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## REPORT OF COVENANT COLLEGE TO THE FORTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

10 Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

11 On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Covenant College community, I offer this annual  
12 report on the 2018-2019 academic year.

### 13 Academics

14 We appointed two full-time faculty members, who were installed at our opening convocation  
15 in the fall of 2018:

- 16 ● Mrs. Lindsey Fain, Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Education with a M.Ed.  
17 in Educational Leadership from Covenant College
- 18 ● Mrs. Arwen Matos-Wood, Assistant Professor of Marketing, with an MBA with a  
19 concentration in Marketing from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

20 Selected faculty publications for the 2018-2019 academic year:

- 21 ● Baek, J. (2019). "The desire-work in Sylvain George's Paris est une fête." *L'Esprit*  
22 *Créateur*, 59 (2), 180-196.
- 23 ● Barham, R. E. (2018, Summer). [Review of the book *The correspondence of Erasmus:*  
24 *Letters 2357 to 2471, August 1530–March 1531* by D. Erasmus, C. Fantazz, & J.  
25 M. Estes]. *Renaissance Quarterly*, 71(2), 662-663. doi:10.1086/699036
- 26 ● Dryden, J. de W. (2018). *A hermeneutic of wisdom: Recovering the formative*  
27 *agency of Scripture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.
- 28 ● Fikkert, B. T., & Kapic, K. M. (2019). *A field guide to becoming whole: Principles*  
29 *for poverty alleviation ministries*. Chicago, IL: Moody.
- 30 ● Rhodes, M., Holt, R. E., & Fikkert, B. T. (2018). *Practicing the King's economy:*  
31 *Honoring Jesus in how we work, earn, spend, save, and give*. Grand Rapids, MI:  
32 Baker Publishing Group.
- 33 ● Garris, H. W., Settle, T. H., Crossman, J. E., Grider, S. J., & Michaels, S. L. (2019).  
34 "Combined effects of hemlock woolly adelgid (adelges tsugae) infestation and  
35 treatment with imidacloprid on eastern hemlock (tsuga canadensis) leaf  
36 radiometry." *Journal of Forestry*, 117(4), 340-350. doi:10.1093/jofore/fvz021
- 37 ● Green, J. D. (Summer 2018). "On the evangelical mind and consulting the  
38 faithful." *Christian Scholar's Review*, 47(4), 335-339.
- 39 ● Hallstrom, C. J. (2019). "A theater to the cosmos: Dramatic incarnation for a  
40 postmodern world." In *Firstfruits of a new creation: Essays in honor of Jerram*  
41 *Barrs*. Edited by D. Serven. Oklahoma City, OK: White Blackbird Books.
- 42 ● Stephens, N. M., Hall-Lew, L., & Ellis, V. S. (2018). "I'm like, 'Really? You were  
43 homeschooled?': Quotative variation by high school type and linguistic style."  
*American Speech: A Quarterly of Linguistic Usage*, 93(1), 108-138.  
doi:10.1215/00031283-6904054

- 1 ● Horne, C. D., & Barney, M. (2019). “The impact of United Nations peacekeeping  
2 operations on human trafficking.” *International Migration*, 57(5), 3-20.  
3 doi:10.1111/imig.12606
- 4 ● Jackson, A. K. (2019). “Having our own: The Colored Methodist Episcopal Church  
5 and the struggle for black autonomy in education.” In *Southern religion, southern  
6 culture: Essays honoring Charles Reagan Wilson*. Edited by D. E. Grem, T.  
7 Ownby, & J. G. Thomas. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi.
- 8 ● Jones, S. C. (2019). “Psalm 37 and the devotionalization of instruction in the post-  
9 exilic period.” In *Prayers and the Construction of Israelite Identity*. Edited by S.  
10 Gillmayr-Bucher, & M. Häusl. Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature.
- 11 ● Kopic, K. M. (2019). “John Owen in the theology of Colin Gunton.” In *T & T  
12 Clark companion to Colin Gunton*. Edited by M. Habets, & A. Picard. New York,  
13 NY: Bloomsbury. [forthcoming]
- 14 ● Madueme, H. L. (2019, June 28). “Creationism embattled yet resilient: An  
15 introduction.” *Sapientia: A Periodical of the Henry Center*. Retrieved from  
16 <https://henrycenter.tiu.edu/2019/06/creationism-embattled-yet-resilient-a-redirect/>
- 17 ● Rush, J. V. (2018). The impact of natural disasters on education in Indonesia.  
18 *Economics of Disasters and Climate Change*, 2(2), 137-158. doi:10.1007/s41885-  
19 017-0022-1
- 20 ● Stewart, K. J. (2018). “Drawing on the resources of a neglected reformation.”  
21 *Haddington House Journal*, 20, 115-130.
- 22 ● Tate, W. C. (2019, Summer). “A set mind, blessed by doubt: Phenomenologies of  
23 misperception in Frost, Wilbur, Heidegger, and Merleau-Ponty.” *Christian Scholars  
24 Review*, 48 (4), 351-370.
- 25 ● Tinholt, E. T. (2018). “Caring for new teachers once they leave campus.”  
26 *International Christian Community of Teacher Educators Journal*, 13(2).
- 27 ● Weichbrodt, E. Y. (2019). “A wide place: The Word of God as refuge.” In K.  
28 Anyabwile, *His testimonies, my heritage: Women of color on the Word of God*.  
29 Epsom, UK: Good Book Company.
- 30 ● Wescher, L. R., Hutchinson, T., & Rannou, A. (2018). “Minimum wages,  
31 employment and college enrollment.” *The American Economist*.  
32 doi:10.1177/0569434518787485
- 33 ● Wingard, J. C. (2019). “Theism and the metaphysics of free will: A review essay.”  
34 *Philosophia Christi*, 21(1). 189-197. doi:10.5840/pc201921117

### 35 36 **Admissions & Marketing**

37 In the fall of 2018, we welcomed 280 new students who came from 29 states and 9 countries.

38  
39 Throughout the year we welcomed 1,544 prospective student visitors to campus from 41 states.

### 40 41 **Campus & Facilities**

42 During the 2018-2019 year the first phase of the Dora Maclellan Brown Memorial Chapel  
43 Roof Replacement Project was completed. Other campus initiatives include the replacement  
44 of the Carter Hall fire alarm system, continued replacement of building automation systems,  
45 the modernization of the emergency communication system as well as routine general  
46 maintenance and repairs.

1 **Development & Finances**

2 Donors generously gave over \$5.3 million to Covenant during the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

3  
4 Covenant saw positive operating results again this year, with an increase in unrestricted net  
5 assets of about \$3.4 million. Total assets grew by \$4.1 million to \$106.7 million.

6  
7 The number of churches that gave to Covenant decreased slightly to 481, and 202 churches  
8 participated at a level to qualify for our Church Scholarship Promise program.

9  
10 **Strategic Plan**

11 We spent the 2018-2019 academic year beginning implementation of initiatives falling under  
12 the five priorities in our strategic plan (listed below). Significant in those efforts was the  
13 appointment of a new Interim VP for Development (July 2018), a new Assistant Vice  
14 President for Enrollment Management (March 2019), and a new Director of Marketing and  
15 Communications (August 2019). These new hires are critical to the success of our first three  
16 priorities. Also significant was the completion of the college’s most comprehensive market  
17 research initiative ever. That work, which was intended primarily to help the college position  
18 itself strategically in the enrollment market and assess its pricing, provided invaluable insights  
19 upon which new initiatives in marketing and admissions were developed.

20  
21 I. 1,100 Strong on the Mountain

22 At Covenant College, we have capacity for 1,100 traditional undergraduate students on our  
23 Lookout Mountain campus. For the sake of populating communities around the globe with  
24 thoughtful Christian men and women, we will fill our campus with well-qualified students.

25  
26 II. \$100 Million in the Endowment

27 We will, through the generosity of our supporters, build an endowment that provides for the  
28 long-term sustainability of Covenant College and makes a Covenant College education  
29 affordable for qualified students.

30  
31 III. Raise our Voice

32 We will contribute to larger conversations about what it means to live faithfully as Christians  
33 in this day and age, and will be known as a place that generates first-rate, insightful, biblically-  
34 grounded Christian thinking and thinkers/doers.

35  
36 IV. Cultivate our Community

37 We can only be as strong as our community is healthy. Giving thanks for the rich blessings of  
38 community we already enjoy here at Covenant, we will make our community one that is  
39 marked by the flourishing of students and faculty and staff.

40  
41 V. Offer One-of-a-Kind Education

42 By leveraging both the strengths of our existing program and our unique location, we will  
43 very intentionally make the educational experience we offer at Covenant College even more  
44 distinctive and more valuable.

1 **Student Life**

2 This fall, the Student Athletic Advisory Committee set a new Covenant record for "Cans  
3 Across the Conference" producing over 1,000 canned goods. The previous record was set last  
4 year with 600 cans. All items were donated to the Chattanooga-area Food Bank.

5  
6 The CC Lead Program enjoyed its third full year as a cohesive leadership program for all  
7 student leaders. Students serve as Resident Assistants, Student Ministry Coordinators, Student  
8 Senators, O-Team Leaders, Core Team Leaders, Multicultural Leaders and on the Campus  
9 Activities Board. The theme for CC Lead 2018-2019 was dignity. Student leaders from across  
10 campus explored how the topic of dignity affected their leadership through a variety of  
11 seminars and the annual CC Lead Conference. The speaker for last year's conference was  
12 Mark McElmurry from Covenant Seminary.

13  
14 Covenant hosted its inaugural JobFair, an event that featured 34 employers from a wide array  
15 of industries. Students responded with strong attendance, and many secured internships and  
16 jobs as a result. Each year the Office of Calling & Career surveys graduating students on what  
17 they are doing next, and in 2018 they were able to use Handshake for the first time to complete  
18 this survey. Two hundred and fourteen students were surveyed with a 92% career outcome  
19 rate, indicating that 92% of graduates were able to settle into careers or grad school as planned.

20  
21 The fall semester saw a number of chapel speakers that particularly blessed the college.  
22 Dr. Zack Eswine brought deep encouragement and challenge around the topic of doubt as our  
23 Schaeffer Conference speaker; Rev. Ronnie Garcia, a PCA church planter, visited from Puerto  
24 Rico for our Missio Dei conference; and Dr. Kevin Eames, Hannah Bloomquist, and Aimee  
25 Byrd brought great wisdom during a week focused on human identity and sexuality.

26  
27 **Conclusion**

28 We are grateful for the oversight of the PCA as we seek to remain faithful to our mission to  
29 explore and express the preeminence of Jesus Christ in all things. Thank you for your  
30 continued partnership in the work God is doing through Covenant College.

31  
32 Yours in Christ,  
33 J. Derek Halvorson ('93), Ph.D.  
34 President

35  
36 **Recommendations**

- 37 1. That the General Assembly thank and praise God for the excellent work and faithfulness  
38 of the Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff of Covenant College in serving the Presbyterian  
39 Church in America by shaping students for lives of service in the Kingdom of God.  
40 2. That the General Assembly encourage congregations of the PCA to support the ministry  
41 of Covenant College through encouraging prospective students to attend, through contributing  
42 the Partnership Shares approved by the General Assembly, and through prayer.  
43 3. That the General Assembly approve the budget for 2020-2021, as submitted through the  
44 Administrative Committee.

Covenant College – Report to 48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

- 1 4. That the General Assembly adopt “The Covenant College and Supporting Foundation  
2 Consolidated Financial Statements” dated June 30, 2019, and prepared by Capin Crouse  
3 LLP.
- 4 5. That the General Assembly approve the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees  
5 for October 17-18, 2019, and March 19-20, 2020, with notations.
- 6 6. That the General Assembly receive as information the foregoing Annual Report,  
7 recognizing God’s gracious and abundant blessing and commending the College in its  
8 desire to continue pursuing excellence in higher education for the glory of God.
- 9 7. That the General Assembly designate Sunday, October 18, 2020, as a Lord’s Day on which  
10 churches of the denomination are encouraged to highlight the ministry of Covenant  
11 College and to pray specifically for the College in its mission and ministry.