

***The Covenant
between Alma College
and the Presbytery of Lake Michigan***

May 2007

Introduction

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. As the only Presbyterian-related college in Michigan, Alma College is in a unique relationship with the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

This written covenant represents the mutual commitment and describes the relationship between the Presbytery of Lake Michigan and Alma College.

Commitments of the Presbytery

1. On its part, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, in order to carry out its responsibilities, makes the following commitments:
2. The Presbytery of Lake Michigan or its designated representative will be a partner with Alma College in carrying forward the terms of this covenant.
3. The Presbytery will encourage interpretation of the mission of the college to congregations within its bounds.
4. Financial Understanding
 - a. The Presbytery of Lake Michigan, for the duration of this covenant, shall provide an annual financial gift to support the educational program of Alma College.
 - b. Individual donors from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) within the Presbytery of Lake Michigan may be asked to give directly to support Alma College, without prior approval of the Presbytery or sessions within the Presbytery.
 - c. When the college wishes to engage in non-recurring major fund raising efforts through congregations, the Presbytery shall be informed. The Presbytery will be supportive of the college as it approaches congregations.
5. The Presbytery will cooperate with Alma College to recruit students.
6. Mission and Ministry Connections
 - a. The Presbytery will consult with the college, through its faculty and staff, concerning the religious and spiritual dimension of life on the campus.
 - b. The Presbytery may utilize the resources and capacities of the college for its own educational growth, meetings and ministries.
 - c. The Presbytery intends to be informed and shaped by the counsel of the college in determining the Presbytery mission directions.
 - d. In turn, the Presbytery will assist the college in identifying its ministry to 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, Alma College, in order to carry out its responsibilities, makes the following commitments:

1. Alma College's Board of Trustees, as the college's representative, will be a partner with the Presbytery of Lake Michigan in carrying forward the terms of this covenant; and the college will continue to maintain a Presbyterian presence on the board.
2. Financial Understanding
Alma College agrees to the terms written in part 4. of the Commitments of the Presbytery.
3. Mission and Ministry Connections
 - a. Alma College agrees to work with the Presbytery when interpreting the mission and educational goals of the college within the Presbytery's bounds.
 - b. Alma College 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 Judeo-Christian heritage.
 - c. The college will provide a Christian presence on campus by fulfilling the following programs:
 - 1) Providing regular worship opportunities for students, faculty and staff
 - 2) Teaching credit courses in religion by full-time faculty
 - 3) Encouraging religious organizations and clubs
 - 4) Inviting representatives from a varied spectrum of Christian belief and practice for particular classes and/or campus-wide events
 - 5) Maintaining the position of College Chaplain and supporting (financially and otherwise) a vital ministry through that office
4. In cooperation with the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, Alma College will continue to interpret and promote its purposes as an educational institution.

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

Saundra Tracy, President
Alma College

Date

Karen Haak, Interim Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of Lake Michigan

Date