COMMON THEMES IN THE MISSION AND IDENTITY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

MISSION STATEMENT

“We are a comprehensive, Catholic university, a diverse community committed to educating the whole person and linking learning and scholarship with leadership and service.”

Our mission statement and its shortened form, “Learn, Lead, Serve,” are the cornerstones for our reflections. Our mission and identity are founded in Marianist education, Catholic higher education, and independent higher education in the United States. Although these three traditions have various origins and histories, they come together in the mission of our University like the different colored threads in an ornate tapestry.

This document provides us with the ideas and concepts we will need to continue to grow and develop in response to the new challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. At the same time, we will remain creatively faithful to our founding mission of building a learning community dedicated to educate faith-filled persons, prepared and committed to lead and serve society and the church.

1. This document is a summary of the key ideas of the longer document, Common Themes in the Mission and Identity of the University of Dayton, which can be found on the University website at go.udayton.edu/commonthemes.
Common Themes in the Mission and Identity of the University of Dayton

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MISSION AND IDENTITY
Grounded in Faith

Common Themes in the Mission and Identity of the University of Dayton

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Common Themes in the Mission and Identity of the University of Dayton

ROOTS OF THE MARIANISTS
At the University of Dayton, our educational mission and traditions are rooted in the response of Blessed Father William Joseph Chaminade and the early Marianists to the chaos of the French Revolution. Chaminade believed that this tumultuous time required new methods of spreading the Gospel. His disciples in the Society of Mary established institutions in France and Ohio to continue the mission of educating young men to be grounded in faith, developed as whole persons, prepared for careers and for leadership in society and the church. By 1920, this institution would be called the University of Dayton.

With the goal to educate both the mind and the heart, the members of the Society of Mary set high standards for our school by establishing the Marianist tradition of education that we continue to honor today. They emphasized relationships of caring in a family spirit, combined the practical and theoretical approaches to learning, and expressed a special concern for the poor.

Today, we read the signs of the times and respond in ways that help us realize our mission more effectively, while remaining creatively faithful to our Marianist educational principles.
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A COMMUNITY OF LEADERS
Grounded in Faith

Roots of the Marianists
At the University of Dayton, our educational mission and traditions are rooted in the response of Blessed Father William Joseph Chaminade and the early Marianists to the chaos of the French Revolution. Chaminade believed that the revolution required new methods of spreading the Gospel. He disciple in the Society of Mary established his educational order to continue the mission of educating young men to be grounded in faith, developed as whole persons and for leadership in society and the church. By 1920, the institution would be called the University of Dayton.

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SCHOLARSHIP
THEME 1: EXCELING IN INTEGRATED LEARNING AND SCHOLARSHIP

Our search for truth is based on the belief that truth is more fully known through faith and reason. To this end, we strive to meet and ask questions with academic freedom and openness in our academic, intellectual and religious lives to the transcendent dimensions of life.

The Catholic intellectual tradition dynamically shapes the intellectual inquiry of our University faculty, staff and students. By engaging the resources of the Catholic faith with the great human questions, histories and insights, we are encouraged to create new conversations and explore our own questions to better understand truth, faith and respect for all human persons.

We are a Catholic university; we rely on the diversity of our community members — indeed all people of good will — to support and respect our Catholic Marianist mission and identity. Our conversations across differences move beyond mere tolerance to genuine dialogue and consensus building.

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THEME 1: EXCELling in integrated learning and scholarship

Through integrated learning and scholarship, we’re able to discover, combine and apply what we’ve learned to assorted perspectives and real-world applications. For example, the University’s Common Academic Program (CAP) allows for integrated learning across disciplines and gives students opportunities to learn inside and outside the classroom to advance knowledge while exploring the critical issues shaping our world.

What we do:
• Encourage the building of community and expecting the very best from ourselves and one another.
• Use our head, heart and hands to balance our lives to become more fully formed.
• Connect leadership and service to our educational and personal lives.
• Realize our leaders is a gift and that we have a responsibility to benefit those other than ourselves in our community.
• Integrate learning and scholarship in our search for wisdom from a variety of sources — texts, conversations, experiences and reflection.

Our search for truth is based on the belief that truth is more fully known through faith and reason. To this end, we continue to ask wild questions with academic freedom and openness in our academic, intellectual and religious lives to the transcendent dimensions of life.

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THEME 2: SEARCHING FOR TRUTH GROUNDED IN FAITH AND REASON

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THEME 3: EDUCATING FOR PRACTICAL WISDOM

The virtue of practical wisdom combines practical reasoning, commitment to a moral vision and practical knowledge. This commitment involves knowledge and an art of habit or virtue that support the realization of the common good. The virtue of practical wisdom is an important complement to practical wisdom in the Catholic tradition.

We strive to:
• See by forming a problem or issue we understand the cause.
• Judge by imagining the good and designing a response to realize that good.
• Art and implemented that response to find the good.
• Reflect on our decisions and draw practical knowledge from our experiences.

Practical wisdom allows us to:
• Read the signs of our times and adapt and change.
• Evaluate trends to seek justice, peace, reconciliation and the common good.
• Develop a special sense of purpose and deeper sense of vocation.

Together, we develop a community of learners and scholars who think critically and imaginatively, judge from sound moral principles and practical knowledge, and work together collaboratively for the common good.

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THEME 4: BUILDING COMMUNITY ACROSS DIVERSITY

Our University’s commitment to community can be seen through the relationships we have with our students, faculty and staff — and in our shared sense of common purpose.

We all create community:
As we deepen and expand our strong campus connections, we continue to build community across diversity. As people of faith, we value the dignity of each and every person, emphasizing community as a part of our educational experience. Beginning in the classroom, these insights prompt our campus culture — including residence life and service learning — to create a tradition of respect and appreciation for one another.

Our University of Dayton community:
• Educate for family spirit — based on mutual respect, care, and genuine concern that allows challenging and supportive growth.
• Strive at the table when conflicts and tensions arise.
• Encourage voices to speak their truth.
• Show beliefs and connections in a way that reaches the experience of others.
• Creatively emerges and expands ideas into solutions for the good of us all.
• Models a way for change within society and the church in the Marianist tradition of education.

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THEME 5: PARTNERING FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Connecting our education with community through civic engagement, we utilize resources and scholarship to create a more hopeful future — and to help others to realize these possibilities too.

Uniting in education to benefit the world

As a Catholic university, we are dedicated to helping bring out the best of contemporary community and faith with other institutions, especially with other colleges and universities, to fulfill critical social issues. As we build partnerships expanding from our own University, we seek to address social issues and advance justice in our neighborhoods, our community and the world.

Because common good should be more common

Our connections and partnerships are made with a variety of groups and individuals working to realize the common good. In public conversations, we must do so in ways that respect and appreciate other moral and religious traditions, articulate our perspectives so others can appreciate them, and work toward shared justice. We strive to educate our students to be community builders with the desire to create and share a vision characterized by respect, the common good, help for the poor and a better community.

Building a global community

As a Marianist university, we must build and support connections to allow our community to address critical issues in society, characterized by respect, the common good and a preferential option for the poor.

Together, we build our global community through our:
• Partnerships working toward the common good, which include the Catholic Church, urban neighborhoods, regional efforts to revitalize economic and social dimensions in the world of development, human rights, sustainability and education.
• Solidarity, a moral virtue recognizing the connections of all people and groups and in which we especially call to judge how society affects those who are most vulnerable.
• Solidarity, or shared governance, in which we allow all to exercise their shared governance to leadership and service.

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We all create community:
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Through integrated learning and scholarship, we’re able to discover, combine and apply what we’ve learned to a common purpose and make new connections. For example, the University’s Common Academic Program (CAP) allows for integrated learning across disciplines and gives students opportunities to learn inside and outside the classroom to advance knowledge while exploring the critical issues shaping our world. What we do:

Encourage the building of community and expecting the very best from ourselves and one another.
Use our head, heart and hands to balance our lives to become more fully human.
Correct leadership and service to our educational and personal lives.
Realize our learning is a gift and that we have a responsibility to benefit others other than ourselves in the larger community.
Integrate learning and scholarship in our search for wisdom from a variety of sources — texts, conversations, experiences and reflection.

Our search for truth is based on the belief that truth is more fully known through faith and reason. To discover this truth, we must ask and question with academic freedom and openness in our academic, intellectual and religious lives to the transcendent dimensions of life.

The Catholic intellectual tradition dynamically shapes the intellectual inquiry of our University faculty, staff and students. By engaging the resources of the Catholic faith with the great human questions, histories and insights, we are encouraged to create new conversations and explore our own questions to better understand faith, truth and reason. We are a Catholic university; we rely on the diversity of our community members — indeed all peoples of goodwill — to support and respect our Catholic Marianist mission and identity. Our conversations across differences with God.

The virtue of practical wisdom combines practical reasoning, commitment to a moral tradition and practical knowledge. This commitment involves knowledge and a set of habits or virtues that support the realization of the common good. The virtue of practical wisdom is an important complement to practical wisdom in the Catholic tradition.

We strive to:

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Practical wisdom allows us to:

- Refine the signs of our times to adapt and change.
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Together, we develop a community of learners and scholars who think critically and imaginatively, judge from sound moral principles and practical knowledge, and work together collaboratively for the common good.

Building a global community

As a Marianist university, we must build and support connections to allow our community to address critical issues in society characterized by respect, the common good and a preferential option for the poor.

Together, we build our global community through our:

- Partnershiping and working toward the common good, which include the Catholic Church, urban neighborhoods, regional efforts to revitalize communities and initiatives in the work of development, human rights, sustainability and education.
- Solidarity, a moral virtue recognizing the connections of all peoples and groups in which we are especially called to judge how society affects those who are most vulnerable.
- Subsidiarity, or shared governance, in which we allow all to exercise their own capacity to realize these possibilities too.

Connecting our education with community through civic engagement, we utilize resources and scholarship to create a more hopeful future — and to help others to realize these possibilities too.

Our University’s commitment to community can be seen through the connections between our students, faculty and staff — and in our our shared sense of common purpose.

We all create community

As we design and expand our strong campus connections, we continue to build community across diversity. As people of faith, we value the dignity of each and every person, emphasizing community as part of our educational experience. Beginning in the classroom, these insights permeate our campus culture — including residence life and service learning — to create a culture of respect and appreciation for one another.

Our University of Dayton community:

- Educate for family spirit — based on mutual respect, care, and genuine concern that allows challenging and supportive growth.
- Stays at the table — where conflicts and tensions arise.
- Lasts a special way of being well being shared by others.
- Stews beliefs and convictions in a way that teaches the experience of others.
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Uniting in education to benefit the world

As a Catholic university, we are dedicated to helping bring out the best of contemporary faith and faith with other institutions, especially with other colleges and universities, to rethink critical social issues. We do this in the hope of expanding and deepening the faith and reason that we payload in our educational mission to our students, our community and the world.

Because common good should be more common

Our connections and partnerships are made with a variety of groups and individuals working to realize the common good. In public conversations, we must do so in ways that respect and appreciate other moral and religious traditions, articulate our perspectives so others can appreciate them, and work toward moral and religious justice. We strive to educate our students to be community builders with the desire to create and share a vision characterized by respect, the common good, help for the poor and a better community.

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A COMMUNITY OF LEADERS
Grounded in Faith

Common Themes in the Mission and Identity of the University of Dayton

This document provides us with the ideas and concepts we will need to continue to grow and develop in response to the new challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. At the same time, we will remain creatively faithful to our founding mission of building a learning community dedicated to educating faith-filled persons, prepared and committed to lead and serve society and the church.

1 This document is a summary of the key ideas of the longer document, Common Themes in the Mission and Identity of the University of Dayton, which can be found on the University website at go.udayton.edu/commonthemes.

Common Themes in the Mission and Identity of the University of Dayton

MISSION STATEMENT
“We are a comprehensive, Catholic university, a diverse community committed to the Marianist tradition of educating the whole person and linking learning and scholarship with leadership and service.”

Our mission statement and its shortened form, “Learn, Lead, Serve,” are the cornerstones for our reflections. Our mission and identity are founded in Marianist education, Catholic higher education and independent higher education in the United States. Although these three traditions have various origins and histories, they come together in the mission of our University like the different colored threads in an ornate tapestry.

MISSION
LEARNING WITH
SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

COMMON THEMES IN THE
MISSION AND
IDENTITY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Roots of the Marianists

At the University of Dayton, our educational mission and traditions are rooted in the response of Blessed Father William Joseph Chaminade and the early Marianists to the chaos of the French Revolution. Chaminade believed that this tumultuous time required new methods of spreading the Gospel. His disciples in the Society of Mary established an institution in 1850 to continue the mission of educating young men to be grounded in faith, developed as whole persons and prepared for careers and leadership in society and the church. By 1920, this institution would be called the University of Dayton.

With the goal to educate both the mind and the heart, the members of the Society of Mary set high standards for our school by establishing the Marianist tradition of education we continue to honor today.

Today, we read the signs of the times and respond in ways that help us realize our mission more effectively while remaining creatively faithful to our Marianist educational principles.

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