughout the college community; in a larger sense, this concern extends in collateral ways to the creative use of college resources to serve local and regional educational and cultural needs.

In pursuing these aims, the College seeks to encourage and sustain the intellectual and spiritual traditions of its Christian heritage.

3. At the foundation of the Centre academic program lies the conviction that ethical values must infuse learning. The College seeks to provide an environment where students consider the values embraced by the Christian faith, along with comparative values in other systems of belief. To this end, the College maintains a strong program in religious studies, and encourages campus religious activities.

B. The Synod

The Synod of Living Waters is a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as defined in the Book of Order, Chapter XII, and is incorporated under the laws of the State of Tennessee. As a governing body of the Church, the Synod is committed to and expresses the mission and unity of the Church as stated in the Book of Order, Chapters III and IV.

The Synod of Living Waters has responsibility "To develop,..., a broad strategy for the mission of the Church within its bounds in accord with BO G-3.0000;" and "To establish and superintend the agencies...necessary for its work."

It seeks to be faithful to Jesus Christ and His Mission as set forth in Scripture and as revealed as a gift of the Holy Spirit. It believes that the rich diversity existing within its bounds is a clue to its effectiveness in fulfilling its mission.

This mission is pursued, among other ways, "by providing for a ministry in higher education."

In fulfilling the responsibilities of this Covenant, the Synod of Living Waters agrees to:

1. Communicate to church governing bodies and congregations a continuing understanding of Centre as a church-related college.
2. Work with Centre in the recruitment of students, and in the further development of funding for scholarships.
3. Encourage support by individual Presbyterians within the Synod of the College's capital fund programs and of its planned giving programs through trusts, bequests, and other estate plans.

C. Joint Affirmations

1. Each party affirms the statement of belief and purpose of the other and hereby covenants to support and encourage the other in pursuing their respective missions.
2. Each party agrees that Centre will inform the Synod for any financial campaign involving approaches to governing bodies and congregations within the bounds of Synod.

V. Mutual Understandings

A. Governance of the College

Centre is, under its charter, governed by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees of not less than twenty nor more than thirty persons. The board is divided into six classes of not more than five members, one class being elected each year to terms of six years. No member may be elected to another term without an intervening interval.

B. Disposition of Property

If Centre College should be dissolved, the trustees are obligated under Kentucky law to transfer all its assets to another non-profit institution or institutions serving similar purposes. The trustees agree to consult with appropriate representatives of covenant governing bodies in carrying out these requirements.

C. Communications and Accountability

1. The parties agree to establish regular and formal channels of communication to insure accountability and to address issues of mutual interest and concern.
2. Both Synod and College hereby affirm that there will be a joint and continuing effort to furnish an education of excellent quality in conformity with Presbyterian standards, and to assure a continuing accreditation by recognized accrediting agencies.
3. Centre will render with a report of the campus ministry program and activities of the College in its Annual Report to the Synod, provide a copy of the annual audit of its financial accounts and records, an annual report of the election of trustees, and other significant documents. The Synod shall have reasonable access to the minutes of the Trustees of the College.
4. The Synod will provide Centre with copies of its published Minutes and other significant documents.
5. The text of this Covenant shall be entered in the Minutes of the Synod and the College, and shall be made available to members of the College faculty and administrative staff. The text of the Covenant will also be given for study to the new Board members as they are elected. A statement of the College's association with the Synod of Living Waters (PCUSA) will be included in the catalog of the College.

D. Review and Amendment

This Covenant shall be in effect when approved by both parties and shall be reviewed by representatives of each body when deemed necessary by either the College or the Synod.

VI. This Covenant shall be effective upon formal approval by the Synod of Living Waters and the Board of Trustees of Centre College of Kentucky, ~~each meeting in regular session in the fall of 1997.~~

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

REPRESENTING
CENTRE COLLEGE

Walter Reigler
President (Acting)

J. David Bussom
Chair, Board of Directors

Date: 2 February 1998

REPRESENTING THE
SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS

A. Harold Jackson
Synod Executive

Al Freundt
Stated Clerk of the Synod

Date: September 30, 1997

REVIEWED 8/24/09
J. A. Rank