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## A Covenant Between Lindenwood College and the [Presbyterian] Synod of Mid-America

Presbyterian Synod of Mid-America

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This is to certify that the following Covenant was adopted by Synod of Mid-America on June 29 in the 1984 minutes of the Synod on pages 82-89:

A COVENANT BETWEEN LINDENWOOD COLLEGE  
AND THE SYNOD OF MID-AMERICA

I. THE NATURE OF THE COVENANT

1. The Parties Involved

This covenant is a voluntary agreement between Lindenwood College, a Synod Associated Institution, and the Synod of Mid-America, to make explicit a historic and continuing relatedness between the two bodies. The term "covenant" is chosen to indicate that the College and the Synod are related to each other in a unique way and to state the seriousness of our intentions and hopes.

2. The Purpose of this Covenant:

- a. The covenant affirms a relationship.
- b. The covenant states the essential characteristics of the relationship.
- c. The covenant states the means for maintaining the covenant and fulfilling its responsibilities.
- d. The covenant states a provision for renewal.

3. The Rationale

Of the Synod:

Because God calls us all to worship and study God's word, to commit our lives to His obedience, to belong to one another in Christian community and in service to others; because God calls the church into ministries of justice and compassion wherever people are gathered; because people who spend time in activities on college and university campuses are involved in significant changes affecting their lives and the future of the whole society; and because Presbyterians have been involved in Christian higher education in college and university campus communities, we as Presbyterians choose to minister within the higher education scene in proclaiming Christ, meeting needs and affecting the transition of people and institutions.

The Synod of Mid-America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), therefore believes that the church-related colleges have a unique contribution to make to the nation and to the church in the field of higher education. Many colleges present the



opportunity for good academic challenge and achievement and a campus experience that seeks to equip young people for decision and action in the realm of personal, social, economic and political life in a pluralistic society, and a world that hungers for justice and dignity for all persons and nations. The Synod believes that the unique experience which church-related colleges can contribute to a Christian conviction about the nature and meaning of human existence is vital to the ministry. This belief rests upon the following principles:

1. That the human being does not have the option of living without a faith. The only option available to a person is by which faith he or she will live.
2. That God is the absolute source, ground, and goal of all truth and of the most meaningful, responsible and fruitful life.
3. That in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Lord and Savior, God presents to all persons the opportunity for discovering the central truth of all life and for entering into an enduring and growing personal relationship of faithfulness, service and joy with God in God's world.
4. That this truth and life can be discovered and experienced most effectively in the context of a consciously Christian community.
5. That commitment and relationship to God results in the renewal of genuine community and true humanity, and the urgent quest for a world which embodies God's will and desire for love and justice.
6. That the Christian should be open to dialogue with all academic discipline and other faiths.

The Synod believes that church-related colleges can and must offer the opportunity for vigorously exploring the Christian option for life with intellectual honesty and personal involvement in a way that secular institutions of higher education cannot. We believe that this should be done in an atmosphere of genuine academic and personal freedom which encourages the active exploration of all avenues of approach to rational and existential truth and clearly leaves the individual free to make his or her own decision as to what or to whom he or she will commit their life. We affirm that the church-related colleges can assist students in developing their values and spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith.

The Synod believes that the provision of the colleges with



this unique difference is an essential in the health and future of the total enterprise of higher education itself, the nation, the church and this small planet. This statement will be used as a basis for covenant making between the Synod and the church-related colleges.

Of Lindenwood College:

Throughout its history Lindenwood College has been committed to the free and open pursuit of knowledge in a campus setting which encourages the development of faith and values within the context of the Judeo-Christian tradition. Lindenwood College seeks to educate students in the traditional liberal arts, to prepare them for positions of responsibility and leadership in a changing world, and to challenge them to think critically and to integrate knowledge with positive personal and social values. Lindenwood College seeks faculty who are committed to these objectives.

Lindenwood College seeks to promote academic freedom and respect for the divergent perspectives of people in our pluralistic society and world. For that reason no religious tests or requirements are imposed on any members of the campus community. At the same time, the institution endorses, through its Board of Directors, the basic convictions about the nature and meaning of human existence inherent in the Judeo-Christian tradition, and seeks to provide opportunities for exploration of these convictions in the curriculum and in extracurricular programs. No effort is made to impose these convictions, but rather to present them as an option for life in honest, open ways.

Lindenwood College has maintained almost since its inception a relationship with Presbyterian judicatories. The College was founded in 1827 by George and Mary Sibley, who gave a lifetime of service to the Presbyterian Church. In 1857, the Synod of Missouri assumed responsibility for the College. Lindenwood continued to be under the legal control of the Presbyterian Church until 1969, when the charter was amended, severing legal ties. At that time the College was placed under the care and control of a self-perpetuating Board of Directors. Through the adoption of this covenant, the Board of Directors expresses its desire that Lindenwood College strengthen its long-standing fraternal and non-legal ties to the Presbyterian Church while continuing to reject with any religious body an affiliation of a sectarian and/or legally binding nature. The Board of Directors, while cognizant that Lindenwood College is not a church nor a theological institution but an education institution, declares it is the policy of the college to provide its students with a value-oriented quest for Truth in their respective fields of study



that does not infringe on the practice of academic freedom.

Therefore, in keeping with its purpose and mission, and in keeping with the historical development of its relationship with the Presbyterian Church, Lindenwood College enters into this covenant, viewing it as a voluntary agreement between independent, mutually concerns partners.

#### 4. The Relationship

Both parties in this covenant establish this covenant relationship as the basis for fulfilling a common ministry which has a long history. Both agree that the life of each will be enriched and made more dynamic by recognizing that each party has its distinctive role, which can be strengthened through contacts with each other in appropriate ways.

## II. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER COVENANT

### 1. The Common Ground

This covenant affirms an historical relationship between the Presbyterian Church and Lindenwood College.

Lindenwood College is non-sectarian in service, yet Presbyterian in rootage and relationship and appreciative of the Christian heritage this affiliation has provided the college.

2. This covenant does not alter the corporate identity of either party. Lindenwood College is chartered in the State of Missouri. The Directors of the College are chosen by its own procedures set forth in its charter and By-laws.

The Synod of Mid-America is incorporated in the States of Kansas and Missouri. The officers of the Synod are nominated and elected according to its own Standing Rule.k

### 3. Operating Procedure at the Institutional Level

The Synod designates Church-Related College and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary Committee of Synod Ministries Division as its agent for fulfilling the relational expectations of this covenant. This Committee will meet with the colleges individually and through an annual Collegium. In doing so the Synod will not violate the procedures of the College which are relevant to the relationship. Lindenwood College designates the President or his designee as its agent for fulfilling the relational expectations of this covenant. Lindenwood College will not violate any policies or procedures of the Synod which may be relevant. Both parties recognize



the statement of Rationale and Responsibilities which has been developed out of the historic and institutional relationship as the basis for developing this covenant and for the programmatic means of implementation. Each year a review of the program of each party will be carried out at which time adjustments in the program may be made.

#### 4. Responsibilities of the Synod

As a covenant partner, the Synod of Mid-America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will:

- a. Seek by all means at its disposal to support the security, development and growth of Lindenwood College as a related but independent and important dimension of its ministry in the world.
- b. Develop, through the Church-Related College Committee, a plan to receive from Lindenwood College a report that highlights its purpose, objectives, problems and needs.
- c. Provide Lindenwood College with an annual report of the Synod mission activities, particularly the work of the higher education programmatic ministry within the Synod. Provide the college with all regular mailings regarding the life and work of the Synod and its presbyteries.
- d. Provide appropriate committees to confer and consult with representatives of Lindenwood College as may be mutually desired to support on-going mission work.
- e. Actively and regularly inform the constituency of the Synod of the opportunity for value-oriented higher education through Lindenwood College and encourage the enrollment of Synod's members.
- f. Recognize the urgency of adequate financial support of Lindenwood College and vigorously seek measurably to increase that support. It will also encourage the support of the college by individuals, and urge its churches to make known to the college potential donors.
- g. Be the judicatory through which the General Assembly and its agencies can furnish forms of support (including financial) for the continuation, growth, and development of Lindenwood College.
- h. Provide for adequate Synod representation in a collegium of the Presbyterian-related colleges and the Synod. The collegium will meet at least annually to enhance communication between Lindenwood College and the Synod.



i. Will assist Lindenwood College in developing working relationships as appropriate with Presbyteries and other judicatories.

5. Responsibilities of the College

As a covenant partner, Lindenwood College will:

a. Provide to the Synod, through Synod's Church-related College Committee, a statement of the College's purpose, mission, and needs. The statement will be updated annually.

b. Maintain a faculty committed to the maintenance and achievement of the stated purpose and mission of the College.

c. Uphold academic excellence and freedom as appropriate to the mission of the College and provide (!) access to the disciplines necessary for knowledge of the various options of life, (2) stimulus to integrate all learning in the quest for ultimate meaning, purpose and the commitment of life, and (3) development of career skills with a sense of stewardship for life through its work-service program.

d. Provide a direct opportunity for students to (1) honestly explore the many faith options which human history offers; (2) be exposed to the Judeo-Christian tradition, conviction and experience at its best; (3) participate in dialogue between the Judeo-Christian tradition and various academic disciplines and faiths.

e. In collaboration with the students of the College, seek to provide a quality of campus life which enables and encourages Judeo-Christian concern for wholeness, values, freedom fulfillment and moral responsibility for the individuals in the world in which we live.

f. Offer pastoral care for all students, faculty and staff which will enable the development of a strong voluntary Judeo-Christian community of worship, study, sharing, witness, action and service.

g. Clearly and accurately state in its catalog and other appropriate publications its relationship to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the college's philosophy of higher education.

h. Seek to make its knowledge, skill and educational resources available to the judicatories and congregations



of the church and work with Synod Ministries Division and other judicatories in developing workshops, conferences, and seminars on topics related to the mission of the church.

- i. Cooperate with and report to the Church-related College Committee as requested by it; provide it with an annual copy of the college's financial audit together with a full disclosure of funds received from all Presbyterian and congregations governing bodies, and its need of financial assistance from the Synod.
  - j. Make its facilities available to presbytery, presbyterial, synod, synodical, youth conferences and other church group meetings insofar as the college's primary mission and activities permit.
  - k. Provide for direct relationship between the president of the college and the executive of the Synod.
  - l. Appoint four persons from the college to serve in a collegium of the Presbyterian-related colleges and the Synod. The Collegium will meet at least annually to enhance communications between Lindenwood College, the Synod and the Presbyterian-related colleges.
  - m. Work with the Synod in developing working relationships as appropriate with Presbyteries and other judicatories.
6. Mutual Understanding and Support

Both Lindenwood College and the Synod shall show mutual concern and support for each other. The Synod will be a resource to Lindenwood College by providing channels of communication and counsel on specific matters upon request. The Synod will provide the College with regular mailings of publications regarding the life and work of the Synod and its Presbyteries. Through its processes of budgeting and planning, the Synod will provide financial support of the College as it is able to do so. The Synod will seek to fulfill the responsibilities for advocacy stated in the Minutes of Synods, 1981.

### III. REVIEW AND RENEWAL

An annual review of Synod's and Lindenwood College's program for fulfilling the covenant relationship will be held.

An annual Collegium involving all of the colleges and the Church-related College and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary Committee will be held for a review of the relationship and for mutual support and enrichment.



An on-site review of the covenant and the relationship it affirms will be held each three years. A Review Team will evaluate the health of the covenant relationship, address emerging issues and propose to both parties amendments to the covenant. The Review Team will consist of 2 persons from the College, named by the President, and 2 persons named by the Synod's Church-related College and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary Committee and chaired by a person named by mutual agreement of the President of the College and the Executive of the Synod. The format of the Review will be common to all Colleges related to the Synod.

The College will be a resource to the Synod in its ministry in higher education design and program. The College will make its programs and services available to the Synod and its churches as it is able to do so. The College will seek to fulfill the responsibilities which are stated in this covenant. Through the designated agent for communication, newly developed programs may be authorized.

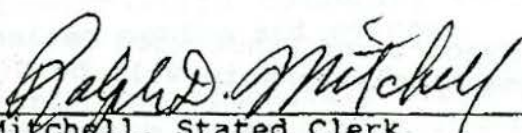
#### IV. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Covenant may be proposed by the Synod of Mid-America's Church-related College Committee, or by Lindenwood College's Board of Directors and the Covenant Review Team. Amendments will become effective upon formal action by the Council of the Synod of Mid-America and the Directors of Lindenwood College. Amendments will be formally ratified at the first meeting of the Synod following their adoption.

#### V. FORMAL APPROVAL

This document establishes and contains all the terms of the Covenant relationship between Lindenwood College and the Synod of Mid-America. By formal action, the Directors of the College and the Council of the Synod of Mid-America, may adopt this Covenant and pledge themselves to carry out its provisions. Formal ratification of the Covenant shall be done at the first meeting of the Synod of Mid-America following its adoption by the Council.

Attested:

  
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Ralph D. Mitchell, Stated Clerk