

**RECOMMENDATION X:
PARTNERSHIP COVENANT**

***A Covenant of Shared Values, Mission, and Vision Agreement Between
BAPTIST GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA
&
CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL***

I. PROLOGUE

This Covenant is established by the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) and Campbell University Divinity School for the purpose of clarifying and affirming the relationship between each as they seek to fulfill the Great Commission through shared commitments and cooperative ministry while at the same time maintaining the independence and distinct character of each.

A brief history of the relationship...

Responding to an overwhelming sense of God's leadership, Campbell University established the Divinity School as her sixth school in August 1996. Completing twenty years of service in 2016, the Divinity School continues its founding vision to prepare God-called men and women for Christian service throughout the world. In those 20 years, Campbell has conferred 588 Master of Divinity degrees, 30 Master of Arts in Christian Education degrees, 13 Master of Arts in Christian Ministry degrees, and 49 Doctor of Ministry degrees. A number of these graduates have become associated with the BGAV, and others have gone on to serve in ministry across the nation and the world. Campbell University Divinity School welcomes the opportunity to foster a partnership with the BGAV as we seek the mutual advance of our Lord's Kingdom.

This Partnership Mission Covenant is birthed out of a desire to work together to fulfill the Great Commission and because of the mutual and supportive benefit gained by establishing a relationship between the BGAV and Campbell University Divinity School. It is important that this Covenant establish the intersection of the values, mission, and vision of each entity as the foundation for partnering together through more specific means. This is accomplished first by each entity stating its values, mission, and vision, and secondly by the entities working together to build their covenant around the values, mission, and vision shared in common.

For the purpose of this Covenant, values or "statement of faith" are defined as those guiding principles established by an organization that help frame major decision-making processes, the formation of strategic direction, and the development of human and financial resources. Mission is a unique and succinct statement of purpose that frames the actions of the organization around several key components. Vision is that driving, motivating, God-given view of the future that moves an organization toward specific goals and that seeks to bring others along on the journey. Vision can be described through a delineation of major emphases, new strategic initiatives, and/or the development and targeting of key resources.

II. THE VALUES, MISSION, AND VISION OF THE BAPTIST GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA

Values

In November, 1995 during annual session the Baptist General Association of Virginia adopted the following values:

- Centrality of Christ
- Authority of Holy Scripture
- Priesthood of Believers
- Soul Competency
- Religious Liberty
- Separation of Church and State
- Autonomy of the Local Church
- Believers Baptism
- Respect for Persons
- Intellectual Integrity
- Cooperative Spirit

- Compassion for Unbelievers
- Responsiveness to a Changing World

Mission

Since 1823 the Baptist General Association of Virginia has pursued its mission as stated in the purpose statement of the BGAV Constitution and Bylaws:

The object of the General Association shall be to furnish the Baptist churches of Virginia a medium of cooperation for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and for the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom by all methods in accord with the Word of God. There shall be full recognition of the autonomy of the local churches.

Vision

In a special called meeting in May, 2002 and in the annual meeting of November, 2002, the Baptist General Association of Virginia adopted a challenging new vision for the future. "Kingdom Advance: Partners in a New Vision" is a comprehensive strategy of the churches of the Baptist General Association of Virginia in cooperation with Kingdom partners in Virginia, the United States, and around the world. Unlike many visions and associated strategies from the past, "Kingdom Advance" goes beyond the ministry and work of the Baptist General Association of Virginia and seeks to involve all Virginia ministry partners in advancing the Redeemer's Kingdom.

"Kingdom Advance" outlines four major goals:

BGAV will emphasize the matching of ministers and churches so that they might serve boldly the cause of Christ; the modeling of wellness for the church, its ministers, and Christian families; and developing leaders, both lay and clergy, for the church. Key strategies include developing assessment and placement tools in order to better match ministers and churches; intensified efforts to assimilate new ministers to BGAV life, leadership development cooperatives that provide specialized training and continuing education in multiple locations through linkages with ministry partners; and supportive ministries to prevent "burn-out" among ministers and their families.

BGAV will identify new leaders for church leadership, both lay and clergy, young and old, on campuses and at places of employment; equipping them for service through special training experiences and through mentoring relationships; and deploying them to places of service for "hands-on" learning of practical skills. Key strategies include "call-out" events at church, associational, and statewide levels; the ongoing program of campus ministry on college campuses; the creation of "greenhouse" events where emerging leaders are challenged to grow through intense learning experiences; the development of coaching and mentoring networks for new leaders; and the creating of internships in local church and denominational ministry.

BGAV has an overall mission strategy of going to places where the Gospel is needed, both locally and globally, caring for emotional, social, physical, and spiritual needs; and educating future generations of mission leaders. Key strategies include the deployment of missions volunteers to serve alongside our missions partners locally and around the world; the deployment of Kingdom Advance Ambassadors and a flexible, mobile missions force, supporting caring ministry at the local church level and through joint efforts of ministry on a larger scale; and providing missions education opportunities through classroom and "hands-on" experiences.

BGAV will seek to create a movement where Christians and churches go beyond being healthy to being courageous in evangelizing the lost through church planting and evangelistic outreach; discipling believers to become bold Christians; and visioning a new future for the church and its ministry as often as a changing community and God demands. Key strategies include the provision of resources and supportive networks for church planters and new congregations; training in evangelism, Bible study, discipleship development, worship leadership, and church growth; concentrated efforts at church revitalization and community transformation through an intensive covenant process; financial partnering with churches seeking to become courageous; and through matching assistance for significant discipleship and outreach projects.

III. THE VALUES, MISSION, AND VISION OF CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL

The mission of the Campbell University Divinity School is to provide Christ-centered, Bible-based, and ministry-focused theological education. Campbell University Divinity School is committed to a holistic approach to graduate theological education in which students are intellectually, spiritually, and vocationally prepared for ministry.

This purpose or mission statement of Campbell University Divinity School is a noble one, and its content exhibits one of the great strengths of the school. This school is committed to loving and serving God, learning all we can about the Bible, and becoming faithful ministers in the world. Our students love our mission statement because it is well known and easily remembered, particularly in the shorter form, “Christ-centered, Bible-based, and Ministry-focused.” The mission statement also reflects the heart and soul of faithful Christian ministry, and provides a useful and compelling structure for courses and special events within the Divinity School. It is frequently adopted by students as their personal mission statement of Christian commitment and philosophy of ministry, and also describes the nature of the curriculum and faculty of the school. It also defines the distinctiveness of Campbell University Divinity School from other theological schools.

Campbell University Divinity School is intentionally inclusive of anyone who can affirm and claim Christ as Lord, the Bible as authority, and ministry as calling, without debating the details. Consistent with its statement of purpose, the Divinity School embraces the best of classical theological education while seeking to equip students with ministry skills for the contemporary world. Students at the Divinity School are free to explore a wide variety of theological perspectives within the boundaries of respect and our mission statement.

Campbell University Divinity School is Christ-Centered. We are serious not only about our faith, but about our commitment and calling. This is reflected in the classroom; even as we expect and exercise academic rigor, we are always asking the “so what” questions: “How does this affect your own faith? How does this play out in ministry?” This commitment is also reflected in our admissions policy; we limit admission to students who have a mature relationship with God and a definite sense of calling. We do not expect every student to know exactly where or how God is calling; on the contrary, we know that most students are on a journey of discovering the implications and dimensions of God’s calling. However, we do not admit students who simply want to satisfy academic curiosity.

Campbell University Divinity School is Bible-Based. This means much more than just an affirmation of the centrality of the Bible. Because we claim the Bible as authority and guide, we will not settle for simply accepting what others have said. We urge and equip our students to dig deeply into the text, to wrestle diligently with the teachings and history of the church throughout the ages, and come to their own understanding of what they believe and why they believe it.

Campbell University Divinity School is Ministry-Focused. Our shared calling is to nurture and serve the people of God. We will not only help students gain the professional skills and knowledge needed to fulfill this calling, but also together we model what it means to be in genuine Christian community. One of the most important distinctives of our school is the way that faculty, staff, and students love and support each other as family.

IV. OUR COVENANT TOGETHER

The Baptist General Association of Virginia and Campbell University Divinity School therefore affirm their voluntary, mutual and supportive relationship by means of the following shared values, mission, and vision. We do this as partners in a new vision seeking to fulfill the Great Commission and to advance the Redeemer’s Kingdom.

Shared Values

As Covenant Partners our shared values include the following:

- Centrality of Christ
- Authority of Holy Scripture
- Priesthood of Believers
- Soul Competency
- Religious Liberty
- Respect for Persons
- Intellectual Integrity
- Compassion for Unbelievers
- Responsiveness to a Changing World
- Separation of Church and State
- Autonomy of the local church

Together we affirm the significance of the local church and the need for theological education that equips the church for the work of ministry. We recognize the need for intentional work in racial reconciliation where “in Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female” (Galatians 3:28).

Shared Mission

Campbell University Divinity School offers an educational context that is diverse and welcoming to any student who affirms the mission statement to be Christ-centered, Bible-based, and ministry-focused. As the latter part of our mission statement indicates, we have always sought to build up the church. Not only do we educate leaders for churches and ministries, but also we seek to encourage and train and provide resources to churches and ministries. We welcome the opportunity to partner with the BGAV and with the Baptists of Virginia for the spreading of the Gospel and for the advancement of God's Kingdom.

Shared Vision

As a Christian Divinity School, rooted and grounded in the Baptist tradition, and as a Covenant Partner with the BGAV, Campbell Divinity School shares the vision of "Kingdom Advance." In particular, and in covenant together, we will promote this vision in the following ways:

Development of Leaders:

We commit to training students to be Christ-centered, Bible-based, and ministry-focused. We encourage and model for students a life-long integration of faith and learning, combining academic rigor, spiritual formation, and ministry application. We seek to produce graduates who are personally whole and spiritually mature, biblically grounded and theologically competent, pastoral, evangelistic, and prophetic. We will provide opportunities for Virginia Baptist students to have hands on experience in church ministry, CPE/Urban Ministry, missions, evangelism, church planting, and innovative ministry. We look forward to connecting Campbell Divinity graduates with BGAV churches through placement and internships.

Support of Churches:

We commit to offer support and training to BGAV pastors and leaders through our ongoing Minister's Continuing Education Program, our Resource and Referral services, opportunities to take part in our growing Evangelism and Missions program with the World Religions and Global Cultures Center, and through our Doctor of Ministry and Masters degrees and our Certificate programs. Furthermore, we seek to work with churches to integrate the training of leaders and minister with the training and encouraging of churches. We are eager to provide resources for churches in the form of retreats, Bible studies, and training events. Drawing on the resources of the larger university, we can help to facilitate training focused on the intersection of ministry with business, law, and health care.

Ministry to the World:

Campbell University Divinity School has made a significant commitment to increasing the awareness and ability of students to connect with an increasingly pluralistic world. Through the World Religions and Global Cultures center, Campbell Divinity helps both students and churches understand the diverse religious traditions that surround them. Through missions immersion experiences, Campbell Divinity helps students and others who wish to participate to appreciate and learn from the explosive growth of Christianity in the global south. Through its programs on Innovative Ministry, Campbell Divinity seeks to equip students and others to explore new and entrepreneurial ways to offer ministry in our rapidly changing world.

V. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARTIES

This agreement does not create a contractual relationship or financial obligation, nor does it imply that Campbell University Divinity School is an agency, institution, or shared ministry of the General Association.

VI. TERM

These shared values, mission, and vision frame our relationship as Covenant Partners effective November 15, 2016. With six months' notice, either party to this Covenant of Shared Values, Mission, and Vision may request that it be renegotiated or terminated. This Covenant shall be reviewed every five years.