Christian Faith and Academic Vocation: Reading List and Prompts for Initial TTP Review

Instructions: In response to each prompt, please compose an essay that could be understood by an interdisciplinary audience of Christian faculty members. Each response (1-2 pages in length but not to exceed 1,000 words) is expected to have a clear focus and to interact with material from the reading list.

Part One: The Academic Vocation at Messiah College

A. Reflection on Institutional Mission:

* No Longer Invisible (Chapter 1) and The History of Religion in American Higher Education (Chapter 2) from No Longer Invisible
  Types of Church-Related Colleges from Robert Benne, Quality with Soul
  The Ideals and Diversity of Church-Related Higher Education (chapter 5) from The American University in a Postsecular Age
  On to the 21st Century from William C. Ringenberg, The Christian College
* Prologue by Rodney Sawatsky from Scholarship and Christian Faith
* Epilogue by Kim Phipps from Scholarship and Christian Faith

➢ PROMPT: In your view, how should Christian higher education be similar to and/or different from American higher education generally?

B. Reflection on the Role of the Teacher

* Clubbing the Baby Seals by Randy Basinger
* Convictions (Chapter 9) from No Longer Invisible
  Practices, Faith, and Pedagogy from David I. Smith and James K. A. Smith, Teaching and Christian Practices
  Knowing in Community from Parker Palmer, The Courage to Teach
  Otherness (Chapter 10) from David G. Benner, Soulful Spirituality

➢ PROMPT: How does Christian faith influence your practices and aspirations as a teacher?
Part Two: The Vocation of Christian Scholarship

A. Reflection on the connections between faith and scholarship (with an emphasis on the identity of Messiah College):

* Gracious Christianity (A Commentary on the Messiah College Statement of Faith)

Professing Understanding and Professing Faith by Lee Shulman from The American University in a Postsecular Age

Scholarship in the Anabaptist Tradition by David Weaver-Zercher from Scholarship and Christian Faith

Reconceiving the Christ-Centered College: Convertive Piety and Life Together by Roger Olson from The Pietist Vision of Christian Higher Education

The Wesleyan Quadrilateral by Albert C. Outler


➢ PROMPT: What opportunities and challenges derive from an institutional identity that is welcoming of scholars from a broad range of Christian churches yet remains rooted in the Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan traditions?

B. Reflection on the connections of faith and scholarship (with an emphasis on personal scholarly perspectives):

* Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 from Scholarship and Christian Faith

The Power of Christian Traditions from Richard T. Hughes, The Vocation of the Christian Scholar

➢ PROMPT: How does your perspective on Christian scholarship interact or align with models exemplified in the readings (for example: social justice, incarnational, Christ above Culture, Anabaptist, Reformed, or Catholic)?

* Assigned reading in Provost’s Seminar.