Our History

The rich heritage and unique mission of Kuyper College can be traced to its founding in 1939 as Reformed Bible Institute (RBI). RBI had a very clear focus as an institution to provide solid training in the Bible and preparation for ministry or service. This institution would meet unmet needs within the local community by filling a niche and providing an education in a setting that was neither a liberal arts college nor a seminary.

In 1970, after an almost five year redesign of curriculum and programs, the Department of Education of the State of Michigan gave the School the right to confer a four-year Bachelor degree. As a result, RBI changed its name to RBC – Reformed Bible College. Students came for reasons of personal spiritual enrichment, focused study toward a specific ministry, and development of skills for serving in volunteer roles in the church or service agencies. RBC established the requirement that all four-year graduates would have a major in Bible and Theology as well as a major in their career exit track. Even then – and continuing through today – the College was concerned that its education not be isolated from practical experience; internship opportunities became an important part of the student experience.

In 1995, RBC received North Central Association accreditation, setting the College on the road to higher academic standards to prepare leaders for the church. And in 1997, RBC was granted authority to offer a Bachelor of Science degree, moving the College toward broader ministry, vocational, and ministry-related professional offerings.

Most recently, on April 20, 2006, as a reflection of our mission and vision, and in response to global needs and our strategic priorities, the College restated its position and changed its name from Reformed Bible College to Kuyper College. Our emphasis continues to be on ministry and service vocations. However, we have progressed from being a Bible college to a ministry-focused Christian leadership college. This “mission-enabling” term accurately describes the unique mission and vocational programs of the College – training church leaders for ministry around the world. This term also completely integrates with our Reformed worldview and with today’s students who desire a well-rounded biblical and vocational college experience that sees all of life as being instrumental in discovering God’s glory, communicating these truths to others, and honoring the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The College continues to build on the strong foundation established first as RBI, and later as RBC. We have moved from being an institute of Bible, Theology, Evangelism, and Missions to being a Christian Leadership College rooted in developing and applying a Reformed Worldview in every area of life and seeing every vocation as a Christian vocation. Today, Kuyper College has a total enrollment of over 300 students and offers a wide variety of degree programs and 16 study abroad opportunities. Each one intentionally designed to meet our students’ desire to be the “heart and hands” of Christ. The College seeks to place graduates in ministry and professional areas of leadership around the world to meet the spiritual and social challenges that exist today. This is the essence of our purpose – the essence of our identity to bring God’s grace into today’s culture.
Our Mission

Kuyper College equips students with a biblical, Reformed worldview to serve effectively Christ’s church and His world.

Our Vision

With the principal goal to equip Christians to be transformational leaders who – instilled with a firm faith in God’s grace and a commitment to follow His call – effectively serve His church and advance His kingdom throughout the world, the Kuyper community establishes the following vision:

As a college committed to a biblical, Reformed worldview, Kuyper College will be a unique, vital, and engaging learning community, characterized by innovation and excellence in its programs and educational partnerships.

- We will enroll increasing numbers of academically prepared and motivated ministry and service-focused students, and in the Reformed tradition, empower each person to discern their spiritual gifts, mature in the understanding of who they are in Christ and live a vibrant and fruitful life of ministry and service to others.
- We will provide extraordinary levels of personal attention to our students.
- Our faculty will remain committed to outstanding teaching and scholarship.
- We will enhance our reputation as a leading ministry-focused Christian leadership college that prepares its graduates for successful lives of service and ministry-focused endeavors throughout the world.
Core Values

Primacy of Scripture
We believe that the Bible is the Word of God and must guide our teaching, philosophy, life-style, and response to our ministry or vocational calling.

Biblical Worldview
We believe history is directed and controlled by God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – toward the accomplishment of God’s purposes for all creation. Education at Kuyper College is conducted within the framework of a biblical worldview from which students can assimilate, synthesize, and respond to situations of life and learning.

Reformed Doctrine
We understand and apply our faith and worldview according to the teachings of the Bible as summarized in the Heidelberg Catechism, the Canons of Dort, the Belgic Confession, and the Westminster Standards.

Academic Excellence
We emphasize the importance of cultivating the mind as primary in providing quality, Christian higher education.

Holistic Development
We strive to form world-class citizens who are academically, spiritually, socially, and morally discerning, just, and merciful leaders in church and society.

Caring Community
We actively work toward a campus environment, denominationally and ethnically diverse in nature, where mentoring, mutual care, accountability, and encouragement are characteristic of students, faculty, and staff.
Facts at a Glance

**Enrollment** (Fall 2013)
- Headcount: 291
- Full Time Equivalent: 272.47
- Women: 52%  
  Men: 48%
- Out-of-State Students: 10.3%
- Minority Students: 11%
- International Students: 6%

**Faculty**
- Student to Faculty Ratio: 15 to 1
- Average Class Size: 16
- Full Time Faculty: 14
- Faculty with terminal degree: 9

**Countries Represented**
Canada, China, Dominican Republic,  
Egypt, El Salvador, Ireland, Kenya,  
New Zealand, Nigeria, Slovenia,  
South Korea, Sweden, USA

**Average ACT Composite:** 23

**Average HSGPA:** 3.3

**First-to-Second Year Retention:** 79%

**Six-Year Graduation Rate:** 48%  
(four year average)

**Costs** (2014-15)
- Tuition & Fees: $18,984
- Room & Board: $6,600
- Total: $25,584

**Finances**
- Annual Budget: $8.2 million
- Endowment: $7.3 million
- Average Annual Giving: $1.1 million

**Athletics**
- NCCAA Midwest Regional Conference
  - Division II
- Women’s Basketball, Men’s Basketball,  
  Men’s Soccer, Women’s Volleyball,  
  Men’s Cross Country, Women’s Cross Country

**Accreditation**
- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools  
  (HLC/NCA)
- Association for Biblical Higher Education(ABHE)  
  Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
Job Title: Senior Development Representative  
Department: Advancement  
Reports To: Vice President for College Advancement  
FLSA Status: Exempt

Summary: This position is accountable for identifying, cultivating and soliciting support for the College, maintaining a portfolio of major gift donors and prospects, and participating in a donor stewardship plan.

Duties and Responsibilities include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

- Build relationships and secure major gift support for the College through personal visits with a portfolio of donors and prospective donors, including individuals, businesses/corporations, churches, and foundations.
- Communicate the needs of the College, and encourage current or planned gifts to the College annual fund, special funds (i.e. scholarship or project) and the operating endowment.
- Identify potential donors and effectively use available resources for prospect research and giving capacity assessment.
- Work with the Advancement Office staff to help meet established fund development goals of the College and participate in department planning activities.

Qualifications: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required.

- **Education and Experience** – This position requires:
  - A Bachelor’s degree (B.A.) from a four-year college or university, and two to five years of related experience and/or training – or equivalent combination of education and experience.
  - Excellent oral and written communication and organizational skills.
  - Knowledge of current and planned giving rules and methods.

- **Skills and Assets**: This position requires the ability to:
  - Solicit financial donations from companies or individuals.
  - Regularly negotiate gifts and transactions.
  - Write proposals.
  - Interpret Kuyper policies in situations requiring judgment and persuasion.
  - Handle highly sensitive and/or confidential information.
- Use internet software, database software, spreadsheet software and word processing software with confidence.
- Solve problems and deal with a variety of variables in situations where only limited standardization exists.
- Work well independently and in a team setting.
- Provide exemplary service to donors, alumni, employees, and members of the community.

A Senior Development Representative of Kuyper College will join a community that is marked by a commitment and calling to serve Christ and His church. Knowledge of, appreciation for and an ability to integrate a Reformed worldview in stewardship and fundraising programs at Kuyper College are essential for this position.

Kuyper College is an equal opportunity, non-discriminatory employer, and is committed to diversity within its community.

More information can be found at www.kuyper.edu/developmentrepresentative. Applicants may send their résumé and cover letter to Ken Capisciolto, Vice President for College Advancement, at:

Mr. Ken Capisciolto  
Kuyper College  
3333 East Beltline NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Or by email at DevelopmentJobs@kuyper.edu.
KUYPER COLLEGE

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

I. Kuyper College affirms the following core confession in common with the early creeds of the church and with other evangelical Christians:

1. **God:** We believe that God has revealed himself through the creation, the events of redemptive history, the scriptures and his incarnate Son, to be the living and true God, who is infinite, eternal, unchangeable and perfect in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth. While he is one in essence, he nevertheless exists eternally in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is the sovereign Creator who has made all things, who created the world out of nothing and who by his providence sustains, rules over, cares for and provides for all that he has made.

2. **Scripture:** We believe that the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired, infallible and inerrant word of God, our final and sufficient authority in all matters of faith and practice.

3. **Humanity:** We believe that human beings, both male and female, are created in the image of God, as the crown of creation, to have fellowship with God and to rule, under God, over the world that God had made. However, our first parents, Adam and Eve, willfully rebelled against and disobeyed God. As a result of the fall, everyone is born both guilty and corrupt, and in need of salvation.

4. **Jesus Christ:** We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who became human, and who was, and continues to be, both fully divine and fully human in one person. He also saves his people from their sin and reconciles them to God by uniting them to his perfect life, sacrificial death and bodily resurrection. Having ascended into heaven, from there he continues to intercede for his people and to rule over the church and world as Lord over all.

5. **The Holy Spirit:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Triune God, who regenerates sinners, indwells believers, enables them to grow in grace, to live godly lives and who gives believers spiritual gifts to use to minister to the church and the world.

6. **Salvation:** We believe that Christians are justified by grace through faith on the basis of the finished work of Christ who satisfied divine justice and removed the condemnation they deserved, so that they might live a life of gratitude to God for so great a salvation. In this state they are kept in Christ by the power of God.
7. **The Church:** We believe that God, by his Word and Spirit, creates one church consisting of both Old Testament and New Testament believers who are saved by grace through faith. God calls sinners out of the whole human race into the fellowship of Christ’s body in which the Holy Spirit dwells. The church is called by Christ to offer acceptable worship to God, to serve him by preaching the gospel and making disciples of all nations, to provide daily pastoral care and to relieve human distress and need.

8. **Prayer:** Following the teachings of the Lord’s Prayer and other Scriptures, we believe that, just as God speaks to us through the Scriptures, he has also given us the gift, privilege and responsibility of prayer so that we are to speak to the Father through the name of Christ and with the assistance of the Holy Spirit. Through prayer we draw near to God in communion and in confidence as his children; embrace a jealousy for God’s name, will and kingdom; confess our sin, express gratitude and praise for his mercies and offer our needs and desires to him.

9. **Christ’s Return:** We believe that Christ is ruling now over the Church and the world through his Word and Spirit and that God’s redemptive purposes will be completed when Christ one day returns to judge the living and the dead and to usher in the New Heaven and the New Earth.

II. **While many Christians affirm the above truths, we affirm them from within the Reformed theological tradition developed and articulated within the confessions of the Protestant Reformation, and reflected in the following beliefs:**

1. **The Sovereignty of God.** We affirm that God is sovereign over all and that there is nothing that takes place, either great or small, that is outside of God’s control or purpose, including the application of salvation. We also affirm that grace is given by God himself, as understood in the classic Reformed concepts of total depravity, unconditional election, limited or definite atonement, irresistible grace and the perseverance or preservation of the saints.

2. **The Sacraments.** We believe that the Lord has given two sacraments to the church: baptism and the Lord’s Supper. These sacraments (1) distinguish the church from the world, (2) are outward signs of what ought to be the inward reality of the people of God and (3) certify that God will be faithful to his covenant promises. Since we regard baptism as a sign of God’s faithfulness rather than of personal faith, we believe it is biblical to apply baptism both to believers and to their children. Further, the Lord’s Supper is a means of grace to strengthen and renew Christians for their journey of growing in Christ.

3. **Church Government.** We believe that the best way to promote unity within the church today is to encourage churches to be biblically ordered, actually connected to each other and mutually submissive. We believe this unity is best achieved in practice by establishing confessional churches organized according to the Presbyterian (“ruled by elders”) form of government described in the New Testament.

4. **Spiritual Gifts.** We believe that with the giving of the Holy Spirit, God has equipped every member of the body of Christ with spiritual gifts of ministry which are to be used to
strengthen the body and help it grow and mature. Specifically, the purpose of the gifts is to witness to the grace of God in Jesus Christ, to confirm the Word, to edify the church and to glorify God.

5. **Understanding of the Moral Law.** While we believe that no one can be justified by keeping the law and that it is wrong to attempt to do so, we also affirm that the law is nevertheless holy and just and good. Its proper purpose and use is (1) to convict of sin and drive us to the grace of God in the gospel, (2) to restrain sin in the church and world by educating the conscience and (3) to instruct us how we ought to live a life of gratitude to God for the salvation freely offered in Christ.

6. **Christian Liberty or Liberty of Conscience.** We affirm that the written word of God provides all that is necessary for faith and holy living, and that the consciences of Christians are to be bound only by the word of God and not by human regulations. We also recognize that we are free to limit or even surrender our Christian liberty for the sake of a greater good, and that there may be times that we ought to do so.

7. **Principles of Worship.** As Christians who hold to a Reformed theological perspective, we believe that public worship is an essential component of Christian living. This takes place in the gathering together of believers according to the scripture and by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to hear the word of God, to observe the sacraments and to respond to the Triune God in prayer, praise, song and the giving of offerings. Furthermore, we believe that God has given us the Lord’s Day as a day of rest from our usual labors and a day when we can be physically and spiritually refreshed by rest and worship. Finally, we believe Reformed worship has both a tradition it observes and an openness to contemporary expression.

8. **Eschatology:** We believe that at the end of history the dead will be raised, and believers will rise from the earth to welcome the descending Christ as he returns to judge all people. The unrighteous will suffer eternal and complete separation from God in hell. The righteous in Christ will enjoy the blessings of the presence of God forever and will live and reign with God forever in the New Heaven and New Earth. The creation will be set free from its bondage to decay and the whole earth will proclaim the glory of God. This position accommodates several traditional views of the millennial reign of Christ including historic pre-millennialism, classic postmillennialism and a-millennialism.

In addition to subscribing to this basic statement of faith, and in those areas not covered by it, Kuyper College adheres to the tenets of the historic Reformed faith as expressed in the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, the Canons of Dort and/or the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms.
III. Kuyper College is a Christian institution of higher education with a strong ministry focus that does not seek to be a local church, but to prepare students for global ministry within and through the church. Its purpose is to extend the Kingdom of God by strengthening the church, having an active part in the evangelization of the whole world and seeking peace and justice in every area of human life. Since our educational mission requires our students to engage their world, in discharge of this mission we affirm the following:

1. **The Commitment to a Christian Worldview.** We are committed to fulfill our educational mission within the framework of a thoroughly biblical worldview which (1) recognizes that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” (2) acknowledges the Lordship of Christ over all of creation and (3) affirms that all vocations are to be considered sacred and discharged to the glory of God.

2. **The Importance of Understanding our World.** We believe that God has called us to assert the Lordship of Christ over all areas and aspects of his world. It is, therefore, important that students develop a Christian perspective on all activities and areas of learning that are part of God’s creation.

3. **The need to interact with non-Christian thought.** Consistent with our mission to prepare our students for a lifetime of service, we believe that it is necessary for them to learn to study, engage and critically evaluate the thoughts, worldviews and activities of others even when those rival viewpoints may be radically opposed to, and strongly critical of, our own beliefs and convictions.

4. **Our educational commitment.** Our educational commitment is to provide students with a depth, scope and quality of learning and experience that are based upon the teachings of scripture as summarized in our doctrinal standards, that promote the development of a Reformed worldview and that prepare them for a life of Christian ministry and service.
KUYPER COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF BELIEF AND ALLEGIANCE

This statement is to be signed at the beginning of each fiscal year (or upon hire, as applicable) by each faculty person, administrator and staff person and by each Trustee at the fall Board of Trustees meeting. The person’s signature below is confirmation of his/her belief in and allegiance to the mission, creeds, confessions and Reformed commitment of Kuyper College as presented in the Kuyper College Doctrinal Statement, version 07.20.09. Copies of this statement are available in the Academic and Business offices of the college and may be viewed on the college’s web site: www.kuyper.edu

Mission Statement

Kuyper College equips students with a biblical, Reformed worldview to serve effectively Christ’s church and His world.

Creeds & Confessions


Reformed Commitment

Trustees, faculty and senior administrators are expected to accept, incorporate and promote the mission, creeds, confessions and Reformed doctrine of Kuyper College, as noted in the Kuyper College Doctrinal Statement, in their work for the college. Staff are expected to understand, respect and support the doctrinal position of the college. Reformed commitment is demonstrated and expressed by and through the employee’s or trustee’s denominational affiliation and church membership. Normally, the Board of Trustees expects employees and its fellow trustees to be attending members in good standing of a Christian Church which subscribes to the Reformed Confessions identified above.

Administration of Policy

Employees and trustees are to note their denominational affiliation and church membership below. It is the responsibility of the employee to inform his/her supervisor (provost or vice president) and of a trustee to inform the Board chairperson of any change made during the current fiscal year. Also, if exception is taken to any element of the Kuyper College Doctrinal Statement or the degree to which the person is expected to subscribe to it, the person will state so in a brief, written form, providing the grounds for his or her position, and attach these to this document. Concerns arising from any of this information will be brought to the attention of the college president for a determination on course of action, if any.

Version 10.23.13
The Board and the administrators of Kuyper College respect a person’s liberty of conscience and they also desire to be embracing and inclusive, when possible, with those of other denominations or faith expressions as we strive to serve the diverse nature of Christ’s church. They also seek to promote and preserve the Reformed curriculum and commitment of Kuyper College. The administration and/or Board may determine that an employee’s or trustee’s denominational affiliation, church membership or that person’s stated exception to the Kuyper College Doctrinal Statement may make that person ineligible for service as a trustee or employee of the college. Faculty tenure status does not provide exception to the administration of this policy. Trustees, faculty and senior administrators may appeal a decision to discontinue employment/association directly to the Board at one of its three annual meetings. The decision of the Board is considered final.

I attend/am a member of ________________________________________________Church.
(Circle one or both)

Denominational Affiliation: ___________________________________________

Statement of Exception attached? Yes No

Signature: ________________________________________ Date: ________________

Reviewed by: ______________________________________ Date: ________________

Copy to president: Yes No