



Dear OU and OUAA Family, Friends and Supporters,

God First! – the motto of our beloved Alma Mater, issues a mandate to all who represent Oakwood University to ensure that the image of God is stamped upon our words and actions.

Today, we received reports from parents of their students, graduating seniors, who are becoming physically ill due to the additional stress of this public battle launched against the Oakwood University Alumni Association by the Oakwood University administration and Oakwood University Board. Additionally, if we continue this toxic, public debate, we are jeopardizing the viable future of our beloved institution.

It was never our intent for recent events to be aired publicly. Our original February 15/16, written agreement with university administration to meet after Homecoming 2018 to develop an MOU for SACSCOC compliance still stands. We are prayerfully awaiting a response. As soon as we are able, we will also move forward with our April 1 vote to establish a joint non-board member OU and OUAA committee to work on a proposal to heal and restore our relationship.

TODAY, we have decided to take a stand and say, GOD FIRST!!! We ask our members and supporters to cease the public forum and social media debates on our behalf. If you have unanswered questions, please review the facts in our Legal Notices at www.oakwoodalumni.org or email us at contact@oakwoodalumni.org. Rest assured, that we will continue to vigorously advocate for the existence, growth, and sustainability of the Oakwood University Alumni Association – 92 years strong and growing! We are a legally independent organization.

We are also a prayerful organization that firmly believes that God is in control. Our goal is and always has been to support the university that we have known and loved for over 92 years. Our primary mission is to support Oakwood students who matriculate through the hallowed halls and grounds of our beloved school.

We deeply regret all the circumstances that led to the three years non-filing of our Form 990 income reports. Moving forward, we pledge increased accountability through strong policies and procedures and retaining an external CPA firm to oversee all financial reporting and audits. Your trust and support are important to us!

From Dr. Cynthia Powell-Hicks: I would like to sincerely apologize for my remark concerning Adventist CPAs that I made during our Facebook live round table. I recognize that my statement was offensive to Adventist CPAs. That was NOT my intent. As President of OUAA, I represent the entire Oakwood University Alumni community. That statement IS NOT a true representation of my heart. I additionally recognize that Oakwood University Alumni represent some of the finest people in every profession. Please accept my sincere apology.

From this point forward, we will be returning to our primary mission of raising funds to ensure that students in need of financial clearance WILL receive assistance as they have done for the past three years. We promise to work prayerfully and diligently to achieve our goal and we invite you to join us in these efforts. Students may apply for scholarships on our website. If we are prevented from sending awards to student accounts, we will issue these funds directly to you and your parent/guardian/sponsor, for education-related expenses only, and they can send it to your account.

May God continue to bless your Oakwood University Alumni Association, and may God bless our beloved Alma Mater, Oakwood University.

April 24, 2018, OUAA Board of Directors