



PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE

April 27, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Charles C. Heyward, Sr.
President, NBPC
4037 Gift Blvd.
Johns Island, SC 29455

Dear Rev. Dr. Heyward:

Thank you for your letter of April 15th on behalf of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus. In your letter, you rightfully called for a thorough and complete investigation into the February 11th incident. In my February 14th statement, I announced that we would launch an independent investigation to ensure the most efficient, thorough, and accurate gathering of facts and documentation of findings. Enclosed is a copy of my statement for your reference.

PC has diligently followed the prescribed process for the investigation, which entailed some 30 interviews with students, staff, and witnesses affiliated with two institutions. We have now entered the disciplinary phase of the process. I have made unequivocal public statements about PC's values, and adhering faithfully to our process is enabling PC to live by those words. You can rest assured that the college is pursuing justice and reconciliation in a focused, determined manner and that we will issue a statement as soon as possible.

We have also encouraged and empowered students, faculty, and staff to express their feelings about the incident, including supporting a campus-wide unity march in support of women and athletes of color. Ultimately, I believe that the measure of an institution is not its ability to avoid challenges; rather, a college's worth stems from its willingness to tackle such challenges with honesty, integrity, and values-based decision making.

I look forward to meeting and to working with you and our Presbyterian Church USA friends as we work toward a more just, inclusive, and affirming nation for all.

Sincerely,

Matthew P. vandenBerg, EdD, CFRE
President

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MATTHEW VANDENBERG

February 14, 2022



PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

Yesterday, Dr. Kerry Pannell (Provost) and Dr. Will Harris (Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council) released a statement on behalf of the college about the events leading up to the women's lacrosse game on Friday, Feb. 11. I wanted to share my own thoughts and provide a progress update on PC's path forward.

The racist, misogynistic, and hateful behaviors exhibited by individuals on the day in question are an abomination. They have no place anywhere in civilized society, let alone at PC. Numerous students, faculty, staff, and alumni have contacted me to express their outrage, utter embarrassment, and disbelief that such behavior can even happen today on our campus. I concur. PC resolutely and unequivocally condemns all forms of racism, misogyny, hatred, and discrimination. We value and respect the dignity and self-worth of all individuals.

We also must remember that the actions of a few reflect on the campus as a whole. The fact that some of our students felt sufficiently comfortable, privileged, and empowered to undertake such deplorable and hateful actions is a clear sign of the significant work we must all do to continue building a more equitable and inclusive campus for all community members and visitors.

Our hearts hurt for our visitors from Howard University. They also hurt for women and people of color in the PC community, many of whom have told me they feel less safe on their own campus because of the actions of select students. We, as a community, stand with them and are committed to their safety and ability to flourish.

While it is proper and right to express outrage and to apologize for wrongdoing, we will not confuse apologies with action, accountability, and meaningful progress toward living our values. Accordingly:

- PC has engaged independent counsel to conduct an investigation to ensure the most efficient, thorough, and accurate gathering of facts and documentation of findings. We are committed to an expeditious, thorough, and fair process and to severe consequences for individuals found responsible.
- Effective immediately and until further notice, students and spectators planning to watch Presbyterian College athletic events in person must enter the athletic venue and sit in the designated fan seating areas. Adjacent areas surrounding athletic venues are off limits prior to, during, and after athletic competition. This policy includes the area commonly known as "Hoseville," outside of Bailey Memorial Stadium. The policy covers all areas outside the PC Baseball Complex fencing, including between the PC Baseball Complex and the fraternity houses and along the outfield wall. At the Templeton Center Tennis Courts, spectators must remain on top of the hill near the bleachers. At

the PC Softball Complex, students must enter the complex and stay in the designated fan seating areas. If you witness inappropriate behavior, immediately notify a member of the event security staff or contact PC Campus Police to allow them to address the situation immediately.

- Please stand with and lift up our brothers and sisters who are left hurting and feeling less safe in their own community as a result of last week's events. PC offers students free in-person and virtual appointments and confidential counseling with our licensed clinicians through our counseling services office. Simply contact the Counseling Center at 864-833-8263 or counselingandhealth@presby.edu. For staff and faculty, the Employee Assistance Program offers free counseling services. For more information, call 855-775-4357 with company code RSLI859.

Working together, we will hold ourselves accountable, make meaningful progress toward realizing our ideals, and make PC a more uplifting and welcoming place for all community members and campus visitors.

Sincerely,
Matt

Matthew vandenBerg, EdD, CFRE
President
Professor of Education
Presbyterian College
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