



Dear Reformed Tradition Working Group Members:

We write to you on behalf of the Board of Trustees and senior leadership team of Davidson College. First, allow us to express our deep gratitude for your work these past several months. Your group convened at a time when some members of the college family were uncertain about the strength of Davidson's commitment to our faith heritage. This thoughtful report reassures our community that the college continues to be guided by its Reformed Tradition values and seeks to live out its faith heritage as expressed in the Statement of Purpose. Your work also informed and enriched the Board's discussion of the questions that guided your charge. We're very grateful for your service.

The report includes recommendations for how we can recognize, celebrate, and strengthen the embodiment of Reformed Tradition convictions in the daily life of the college. Trustees reviewed these recommendations at their October 2021 meeting and directed the Executive Committee to work with President Quillen to develop proposed actions or next steps. The Executive Committee met on November 11, 2021 to endorse the college actions set forth below.

#### *Communications*

The Admission and Financial Aid Office will partner with College Communications to develop language articulating the Reformed Tradition values that define Davidson College, and to explore opportunities to include such language in admission and marketing materials.

#### *Governance Matters*

The Governance and Nominating Committee commits to assuring the continued presence of PCUSA pastors and/or theologians on the board of Trustees. And the Board will continue its current practice of setting aside time annually to engage in a discussion related to the college's faith tradition and campus religious life. In the past ten years, the Board has, from time to time, convened a committee or working group to address a topic related to its faith heritage. The membership, charge, and duration of time for the work of these groups varied depending on the needs of the Board at that time.

- In 2012-13, in response to its public commitment to re-examine the presidential bylaw, the Board formed the Committee on Church-Relatedness. The group was charged with reviewing the history of the college's relationship with the Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Tradition; engaging and educating the Board in a fuller understanding of the college's religious heritage, relationship with the Presbyterian Church, and reliance on the Reformed Tradition for guiding principles and institutional practices; and establishing a foundation from which the Board of Trustees can have an ongoing discussion about the meaning and significance of the college's church relatedness.
- In 2013, the Board formed the Working Group on Engaging with the College's Faith Heritage, which was charged with examining how the Board can best have an ongoing discussion about the ways in which the college engages with its faith heritage and what that heritage means for Davidson today.
- In 2016-17, the Board formed a working group to explore how Davidson's grounding in and relationship to the Reformed Tradition finds expression (both directly and indirectly) today on

campus and to make recommendations to the Board about how best to nurture this relationship in light of our broadly diverse, pluralistic community of faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends.

- In 2020-21, the Board formed this Working Group and posed two questions to the group: How do we, Davidson College, as a pluralistic educational institution that welcomes and serves people of all faiths, embody our ties to the Reformed Tradition now, so that attributes that many Davidson people value can always draw strength from this tradition? And, how can Davidson best now embody our foundational relationship to the Reformed Tradition, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and Davidson College Presbyterian Church (DCPC)?

The Board has benefited greatly from the efforts of each of these groups. The membership of these groups varied according to the needs of the Board, as did the work these groups were asked to undertake. The Board finds value in the flexibility of creating a working group to address a specific question or questions, and recommends that future Boards consider constituting working groups or committees to address similar questions in response to the future needs of the college.

#### *The Work of the Chaplain*

It has long been a requirement that the college chaplain be an ordained PCUSA minister, and the college intends to continue that requirement. The college will review and update the job description for the college chaplain position to reflect the recommended new title and additional job responsibilities.

#### *Relationship with local PCUSA congregations*

The college has a strong relationship with DCPC and we collaborate on various programs and projects. The college has provided funds to help DCPC support its campus ministry position and will continue to provide appropriate support to DCPC as they seek to raise funds to endow this position. The college looks forward to inviting conversation with Davidson Presbyterian Church and finding mutually beneficial ways to strengthen this relationship.

#### *Ethos and Education*

The college will establish the *Davidson Forum* and is working to create a staff position to support this work.

Thank you again for your service. We look forward with gratitude to continuing this work.

With gratitude,

Alison Mauzé, Board Chair, and  
Carol Quillen, President