

Our Mission in Our History Handout Faculty Convocation 2017-18

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

These are excerpts from past PLNU Presidents articulating our mission and purpose. Note that these are partial quotes lifted from longer documents which contain many additional good words about our higher education context from our history. However, these were sections that specifically were talking about mission and aligned throughout time from our Founder's mission to our current mission.

Intentionally Christian...

...allow me to say today, your work may be in teaching philosophy or science or metaphysics, but your supreme work is to see that the young manhood and young womanhood of this institution get to Calvary and the upper room...

You may teach science, you may teach philosophy, you may teach mathematics, --no matter what you teach, when your part comes together with others, it fits into this one great purpose, --that our students shall be [persons] of God. If anything less than that, the student is turned out from this institution a failure, and this institution is a failure concerning [them]._It is not our job to turn out worldly [people]. There are a thousand institutions in the United States that are engaged in that business; it is our business to turn out men and women of God. We mean that after a [person] has gone through this institution [they] shall be a [person] of God; [their] view is broader than ordinary scholarship; [their] gaze is higher than ordinary philosophy; the horizons live for [their] gaze.

P.F. Bresee Last Educational Address at Pasadena College Chapel, Sept 2, 1915 [Bresee would frequently use gender inclusive language in his addresses while also using the masculine nouns and pronouns to refer to humankind. I have modified the language to be gender neutral as denoted by brackets.]

Minds Engaged – Whole person development- “sending” to advance the gospel

We sincerely hope that our educational institutions will never deviate from the goals set by our founders, nor ever allow themselves to become the means for the dissemination of false doctrines in the churches. The statement to which we refer is as follows: The promoters of this work recognize that the training of the intellect is not the sole function of an educational institution. They recognize the greater importance of the true culture of the heart, which is the fundamental principle upon which and system of true education must rest; that the true and legitimate purpose of education is to cherish the mentality with which God has endowed

us in loyal relation to the divine. On every school, on every book, on every exercise shall be stamped, "Loyalty to Christ and the Bible". The great need is for an institution where spirituality is at the front, and where it is clearly seen that an intense and enthusiastic devotion is a help instead of a hindrance to intellectual development. This emphasis upon the development of symmetrical Christian character and a fervency of devotion to Jesus Christ was born out of a deep concern for the propagation of the gospel, and is exceptionally broad and farsighted.

H.Orton Wiley, 1951 address at the Third Educational Conference at Pasadena College.

Intentionally Christian...vital Christian community...whole person development

Our title, Christian education, is, of course, synthetic. That is, it joins together two ideas not essentially related, however well they may go together. Many have taken them to be contrary, and have supposed that one excludes the other. It is certainly possible to be educated, highly educated, and not be Christian. And it is equally possible to be Christian without the advantages of much, if any, formal education. But it will be the point of this address that education is not what it ought to be and can be without a vital sense of spiritual values; and that the Christian faith finds its best examples and strongest proponents among those who have disciplined their minds to an unending quest for truth...

Therefore, with us, higher education must first of all be Christian. We do not mean by this merely that in a college otherwise secular there shall be maintained a department of religion, or that a few units of Biblical literature shall be required for graduation, or that chapel attendance shall be compulsory. We mean by this that our educational program shall be unequivocally and unashamedly Christian to its very core...But it must be more. It must be education of the highest quality. The Christian educator has not less to do than others, but more.

W.T Purkiser Inaugural Address, 1949

Intentionally Christian...minds engaged and challenged...whole person development...service an expression of our faith.

Is it not appropriate for us to lift up the values of the truly liberal arts concept? As Dr. Holmes has said, "I would think it worthwhile if a student, when asked what he learned in college, could reply, I learned what it is to see and think and act like the human person God made me to be." If the liberating arts are to aid in the formation of a whole person who is liberated by learning to move anywhere in God's world, then it strikes me that such an educated person is much better adapted to face the future, whatever strange and mystifying shapes it assumes, and to make a positive contribution to that world. I am not denying in any way our responsibility to aid in counseling, in the classroom and in placement, to assist our students to find gainful employment both during and after their college experience. But that is done best in our framework by doing a first rate job of making men and woman who are educated with eternity in view...

A Christian liberal arts college is one that should contribute to spreading that coordinating philosophy of life throughout the community. That coordinating philosophy, we find in the person of Jesus Christ. It should coordinate every aspect of our campus life, and from this campus reach out to infect other areas of society. A Christian liberal arts college should contribute to the satisfaction of that insatiable hunger of man's heart for wholeness. It comes to my mind in that connection that we are a part - of the holiness movement within the Christian church. The words, wholeness and holiness, come from the same source and have many facets of identity. No note should be more appropriate for us to sound than that of the wholeness of life that is created by the living fusion of faith and learning.

W. S. Brown Address to the Faculty 1975

Intentionally Christian...strong academic learning community...whole person development...application of learning

Within our responsibility there is the concern for strong academic instruction. The Christian college must always represent quality education. Our banner, "Christian Education" demands this. We are concerned about the mind and without our school there must always be an atmosphere which results in intellectual nourishment. We will not settle for mediocre academic programs and instruction. We will strive for the best and take our place with many colleges and universities who deserve the stamp of quality education. But we will not forget the breadth of our responsibility. The need of the person goes beyond the need for mental nourishment. Our responsibility to the student includes the whole person—and this includes the heart as well as the head. To educate the head and forget the heart is to do a great disservice to our youth, for in so doing we give them no valid base for their lives. We give them no context from which to implement what they have learned.

Bill Draper Inaugural Address

Intentionally Christian...vital Christian learning community...service an expression of faith...sending to advance the gospel

For the Christian liberal arts college there is an unquestionable, unapologetic, and all consuming commitment to Jesus Christ who is acknowledged as Lord over the total life of the institution... Trafficking in ideas is "part and parcel" of the liberal arts; trafficking in ideas with Jesus at the center is unique to Christian liberal arts.... In the search for truth on our campus, Christ is the Alpha and Omega of the process. He is the beginning point. Unlike the secular schools, we do not, for example, view Christ through philosophy as one of many great thinkers and teachers who made a contribution to religious thought. We view philosophy through Christ. All the disciplines are seen through that One in whom God has revealed Himself—that One who stated with divine authority, "I am the Truth" (John 14:6). Some may contend that this is bias—and you cannot bring bias to the liberal arts. To the degree that we contend that all truth in this universe focuses in Jesus, to that degree we are biased—and that without apology! ...

To accomplish these goals we must continue to pursue excellence in liberal learning, but do it within the context of a climate that will warm the heart as well as shape the thought. May God grant that this institution shall become a great center of vital, creative renewal. It is for us to develop God's change agents—men and women who can penetrate the social structures, function competently in their professions, approach the great cultural dilemmas with innovative thoughts, who are possessed with an inner drive to discover truth, and who permeate everything they touch with the life and spirit of Jesus. Such people on such a purposeful mission will elevate the moral and spiritual climate around them, and given enough of those kinds of Christian higher education shaped people, it can precipitate a new day for our nation and our world.

Jim Bond Inaugural Address 1983

Intentionally Christian...vital Christian learning community...service an expression of faith

Destiny for us must be our commitment to be a university that transforms the lives of students so that they might realize all of their potential, know God's call upon their lives, and live lives of hope and service which change their world forever.

Bob Brower, Inaugural Address 1998