

Dear Pastors,

This year, Point Loma Nazarene University is celebrating its 120th year. In 1902, when it was founded, people were optimistic about the future. The turn of the century was a time rich in ideas, innovation, and change. Education was viewed as an opportunity to equip future generations to walk in faith and to make the world a better place.

This was also a time when shadow groups, secret societies, and anonymous individuals sought to maintain the status quo. Over the next hundred years, these groups operated in the cloak of darkness and the cover of anonymity, seeking to prevent women from voting, targeting Irish and Asian immigrants with violence, and seeking to justify racial hatred, violence, segregation, and discrimination against African American and Hispanic communities.

Recently, PLNU has become aware of an anonymous group that has targeted the university with distortions, half-truths, and outright lies regarding our stance opposing racism. We recognize that as we live out our mission, there will continue to be groups operating in the shadows that seek to undermine the Church of the Nazarene, your congregation, or our university. They will couch racism, discrimination, and prejudice in Christian terms. They will seek to divide the church and distort the truth.

Dr. Bresee, PLNU's founder, also faced strife and conflict in the early 1900s as forces within the church sought to destroy and divide. It was out of that conflict that Dr. Bresee received his promise from God, Isaiah 62 that God would protect, sustain, and care for the university. It was a transformative experience for Dr. Bresee, and to this day, the promise of God through Isaiah persists as the hope for the transforming work of PLNU.

Since the beginning, Point Loma Nazarene University has remained focused on being a light in the midst of darkness. We are committed to the doctrines and positions held by the Church of the Nazarene, extending grace, living in holiness, and following Christ in word and behavior. We strive to model and teach this in the classroom, in worship through four weekly chapels, during campus interactions, and through ongoing engagement with the community.

PLNU will also always stand against discrimination, racial hatred or inequity based upon race or ethnicity. We will always condemn racism in all forms. Discrimination based on race or ethnicity is sinful behavior and does not reflect our values as followers of Jesus. Anyone who states otherwise seeks to deceive and distort the teachings of Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Today, our graduates and our students share stories of how racism is occurring both within Nazarene and within non-Nazarene communities. In the midst of these challenges, please know that this university stands with you as pastors and church leaders in this fight and we will not ignore this reality or allow distractions from naming and fighting this sinful behavior.

When racism occurs in the form of anonymous attacks or in the form of violent attacks such as in the basement of an African-American church or a Jewish synagogue, we will consistently stand against those that would seek to harm, downplay or distract from its impact. We cannot be racist and also show God's

love to others, that goes for individuals and organizations who are led by biblical Christianity. Following Christ and living the teachings of the [Church of the Nazarene](#) demand no less.

As a premier Christian university, PLNU provides opportunities for students to engage difficult issues within a safe and faith-based environment. Faith is strengthened when students understand and engage difficult and controversial topics with faculty and staff members utilizing frameworks of faith and critical thinking.

Fifty percent of PLNU students come from a diverse background of race and ethnicities. We serve students from the Church of the Nazarene, many other Christian denominations, and students who are not Christians or who are new to their faith. Our calling as Nazarenes and educators is to treat every student with respect, dignity, and equity. At PLNU, our goal is to follow Jesus' example in all interactions.

We believe that students need to have opportunities to discuss the difficult issues of the day. Our students and alumni reflect the broad political spectrum of our society. As an institution, we do not hide from this; instead, the university provides opportunities for discussions reflective of this diversity of thought while seeking to remain true to the Church of the Nazarene. The result is that upon graduation, our graduates articulate and live out Christian values and ideals in a secular society.

For 120 years, we have unapologetically called all students and staff to live a life of holiness, extending grace, and seeking to model what it means to follow Christ. **We also humbly acknowledge that there have been and will be times when we do not always live up to our ideals.** We will have students, faculty and staff members who do not always engage in ways that are reflective of our university positions. In these cases, we remain committed to engaging in a process of grace-filled accountability and discussion that calls all to live within our policies and positions as a university in the Church of the Nazarene system.

For over a century, we have sought to build the church and send forth Christ followers to further his Kingdom. Our alumni make a difference locally and globally. You see this in churches and when you visit other parts of the world. PLNU graduates have been and are pastors, church leaders, entrepreneurs, technology innovators, company executives, hospital leaders, nurses, medical doctors, missionaries, celebrated artists, professional athletes, and makers of strong homes and families.

Together with the Church of the Nazarene, our calling is to make Christ like disciples, to bring light to an often-polarized world. In this, we remain focused and steadfast. Together, we will continue to stand against that which is done in darkness and call forth that which demonstrates God's unconditional love, freedom, and truth. We invite you to join with us in this journey of faith and in our commitment to the Church of the Nazarene, and to God's call upon us to be the body of Christ fulfilling the purposes of God.

Positively,



Bob Brower, President
Point Loma Nazarene University