

Asbury College Quality Enhancement Plan

Title of QEP: Cornerstone Project

**Institution: Asbury College
(On March 5, 2010 we become Asbury University)**

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Cornerstone Project Executive Summary

Asbury College, founded in 1890, is an independent Christian liberal arts college in Wilmore, a small town in the Blue Grass region of central Kentucky. The college program stresses a broadly-based education, with both high academic standards and a strong Christian emphasis. While the college has implemented degree-completion, graduate and off-campus programs, a majority (85%) of its students are in a traditional residential program. The Asbury Quality Enhancement Project (QEP) is mainly directed at this population with intentional support in including the non-traditional and off-campus students as well.

Asbury's QEP is the Cornerstone Project. The Project flows from the College Mission Statement and fulfills a central role in the College Strategic Plan. The Cornerstone Project focuses on "Spiritual Vitality," one of the two dimensions of our mission statement (i.e., Academic Excellence and Spiritual Vitality.) The Cornerstone Project is based upon four Cornerstones reflected in "Spiritual Vitality": Scripture, Holiness, Stewardship and Mission. The Project will impact the campus in academic life, spiritual life and in student residence life; and have impact on our non-traditional, non-residential students as well. As part of the coordination of this project, a Cornerstone Council has been established with equal representation from major elements in the campus constituency (faculty, administration/staff and student body.) The Cornerstone Council will have overall direction of the Cornerstone Project.

Scripture refers to the guiding power of Scripture as the source of Truth upon which the entire Cornerstone Project rests. The other three Cornerstones rest upon the first.

The Holiness message is central to the Asbury experience and heritage and emphasizes the following: (1) the scriptural basis of the holiness doctrine, (2) the anthropological necessity of a pure heart (our created natures are made for God), (3) the reach of the atonement (a spotless church is the expectation and promise of the cross), and (4) the power of the Holy Spirit (the ministry and work of the Third Person of the Trinity in these "last days" is to cleanse and equip believers through a baptism of life, power and purity.

The Stewardship component includes both collective issues such as the environment, social, bioethical, diversity, and other current cultural issues as they arise, and individual issues, such as development, care and use of body, mind, personal talent, skill, time, learning and will power. Members of the community should be unified and motivated to act as stewards of that portion of the Kingdom of Christ on earth over which they have influence.

The Mission aspect of the Chapel Curriculum should include Asbury's rich and living heritage of sending evangelical missionaries out in the world. Mission may be more broadly defined as "vocation" or "calling" so that it includes the student's relationship with the world away from campus in any capacity.

Goals of the Cornerstone Project. The Goals of the Project are clearly established, and are related to student learning outcomes. Student learning in this case is understood to include, per the *Handbook for Reaffirmation* (p. 22) not only "knowledge and skills" but also "behaviors and/or values."

•**GOAL 1:** Develop student knowledge / understanding of the four foundational Cornerstones: scripture, holiness, stewardship, and mission.

•**GOAL 2:** Strengthen the development of spiritual vitality by providing curricular and co-curricular learning experiences as well as opportunities for service that relate to Asbury College's foundational Cornerstones of scripture, holiness, stewardship, and mission.

•**GOAL 3:** Promote voluntary student participation in individual and group service and mission opportunities guided by the cornerstone principles.

Benefits of the Project. The Project will provide benefits to the institution and to the students that are essential in an institution that claims "Spiritual Vitality" as part of its official Mission Statement.