

## Appendix

---

# The Evolution of the Fresno Pacific College Idea

*Original edition (1966)*

Fresno Pacific College is a deliberate and continuous attempt to realize a certain idea through theory and experience. The components of this idea are described in the following concepts:

### *Fresno Pacific College is a Christian College*

The college accepts as the ultimate authority for life God's self-disclosure of himself to man in Jesus Christ and in the record of Scripture. This affirmation gives purpose, meaning, and unity to knowledge and education. Because the college believes in the unity of all knowledge under God, it sees no ultimate contradiction between the truth of revelation and of scholarly investigation. It therefore enjoys both the freedom of inquiry and the freedom of commitment.

As a college committed to Christian revelation, Fresno Pacific seeks to educate the whole person, nurturing every phase of man's free and creative development—spiritually, morally, intellectually, culturally, and physically.

### *Fresno Pacific College is a Community*

The college strives to be a community where interpersonal relations play a vital role in the process of education. The college believes that disengagement from people is an evasion of the real task

of education. It intends rather to foster an open, free, honest, and creative interrelationship among all members of the community.

While the college is not interested in forcing the student to subscribe to the teacher's point of view, it intends the teacher to serve as a model for the student through his own life and as a catalyst for the student's thinking through the exposition and defense of his own position on various issues. The college assumes that learning involves interaction between people and ideas and encourages learning that will result in worthwhile and intelligent commitments.

The college seeks to encourage the acceptance of every person as an individual. The college believes that everyone has individuality, value, equality, and purpose. It therefore seeks to give each member of the college community the personal courage to cope with the normal anxieties of the college learning experience and to accept new insights and new truths. It seeks through interpersonal relationships to enable each person to learn, to change, and to make new and meaningful commitments.

Therefore, the college is a resident community. It believes that the instruction of the classroom is only one aspect of learning. The continuous interaction which the life and study of the whole campus provides may be as significant as the instruction of the classroom. It is the involvement of the individual in the total community of the college that forms and modifies the ideals of the community members.

Because the college believes that it is better for men and women to meet each other daily in such a community, and in a variety of activities and situations, Fresno Pacific is a coeducational community. It believes that the estimates of one another based upon natural and varied interrelationships are likely to be more realistic, and the consequent life adjustments more soundly based.

The college believes that authentic community is found as man relates to God through faith. It therefore hopes that the members of the community are, or will become, believers in Jesus Christ who seek for a fuller understanding and experience of Him through study, sharing, meditation, prayer, and worship. It will not, however, discriminate against students who cannot freely and honestly make such a commitment.

#### *Fresno Pacific College is a Liberal Arts College*

The objective of the college is to provide a progression of experiences leading the student: (1) to a wholeness of personality charac-

terized by personal understanding and freedom of action, (2) to a more perceptive and creative relationship with God and the world, (3) to an understanding of the interrelationship of knowledge and the methodologies unique to the areas of knowledge, and (4) to the point where he can independently and capably manage knowledge.

It is held that exposure to that liberal arts tradition which has sought to understand God, man, and the world through the disciplines of theology, philosophy, mathematics, the natural and physical sciences, the social sciences, and the fine and communicative arts is most relevant in providing the range of experiences leading to the achievement of this objective.

Training for effectiveness in the professions is considered to be an aspect of the educational program at Fresno Pacific. But, highly technical, professional training apart from the liberal arts tradition is inconsistent with the basic objectives of the institution. Consistent with the primary focus of the college, students in a professional course of training will always be required to have a significant concentration of work in the liberal arts tradition.

#### *Fresno Pacific College is an Experimental College*

The college seeks to add to existing knowledge in improved forms. Teachers at Fresno Pacific are encouraged to engage in original research in their respective disciplines as long as such research does not detract from their effectiveness as teachers. The college is continuously searching for better ways to prepare its students for meaningful roles in society, the professions, the family, and the church.

#### *Fresno Pacific College is an Anabaptist-Mennonite College*

Fresno Pacific is a Mennonite Brethren educational institution. As a college in the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition, the college seeks to recapture the faith and life of the early Christian church, placing central emphasis upon the Lordship of Jesus Christ for the totality of life, the authority of the Scriptures for all matters of faith and ethics, the Christian life as a life of discipleship, the Christian church as a fellowship of redeemed people, the voluntary nature of faith and the freedom of conscience, and the active application of love to the whole of life, including the promotion of peace and nonresistance, missions, relief, mutual aid, and voluntary service.

The college, as an institution of the church, seeks to relate to the

church through conversation and leadership. It intends to educate people who will understand the church and provide perceptive and creative leadership in the church.

*Fresno Pacific College is a Non-Sectarian College*

Religious discrimination of a narrow sectarian nature is not imposed in the admissions policy of the college. Anyone wanting a Christian education is invited to join Fresno Pacific in a quest for meaning and wholeness of life.

*Fresno Pacific College is a Prophetic College*

The college views itself as a center of independent critique of all of man's endeavors. It is not simply an institution that transmits the values of the culture in which it exists. It purposes to serve as the conscience of society and the church rather than become a tool of any institution or idealism.

The Fresno Pacific idea is only a partially realized idea. But it is the idea that gives Fresno Pacific reason for existence, courage for growth, and stimulus for adventure.

---

*Revised edition (1982)*

The Fresno Pacific College Idea is a guide for the future; it is also a process of the present and an outgrowth of the past.

As the college seeks to accomplish its educational mission, it affirms the significance of knowledge which leads to wisdom, encourages virtue, establishes harmony, and creates balance and perspective.

As a Christian liberal arts college, Fresno Pacific College is an integral part of the mission of the church. Through the liberal arts, the college provides knowledge and experience which lead toward a more perceptive and creative relationship with God, humanity, and the world. On this foundation of Christian perspectives and liberal arts education, the college provides preparation for service to church and society through vocational and professional development. The college is a community in which interpersonal relationships play a vital role in the process of education.

*Fresno Pacific College is a Christian College*

As a Christian college, Fresno Pacific College considers a primary goal to be the integration of faith and learning. In pursuing this goal it accepts the unity of all knowledge under God; it perceives no ultimate contradiction between the truth of revelation and of scholarly investigation.

With others in the Believers' Church tradition the college encourages voluntary acknowledgement of the sovereignty of God and the triumph of his kingdom, the presence of his Spirit in the life of the church, and the lordship of Jesus Christ over all of life.

As an extension of the educational mission of the Mennonite Brethren Church, the college affirms the authority of Scripture over all matters of faith and life; the church as a community of redeemed people; the life of discipleship which leads to holiness, witness, and service; the call to serve Christ by proclaiming the Gospel, ministering to human need, and alleviating suffering; the practice of reconciliation and love in settings of violence, oppression, and injustice; and the development of spiritual maturity through the disciplines of prayer, study and meditation.

Believing that the Gospel transcends the limitations of all cultures and ideologies, the college encourages persons to serve throughout the world as compassionate Christian disciples and constructive members of society.

*Fresno Pacific College Is a Liberal Arts College*

As a liberal arts college, Fresno Pacific College provides an education which leads to an examined understanding of God, humanity, and the world through the disciplines of theology, philosophy, the humanities, and the social and natural sciences.

Education is a comprehensive process; the college is concerned with the whole person and seeks to nurture every phase of development—spiritual, moral, intellectual, cultural, social, physical.

Education includes a training process; preparing persons for leadership, ministry, and service in a variety of vocations and professions is an important aspect of education. However, the college considers vocational preparation to be more than the acquisition of information and skills; it is also the formation of values which enrich the meaning and enhance the quality of work. Professional programs therefore emphasize the integration of Christian faith and the liberal arts with career development.

## *160 Mennonite Idealism and Higher Education*

Education is a life-long process in which analytical thinking and creative reflection lead to spiritual, personal, and professional maturity. The college therefore extends its educational boundaries to include older as well as younger adults in a variety of settings; its mission includes post-baccalaureate programs which provide for personal enrichment and professional growth. It invites persons from various cultural, national, ethnic, and religious settings and backgrounds to participate in the educational experience.

### *Fresno Pacific College is a Community*

As an educational community, Fresno Pacific College recognizes the value of interpersonal relationships in the process of education. It assumes that learning is the result of interaction between people and ideas; as individuals are more responsible with, and accountable to, one another, they are more able to understand themselves and to make perceptive commitments to God, the church, and the world. While the college affirms that community which is formed as its members relate to God, it does not discriminate against those who cannot freely and honestly make such a commitment.

The college accepts each member as a unique person with purpose and value. It seeks to provide settings in which each individual can gain new insights and experiences, develop new relationships, and make meaningful commitments.

While acknowledging and respecting individual differences, the college affirms the Believers' Church expression of community as a body which transcends individualism as well as those cultural, national, and ethnic boundaries which may separate and alienate. Since involvement in mutual worship, study, work, and play strengthens the life of both the individual and the community, residence on campus is encouraged as a means of experiencing the richness of this community.

The college fulfills its mission as it incorporates faculty who participate in church and society as role models in relating Christian faith to matters of thought and action; students who share a mutual respect for educational goals and community standards; staff who are committed to enhancing the quality of the educational experience; and a board which encourages understanding and support for the mission of the college.

*Revised edition (1995)*

The Fresno Pacific College Idea reflects the college's interpretation of what it means to be a community of learners committed to a distinctive vision of Christian higher education. The Idea serves as a center for reflection and action and as a guide for forming a vision of the future. Rooted in the past and continuously re-shaped by the present, the Idea provides a foundation for the college's understanding of itself and of the mission to which it is called.

In pursuing this mission, the college affirms the significance of knowledge which is a foundation for wisdom and virtue. As a Christian liberal arts community, Fresno Pacific College is an integral part of the mission of the church. From this Christian and liberal arts center the college seeks to engage members of its community in a collaborative search for knowledge and experience which lead toward a perceptive and creative relationship with God, humanity, and the natural world. On this foundation, the college seeks to build and to extend the Kingdom of God by enabling persons to serve church and society.

The Fresno Pacific College Idea articulates the college's primary identity, its vision of community, and its relation to the larger world. The parts of the Idea are not mutually exclusive, but complementary. Together, they form an organic whole.

*Fresno Pacific College is a Christian College*

Fresno Pacific College seeks to be a collegium centered upon Christ and His church. It is committed to the ideals of God's Kingdom and to the perspective of the liberal arts in which integration of faith, learning, and action is a primary goal.

With others in the Anabaptist-Mennonite and Believers Church tradition, the college encourages voluntary acknowledgment of the sovereignty of God, of the triumph of God's Kingdom, of the presence of God's Spirit in the life of the church, and of the Lordship of Christ in all of life.

As an extension of the educational mission of the Mennonite Brethren Church, the college affirms the authority of the Bible over all matters of faith and life; the church as a community of redeemed people; a life of discipleship leading to holiness, witness, and service; the call to serve Jesus by ministering to human need and alleviating suffering; the practice of reconciliation and love in settings of violence, oppression, and injustice; and the development

of spiritual maturity through disciplines such as prayer, study and meditation.

All authentic knowledge and experience are unified under God. All aspects of reality are understood to be parts of a larger whole. There is no contradiction then between the truth of revelation, of scholarly investigation, and of action. The college encourages members of the Fresno Pacific community toward a reflective and critical perspective on the nature of humanity and its relation to the world. Thus the liberal arts enlarge the foundation for life-long learning and for advanced study in a discipline or profession. The college affirms that wisdom grows out of commitment to Christian faith and to the integrative perspective of the liberal arts. Both are essential to developing a wholistic view of God, self, and the world.

Since education is understood to be a life-long process, the college programs include a variety of academic and professional undergraduate, graduate, and non-degree programs. Each program builds on the integrative foundation of the liberal arts, encouraging thoughtful reflection on those beliefs and values that contribute to personal and societal wholeness. The intersection of Christian belief, the liberal arts, and an ethic of service provide an educational perspective that leads to an examined understanding of God, self, and the world, uniting theory with practice.

#### *Fresno Pacific College is a Community of Learners*

Fresno Pacific College recognizes the importance of the interpersonal dimension of the learning process. The college believes that community grows out of common commitments, and that learning is the result of interaction between persons, ideas and experience. Thus the college seeks to provide settings in which individuals can achieve such interaction within a community committed to learning and service. It believes that as individuals become more responsible with, and accountable to, one another, they are better able to understand themselves and to make thoughtful commitments to God, the church, and the world

The college seeks to accept each member of the community as unique, with purpose and value. Ethnic and religious identity is affirmed as a basis for respectful pluralism. While acknowledging individual differences, the college also holds to the Believers Church expression of community as a body which transcends individualism and those cultural, national, and ethnic boundaries which separate and alienate.



Believing that the Gospel transcends the limitations of all cultures and ideologies and that inclusiveness enriches community, Fresno Pacific College welcomes those of different cultural, national, ethnic, and religious backgrounds to participate in its educational experience. The college invites those from other church traditions, both as faculty and students, to enter into dialogue and faithful practice with those in the Anabaptist and Believers Church tradition in following Christ and in sharing the college's mission. In keeping with its voluntaristic church tradition, the college affirms the community formed as individuals relate to God and does not discriminate against students who cannot freely and honestly make such a commitment. The college encourages persons to serve across cultures and throughout the world as compassionate disciples of Christ and as constructive members of society.

The college believes that knowledge and understanding are formed in community; that learning takes place through dialogue and discourse between people who have different experiences and perspectives, and that such wisdom begins with humility. These understandings join teachers and students as partners in a mutual search for truth and wholeness.

The college's belief in community expresses itself in patterns of leadership and governance that are servant oriented and participatory and which lead toward consensual decision making.

The college seeks to carry out its educational mission through faculty, students, staff and board who participate in church and society, share a mutual respect for educational goals and community standards and are committed to enhancing the quality of the educational experience for all its members.

### *Fresno Pacific College is Prophetic*

Fresno Pacific College believes that to be prophetic is to serve the church and society by engaging in dialogue with and critique of contemporary culture and practice. The college encourages informed reflection on personal, institutional and societal values which contribute to developing a vision for wholeness, justice and reconciliation. It offers leadership to the church and the world by enabling persons to extend perceptive, creative, and skillful responses to current issues; to illuminate darkness with light and dispel ignorance with wisdom and understanding. It seeks to bring an integrative, Christian ethic and perspective to present day thought and experience and to a common search for the better way.

Fresno Pacific College understands learning to be a journey; a journey of exploration, reflection and transformation; a journey toward deepened meaning and faith growing out of creative encounter with Christ and the world. The college believes that such learning may be nurtured through many different modalities and in many different settings and that it should be encouraged to continue throughout life. Thus the college values imaginative, experimental and innovative ways of engaging students and faculty in the process of learning even as it seeks to remain faithful to its core values and identity.

Fresno Pacific College is a deliberate and continuing attempt to realize the vision expressed in the Fresno Pacific College Idea. The Idea gives the college reason for existence, courage for growth, and stimulus for adventure.