

The Class of 2012
Baccalaureate Service
Gray Chapel
Ohio Wesleyan University
Delaware, Ohio
May 12, 2012

“Deep Roots, Reaching Branches”

A Special Note of Thanks To:



Alexis Williams for creating and designing the artwork on the cover



Kelsey Brewer for compiling the *Senior Class Slideshow*



Oakland Nursery for lending the greenery



Nancy Tumeo in the Card Office for her consistent support



Print Services for printing the programs

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE
Ohio Wesleyan University
The Class of 2012

–Deep Roots, Reaching Branches”

8:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 12, 2012

Gray Chapel
Ohio Wesleyan University

Prelude in Pictures

The Senior Class Slideshow

University Greeting

The Reverend Dr. Rock Jones
University President

President’s Commission Awards

Dr. Paula White
Professor of Education

Special Presentation

Mr. Gary Rosenthal
Sophie Rosenthal

Religious Life Awards

The Reverend Jon Powers
University Chaplain
Mr. Chad Johns
Associate Chaplain

Student Leader Greeting

Katrina Hansen, Michelle Meyer, Maren Oehl
Baccalaureate 2012 Co-Chairs

Organ Prelude	<i>"Litanies"</i> Jehan Alain	Dr. Joseph Musser, Organist
A Gift of Sacred Journey	<i>"Searching for Sophia"</i>	Jennifer Schmitt
A Gift of Sacred Journey	<i>"Homecoming"</i>	Lizzie Rubenstein
A Gift of Music	<i>"O Mio Babbino Caro"</i> Giacomo Puccini	Anne Flowers
A Gift of Sacred Journey	<i>"College Trees"</i>	Laura Miske
A Gift of Tradition	<i>1 Corinthians 13:1-13</i>	Diane Bizzarro Holly Gilbert Emilie Hanson Katie Hurley Mary Elizabeth Pease
A Gift of Music	<i>"What a Wonderful World"</i> Louis Armstrong	Alexandria Clapp Danny Elkin
A Gift of Tradition	<i>"Oh, The Places You'll Go"</i>	Katarina Enders Natalie Fisher

A Gift of Tradition	<i>“Promise Yourself”</i>	Victoria Morris
A Gift of Music	<i>“Wisdom, My Road”</i>	Tiffany Saultz
A Gift of Sacred Journey	<i>“We Will Not Sit Back”</i>	Gretchen Curry
A Gift of Sacred Journey	<i>“Silent Q & A”</i>	Thang Nguyen
A Gift of Music	<i>“Someone to Fall Back”</i>	Nathaniel Barber
A Gift of Tradition	<i>Cold Tangerines</i> Shauna Niequist, Adapted	Leanne Williams
A Gift of Sacred Journey	<i>“The Greatest Keeper”</i>	Ronnesha Addison
A Gift of Music	<i>“The Times They Are A' Changing”</i> Bob Dylan	Adrian Morrison Brock Schludecker
A Gift of Sacred Journey	<i>“Difficult Sameness”</i>	Mary Slebodnik

A Gift of Sacred Journey

“Worth Living For”

Katrina Hansen

The Senior Class Comes Forward

Dr. Joseph Musser, Organist

“Alma Mater”

1. Ohio Wesleyan, Sweetly and strong
Rises our hymn of praise for thee alone;
Heaven re-echoes it, loud let it ring,
Ohio Wesleyan! Loyal hearts sing.

2. Ohio Wesleyan! Proud is thy crown.
Rarest of laurels e'er Vict'ry has known;
Noblest achievements have hallowed thy name,
Ohio Wesleyan! Deathless thy fame.

Benediction

The Reverend Karen Oehl
Maren Oehl

Postlude

“Recessional”
William Mathias

Dr. Joseph Musser, Organist

THE BACCALAUREATE COMMITTEE 2012

The word liturgy means “the work of the people.” Tonight’s liturgy illustrates that original meaning. This service is a prayerful, earnest, and semester-long effort of the Class of 2012. Their goal has been consistent and conscientious: to bring together all the mysterious and kaleidoscopic ways in which God has touched their lives, informed their faith, and molded their character over the past four years at Ohio Wesleyan University. This service is by intent patterned and chaotic, personal and corporate, sorrowful and exultant. It is not intended to be comprehensive or complete, but rather allusive and illustrative. All the sights and sounds of this evening are a collage of praise to God, a tapestry of thanksgiving, if you will, to acknowledge that —we have not come this far by our own power.”

Baccalaureate Committee: Katrina Hansen, Michelle Meyer, Maren Oehl (Co-Chairs), Mary Slebodnik (Secretary), Taurey Overturf (Graphics), Lizzie Rubenstein (Reception Chair), Molly Anderson (Chancel Chair), Wai Chan, Adrian Morrison, Alexis Williams, and Leanne Williams.

Ex-Officio: Kami Goldin, Gene Sludge, and Guanyi Yang, Class of 2013; Kelsey Brewer and Haneya Hasan, Class of 2014; Jack Kubicki and Annie Pappenhagen, Class of 2015; Associate Chaplain Chad Johns; University Chaplain Jon Powers, Residential Life Coordinator Tracey Walterbusch, and Administrative Assistant Sarah DuBois.

Honoring Our National Flags

The flags surrounding us in Gray Chapel this evening represent all the nations of our Class of 2012. These flags represent:

Austria

Bulgaria

Canada

Cayman Islands

China

Hong Kong

India

Indonesia

Malaysia

Maurituis

Nigeria

Pakistan

Philippines

Republic of Korea

Singapore

Taiwan

Thailand

United States of America

Vietnam

Special thanks to Darrell Albon, Dorota Kendrick, and Gerri Spurlock of the International Student Services Office for providing the flags for us tonight.

Gray Chapel and the Rexford Keller Memorial Organ

Gray Chapel has long been Ohio Wesleyan's major chapel, concert hall, lecture hall, and place of gathering for the campus community. For over a century, some of the world's leading performers and preachers, speakers and scholars, have held forth in this sacred space. Among the more recent are Morris Dees, Gloria Steinem, and John McCutcheon. The chapel is named in honor of Brother David F. Gray, President of the Board of Trustees in the 1880's. In 1888, Acting President and Professor McCabe made a plea for a chapel to be built somewhere between University and Monnett Halls. Brother David F. Gray pledged \$10,000 toward such a building. When University Hall was built, the construction of the chapel was named in Brother Gray's honor.

The glorious Rexford Keller Memorial Organ, installed in 1980, was designed for Gray Chapel and was constructed by Johannes Klais Orgelbau of Bonn, Germany, one of the world's most prestigious organ builders. This splendid instrument is one of only eight built for America by the Klais firm. (The organ at Asbury United Methodist in Delaware, Ohio, is the most recent.) It has mechanical linkage to the valves that admit air to pipes. This permits the musician infinite control over the shadings of the music.

The organ, in a case of European white oak, contains 4,522 pipes arranged in 82 ranks and ranging from more than 20 feet in length to one-quarter of an inch. The pipes are composed of special alloys of tin, or of mahogany, pear wood or redwood. The pipe shades, which are both decorative and functional, are covered with 22-carat gold leaf.

The Klais instrument is the third organ to be housed in Gray Chapel since the chapel was constructed in 1893. It is one of the largest and finest modern mechanical action pipe organs to be found in an educational institution in the United States.

We are grateful to those who came before us for these dedicated resources which make this chapel and organ available to us for the worship of God. It is a solemn blessing, in the midst of an academic institution, to have such glorious facilities in which to praise the source of all knowledge and truth.

**THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON RACIAL AND CULTURAL
DIVERSITY AWARDS**

The President's Commission on Racial and Cultural Diversity is pleased to announce the recipients of the 6th Annual President's Award for Racial and Cultural Diversity. These awards are given to a student, faculty/staff/administrator, and campus organization/department in recognition of their efforts to improve the quality of life for all members of the OWU community by promoting diversity and social justice. The 2011-2012 recipients are as follows:

Student Award

Alex Bailey for his role as a mentor and leader in Black Men of the Future and in the Upward Bound Ambassador Program. His commitment to understanding issues of race, class, and politics will serve him well when he joins *Teach for America* after graduation.

Staff Award

John Durst for his tireless commitment and dedication to educating others about issues of prejudice, power, oppression, and the impact on marginalized groups in society.

Organization Award

Rafiki Wa Afrika for their work in promoting and celebrating African and Caribbean culture as well as their extensive fundraising efforts.

UNIVERSITY RELIGIOUS LIFE AWARDS

Each of the Religious Life Awards honors an individual who exemplifies a faithful witness to the ethical, spiritual, and missional values of Ohio Wesleyan University, as delineated in the University's Charter of 1842 and the University's current Statement of Aims, as demonstrated in leadership both on campus and in the community, including church or other faith community affiliation.

These institutional honors, presented each year at the Baccalaureate Service, are cited by the John Templeton Foundation as one of the primary reasons for honoring Ohio Wesleyan University for its "Spiritual Growth program" in *The Templeton Guide: Colleges That Encourage Character Development – A Resource for Parents, Students, and Educators* (1999). The John Templeton Foundation declares such programs vital for college life.

—Students searching for meaning, connectedness, and significance present both a challenge and an opportunity for colleges and universities. Programs that foster spiritual growth provide a means to develop a vision of moral integrity that coheres and connects belief to behavior. Exemplary programs (such as Ohio Wesleyan's) affirm the integral role that spirituality and religion often play in shaping character."

This distinction has been reaffirmed by way of the Lilly Endowment, Inc. which awarded the Chaplain's Office \$2.5 million in grants over the past decade to support the further development of these programs.

**The Bliss and Mildred Wiant Award for Leadership in
Interfaith and Intercultural Relations**

Abigail Dockter and Mary Slebodnik

Abigail Dockter

With an almost imperceptible sense of her own presence, Abigail Dockter has profoundly impacted the presence of Habitat for Humanity International at Ohio Wesleyan, restoring our historic campus chapter to its central role in the Delaware community. Her quiet but powerful leadership has evolved through her own personal initiative to become a regular volunteer, then a recruiter of others, then a subtle leader – not only with Habitat for Humanity International, but also with the newly emerging ministries of Common Ground Free Store, Andrews House, Family Promise, and the Second Ward Initiative. In addition to these established community programs, Abby returned from a semester abroad to create a new Ohio Wesleyan tradition – Spring and Fall Break Backyard Justice Retreats, through which Ohio Wesleyan students now study and experience the harsh realities of poverty right here in the immediate surroundings of their own campus community.

Abby's quiet strength and compassionate conviction blend with her acute intellectual curiosity and incisive vision to create great fodder for thoughtful reflections and deep discussions. Nowhere has this been more powerfully demonstrated than in Abby's presence at the weekly campus sessions of Common Texts – a group of students, faculty, and staff representing the Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Baha'i, and other faith traditions within the Ohio Wesleyan campus community who share their collective concerns about the state of faith-based cultural conflicts in our world. Abby's leadership in these meetings has contributed greatly to the formation of Ohio Wesleyan's Interfaith Leadership Council, and its subsequent movement, Better Together OWU. All in all, the foundations and walls built by Abby's work and life at OWU will provide a lasting framework to which others can add.

Mary Slebodnik

When Eboo Patel, the founder of the international Interfaith Youth Core and President Obama's key advisor on interfaith public policy, invited Mary Slebodnik to be a contributing writer for his personal blog on interfaith issues in higher education last semester, Mary was shocked; the rest of us were not. Mary thought, —What is this small town Ohio girl, with relatively conservative Christian roots, and only a struggling sense of who she is as a journalism major at Ohio Wesleyan, doing with such a responsibility?— They rest of us thought, —Oh, Mary's just being Mary – modest to a fault, and gifted far beyond the scope of her self-perception.—

We were both right. Mary is a small-town Ohio girl, but she is also an amazingly gifted writer, profoundly perceptive of the human experience, and, perhaps most importantly, someone who during her years at Ohio Wesleyan has developed a critical and incisive passion for interfaith exploration and understanding. Among her other self-imposed growth experiences at Ohio Wesleyan, Mary has been a faithful participant in Common Texts and the God Seekings Bible Study group. She also served as the reflection leader for two interfaith mission teams (the Lakota Nation team as a junior and the Chicago team as a senior), as well as one of the interfaith reflection leaders for the Fresh X Habitat for Humanity team her sophomore year. In the midst of these profound leadership experiences, Mary has produced countless news reports and editorials as a member of the Ohio Wesleyan Transcript staff, and she was this year's editor of the Ohio Wesleyan Literary Magazine.

Truth be told: Mary and Abby have been a tightly-knit team of concept-prodders, truth-tellers, and faith-shapers in the Common Texts and Interfaith Leadership Council/Better Together ventures of this past year. They, indeed, have become Better Together! – and, together, these two have made President Obama's Initiative for Interfaith Community Service in Higher Education a brilliant reality at Ohio Wesleyan.

The Chaplain James Leslie Award for Leadership in Peace and Justice

Gretchen Curry

With the sideways grin of a Dalai Lama, the lilting laugh of a Desmond Tutu, and the fierce tenacity of a Mother Teresa, Gretchen Curry has demonstrated a Puckish passion for peace and justice that exemplifies the wit and witness of Ohio Wesleyan's historic chaplain, James Leslie.

As a student at Ohio Wesleyan, her prophetic leadership has been deep and wide. Gretchen has been a founding member and student leader of HaitiOWU and has maintained extensive leadership with the OWU Women's Resource Center. She has been a three-year resident and active member of the OWU House of Peace & Justice, organizing multiple initiatives to raise awareness about genocide in Darfur, Burma, and the Congo, not to mention tutoring for Columbus Initiative, Ohio Wesleyan's national award-winning mentoring and tutoring program for inner-city children.

Even while spending a semester abroad, Gretchen volunteered weekly at Mujeres en Accion (Women in Action), an NGO in Managua, Nicaragua. She returned from that powerful experience of study and service to confront the residual demons of our own capitalistic consumerism here on campus. From the stresses of that re-entry, she reconnected with her core values as a social justice advocate in America; she reclaimed her close community with students and professors at Ohio Wesleyan who were her core allies; and she restored her soul with a Thoreau-like sojourn into the Appalachian wilderness with a group of like-minded soul-searchers over spring break. In so doing, Gretchen's witness to peace and justice came full circle: people, power, property, privilege – in the economy of Divine Justice, and in the life witness of Gretchen Curry, these are inseparable.

The Bishop Gerald Ensley Award for Leadership in Christian Mission

Katrina Hansen

Four years ago, a bubbly, energetic young woman from Chicago bounded onto campus. Within days, Katrina Hansen, side ponytails bobbing, had immersed herself in the Christian community of OWU. Now, at her graduation, she stands as one of the foremost Christian witnesses in the OWU community.

How can we comprehend all of the ways in which Katrina has impacted this campus community? Should we speak of her deep passion for social holiness through groups like OWU Faith and Justice and the annual Jubilee Conference? Should we mention her deep commitment to the discipleship of young people through her leadership in Young Life? Might we consider her investment in Christian service through her outstanding leadership both with mission teams to places like Nashville, TN and Apalachin, NY in partnership with OWU's Greek community and her own sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and through the Habitat for Humanity Fresh X teams? Shall we note her own deep seeking to move ever deeper into the heart of God through Bible studies, personal conversations, and a journey to an intentional community? Yes—we can mention all of these, and we will only scratch the surface.

Katrina's presence and ministry at OWU has been a gift to all of those who have come to know and love her. In her, we glimpse the face of Jesus and presence of the Holy Spirit. The ripples of her life at OWU will carry on far beyond what she, or even we, will ever know.

The Cheryl McGinniss Award for Catholic Leadership

Michelle Meyer

From the first day she arrived on campus, Michelle Meyer has been an active and affirming presence in the Newman Catholic Community. No matter what was going on around her or around the campus, Michelle maintained a cheery, positive attitude, sharing God's light with everyone she met. She quickly became the kind face and gentle voice, welcoming those who were new to Ohio Wesleyan and struggling with finding a faith community away from home, encouraging them to become more involved with their faith journey during their college years. Michelle's devotion to Catholic traditions and her thoughtful and caring advocacy for the Catholic principles of social justice led her to renew and revive various Newman activities. Michelle served as a reader for campus Mass, planned retreats, and represented Newman at campus club fairs and recruitment events. During her sophomore and junior years, Michelle served as a co-president of Newman, participated in spring break mission teams that served collaboratively with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Pennsylvania, and participated in the Catholic spring pilgrimage in 2010. Her leadership in the greater campus community through such service groups as Circle K illustrated the depth and breadth of her commitment to caring for everyone around her.

In both her public and private life, Michelle has been a superior example for her fellow Catholic students at Ohio Wesleyan. Modeling such a faithful life comes naturally to Michelle; she is genuine and sincere, honest and trustworthy, and she knows no other way to —b' than to simply be her best self. She embodies the integrity and values of a strong leader by living and breathing the Catholic faith at its best, and she is a powerful witness to those of other faith traditions that the Catholic faith has a valid and vibrant relevance for our world today.

The Taban Blake Award for Servant Leadership

Ronnesha Addison and Hairong Jiang

Ronnesha Addison

In the midst of deep despair, Mahatma Gandhi wrote, “The way of truth and love has always won. There are tyrants, but in the end, they always fall; think of it...always!”

Ronnesha Addison is vibrant, living example of that deep hope. In the midst of challenges that would crush a lesser spirit, Ronnesha, like Taban Blake before her, has prevailed – not just for herself, but also for so many others who otherwise could have fallen by the wayside. With a quiet countenance, and a heart of pure love, Ronnesha has devoted most of her time outside of the classroom helping many students on campus and many people around the Delaware community. Always working behind the scenes, she has been a servant leader, playing an essential role in planning and coordinating events on and off campus, including SUBA, Rafiki wa Afrika, Sisters United, Gospel Lyres, and the President’s Club, among many others. Ronnesha also has been a student worker for the Office of Career Services and as an Orientation Peer Mentor and ambassador for the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, offering grace to people in every context.

Committed to both education and service, Ronnesha has devoted her life to both. With quiet fortitude and compassion for others around her, she always seeks to leave the world a better place. Those who have worked side by side with her claim her as one of the most caring, dependable, and impactful people they have ever met, with a joy that “glows from the inside out.” Ronnesha’s servant leadership, and her passion for OWU, will continue to impact this community for years to come.

Hairong Jiang

Imagine arriving in a foreign country, where you know you will be for four straight years, but you do not quite know the language fluently; nor do you have family or friends. You have absolutely no idea what is going on or what to expect! Just before you start to panic, Hairong Jiang walks up to you with a gentle, reassuring smile, and speaking your native tongue with grace and ease. Since her first day on campus, Hairong has always been the first to embrace other students from China, introducing the younger students to her friends and professors, teaching them how to get adjusted to the new culture, and introducing them to all the great campus opportunities. Then, throughout all of the challenges of their daily lives while a student at Ohio Wesleyan, Hairong generously offers as much help and guidance as she possible can. To the Chinese students at Ohio Wesleyan, Hairong's room is referred to as "home".

But that is not all! During her four years in OWU, Hairong has been actively involved in various services organizations, on campus and internationally: Circle K International, Habitat for Humanity, PetPals, Columbus Initiative, Spring Break Mission Teams, and more. Every summer back home in Nanjing, China, Hairong has been actively involving in many local community service projects, helping the elderly, children, and disabled individuals. She also has been serving as an influential regional mentor to many volunteers working at Dreamcorps, an international organization dedicated to promoting reading among children in rural China, by opening resourceful libraries and developing reading programs.

In her service with Chinese Culture Club, she has lead for four years, without any kind of leadership title. Whenever there was a need, including emergencies, she was the one who stepped up. Under her leadership, the Chinese Culture Club reached a new level of substance, visibility, and relevance.

One of her fellow students remarked, "Hairong is forever cheerful, child-like, creative, enduring, and is someone you can forever count on and rely upon. However, she has never been yelling to be noticed by some formal title. Upon her graduation, a lot of underclass students impacted by Hairong have changed their flight or other appointment to stay for her graduation. Hairong is not only another upper class fellow student, but a true role model for all of us. She is a real mentor, a dear friend, and most importantly, a big sister."

The Arthur S. Flemming Award for Leadership in the Civic Arts

Meghan Finneran

The core mission statement of the Ohio Wesleyan University Chaplaincy is “to nurture the faithful development of the intellectual, and the intellectual development of the faithful by providing rigorous theological reflection, compassionate pastoral care, and fearless prophetic witness to all aspects of the university community.” No student at Ohio Wesleyan University has exemplified that blend of values and action more than Meghan Finneran.

In her four years among us, Meghan has served as a leader of two spring break mission teams, helped establish the Interfaith Leadership Council, and provided a provocative presence at Common Texts interfaith discussions. Meghan’s commitment to the faithful development of her intellect and the intellectual development of her faith led her to blend the classroom, the chapel, and the community into a coherent whole; the world was not only her parish, but also her laboratory. She lived voluntarily in a homeless shelter where she gathered information and insights about non-profit business funding and financial stability; then she wrote two papers detailing both the personal and the academic components of her experience and presented her findings at OWU’s —*Racial Gospel Living: Monasticism Today*,” ecumenical conference. While on one of her spring break mission teams, she collected both primary and secondary research about the economic conditions of the Rosebud Native American Reservation in support of an entrepreneurial venture to introduce a microfinance organization to the people of the Lakota Nation.

As a marketing consultant with Delaware Family Promise and as a marketing intern for the Central Ohio Symphony, Meghan expanded the civic spheres in which she could offer her gifts and talents. If her time at OWU is any indication, the world cannot help but become a better place as Meghan enters the next stage of her journey.

**The Robert and Bette Meyer Award for faithful witness
to the ethical, spiritual, and missional values of Ohio Wesleyan University
as delineated in the University's Charter and Statement of Aims**

Robert Wood

What happens when you take a group of college students, add the Director of Public Safety, and mix well in an international context?

Apparently, nothing short of a miracle.

Bob Wood has served several times as an adviser for the Spring Break Mission Week Program. Traveling with students to places like El Salvador and the Texas-Mexico border, he has been a pillar of support and guidance for numerous student teams. And lest you think that his campus role as a risk manager and disciplinarian would inhibit his interactions with students, nothing could be further from the truth. Each year students on Bob's teams come back raving about what an amazing adviser he was and how much they love him. Most teams even adopt him as —~~dad~~.” He is one of the program's most beloved and respected advisers.

But Bob's service doesn't just occur in far-flung places. He is also a pillar of the OWU community right here on campus. His collegial attitude, common sense perspective, calm wisdom in the face of crisis, sense of humor, and warm personality make him a vital resource for students, faculty, and staff alike. He is always willing to work with people as a true team player. Bob is, without a doubt, a living embodiment of the Robert and Bette Meyer Award, and we are blessed to have him.

**The Bishop Francis Enmer Kearns Award for faithful witness
to the ethical, spiritual, and missional values of Ohio Wesleyan University
as delineated in the University's Charter and Statement of Aims**

Dr. Melinda Rhodes

Dr. Rhodes came to our campus five years ago as an expert in the fields of community journalism and higher education curriculum and instruction, specifically women's education. She has received professional recognition for her work from the Missouri and Kansas press associations and the Episcopal Communicators, but on this campus and in this community, her recognition comes more in the form of personal praise for her warmth, her wit, and her witness to the rigors of scholarship and social justice. The students in her classroom report: —~~He~~ makes you work for your grade; hard but fair...She expects a high level of class participation and involvement...She is very open to suggestions made by students...She is always accessible when I needed to speak with her...She is one of my favorite professors, even though journalism isn't my strong point... She is by far the most enthusiastic teacher I ever had!"

The students on the Re-New Orleans: Hurricane Katrina Recovery spring break mission team report: —~~M~~elinda lives life to the fullest! She is serious and very hard working, but also a lot of fun. She is warm, supportive, encouraging...She was the one who got me through that very difficult, demanding week."

The Rev. Dr. Charles Wilson adds: —first met Melinda when I came to serve as rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Delaware, where she has been a member. I quickly came to appreciate her intellect, and was blessed to witness her deep faith and passion in discerning who God is calling her to be as she engages the world around her. Since then I have had the honor of working with her on ministries inside and outside the parish, have been impressed by her care for the world and society, and she has become someone whose advice and counsel I value and trust."

How is Ohio Wesleyan University related to the United Methodist Church?

1842 Official Charter and Current Statement of Aims

Since its founding, Ohio Wesleyan University has maintained its connection with the Methodist (now United Methodist) Church, offering a quality of scholarship, leadership, and service that has enriched both Church (faith community) and society. Its charter provided that “the University is forever to be conducted on the most liberal principles, accessible to all religious denominations (faith communities), and designed for the benefit of our citizens in general.” In spirit and heritage, the University defines itself as a community of teachers and students devoted to the free pursuit of truth. It attempts to develop in its students qualities of intellect and character which will be useful no matter what they choose to do in later life.

One of the three primary objectives of the University is to place education in the context of values. Liberal education seeks to develop in students understanding of themselves, appreciation of others, and willingness to meet the responsibilities of citizenship in a free society. It recognizes that trained sensitivity to private and public value issues, grounded in a sound grasp of various cultural heritages, is important for maturation and for living a good life. It accords high honor to intellectual honesty. Consistent with our Methodist tradition, Ohio Wesleyan University encourages concern for all religious and ethical issues and stimulates its students to examine their own views in light of these issues.

Official Affiliation with the United Methodist Church

In keeping with these sacred and social commitments, and based upon a regular review of its academic program, religious life, student life, and financial standing, Ohio Wesleyan University is officially affiliated with The United Methodist Church as a United Methodist institution of higher education.