



**SYNOD
OF THE SUN**

**Covenant Agreement:
Lyon College**

A COVENANT BETWEEN LYON COLLEGE AND THE SYNOD OF THE SUN

A covenant is a contract or agreement between people of faith, affirming a shared purpose and the expectation that each party will adhere to the support of certain values and beliefs. This covenant is the basis for the commitment between the Synod of the Sun and Lyon College. By adopting this covenant, the Synod recognizes its commitment and obligation to the College as a part of the Christian mission of higher education. Equally, the College affirms its commitment to the Church, accepts its responsibility for representing the church in higher education while recognizing an obligation to the Church.

Presbyterians founded Lyon College as Arkansas College in 1872. In that same year, the College was granted a charter by the State of Arkansas. The institution changed its name in 1994 to honor the extraordinary service rendered to it by the Frank Lyon family of Little Rock. The mission of the College is: "A selective, independent teaching and learning community affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Lyon College offers both a challenging undergraduate curriculum grounded in the liberal arts and select graduate programs. In a primarily residential setting, the Lyon Collage experience is guided by the Honor System and enlightened by co-curricular programs, service and experiential learning , and opportunities for leadership. Together these foster critical, creative thought and ethical, spiritual growth that will prepare students for fulfilling personal and professional lives committed to lifelong learning and service." Through its unique and highly visible Scottish Heritage Program, Lyon College honors and shares its Scottish and Presbyterian roots. Throughout its history Lyon has chosen, voluntarily and intentionally, to maintain a vital relationship to the Church. The most tangible symbol of that relationship is the covenant with the Synod and the process by which it is renewed every five years.

Commitments of the Covenant Partners

This covenant between The Synod of the Sun, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Lyon College represents our reaffirmation to search for particular standards of excellence, to deal with what a church-related college is and to be sensitive as to how Lyon College can faithfully represent the Church in an increasingly more complex world. Both the Synod and the College recognize this covenant as the official agreement describing our primary relationship as we strive to achieve these high goals and visions.

By this Covenant:

- 1) Lyon College affirms itself as integral to the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It will provide opportunities for the practice of Christian faith on its campus through worship, study and service.
- 2) Lyon College will offer a liberal arts education of superior quality in a personalized setting and will encourage the free intellectual inquiry essential to social, ethical and spiritual growth. It will adhere to the highest moral and ethical standards in its policies and institutional behavior.
- 3) Lyon College will continue, through a rich scholarly and religious heritage, to provide a culture of honor in which to develop responsible citizens and leaders committed to personal growth and service.
- 4) Lyon College will draw on its relationship with the Church to fulfill its obligations to the students it serves. The college will offer an environment in which Christians of varied backgrounds and persons of other faiths may find encouragement and support in the pursuit of the holy in their lives.
- 5) Lyon College will continue to be accredited by all appropriate accrediting bodies. It will remain committed to providing an environment in which teaching, learning and intellectual inquiry can flourish. The College will seek to affirm the values of inclusiveness and diversity in its student body, faculty, staff and board of trustees. Lyon will serve the changing needs of it students by fostering excellence and innovation in all facets of its operation and will take advantage of its location in an area of great natural beauty.
- 6) Lyon College will make its personnel available for instruction and leadership and will provide a theological resource for the wider Church.

- 7) Lyon College will represent and teach the Reformed Presbyterian tradition of thought, work and worship and will maintain an ecumenical campus ministry program directed by a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) campus minister and Clergy trustees.
- 8) Lyon College will remain available as a resource for activities of the Church.
- 9) Lyon College will keep the Synod and all appropriate church agencies informed of its work and development on a regular basis.
- 10) Lyon College will help to implement the priorities chosen by the Synod in its planning processes.
- 11) Lyon College will provide an annual report of all Church-related congregational giving upon request.

By this Covenant:

- 1) The Synod of the Sun affirms Lyon College as integral to the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its mission of supporting higher education.
- 2) The Synod will encourage members of the Synod's churches to enroll at Lyon and encourage Presbyterian congregations to participate in and support Lyon's Scottish Heritage Program and other special programs which benefit students attending the College.
- 3) The Synod will promote Lyon College by providing information to the College from the Synod, by providing information about the College to each Presbytery resource center and by encouraging the use of the Lyon campus and resources for Synod and Presbytery sponsored events.
- 4) The Synod will provide financial assistance by providing funds upon request and when available, by giving the College permission to seek individual gifts and students where it will, by permitting the College to initiate proposals for financial support from particular churches and constituent Presbyteries of the Synod in whatever manner the College deems fitting and proper and by allowing the College to make general approaches to the constituency of the Synod in major capital funds campaigns, with prior approval from the Synod.

Symbols of the Covenant:

The Synod entrusts the Board of Trustees of Lyon College with the responsibility of acting in historical continuity with the expressed purpose of the founders and according to their by-laws. The essential link between church and state is the Board of Trustees. The charter provides the Board with the power to recommend to the Synod individuals to fill vacancies in its membership. In addition, if at any time the charter becomes void, all of the property privileges and powers of the Corporation known as the Board of Trustees of Lyon College shall vest in the Synod.

Effective Date

This covenant shall become effective upon approval by the Board of Trustees and the Synod.

Lyon College Chaplain

For the Synod of the Sun

Date

Date