

Bethel University Day is November 6

On Sunday, November 6, we will celebrate Bethel University Day in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Bethel has a history of uniqueness. Bethel University is the only undergraduate higher education institution affiliated with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Founded as Bethel College in 1842, it is one of the oldest higher education institutions in the State of Tennessee. Bethel began admitting female students in 1872, much earlier than many of its peer institutions.

During the 20th century, Bethel College made a name for itself as an outstanding church-affiliated school producing many graduates headed for the clergy, for the classroom as educators, and many other career paths. In more recent years, the university has been an innovator, pioneering online education with its adult degree programs. Bethel was also the first college in Tennessee to offer a laptop initiative where each full-time student would be provided with a laptop computer.

Since then, Bethel has continued to innovate. The Renaissance Performing Arts Experience was developed to offer performing arts students scholarships, much like the scholarships awarded to student-athletes. This opportunity broadened the base of prospective students as did the introduction of a number of non-traditional athletics programs, including inline roller hockey, bowling, and bass fishing.

In 2009, the Bethel Board of Trustees voted unanimously to change Bethel College's name to Bethel University to best reflect the momentum the school was experiencing. Bethel's momentum has no signs of stopping. Students continue to make Bethel their home away from home as they build their futures while enriching their spiritual lives. Bethel graduates serve as leaders in churches, government, businesses, and communities across the country.

Bethel University invites all CP church members to become part of the life of your University. Visit the campus, follow the University on social media, and stay in touch.

On Bethel University Day, we will take up a special offering to send to Bethel to support the University's mission of providing opportunities for students to develop to their highest potential Intellectually, spiritually, and socially in a Christian environment.