

APPENDIX X.

THE MISSION OF PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

Pepperdine University is an independent, Christian University, enrolling about 6,500 students in four colleges and schools. Administrative headquarters for the University are located at Malibu, California. In addition to the educational programs offered on the University's 819-acre campus overlooking the ocean at Malibu, the University conducts a European program in its own facilities in Heidelberg, West Germany, and London, England, and offers classes in several educational centers in the metropolitan Los Angeles area.

The University was founded in 1937 by Mr. George Pepperdine, a Christian businessman who established and developed the Western Auto Supply Company. For the first thirty years of its life, the institution was a small, mostly undergraduate college. In 1970, as the institution added graduate and professional schools, it became Pepperdine University. In 1972, the University opened its new campus at Malibu. The development of this campus and the establishment of Seaver College were made possible by a most generous gift from Mrs. Frank Roger Seaver. Donations from many friends of the University were important in the construction of the buildings at Malibu and in supporting the curriculum.

Mr. Pepperdine's original statement of purpose is still the guiding principle of the University: "Therefore, as my contribution to the well-being and happiness of this generation and those that follow, I am endowing this institution to help young men and women prepare themselves for a life of usefulness in this competitive world and to help them build a foundation of Christian character and faith which will survive the storms of life."

The most distinctive feature of Pepperdine University is the fact that it maintains a serious commitment to a rigorous academic program in concert with concern for spiritual matters. It does not profess to be a church or a religious body, but recognizes its role as an educational institution, albeit one with a distinctive and unique heritage and mission.

Pepperdine University, like Mr. George Pepperdine and many others who have invested their lives and their fortunes in the University, maintains a commitment to the value of human freedom, whether this be expressed in economic, intellectual, or political activity. The University maintains that this freedom is the fruit of man's spiritual nature and that it is precisely because humankind is created in the image of God that human freedom is of such inestimable value.

The University is keenly aware that its existence is the result of a free economic market system which has produced an abundance of goods and resources to be shared with others and to lessen the amount of want and misery in the world. This does not equate an individual's spiritual commitment or religion with democracy, a free market economic system or any other human form of organizing activity. But it does hold that all freedoms are interdependent and that they are based on a genuine commitment to the priority of spiritual concerns.

While committed to the maintenance of its distinctive heritage, the University recognizes that its mission is educational and that its commitment to its distinctive heritage must not become an excuse for academic inferiority. It is the aim of the institution to seek excellence in all of its academic programs.

The University is committed to continuing the trend of the past several years in elevating the quality of students admitted, in providing faculty compensation that will be competitive and therefore attractive to high-quality faculty, and in providing the support the faculty needs to achieve the educational objectives of the institution. While certain important features of the physical plant remain to be constructed, such as an administration building, the major thrust of the current decade will be the strengthening of academic programs.

The University's affirmation of its Christian purpose and the influence of its heritage manifest themselves uniquely in the governing structure established by Mr. Pepperdine. Consistent with the autonomous congregational structure of the Churches of Christ, of which he was a lifelong member, Mr. Pepperdine stipulated that special emphasis be given to Christian values and faith while establishing an institution free of direct ownership and control by an ecclesiastical body.

In keeping with the founder's provisions, the University's governing authority is vested in a self-perpetuating Board of Regents. Formal legal relationships between the church and the University reside in the controls vested in the Board of Regents, a majority of whom must be members of the Churches of Christ. In addition, members of the governing board also represent a diversity of community and professional interests who are in harmony with and supportive of the University's heritage. Stewardship of the University's mission has been entrusted to men and women of proven character, wisdom, and purpose.

The maintenance of the church relationship and the authority of the Regents are set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Pepperdine University's mission is to provide education of excellent academic quality within the context of its Christian heritage and with particular attention to Christian values. The heart of the educational life of Pepperdine University is Seaver College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences, with its strong program of general education. The liberal arts curriculum encourages the development of academic competencies that include a knowledge of the heritage of the past, an appreciation of science, a development of the aesthetic senses, and the ability to solve problems in the light of available information. The interdisciplinary structure of Seaver College is designed to integrate Christian values into the total curriculum and to unify knowledge around Christian truth. General, pre-professional and professional programs include training in business, communications, education, fine arts, religion and philosophy, humanities and teacher education, law, natural sciences, and social sciences.

The professional schools are regarded as logical extensions of the priorities established in the liberal arts college. Business administration, a discipline particularly advocated by the founder, and education, a subject area which from the beginning has offered the opportunity of providing service to the community, are emphasized respectively in two of the schools of the University. The program in law represents a furtherance of the school's commitment to engage in the serious study of human relations and values.

Pepperdine University places great emphasis on teaching. In recent years, the importance of research has come to be acknowledged, and the institution is giving greater emphasis to research on the part of the faculty as a fundamental methodology for improving the quality of teaching while contributing to the body of information and knowledge available to society.

Community service is regarded as highly important, and a variety of educational and cultural programs are offered to the community. It is the philosophy of the institution, however, that its greatest services to the community are provided in the lives of its graduates.

Constituents served by the University are drawn from most of the states of the United States and approximately sixty foreign countries. Students represent a wide variety of religious and ethnic backgrounds. The University welcomes the diversity of its student population and seeks to provide an atmosphere in which the whole person--physical, social, intellectual, and spiritual--is developed.

The extraordinary natural beauty and almost rural setting of the campus in Malibu make it an ideal place for study, contemplation, and the development of social awareness. The close proximity to the urban metropolitan community of Los Angeles provides a vital link to the challenges of modern life. The relevance and attractiveness of the University's programs are demonstrated by the number and quality of applicants and by the enthusiastic financial support offered by the community.

Faculty members must be persons of high ethical and moral standards and are selected because of their academic qualifications and their promise of success as teachers. They are also chosen with a view to their willingness to support the distinctive philosophy of the institution and to work within it. In the recruitment and selection of faculty, the quality of academic preparation, acceptance of Christian values, and respect for the University's heritage are paramount considerations.