



Our Heritage, Mission, and Life Together

2018 marks the 172nd anniversary of the founding of Taylor University. During the year of 1846, the United States annexed New Mexico as a territory, admitted Iowa as the 29th state in the Union, and declared war on Mexico. Electric arc lighting was introduced in Paris; Elias Howe patented the sewing machine in the United States; John Deere constructed the first plow with a steel moldboard; and American dentist W. T. Morton introduced ether as an anesthetic. In the literary world, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow published “The Belfry of Bruges” and Herman Melville published “Typee.” In London, the Evangelical Alliance was founded, and Charles Dickens introduced the English newspaper, the *Daily News*. In Ireland the failure of the potato crop caused a famine, which would send thousands of Irish immigrants to America. Also in 1846, the Smithsonian Institute was established in Washington D.C., and certain political and religious movements in the United States gained momentum in advocating the emancipation of slaves and promoting expanded rights for women.

Forged in the fire of intense religious beliefs, Taylor University was destined to become one of the oldest evangelical Christian colleges in America. Conceptualized with the conviction that women as well as men should have an opportunity for higher education, Taylor University began as Fort Wayne Female College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and then became Fort Wayne College. Following the example of Oberlin College (which became the first coeducational college in America and the first to award college degrees to women in 1841), Fort Wayne College became coeducational in 1855. In 1890, the school merged with the Fort Wayne College of Medicine and changed its name to Taylor University in honor of Bishop William Taylor, an energetic missionary evangelist possessed with unusual vitality of commitment and devotion. Bishop William Taylor became a symbol of the values and ideals of the college. His voluminous writings including many books on preaching and missions and extensive worldwide missionary endeavors resulted in his being the first lay pastor to be named a bishop of the Methodist Church.

In 1893 because of the population boom in the central part of the state, Taylor University moved to Upland, Indiana. Nearly 100 years later in 1992, Taylor University reestablished its presence in Fort Wayne by acquiring Summit Christian College. (Summit had started in 1895 with the sponsorship of the Missionary Church Association and the spiritual leadership of Joseph P. Ramseyer and Daniel Y. Schultz.) In 2009, undergraduate programs at Taylor University Fort Wayne (TUFW) were discontinued and consolidated on the main campus in Upland.

With this heritage, Taylor University entered the twenty-first century. Taylor University’s historian Dr. William Ringenberg noted, “The intellectual revolution at the turn of the century cracked the spiritual foundations of major universities” in America by challenging the role of the Christian worldview. “This, coupled with the dehumanizing of education” and the unrest caused by “the inability of secular education to guide students in their quest for meaning” helped to further shape, strengthen, and define Taylor’s Christian educational mission. For over 170 years, Taylor has been faithful to that mission.

Taylor University trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and students stand committed to our heritage of Christian commitment and academic excellence.

Implementation of Mission — A Christian Liberal Arts College

Taylor University is an evangelical, independent, interdenominational Christian liberal arts university in which all programs are shaped by a biblical, Christian worldview and the integration of faith, learning and living within a community of intentional Christian nurture and relationships.

Taylor is distinctive in its commitment to both spiritual and intellectual development as symbolized by the twin spires of the Rice Bell Tower. Academic pursuits at Taylor are rigorous, demanding imagination, dedication and integrity from both students and faculty. As a Christian institution, Taylor University has highly capable, supportive faculty who recognize that all truth has its source in God. Students’ quests for truth begin with this conviction and relate to all aspects of the liberal arts curriculum.

Taylor University carries out its mission and purposes primarily by offering undergraduate programs in its residential campus setting. Within this environment, curricular and co-curricular programs advance the holistic development of students expressed through servant leadership, global and civic engagement, service, and life-long learning. These programs engage students through collaborative faculty-student research, experiential and service learning, internships, and international study.

The University offers focused graduate programs that expand and complement curricular and institutional strengths. Taylor University Online offers select undergraduate and graduate courses, including summer school opportunities, and programs for students who are not in residence.

The University employs dedicated faculty, professional, and support services personnel who align with its mission and enable outstanding programs within a culture of continuous quality improvement.

Taylor’s campus reflects a vision of physical facilities that combines aesthetics, functionality, and timely maintenance.

The University’s location in the pastoral, small town environment of Upland, Indiana, seventy miles north of Indianapolis and fifty miles south of Fort Wayne, complements a commitment to foster interpersonal relationships that edify, enrich, and value all members of the University community. The proximity to metropolitan areas provides numerous benefits, including access to specialized healthcare and cultural and entertainment opportunities including music, theater, art, professional athletics and commerce. There are also several nature preserves, state parks, and outdoor recreational areas reachable within two hours or less.

Mission, Purposes, and Anchor Points

The mission of Taylor University is to develop servant leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ's redemptive love and truth to a world in need.

In order to advance this mission, Taylor University is committed to the following purposes:

- To provide whole-person education, involving students in learning experiences imbued with a vital Christian interpretation of truth and life which foster their intellectual, emotional, physical, vocational, social, and spiritual development.
- To offer liberal arts, professional, and lifelong education based upon the conviction that all truth has its source in God, and that being biblically anchored, the Christian faith should permeate all learning leading to a consistent life of worship, servant leadership, stewardship, and world outreach.
- To create specific experiences wherein the integrative focus of a Christian liberal arts education is clarified, personalized, and applied.
- To contribute to the advancement of human knowledge and understanding and serve the evangelical Christian church and the larger (public) community for the glory of God.
- To foster a biblical model of relationships that acknowledges both unity and diversity of the followers of Christ within a covenant community and which can be evidenced in a continuing lifestyle of service to and concern for others.
- To maintain and foster appropriate and effective support services that enable maximum program effectiveness throughout the University.

Anchor Points

- Biblically Anchored
- Christ Centered
- Faith Learning Integrated
- Liberal Arts Grounded
- World Engaging
- Whole Person Focused
- Servant Leader Motivated

Statement of Faith

To more explicitly define the meaning of Christian higher education as used in the Articles of Incorporation, and the methods and policies by which the proposed results are to be achieved through the University or any affiliated educational institution under the control of the University, the following statements of belief and practice are set forth:

Taylor University is firmly committed to the lordship of Jesus Christ and evangelical Christianity. To ensure the central place of Christian principles in the philosophy and life of the University, the trustees, administration, faculty, and staff believe:

- There is one God, eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the ultimate Creator and Sustainer of all things in heaven and on earth.
- The Holy Bible is the only inspired, authoritative written word of God, progressively revealing God's will for humankind.
- Jesus Christ is the living Word of God who made known and carried out God's plan of redemption through His virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death, bodily resurrection, and ascension, and who will return in power and glory.
- The Holy Spirit is present in the life of the believer, testifying to the lordship of Christ and enabling the believer to live a godly life.
- Humankind, though uniquely created in God's image, rebelled and stands in need of redemption.
- God graciously extends salvation to anyone who comes to Christ by faith.
- The Church is the community of believers who express their unity in Christ by loving and serving Him, each other, and all people.