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2-8-1974

## **Statement on Lindenwood College's Relationship with the Presbyterian Church**

Franc McCluer

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TO: Members of the Administration, Faculty, and Staff

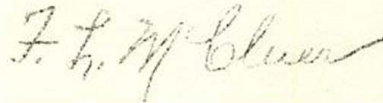
FROM: F. L. McCluer

February 8, 1974

I assume that it is generally known that the college was founded under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church and that for some time we made regular reports to the Synod of Missouri of the Presbyterian Church. Recently there has been a change in this and we have made no report to the Synod for several years. Our relationship is now defined as a covenant relationship.

Enclosed is a pamphlet entitled "The Church and Related Colleges and University - A Statement of Mutual Responsibilities." This description of our relationship to the Presbyterian Church has been approved by the Boards of The Lindenwood Colleges by unanimous vote.

I thought also you might be interested in the enclosed reprint from the New York Times.



F. L. McCluer  
President

FLM:MY  
Encs.

**THE CHURCH**  
and  
**RELATED COLLEGES**  
and  
**UNIVERSITIES**

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**A Statement of**  
**MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Mission in Education  
THE PROGRAM AGENCY  
The United Presbyterian Church U.S.A.  
475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027

## **Preface**

Throughout the many years that The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. has been related to colleges and universities, the church has joined with those institutions in setting forth the understandings that inform that relationship. The agreements printed in this statement describe the essential basis of what can and should be a dynamic relationship between the church and its related colleges and universities. Many institutions and related judicatories of the church have recorded this vitality through "covenants" or other memoranda of relationships that go beyond the terms of agreement set for all.

The current statement points the direction for acknowledged responsibilities and commitments on the part of both the church and the related institutions of higher education. It is also used as a basis for recognition of colleges and universities by the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church and by other judicatories, and constitutes a prerequisite for membership of these institutions in The Presbyterian College Union.

## **Introduction**

*We, The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and the colleges and universities related to The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., affirm the validity and the value of our historic relationship. These institutions of higher education generally were founded by men and women committed to Jesus Christ as Lord. As participants in the Reformed tradition, their faith called them to establish these colleges and universities that successive generations might discover and appropriate the knowledge found in the many disciplines. We value our common heritage and we pledge our continuing commitment to be involved together in service to God and society through higher education.*

*In the founding of these institutions, varied relationships were established between the judicatories of the United Presbyterian Church and the individual colleges and universities. In the passing of time these relationships have undergone substantial and appropriate change. It is not desirable that a uniform code of relationships be established, nor that relationships become unalterably fixed. Nevertheless, we here declare these responsibilities which we believe to be basic as guidelines for maintaining our mutual association.*

## **Responsibilities of the Church**

1. The church will regard the colleges and universities as independent corporate institutions which aid in extending the outreach of the church to each new generation and which also contribute to the continuing mission of the church throughout the world. Yet it is understood that these colleges and universities are not under the control of the church.
2. The church will encourage each college and university in its determination to serve as a center of learning committed to providing maximal opportunities for the responsible exercise of academic freedom.
3. The church will strengthen the work of the colleges and universities through active concern, through a variety of services, and through the sharing of leadership.
4. The church, to the extent permitted by its resources and priorities and as determined by the judicatories, will provide financial and other support to the colleges and universities and will encourage such support from individuals, congregations, and other agencies.

## **Responsibilities of the Colleges and Universities**

1. Each college or university will provide opportunities for those who teach and those who learn to attain their highest possible level of achievement and by instruction in and by emphasis on human values will encourage each person to seek and reach a significant commitment of the self in service to individuals and society.
2. Each college or university will seek to make its knowledge, skills, and related educational resources available to the church for service appropriate to current needs and social problems.
3. Each college or university will offer courses in religious studies, with emphasis on the Judeo-Christian tradition as important to liberal education.
4. Each college or university will clearly state in its catalog and other appropriate publications its relationship to The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

5. Each college or university related to The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. will be required to maintain full accreditation by its regional accrediting agency. Such accreditation, however, shall be regarded as a minimal indication of the quality sought by the college or university.

### **Joint Responsibilities of the Church and the Colleges or Universities**

1. The church and the colleges or universities commit themselves to share with one another results of research, insights, and experiences that inform and reinforce the capacities of each to serve society with sensitivity and skill.
2. The church and the colleges or universities together commit themselves to support the struggle for full recognition of all persons as children of God.
3. The church and the colleges or universities commit themselves to accept the responsibilities indicated in this document as central to their declared and continuing relationship.

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**Adopted by  
The Presbyterian College Union  
and  
The Program Agency  
The United Presbyterian Church U.S.A.  
1973**