The Covenant between the Synod of the South Atlantic and Agnes Scott College

Agnes Scott College, in covenant with the Synod of the South Atlantic, affirms its historic affiliation to the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the vibrant embodiment of an academically rich and pluralistic liberal arts education that has been one of the hallmarks of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The history of the Presbyterian Church has been characterized from its beginning by a commitment to education. Both John Calvin and John Knox were passionate advocates of learning and education, and the history of American higher education reflects the imagination and emphatic involvement of the Presbyterian church in establishing and nurturing colleges and universities.

Therefore, while Agnes Scott College embraces its institutional culture of enhancing the full variety of religious experience, and is governed by an independent board of trustees, it proudly affirms its natal connection and covenant with the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Agnes Scott College educates and empowers students to develop the knowledge and skills critical to personal and intellectual growth, global citizenship, environmental stewardship, transformational leadership, and lifelong learning through innovative, and high-impact programs centered in the liberal arts and sciences.

The Reformed tradition in which Agnes Scott College was founded shaped the intellectual, spiritual and ethical values affirmed to this day: individual inquiry, commitment to the common good, the importance of character formation, and engagement with the world. These are reflected in its motto from II Peter 1:5 from the New Testament, "Now add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge." Our continued covenant with the Presbyterian Church (USA) provides an opportunity for Agnes Scott to reaffirm those values and the college's Reformed and Presbyterian heritage in which they are rooted.

The College offers students a uniquely personal educational experience within a welcoming, inclusive, and intergenerational campus culture that encourages a commitment to truth and the importance of open inquiry in its pursuit; a mutually supportive relationship between faith and learning; a commitment to honor and integrity; a commitment to good stewardship of the world's human and natural resources; a commitment to the discernment of vocation as a central aim of education, and to the importance of service to others.

These values are echoed in Agnes Scott's mission to educate women from around the world to “think deeply, live honorably, and engage the intellectual and social challenges of their times.”

Synod of South Atlantic in covenant with Agnes Scott College, will pray regularly that the students, faculty and staff of the College might find intellectual, physical and spiritual wholeness; support Agnes Scott College and its mission throughout the Presbyterian Church (USA); promote the College through Synod newsletters, website, and social media; maintain regular communication with the College Chaplain; embrace Agnes Scott College as a locus not only of the church’s teaching, but also for the church’s learning, especially as a source of information about the culture of contemporary young adults; and honor the relationship between denomination and college.

This covenant can be reviewed at the request of either party in a process agreed upon by both.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2026.

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Leocadia I. Zak
President
Agnes Scott College

Valerie Young
Synod Executive & Stated Clerk
Synod of South Atlantic, PC(U.S.A.)