

Greetings!

Our Savior taught us that to be an effective leader one must first be a willing servant. Thus, we at Covenant believe that Christianity establishes the dignity of labor, and the Reformed faith in particular, emphasizes our duty to serve God by serving His church and His world in a variety of callings. As Christian brothers and sisters, we are all part of the body of Christ and, as such, each has different responsibilities to that body. Covenant College needs you to help us build our college to God's glory. Thus, to this end, Covenant College has implemented the Practical Service Program (see I Corinthians 12, especially verses 12-27). The Practical Service Program is to reflect the college's Statement of Purpose. The purpose of the program is threefold:

1. To further develop our identity in Christ as individuals and as His body.
2. To learn and apply a Biblical frame of reference (thoughts and attitudes).
3. To serve as Christ would serve (actions).

These threefold goals should benefit the community by providing necessary services to members of the college and larger Chattanooga community and assisting the college in holding down operating costs as a means of good stewardship of the college's (and your) resources. It is estimated that practical service saves the college almost one million dollars during a student's four years at Covenant. In an effort to control our costs and thereby promote such savings, students are encouraged to budget their time so that they are able to complete an average of two hours each week. All freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are required to complete 15 hours per semester, and most freshmen are assigned to work either in the facilities or athletic departments. Sophomores and juniors usually work in academic areas, athletics, or with off-campus ministries.

Once notified of your practical service assignment, your supervisor will assist you in setting up a suitable work schedule. Your supervisor will confirm your assignment by the end of the first week of classes. If, however, by the end of your first week of classes, such confirmation is still pending, you should plan on contacting the Student Development office to confirm your practical service assignment as well as the name of your assigned supervisor. Also, because of the importance of this service requirement, failure to complete assigned hours will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Practical Service Handbook.

The Practical Service Program at Covenant College is directed by the Office of Student Development in adherence with College standards and policies, as well as any applicable local, state, or federal regulations. Student Development is responsible for the oversight of the formulation, administration, and enforcement of all practical service program policies and procedures. The "Practical Service Handbook" is available on Covenant College's website. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the information contained therein. Any questions regarding the Practical Service Program should be directed to the Office of Student Development at 706-419-1107 or [practicalservice@covenant.edu](mailto:practicalservice@covenant.edu), or go to [http://www.covenant.edu/pdf/admissions/trad/practical-service\\_info.pdf](http://www.covenant.edu/pdf/admissions/trad/practical-service_info.pdf).

Developing a Christ-centered worldview is the ability to put your beliefs into action. A Christ-centered education will always find itself linked with service, which is also the link that connects the two Great Commandments given to us by Christ in the New Testament: love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves. Our desire is that you will see the educational benefit of our Practical Service Program as an opportunity and challenge which the Lord will use to grow you into the image of His son that "in everything, He might have preeminence" (Colossians 1:18). We are looking forward to serving Christ by serving others with you.

**Julie Moore**  
**Director of Student Life**  
**Covenant College**