

Guidelines for Composing the Statement on Faith and Learning

Calvin College stands squarely in the Reformed branch of orthodox Christianity, thinking very seriously about the integration of faith and learning and regularly challenging all faculty to explain ways that their faith relates to their professional activities. Candidates typically submit to departments some kind of statement about their faith early during the interview process, and that process should help candidates to develop their understanding of the college's vision of Reformed Christian education.

Accordingly, the Professional Status Committee (PSC) asks each candidate who is to be interviewed for a faculty position to write a statement (of roughly 250-500 words) that describes his or her current thinking about faith and learning. These statements can be excellent platforms for summarizing personal perspectives on how a candidate's faith influences his or her professional work (teaching as well as scholarship) and on how Christianity integrates with the candidate's discipline.

The PSC recognizes that Calvin faculty come from diverse backgrounds and traditions, and the PSC encourages each candidate to reflect on ways in which his or her traditions and unique experiences can enrich Calvin's Reformed Christian enterprise. Furthermore, each candidate brings different degrees of sophistication to the discussion of Reformed Christian higher education; the PSC's immediate concern is not with a candidate's level of sophistication, but with his or her sincerity in faith and basic consistency with a Reformed perspective.

In reading this statement, therefore, the PSC will be looking especially for information indicating that the candidate:

- has a sincere personal faith, a firm commitment to orthodox Christianity (as expressed, for example, in the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed), and an active church life;
- will be able to conduct college duties in ways that are informed and enriched by the Reformed confessional tradition; and
- is serious about considerations of faith and learning and will contribute to the discussions in this area.

The candidate should anticipate that the PSC will likely want to discuss the content of his or her statement during the interview. Statements of candidates who are recommended for appointment will also be shared with the Board of Trustees.

(Please include your name and the date on the first page of your statement.)