

Presbyterian and Pluralist Statement

We affirm Queens' ties, established at our founding in 1857, with the **Presbyterian Church (USA)**. This tradition has embedded core values such as service, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to the common good in Queens' DNA. Thus the **Queens community** promotes the **civic good** by **fostering knowledge** and **nurturing relationships** among people of different **religious and philosophical world views**. This **pluralistic approach** lies at the heart of the transformative educational experience Queens provides.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA): The Presbyterian Church is anchored in the Reformed tradition, which is marked by historical, theological, and institutional commitments to education for the common good and the dignity of all people. Thus, our pluralistic approach is because of our heritage, not in spite of it.

QUEENS COMMUNITY: Our community is student-centered, diverse, and inclusive of all people. Thus, our faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners nurture the student journey through transformative encounters across all kinds of difference—including religious and philosophical world views.

CIVIC GOOD: The Queens education equips students—in the classroom, on campus, and beyond—to care for the world to which we belong. Our motto, "Not to be served, but to serve," connects this goal to Christian tradition while promoting service that extends to all people.

FOSTERING KNOWLEDGE: As an academic institution, we value both appreciative inquiry and critical appraisal as we explore core teachings (book knowledge) as well as the diverse human expression of those world views (personal and socio-political knowledge).

NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS: At Queens, we affirm the deeply relational nature of learning, which extends beyond academic instruction. Campus organizations such as Belk Chapel, the Stan Greenspon Center, and DICE (Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement), help build bridges of understanding and cooperation across different world views.

RELIGIOUS AND PHILOSOPHICAL WORLD VIEWS: Members of the Queens community understand "ultimate concerns" in diverse ways. Many find life's meaning through religious world views, while others do not. Our life together, both at Queens and in the wider world, depends on our ability to probe and reflect on our common humanity, in light of shared and disparate views.

PLURALISTIC APPROACH: Religious pluralism goes beyond mere tolerance to promote conversation and collaboration across difference. By understanding others on their own terms, we appreciate both our common values and our distinctive convictions. Pluralism enables us to value one another, to work together, and to disagree well.