

Covenant between Synod of the Sun and Schreiner University
(Revised 9/1/2021)

A covenant is a traditional agreement made and honored by people of faith, affirming a shared purpose. It affirms mutual trust and concern, in the expectation that each party will remain steadfast in support of these common beliefs and values.

Schreiner University embodies the conviction that God is glorified in a humanity that is fully alive. We affirm the whole of life as the appropriate subject matter of learning. In company with over sixty Presbyterian-related colleges and universities in America, Schreiner conceives its educational purpose to be an expression of the commitment to love God with all our mind.

Founded in 1923 as Schreiner Institute through the united efforts of Captain Charles Schreiner and the Presbyterian Church, the University has remained affiliated by choice and by covenant with the Presbyterian Church (USA) even as its educational role has changed over time. Schreiner University is now a primarily residential liberal arts university that carries out its educational purpose in the conviction that the pursuit of knowledge is integral to the Christian mission of worship and service. The pursuit is undertaken in the context of thoughtful interactions among a diverse community of faculty, staff and students, a process that empowers students to discover and assimilate knowledge in personalized learning experiences. Schreiner University is committed to prepare students for meaningful work, purposeful lives, in a changing global society.

Commitments of the Covenant Partners

This covenant is between Synod of the Sun, Presbyterian Church (USA), and Schreiner University. It is a reaffirmation of our historical commitment to quality education that addresses the spiritual as well as intellectual needs of persons as they prepare to become caring citizens in a complex world. Both the Synod of the Sun and Schreiner University recognize this covenant as the official agreement describing our primary relationship.

Schreiner University and the Synod recognize the value of working relationships between the university and other individuals and organizations (including other mid councils) consistent with this covenant.

By this Covenant:

1. Schreiner University affirms itself as integral to the mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
2. Schreiner University is committed to the student as a person; accordingly, the University will incorporate ethical character formation as an essential part of the educational experience and will work with each student to achieve his or her educational potential, by nurturing their intellectual, spiritual, physical and social development.
3. Schreiner University will carry out its educational mission in freedom and integrity, confident as a community of learners that no truth is alien to the truth of God.
4. Schreiner University will offer a variety of programs of study in the liberal arts, professional fields and selected graduate disciplines in addressing the educational needs of the region and beyond.

5. Schreiner University seeks to affirm the values of inclusiveness and diversity in its faculty, staff, student body and trustees.
6. Schreiner University will foster, where feasible, programs that provide leadership for the church and will, when possible, make its facilities available to church-sponsored groups.
7. Schreiner University will provide visible evidence of this covenant relationship with the Synod of the Sun, Presbyterian Church (USA), including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. An ecumenical campus ministry program directed by a Presbyterian Church (USA) campus minister or a minister from a church in full communion with PC(USA) (ELCA, Reformed Church of America, United Church of Christ).
 - b. An assistant campus minister.

(The campus minister and assistant campus minister are responsible for church relations, church vocations, and purposeful lives duties.)
 - c. Consistent representation of campus ministry and church relations at all Board of Trustees meetings
 - d. The Presbyterian Scholarship program.
 - e. The Presbyterian Pan American Schreiner Agreement (PASA) program.
 - f. The study of religion and a religion major as components of a liberal arts education
 - g. Encouraging students to be involved in regular worship, positive co-curricular life, and service to the community

By this Covenant:

1. The Synod of the Sun affirms Schreiner University as integral to the mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
2. The Synod encourages its congregations and members to pray for the students, faculty, staff, and trustees of the University.
3. The Synod will interpret to its constituents the significant role of Schreiner University in the church's mission in higher education. The Synod will encourage its constituents to support actively student recruitment and the giving of regular and special benevolent gifts, grants, and bequests to Schreiner University.
4. The Synod will encourage Presbyterian congregations to participate in Schreiner University's Presbyterian scholarship program and Pan American Schreiner Agreement, which benefit students attending the University. The synod will also support Schreiner University through its annual budget when possible and through the campus ministry grant program.
5. The Synod will encourage Schreiner University to make regular reports at Synod meetings, and directly to presbyteries, congregations, and individual church members within the Synod.

6. The Synod will encourage the use of the Schreiner University campus and resources for Synod and presbytery events.
7. The Synod will provide support for students and staff, whenever possible, to attend regional and national Presbyterian-related events.

Symbols of this Covenant

The Synod entrusts to the Board of Trustees of Schreiner University the responsibility of acting in historical continuity with the expressed purpose of the founders and according to their bylaws.

- A. Reflecting our heritage and mission, The Board of Trustees of Schreiner University affirms its intention to have one-third of its trustees and advisory trustees as members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and, consistent with its ecumenical commitment, broad representation of other denominations on the governing board.
- B. At least annually, a Synod representative will meet with the director of church relations and/or the campus minister to review and reflect upon the efficacy of the covenant. (This could be satisfied through telephone conversation, Schreiner representation to appropriate Synod committee, or Synod representation at Schreiner Board meeting or appropriate committee.)
- C. The Synod will appoint a visiting team/liaison no less often than every five years and commission this team to visit Schreiner University to examine the covenant relationship, to evaluate the practice by both the University and the Synod of their covenant obligations and to make suggestions concerning the reformation of the covenant relationship.

Schreiner University Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Date

Schreiner University President

Date

Synod of the Sun Moderator

Date