



FOUNDATIONAL STANDARDS

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Morthland College exists to educate and train men and women to assume the responsibilities of various professions in order to perpetuate the precepts of the Holy Bible and honor God through their service to society. (TRACS 9.9.a)

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Morthland College is to provide a premier liberal arts education to a diversity of learners within a setting committed to Christ, Wisdom, Tradition, and Heritage. Morthland is faith-based and inter-denominational with founding principles rooted in the centrality of Jesus Christ, His Word, and the Church. We embrace Wisdom by forming a community of scholars who affirm our core values and continue to engage in academic discourse. We endorse Tradition in the learning process by encouraging the consonance of Biblical instruction with a broad education. We uphold Heritage by recognizing the Christian foundations of our country and by preparing students to contribute to society in the spirit of servant leadership. (TRACS 9.9.a)

VISION STATEMENT

And so a group of people gathered and discussed the need for training servant leaders of Christ in various vocations, even the training of ministers – all within a Christian institution of higher learning that would embrace Jesus the Christ, Wisdom, Heritage, and Tradition. In discussing how they might respond to this great need, they envisioned an institution founded in the spirit of the days of old among the Puritan settlers and among those at the time of the First Great Awakening when institutions were built in response to the manifest blessings of God. Within these institutions, a clear consonance of liberal education with the Bible was established; we too seek this union – this being Tradition. Further, the Institution shall guard and magnify the Christian foundations of this Nation, the enduring values of our forefathers, their reliance on God, their belief in the justice of God – for this is our Heritage. And, the Institution shall embrace the wisdom of the ancients, indeed stand on their shoulders; and from this platform they shall proclaim the light of truth to those learners trusted to our care; let us ask of the Lord to send us students from all corners of the earth wherein they might be educated and embraced in the grace of Christ; and let us ask of the Lord to send us faculty who shall have the mind of Christ and forge frontiers in

the spirit of innovation – all this being our Wisdom. Let our graduates walk in this Wisdom, Heritage and Tradition – being servant leaders in Christ, even the light of Truth to a dark and lost world. Yahweh; the Logos; the fulfillment of history – He, the Lord our God, is our trust. Let this House be one with Christ Jesus laid as its Foundation, Tradition set as its Pillars, and Heritage engraved upon its Façade. Trusting that this hope may become manifest, let even the Institution's form, its atmosphere, fall to this cast so that it shall speak to posterity of these noble and excellent things. And within these walls, the call for understanding shall be heard; treasure shall be found, even Wisdom. While it may be from time to time that the social mores' may blow as if a great wind against the Institution, resolve in this vision shall in time bear witness to a storm that passes, even the chaff shall blow away. And in all of this, they asked of the Lord to facilitate this great work and in one accord agreed "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it." In all this we pray in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. (TRACS 9.9.a)

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION STATEMENT ~ ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. There is one God in the persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus Christ is the incarnate Son of God, born of a virgin, fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life and died a sacrificial death as a substitute for our sins. Jesus was buried for three days and bodily resurrected on the third day. He has ascended to Heaven and will in due time return to this earth to judge the unrighteous and gather the elect to Himself.
3. The Holy Bible is the divinely inspired, authoritative, inerrant, infallible Word of God.
4. The world and mankind were created in six literal Days. Man was created in the image of God but was tempted by Satan and fell, thus rendering all mankind sinful and guilty, subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
5. Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin is through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ and made available to each sinner by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ alone.
6. Heaven and Hell are a reality. Satan, his angels and those humans who have rejected Jesus Christ will be eternally separated from God. Those redeemed by Jesus Christ will live with God for eternity.
7. The Holy Spirit draws the sinner to salvation through the desire for faith in Jesus Christ and the conviction for repentance toward God.
8. The Holy Spirit indwells the individual believer and enables the believer to live a life pleasing unto God. The Holy Spirit also endows the believer with spiritual gifts for the work of service and building up of the body of Christ, which is the church. (TRACS 9.9.b)

FOUNDATIONS OF MORTHLAND COLLEGE

Historic Foundations

The founders of Morthland College sought to build the essence of an old divinity college wherein scholarship and Christian precepts were placed on an equal footing.

Consider the writings of the puritan settlers as *they* contemplated building a college - the College of Cambridge:

“After God had carried us safe to New-England, and we had built our houses, provided necessaries for our livelihood, reared convenient places for God’s worship, and settled the Civil Government: One of the next things we longed for, and looked after was to advance Learning and to perpetuate it to Posterity; dreading to leave an illiterate Ministry to the Churches, when our present ministers shall lie in the Dust.”

“And as we were thinking and consulting how to effect this great Work, it pleased God to stir up the heart of one Mr. Harvard, a godly gentleman and a lover of learning there living amongst us, to give the one half of his estate ... towards the erecting of a college and all his library...” (1636)

The College of Cambridge was later named “Harvard College” in 1639 after its founder and early benefactor. We seek to recapture this same spirit that birthed the early divinity colleges of America.

Tradition

Our earliest settlers expressed a commitment to *Tradition* with the *Rules and Precepts of 1642*:

“When any schollar ... is able to make [write] and speak true Latine in Verse and Prose... And decline perfectly the paradigims of Nounes and Verbes in the Greek tounge... [he is capable] of admission in to the college.”

“Let every Student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the maine end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternall life, John 17:3 and therefore to lay Christ in the bottome, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and Learning. And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, Let everyone seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seeke it of him Prov. 2,5.”

At Morthland College we embrace *Tradition* and derive meaning of this term from the foundation of the earliest college in our republic: scholarship and a commitment to Biblical foundations.

In naming Morthland College, the Trustees named the new college on a founder's principle – this also aligned with Tradition.

The guiding compass of Morthland College is our Vision, and Tradition is one of our four principles. We also embrace Heritage, Wisdom, and Christ. Heritage – embracing our nation's Christian foundations, Wisdom – a community committed to our Vision, and Jesus Christ – the foundation of all learning

A Classical, Christian College

For centuries dating to medieval times, the classical model of education was the standard. Students mastered dialectic (logic), reasoning, writing, and oration. Recognizing that the English language, the sciences, and even the law had their bases in Latin and Greek – instruction in these languages was common in the classical model. The ancients believed these foundations prepared the student for advanced study. The purposed mastery of these classical elements formed the first phase of the classical model – the *Trivium*.

In the second phase, students studied mathematics, music, and subjects that prepared them for mastery of philosophy and the sciences. This second phase formed the *Quadrivium*.

In the classical model, a cohesive string of history, language, and literature was weaved into the curricula. The subjects were not treated as isolated bodies of knowledge, but rather a tapestry connected through common threads of language, of literature – read in the original language. And most importantly, a Christian worldview was manifest in every subject.

At Morthland College we believe the classical, Christian model was the standard for centuries. It shaped the great scholars of old. It imparted the ideas to our founding fathers – ideas that formed this republic. This model has been set in its rightful place at Morthland College.

Our faculty worked to create a classical, Christian curriculum. The project was challenging and shook many of our scholars out of their individual “subject silos” and facilitated collaboration. Religion faculty formed curricula with the English faculty. The linguistics faculty worked with the history faculty. Initially

two degrees were formed: The BA in Classics and the BA in Biblical Studies. These two programs establish the foundation of all programs at Morthland College and represent our pillars of Tradition

The “old degree” at Morthland College is the BA in Classics. Our prayer is to produce old-school scholars who are prepared for life-long learning ~ each who walk in servant leadership (Beneficium), divine truth (Veritas), and light (Lux). Multiple tracks are available.

The Biblical Studies degree is our commitment to the church – “*to train the clergy*”. Our Biblical Studies program is designed to prepare the student for lay leadership, the ministry, and advanced scholarship in a classical, Christian environment.

Morthland College also offers the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration. This program, like all programs at Morthland College, is presented within the context of the classical, Christian model and prepares the student to enter broad business environments.

(TRACS 9.9.a)

A Culture of Scholarship

The programs at Morthland College may seem challenging. The faculty believes, however, that students who come to Morthland purposed to learn – will do well. We are committed to working with you in cultivating both your mind and spirit. We invite you to learn from our community of scholars.

(TRACS 9.9.a)

A Culture of Faith

As a Christian college, Morthland offers a warm environment where a student’s faith may be strengthened and encouraged. A common thread of discussion among the founding members of this Institution is that we want for our students to leave not as skeptics or atheists, but rather bolstered in their faith in Christ and with an appreciation of their commission to carry out His work. Every week Ecclesia (traditionally chapel) will be held and led by different leaders of the Institution. We consider local churches our partners in the student’s spiritual growth and encourage worship within a local church body. (TRACS 9.9.a)

A Culture of Prayer

The founders of Morthland College believe God's favor was behind the birth of the new institution. For years, people from across the region have come together to intercede for the institution and for God's will to be manifest. People from various denominations meet at the college periodically to pray for the college, the faculty, and the students.

Interdenominational

Our Trustees, administration, and faculty represent a number of denominations, recognize there are differences in our views, but agree on the major doctrinal positions related to the Christian faith. The Institution embraces an historical and grammatical translation of the Holy Bible, maintains Articles of Faith, and recruits administrators, faculty, and staff who also embrace these core values. Our professors come from various denominations and adhere to our core principles, our Vision, Mission, Articles of Faith, and Purpose. Our faculty is encouraged to present different viewpoints on subjects of theological debate, and to facilitate critical thinking and prayer relative to the scriptures. We firmly believe that God's Spirit is fully able to sort truth from untruth in the classroom. The commitment to our interdenominational position is best expressed when the student selects field experiences with a local church of their choosing.

Brief History

On March 29, 2009, 70 community members met in West Frankfort, Illinois, to discuss the interest of starting a new college with a Christian foundation. They reasoned that the region contained no such institution and came to believe there was a need. On April 21, 2009, a small delegation attended the IBHE orientation for new institutions. In May 2009, a steering committee formed and began to lay out the plans for the Institution through frequent meetings. The Steering Committee expressed their desire to see a Christian liberal arts college begin, to seek Authority to Operate with the IBHE, to seek institutional accreditation, to adhere to the Illinois Articulation Initiative, to create articulation agreements with neighboring colleges in order to protect our early students, and to call the new school "Morthland College" after its founder and

early benefactor. In August 2009, Articles of Incorporation were created in State of Illinois and filed in Franklin County. Bylaws were developed and incorporation of the Institution occurred in October 2009. The institution achieved 501 C3 not for profit status in January 2010. Formal authority to operate as a college was conferred on Morthland College by the Illinois Board of Higher Education on October 5, 2010. The college was formally authorized to grant 4-year degrees by the IBHE on June 7, 2011. In August 2011, Morthland College held its first classes at 210 East Main and in August 2012, moved to its new facilities at 202 East Oak. On April 9, 2013, Morthland College was granted candidacy status with no conditions with the Transnational Association of Colleges and Schools, and in December 2013, Title IV funds were awarded. On April 29, 2014, Morthland College was granted full accreditation status with TRACS.

The Crest

The Crest embodies the Vision of the institution with Christ (CR) at the foundation, two columns that represent a Liberal Education (scholarship) combined with Biblical wisdom, a Greek-revival façade that represents with an engraving of the Ten Commandments that symbolizes Heritage. The interior reveals a shield or badge revealing our Wisdom and prayer for our graduates: Lux—Light, Veritas—Truth, and Beneficium—Servant Leadership. The band on the badge, called a Bend Sinister, signifies defense or protection. The felt green, an embodiment of tradition reaching back to Independence Hall – signifies our early republic. The color green represents hope, joy, loyalty, and love. The crimson signifies “patient, or not hasty, in battle and yet victorious” – and the atonement of Christ. The gold is symbolic of the glory of God.



כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עֲמְדוּ עַל־דַּרְכֵיכֶם וּרְאוּ וּשְׂאלוּ לַנְּתִיבוֹת עוֹלָם אֵיזֶה דֶּרֶךְ
הַטּוֹב וּלְכוּ בָּהּ וּמִצְאֻ מְרֻגָע לְנַפְשְׁכֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא נִלְקָה:

*“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths,
where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.”*

Jeremiah 6:16



Qua patres difficillime adepti sunt nolite turpiter relinquere.

Inscribed in Latin on
William Bradford's Tomb
Governor of Plymouth Colony

*“What our forefathers with so much difficulty attained,
do not basely relinquish.”*

(Translated)