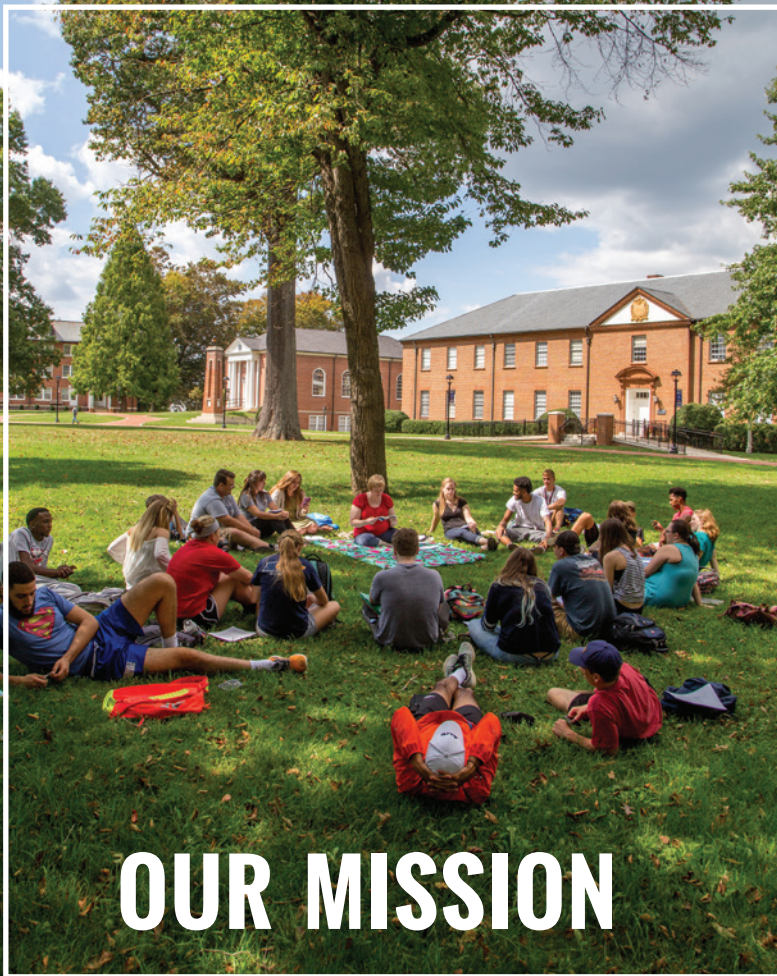




**WHO WE ARE
& WHAT WE DO**

KING UNIVERSITY



OUR MISSION

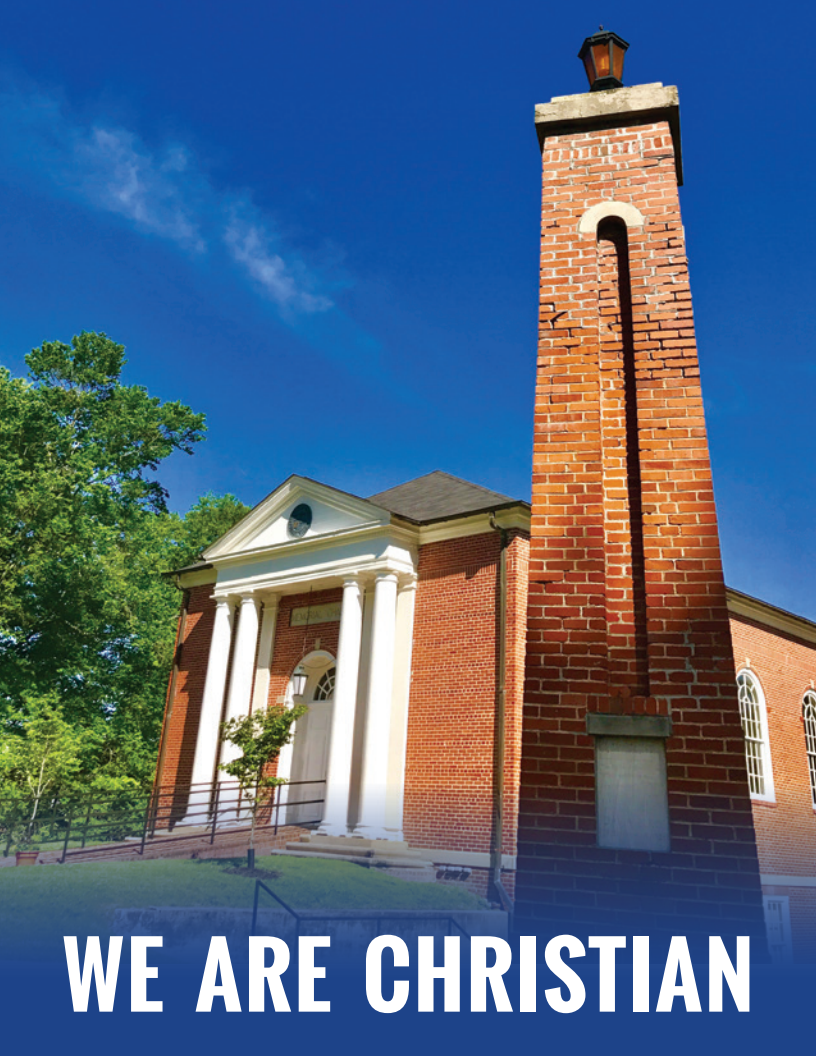


We prepare students in our Christian academic community to excel as thoughtful, resourceful, and responsible citizens with a passion for serving God, the Church, and the world.

We accomplish this through excellent teaching, high expectations, worthwhile example, and fidelity to our Presbyterian heritage. Our mission is the same for all campuses and sites; for online learning; and for all programs, curricular and extracurricular, graduate and undergraduate.



WHO WE ARE



Rooted in King's motto *Ecclesiae et Litteris*, which translates as “for the Church and for learning,” our identity and actions grow from our Christian heritage in the Presbyterian tradition. We welcome students from both within and outside this tradition as valued members of the community. Faith is integrated into all aspects of our life at King, from scholarship to service.

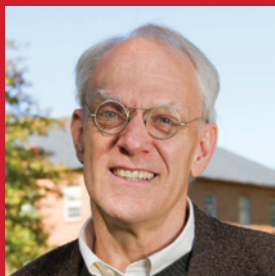
- We help students discover who God is calling them to be in the world.
- We engage in practices to shape students' minds, spirits, loves, and habits—treating each other as bearers of God's image.
- We gather weekly for communal worship and prayer.
- We see our work at King, and beyond, as an extension of Christ's redeeming and reconciling presence in the world.

WE ARE CHRISTIAN

"Although you don't have to be a Christian to be a member of this community, we do ask that you be willing to entertain the possibility of a spiritual reality and to be willing to explore what claims such a reality, as expressed in the Christian Gospel, might have on the way that we live our lives, and on the ways that we understand, nurture, and enjoy the world about us."

Dr. Craig McDonald

Professor of English
(Retired)





WE ARE ACADEMIC

Drawing from our rich history as a liberal arts institution, King affirms a commitment to academic rigor and high standards by nurturing students to become curious and fully engaged thinkers and scholars.

- We encourage one another to consider critically important and difficult questions.
- We build active and vibrant classes by creatively engaging ideas and one another.
- We support academic research throughout all disciplines.
- We cultivate curiosity for all subjects and disciplines as bearing witness to God's presence in the world.
- We explore challenging ideas and different perspectives with attentive and open minds.

"A mind being gradually filled with new information keeps it burning during the years. The sparks of knowledge illumine the mind in special ways, ways we would have never dreamed otherwise. This intellectual fire shapes our perceptions of the world around us. The excitement of learning transforms us. This is King, a wonderful place of the mind, of the spirit, and of faith."

Dr. Richard A. Ray

*Member, Board of Trustees
Interim President 2014-2016*



From classrooms and residence halls to virtual discussion forums and athletic competitions, we commit to each other as members of a community, united through a common place and mission. We welcome students from various backgrounds and experiences, knowing that diversity strengthens our unified community.

- We share life together outside of academic work, realizing our value does not simply come from our individual intellectual achievements.
- We look for opportunities to serve with humility the needs of those around us.
- We share meals and conversation with each other.
- We work to make the King community a vibrant reflection of the Kingdom of God—bearing burdens, reconciling differences, worshiping together, and committing to each other.
- We build long-lasting relationships with others at King—students, professors, administrators, dining hall workers, maintenance crew, alumni, and others.
- We integrate student athletes into the fabric of our community, encouraging them to lead and serve as responsible citizens.



WE ARE A COMMUNITY

“Community...grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves but for one another. Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own.”

Henri J.M. Nouwen

Bread for the Journey

A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith, p. 21 (2009)





WHAT WE DO

ENCOURAGE THOUGHTFULNESS

We are committed to thoughtfulness not only in our academic studies, but also in our actions and interactions with others. Whether grappling with difficult concepts or challenging social situations, we encourage one another to be:

- Curious
- Open-minded
- Empathetic
- Deep thinkers and listeners



“Thoughtfulness is essential not only to intellectual formation but also, and perhaps more so, to spiritual formation as we trace the movement of God in our midst. To be a thoughtful person is to be one who chooses to pay attention, to ask questions, to seek the Kingdom of God. King was, for me, a place that embodied that Kingdom and called its students to notice and name those pockets of grace in their own lives.”

Rev. Sarah Bird
Class of 2010



PRACTICE RESOURCEFULNESS

Working from our foundation in the liberal arts tradition, we equip students with a variety of skills they can draw upon in any job or situation they face. We practice resourcefulness by drawing connections between the disciplines and by connecting our studies to our lives. At King and beyond, we strive to equip students to be:

- Strong communicators
- Creative thinkers
- Confident in their abilities
- Careful readers
- Comfortable with complexity



"Beyond what I teach in the classroom and at the reference desk, I hope our students learn to embody the fullness of what it means to be a resourceful citizen with a passion for serving God, the Church, and the world. As a faculty member, I want our students to graduate with the ability to meet difficulties with creativity, imagination, and vigor."

Emily Krug

Instructional Services Librarian
Assistant Professor of Library Services



PROMOTE RESPONSIBILITY

Realizing all we have is a gift, we promote habits of good stewardship and accountability. We seek to be responsible caretakers of:

- Our communities
- Our lives
- Creation
- Each other
- Our own actions

For every place and person we encounter, we seek to leave them better than we find them.



"...precious things have been put into our hands and to do nothing to honor them is to do great harm."

Marilynne Robinson

Gilead: A Novel, p. 246 (2004)



CULTIVATE CITIZENSHIP

Thoughtfulness, responsibility, and resourcefulness help cultivate good citizens—of countries, communities, neighborhoods, and the world. We also realize the foundation for good citizenship lies in our citizenship in the Kingdom of God, which is marked by:

- Renewal and redemption
- Wholeness and healing
- Justice
- Mercy



“When we say that King is ‘a place of the mind,’ that means that faculty, staff, and students all gain a membership in that place. We want them to feel a belonging and responsibility to this academic community which will extend to the places they will go after they graduate. But we want them to ground their citizenship, their ultimate belonging, in the Kingdom of God, shaping them into generous participants in civil life and prophetic witnesses for human flourishing and justice.”

Dr. Martin Dotterweich
Associate Professor of History
Director of Faith & Learning



INSPIRE SERVICE

Through our studies and shared life together, and following the example of Christ, we incite a passion for serving others not just with our minds but with our whole selves. We inspire service to:

- **GOD**, knowing the work we do is a worshipful response to God's calling and goodness
- **THE CHURCH**, the body of Christian believers transcending time, place, traditions, cultures, and denominations
- **THE WORLD**, acknowledging the Gospel call to live not for ourselves, but for others



"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

Frederick Buechner

Wishful Thinking, p. 119 (1993)



How do we integrate
King's Mission and Values
into our daily lives?

1. **Be consistent.** From interactions with students to faculty and staff to administrators, treat others with respect.
2. **Be curious about ideas.** Curiosity is about expressing interest in something outside of yourself. Wrestle with the ideas in all your classes, even if you don't immediately connect with them.
3. **Be curious about other people.** Form a friendship with someone from a different discipline, residence hall, or team.
4. **Be good stewards.** From picking up litter to asking questions about campus culture, help make King a vibrant and beautiful place.
5. **Ask meaningful questions.** Whether you are a student, professor, or administrator, ask significant questions about your life and faith, integrating them with your work at King.
6. **Explore new things.** Look for the value in subjects or activities you might not gravitate toward. Stretch yourself. Read a book. Go for a hike. Have a conversation.
7. **Listen to others.** Before imposing your own opinions, listen deeply to those around you.
8. **Serve others.** Before asking how something will affect you, ask how it will impact others in the community.
9. **Practice Sabbath.** Rest and play are important parts of our lives. Set aside time in the week to stop working and rest in God's goodness.
10. **Encourage one another.** Notice and ask about others' successes and struggles. Support them through words, actions, and prayer.

How do we integrate
King's Mission and Values
into our daily lives?

11. **Be present.** Building a strong community is about showing up. Make it a point to be an active participant in community activities like chapel, lectures, social events, and games.
12. **Express gratitude.** Gratitude is a practice. Make it a habit to give thanks for something every day.
13. **Do justice.** Combat injustice by acting in ways that reflect God's Kingdom of justice for all.
14. **Love kindness.** Praise and emulate acts of kindness and mercy instead of acts of coarseness and power.
15. **Walk humbly.** Practice all these things with humility, not seeking praise from others.

OUR VISION

We aim to be the preeminent small to medium-sized Christian university in the Upper South, with a reputation earned there and beyond as a school serious about its Christian commitment, focused on student success, dedicated to academic excellence, and successful in producing graduates who excel wherever they live, work, and serve.



"This is King University: a place of the mind and a distinctively Christian place of the mind. This is the core of what we do as a Christian academic community, and who we are as we serve the students entrusted to us. It is, of course, not all we do, nor is it all that is required for us to be a truly good or great institution: that list is long and that work is substantial.

But if we are to produce graduates who excel as thoughtful, resourceful, and responsible citizens with a passion for serving God, the Church, and the world, then this is where our attention must always be."

Alexander W. Whitaker IV
President, King University

Photo Credit - Jordan Noe ('15)





KING UNIVERSITY

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www.king.edu