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Asbury University was founded in 1890 as the fulfillment of a pledge the Reverend John Wesley Hughes, a Methodist evangelist, had made as a student at Vanderbilt University a decade earlier. He chose Wilmore as the school's location because it was situated within his evangelistic preaching circuit and because the townspeople had shown a willingness to support the financing of the initial physical plant.

Originally named Kentucky Holiness College, the school was renamed to honor the founder of American Methodism, Bishop Francis Asbury. He was directly responsible for the organization of Bethel Academy in the 1790's, a pioneering Methodist School, the first of its kind west of the Allegheny Mountains, located on the banks of the Kentucky River, approximately four miles south of Wilmore.

Asbury opened its doors for instruction in September 1890, stating in its bulletin that, "While we give prominence to the religious, we give equal prominence to thorough mental training; thus giving liberal culture of mind and soul." Since 1893 Asbury University has graduated more than 20,000 men and women, among whom are university presidents, denominational leaders, business executives, medical doctors, lawyers, school administrators, professors and teachers. A host of pastors, missionaries, evangelists, and other full-time Christian workers are also among the alumni, as well as multitudes of faithful believers who are working, living in society, and impacting their world for Jesus, placing the Asbury imprint around the world.

With a commitment to co-educational, liberal arts education, Asbury has expanded to include an enrollment approaching 2000 students, with more than 50 undergraduate majors in undergraduate and graduate, traditional and non-traditional programs, on the Wilmore campus and on-line. On March 5, 2010, Asbury College was renamed Asbury University, to reflect the institution's growth and further planned expansion in its graduate programs and international markets.

Asbury University is an independent institution, held in trust by a self-perpetuating board of trustees. It is evangelical in its Christian commitment, bound by its by-laws to those doctrinal standards established by John Wesley and his immediate successors. The University is not governed or supported by any denomination. Admission is open to any qualified student meeting its standards for matriculation.

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MISSION AND PURPOSE

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100.2.1

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Asbury University, as a Christian Liberal Arts University in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition, is to equip men and women, through a commitment to academic excellence and spiritual vitality, for a lifetime of learning, leadership and service to the professions, society, the family and the Church, thereby preparing them to engage their cultures and advance the cause of Christ around the world.

100.2.2

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Asbury University is an independent liberal arts university, providing undergraduate and graduate educational programs guided by the classical tradition of orthodox Christian thought. Central to this endeavor is a clear affirmation of the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as God's infallible and authoritative word, and particularly its teaching that the world was created by God and that persons are created in the image of God. On this foundation, we seek to provide an excellent integrated educational experience that appreciates truth in all areas of life and develops whole persons for achievement and service. Whether preparing students for further advanced degree study or for professional employment, the educational programs of the University reflect a liberal arts character.

The University believes in the humanizing value of broad exposure to the Western cultural heritage, the "great tradition" as both a classical body of knowledge and a dynamic conversation on the great ideas and values that have shaped this civilization. In robust interaction with Christian faith and practice, this educational approach develops students' natural God-given potentials as rational, moral, spiritual, social, and physical beings. The University seeks to expand students' horizons outward to understand the history and value of other peoples and cultures, and prepares them for involvement in a complex and changing global reality.

University life is shaped by the Wesleyan understanding of sin, grace, and the possibility of full salvation for Christ-like living. Asbury University embraces the equality, dignity, and worth of all persons and endeavors to be a campus community that reflects both the unity and diversity of the body of Christ. Asbury University fosters in students a commitment to Jesus Christ as personal Savior and to holiness of heart and life. The University sends them forth to engage transformatively the cultures in which they are called to live out their allegiance to the Kingdom of God and to participate in the cause of world redemption.

Asbury University is a Christian liberal arts university, which stands in the long succession of Christian orthodoxy. Although no official denominational emphasis exists at Asbury University and all may participate fully in the spiritual life of the campus, the University maintains its commitment to an evangelical Wesleyan-Arminian perspective and requires all who affiliate with the University community to live within the guidelines of this commitment. Those basic beliefs to which Asbury University is dedicated are stated as follows:

We believe:

1. That the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments constitute the divinely inspired Word of God, that they are inerrant in the original writings, and that they are the final authority for truth and life.
2. That all truth is a unity since it originates in God, and that God imparts it to man through His revelation in Jesus Christ, in the Scriptures, and in nature.
3. That there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
4. That Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.
5. That Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture, that His atonement is for the whole human race, and that whosoever repents and believes through faith in Him is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin.
6. That humanity was created in the image of God; that humanity fell into sin through disobedience and "so death passed upon all men for all have sinned" (Romans 5:12); that all human beings are born with a bent toward sinning, and in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in need of conversion.
7. That entire sanctification is the act of divine grace, through the baptism with the Holy Spirit, by which the heart is cleansed from all sin and filled with the pure love of God. This is a definite, cleansing work of grace in the heart of the believer subsequent to conversion, resulting from full consecration and faith in the cleansing merit of the blood of Jesus Christ.
8. That the Holy Spirit bears witness both to the new birth and to entire sanctification, enables the Christian to live a godly life, to grow in the graces of the spirit, and to walk blamelessly in His holy commandments.
9. That the church is the body of Christ, and that all who are united by faith to Him are its members and love one another out of pure hearts.
10. That the crucified body of the Lord was resurrected, that He ascended into heaven, and that His return will be personal, and is imminent.

11. That there will be the bodily resurrection of the just to everlasting blessedness, and of the unjust to everlasting punishment.

From its founding Asbury University has sought "the promotion of Christian education. . . on full salvation lines." The University regards Holy Scripture as the final arbiter and guide in all matters of truth and life. Asbury stands within the context of the Wesleyan tradition, as the doctrinal statement, which appears in the 1904 Articles of Incorporation, indicates:

The Doctrines of Justification, Regeneration, Witness of the Spirit, and Entire Sanctification shall be held sacred; and it is chiefly to promote a direct experience along these lines in connection with education that the conduct of this institution was undertaken, and this article shall never be altered or revoked.

Asbury University provides a variety of programs, facilities, funding, and services to fulfill her primary mission and purpose. Teaching is designed to help students develop their potential as rational, spiritual, moral, social, and physical beings. In addition, many opportunities are provided for the University to serve the constituency and the community. Service is a natural outcome of the commitment of the Asbury community to "Jesus Christ as personal Savior, to holiness of heart and life, and the cause of world redemption."

Asbury has five foundational principles based upon its Mission Statement and Purpose Statement.

100.4.1**RATIONAL**

The rational principle is the development of the intellectual aspect of human nature. The aspects of this principle, and the means to accomplish it, are many; indeed, education, which is first of all aimed to develop the rational function, is the primary purpose of Asbury University. Programs have been developed to assist students in the development of the rational function, based upon a core curriculum that is common to all undergraduate majors. The University's General Education program "Enduring Questions," includes five student learning outcomes: 1. Integrating Christian faith and culture; 2. Discovering human thought and creative expression; 3. Engaging society and global responsibility; 4. Achieving quantitative and critical literacy; and 5. Searching the natural world and the environment.

Course content, however, is only one means by which the rational function is encouraged. High standards of academic achievement are emphasized in the "Enduring Questions" program and also in disciplinary course work, and these standards are modeled in the professional activities of the faculty, as well as extracurricular programs provided to the university community. Asbury University enjoys small class sizes, easy access to faculty outside of class time, and frequent contact with faculty members socially also serve this vital purpose. A well-equipped library and extensive instructional support services are provided.

To the extent that ethical deliberation is based upon the rational capacity of the mind, the ability to make such deliberations is stimulated by the content in courses as well as Chapel presentations.

100.4.2**SPIRITUAL**

The spiritual principle is the development of the religious aspect of human nature. The spiritual aspect of the Asbury program cannot be separated from the "purely" educational: indeed, they are so closely interwoven in so many different parts of the Asbury program that it is not easy to separate them even for the purpose of a cursory introduction. This is evident when an attempt is made to distinguish between academic considerations and spiritual ones -- that is, those that are based upon the response of the human spirit to guidance from God, as that the evangelical Christian community understands guidance. The evangelical

Christian accepts the precept that God is the author of all truth so that all lines of inquiry lead finally to Him. The spiritual principle of Asbury University is her religious -- her Christian -- purpose.

The university's spiritual and moral purposes are supported in a variety of ways, such as, chapel services, regularly-scheduled series of special emphasis meetings, devotional periods in class, regular and spontaneous prayer, testimony and worship services, role modeling, counseling and exhortation from administration, faculty and staff. Students are not merely exhorted; they are individually counseled and encouraged to commit their lives to the love, care, and guidance of Jesus Christ, to discover Him as their personal Savior, and to commit themselves to the doctrine and experience of holiness, as understood by the Wesleyan tradition.

Asbury University pursues its educational mission within the Wesleyan holiness tradition through the Cornerstone Project (Quality Enhancement Plan). The goal is to develop student knowledge and understanding of the four foundational Cornerstones: Scripture, holiness, stewardship, and mission. As such, the institution promotes a Biblical understanding of spiritual formation resulting in service to the world and the communication of holiness in new and creative language and modes for the 21st century context.

100.4.3

MORAL

The moral principle is the development of the ethical aspects of human nature. All aspects of Asbury University, including its academic programs, spiritual life programs, community life, athletic, and "outreach" programs contribute to the development of a moral sense that will guide the actions of students, staff, and faculty, and foster an appreciation of the world around them and their responsibility to it. Students are encouraged on every hand to act upon the teachings of Christianity. They are challenged to develop a sound and coherent personal theology that is based on their personal commitment to Jesus Christ and reflects Wesleyan principles. They are encouraged to understand the importance of evangelism and Christian social concern, and to devote many of their personal resources to the cause of world redemption through Christian love and servanthood.

In keeping with the Asbury University's Wesleyan perspective, students are also encouraged to accept responsibility for their own behavior and to accept the fact that personal commitment to the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ implies a commitment to ethical behavior. They learn to treat those to whom they are responsible with respect and loyalty, and those over whom they have authority with kindness, understanding, and patience. Honesty in all transactions is expected, as is a willingness to defer to the reasonable expectations of the community in accordance with the current *Handbook for Community Life and Handbook for Residence Life*.

100.4.4

PHYSICAL

The physical principle is the development of the bodily aspect of human nature. Asbury University is committed to a holistic approach to education, integrating mind, spirit, and body. The academic programs of the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER), in the "Enduring Questions" program and in other courses, encourage the students to learn about the

functions of the human body and the bases of personal hygiene, health, and fitness. In addition, a variety of intramural and intercollegiate sports programs, informal team sports, personal recreation, and fitness activities provide opportunity, encouragement, and reinforcement for collective and personal recreation as well as an opportunity for Christian witness. In concert with Asbury's academic, spiritual, and arts programs, the HPER programs foster commitment to excellence and understanding of the complexities of interpersonal relationship/responsibility.

The supportive attitudes of the Office of Student Development, the faculty, and the administration are a factor in maintaining an environment in which the value of recreation and sports is endorsed.

100.4.5

SOCIAL

The social principle is the development of the interpersonal aspect of human nature. The social programs at Asbury University are based on biblical principles reflecting a Christian world-view that holds that all human beings, of both sexes and all races, are created in God's image and are intended for relationship with one another and with Him. However, human sin with its self-serving orientation has marred the relationships among people and between persons and God. Through faith in Christ, people find forgiveness and reconciliation as God's children. The social life of the Christian involves the development of Christ-likeness in character and in love for one another and the world.

Within the context of institutional standards, Asbury University attempts to support the development of respect and appreciation for individual differences, some of which result from multicultural backgrounds or experiences. Through various residential, student government, and leadership programs, Asbury attempts to promote mature judgment, critical thinking, compassion for the less fortunate and hurting, aversion to social injustice, and kindness in all social interaction. Community and residence life social standards are based on consideration for how persons are to live together in mutual respect. As much as possible, these standards are maintained through role modeling, discipleship, and counseling. The reasons for personal and community standards are explained and illustrated patiently, in recognition of the need for students to have some freedom of expression and an opportunity to question constraints that may, at first, seem unreasonable.

Counseling and support services are provided to meet a wide range of physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs. These support services and the various social programs of the university are intended to prepare students for the rigors and pressures of career, family life, responsible citizenship, and Christian service in the world at large.

Asbury University is a Christian liberal arts institution committed to the development of students as whole persons. In its Latin root, the word "liberal" means "free." Thus the historic purpose of a liberal education was to promote a free pursuit of truth, a purpose to which Asbury University remains pledged. In this intellectual pursuit, Asbury stands firmly committed to interdisciplinary, liberal arts learning in the Christian tradition.

As a Christian university, Asbury fosters this pursuit of truth in a thoroughly orthodox Christian context. The conceptual basis for our educational enterprise is the Judeo-Christian doctrine of creation. A sovereign and loving God, in the process of creation, made persons in His own image to reflect in finite measure His own infinite personhood. To be human means, then, among other things, that we have the capacity for rational thought, as well as the power of moral deliberation that can lead to holy living. Holy living is stressed at Asbury, because the university functions as part of a particular theological movement, the Wesleyan holiness tradition.

The University's motto **ERUDITIO ET RELIGIO** captures our basic commitment to the integration of faith and learning. Required chapel, for campus-based undergraduate students traditionally considered part of the academic program, underlines the close connection at the institution between academics and faith. The doctrine of holiness provides the theological and moral context in which to explore the interrelationship between faith and learning.

The "Enduring Questions" program of Asbury University is a significant means by which a liberal education is transmitted. In order to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to intellectual freedom, the Enduring Questions program intends to enable students to think, speak, and write effectively; to make them sensitive to ethical issues; to supply them with an historic and contemporary understanding of important human problems; to acquaint them with the historical development of the world, with its great literature, art, and music; to introduce them to the concepts and methods of the social and natural sciences; to enable them to understand basic concepts of quantitative analysis; to expose them to the cultural and intellectual benefits that flow from exposure to a second language; to guide them in the understanding of, and providing for, their own health needs; to introduce them to the study of philosophy, and to encourage them to use this knowledge in conjunction with the teachings of the Christian religion to construct a personal philosophy that will give meaning and direction to their lives.

The Enduring Questions, foundational education courses, provides a liberal arts basis for all major or minor disciplines offered at the University. Such a strong, wide-ranging curriculum is intended to be much more than an introduction to a major or vocational instruction. The "Enduring Questions" program at Asbury University is not purely general, but arranges courses around significant human themes and the development of necessary skills for further learning. In this sense, the Enduring Questions program "specializes" in the study of our humanity.

The Enduring Questions program is not conceived of as a single set of courses but as an educational program with clear objectives that can be achieved in a variety of ways. Inherent in the concept of our Enduring Questions program is the understanding that any particular arrangement or distribution of courses that made an effective core curriculum in the past should be subject to a regular process of judicious, thoughtful review.

In addition to broad exposure to enduring questions and themes of human life and the necessary skills of further learning, Asbury University offers a large array of majors and minors. We believe that God's creation is complex and detailed, and that any aspect of the creation invites specialized study and engagement. The different disciplines, then, represent the various aspects of creation. We believe that undergraduate specialization in any one of these major or minor disciplines is compatible with the breadth of the University's general education and provides legitimate expertise that underlies future vocation. To master both the content and methodology of a discipline is to pursue a form of excellence expressive of our academic mission.

Professionally or practically oriented majors are offered in recognition of the dignity of work and the need for service in certain areas of human life. In the spirit of our liberal arts tradition, such majors draw heavily from the guidance of more theoretically oriented disciplines. In our current academic environment we recognize the alignment, for example, of economics with business, social work with the social sciences; pre-med, nursing, and engineering with the natural sciences.

All truth, in any branch of human inquiry, finds its origin in God. Since He is the Creator of all reality apart from Himself, the universe is a natural order reflecting the inherent design of its maker. Moreover, human beings as creatures are endowed by God with a natural desire to understand themselves, the world, which surrounds them, and the God who originated it all. Asbury University is committed to a view of humanity grounded at every point in the story of creation and redemption contained in Christian revelation. Human beings, though fallen, can be restored through the redeeming Grace of God to full fellowship with Him. The Christian student is committed, therefore, as part of a whole life – to mind, body, soul, and strength. The University intends in every program to integrate this biblical perspective with the content and methodology of the courses.

Not only does the Christian faith come to bear on the study of an array of subjects, but also the various fields of humane learning enlighten and tutor our understanding of the faith. Christian education in any field will deepen and refine the student's commitment to the biblical worldview. The courses in our Enduring Questions program are particularly useful in giving to the student the opportunity to formulate a responsible Christian interpretation of all areas of human knowledge and experience. Finally, our majors and minors provide our students the opportunity to integrate this understanding into a personal philosophy that directs and gives meaning to their lives.

Asbury University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, national or ethnic origin, or disability in the admission of students, educational policies and programs, employment policies, and activities. In addition, Asbury University does not discriminate on the basis of religion in the admission of students and student access to educational programs.

In conformity with the pertinent requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 enacted by the Congress of the United States, Asbury University does not, within the context of its religious principles, its heritage, its mission, and its foundational principles, discriminate on the basis of sex in the areas of employment, admission, educational programs, or other activities. Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX to Asbury University may be addressed to the responsible employee named pursuant to Section 86.8 of the Regulations.