**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Shorter College is to provide accessible, affordable, high quality education for students to accomplish their academic and career goals, by offering programs that meet the learner’s need in a challenging and nurturing Christian environment.

**STATEMENT OF CORE VALUES AND STANDARDS**

“Shorter Colleges Core Values are foundational to the mission. These central and enduring values define, inform, and guide the philosophy and practices of the College.

We hold the following core values, adopted by the Board of Trustees and followed by college administration, faculty, staff, and students to be the foundation of our identity as a community:

**Faith**

We value faith and learning as inescapably linked and that an exploration of faith and religion is essential to education.

**Integrity**

We value mutual respect, honor the dignity of each individual and foster a civil and ethical environment. We will be fair, honest and ethical and assume responsibility for our actions in all dealings with and on behalf of the college. Shorter College will never knowingly mislead or deceive members of the college community, its various publics, or stakeholders. The college will practice transparency in all of its dealings. The college will represent its programs and services fairly and accurately. We value learning and a working environment that encourages and supports open sharing of information, empowerment and shared responsibility for decision-making, and a culture that emphasizes continuous improvement and growth. We believe in the sanctity of the individual in the mutually supportive community of a small college. We believe in a focus on each person as an individual with inherent worth. We will work in partnership with one another, encouraging broad participation and active engagement of all, to build a sense of shared purpose about the importance and value of the College.

Shorter College is committed to the principle of academic freedom as it seeks to carry out its teaching and learning programs. Scholarly investigation is encouraged through research. Faculty, administrators, and students are responsible for upholding the high morals and ethical standards of academic honesty.
Learning
We value and encourage innovation, creativity and commitment in achieving and sustaining a quality educational environment through continuous improvement.

We believe that learning is best based on open inquiry and the liberal arts. We value learning as a lifelong process and strive to adapt and be responsive to new challenges and opportunities. We will conscientiously strive for excellence in our programs and services as well as foster a commitment to the highest standards in all areas of the College’s mission.

Inclusiveness
We value others and ourselves as unique individuals and celebrate both our commonalities and differences. We promote open communications, ongoing collaboration and the free exchange of ideas. We respect diversity and strive to reflect the communities that the College serves and to enrich our understanding and appreciation of different people, cultures, and ideas.

Service
We seek non-violent resolution of conflict and just treatment of the world’s resources, both human and physical. We believe we are called to educate morally and ethically responsible citizens of a pluralistic society. To this end, we are guided by the idea of service. We value social responsibility; seek non-violent resolution to conflict and hold ourselves accountable for the efficient and effective use of the human, physical and fiscal resources entrusted to us.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Shorter College is an African Methodist Episcopal Church sponsored school and is shaped by the Methodist traditional understanding of sin, grace, and the possibility of full salvation for Christ-like living. Shorter College embraces the equality, dignity and worth of all persons and endeavors to be a campus community that reflects both the unity and diversity of the body of Christ.

We believe that there is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the Maker and Preserver of all things, both visible and invisible. In unity of this God-head, there are three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the God-head and manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided; whereof is one Christ, very God and very Man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for the actual sins of men.

We believe that Christ did truly rise again from the dead and took again his body with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he returns to judge all men at the last day.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son is of substance, majesty, and glory with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God.

We believe that the Holy Scriptures contained all things necessary to salvation; and that the bible is the inspired word, infallible and authoritative word of God.
By my Signature below, I, ________________________________

(print name)

affirm that I have read, understand and will respect the Biblical Foundations of Shorter College.

Signature______________________________ Date______________________________