

Proposed revisions to the Bellewood Covenant with the presbyteries of Mid-Kentucky, Transylvania and Western Kentucky as approved by the Bellewood Board of Directors, meeting on July 21, 2005.

Letter, word, or words to be changed or deleted are in ~~strike over format~~

Letter, word, or words to be inserted are in **bold print, underlined , and in ()**.

A COVENANT AMONG THE PRESBYTERIES OF KENTUCKY AND BELLEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this covenant is to define the nature and scope of the relationship between Bellewood Presbyterian Home for Children, Incorporated. (hereinafter called Bellewood) and the Presbyteries of ~~Louisville~~ **(Mid-Kentucky)**, Transylvania and Western Kentucky (hereinafter called the Presbyteries) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

This covenant within the family of God implies the deepest level of trust and commitment among the covenanting parties to one another. It is a living agreement, which offers great scope for creative adaptation to meet changing conditions and is made possible only because of the self-giving love and trust of one another.

II. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

On February 26, 1849, the legislature of the Commonwealth of Kentucky approved the establishment of the "Louisville Orphan's Home Society" under the auspices of the Presbyterians in Kentucky, thus creating the oldest child care agency in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The first location of the home was on Preston Street (then known as Preston Street Plank Road) in Louisville. In 1875 the Home moved to its present location in Anchorage, Kentucky.

Over the years, several name changes occurred. The official corporate name is now Bellewood Presbyterian Home for Children, Incorporated.

In 1973 Bellewood was transferred from the Synod of Kentucky to the three Presbyteries of Louisville **((currently Mid-Kentucky))**, Transylvania and Western Kentucky. The Presbyteries approved a mutual covenant with Bellewood in 1987 and revised that covenant in 1991**(and 2005)**.

III. THE COMMITMENTS OF THE PRESBYTERIES

A. The Presbyteries have commissioned Bellewood to be a witness in the field of child care in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, ministering particularly to the needs of hurting, abused, and "at-risk" children**(, youth, young adults,)** and their families.

B. The Presbyteries agree to provide Bellewood with continuing financial support through such avenues as may be mutually agreed upon by each of the Presbyteries and Bellewood.

C. Each Presbytery promises to elect five (5) members to the Bellewood Board of Directors all of whom shall be active members of the Presbyterian Church. (U.S.A.). These board members shall have access to and be accountable to the Presbytery through its appropriate committee.

D. The Presbyteries pledge to Bellewood the support of their prayers, warm interest, and wise counsel in assisting Bellewood to fulfill its role as an increasingly effective servant in the field of childcare.

E. The Presbyteries agree to provide docket time for interpretation of the Bellewood program.

IV. THE COMMITMENTS OF THE BELLEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN, INC.

The Board of Directors, elected by the Presbyteries of ~~Louisville~~ **(Mid-Kentucky)**, Transylvania, and Western Kentucky, of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), shall be responsible for the management of Bellewood. The Board of Directors shall determine and implement policies which are designed to further the mission which the church has assigned Bellewood. It shall do this by employing the ~~President/Chief Executive Officer~~ **(Executive Director)** to whom shall be entrusted the day-to-day management of the agency.

A. Bellewood Presbyterian Home for Children, Inc., is a child and family service agency in ministry with The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Kentucky.

Bellewood believes in the worth of the family as a unit and in the worth of each individual member of the family.

Bellewood is committed to using its resources, both of money and of people, to meet the needs of families and children. This commitment includes: the restoration of the family when possible, the provision of temporary and extended care, nurture, and training of those children unable to return home, and the assessment of and response to the changing needs of children and families.

~~Bellewood affirms its commitment to quality care to children and families through the mission statement adopted by the Board of Directors, which states:~~

~~Bellewood Presbyterian Home for Children is dedicated, in the spirit of Christ's love, to serve the needs for nurture therapy, and education of those children, adults, and families who need to find the wholeness for which they have been created.~~

Bellewood affirms its commitment to quality care to children and families through the Vision Statement adopted by the Board of Directors (2003), which states: "Reflecting the spirit of Christ's love, Bellewood is dedicated to helping children and their families find the wholeness for which they have been created."

In light of this Vision, and building on more than 150 years as a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Bellewood is committed to the following mission:

- **To be a haven where hurting and abused children can find healing and hope;**
- **To strengthen families through a proactive, preventive approach;**
- **To be effective advocates on behalf of children and families in church and society;**
- **To serve as a premier resource for childcare professionals; and**
- **To nurture opportunities for mission partnerships with Presbyterian congregations and presbyteries of Kentucky.)**

B. Bellewood accepts its role to minister to the needs of hurting, abused, and "at-risk" children and their families in partnership with the Presbyteries.

- C. Bellewood offers protection, care and nurture, and treatment to hurting abused, and "at-risk" children and services to families of such children toward the goal of healing broken family relationships and re-establishing the family as a living unit.
- D. Bellewood shall be ~~basically~~ a child caring(**, child placing,**) and treatment agency providing services for hurting, abused, and "at-risk" children(**, youth, young adults,**) and their families in Kentucky.
- E. The Bellewood Board of Directors shall report annually in writing to the appropriate ~~institutions~~ committee of each of the Presbyteries the progress of its ministry and activities. This report shall include the annual audit.
- F. Bellewood shall be available to interpret its program and to assist congregations and the Presbyteries in the development of their ministry to hurting, abused and "at risk" children(**, youth, young adults,**) and their families.
- G. As part of the ongoing mission effort of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Bellewood shall endeavor to cooperate with and strengthen all other agencies of the denomination, particularly those whose primary mission concerns the safety, nurture, and welfare of children and families.
- H. In addition, Bellewood shall endeavor to function in a collaborative way with other agencies whose mission parallels its own. These agencies may be public or private, or religious or secular.

V. MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS

- A. Each party agrees that Bellewood shall have prior approval of the Presbyteries for any financial campaigns, special offerings, or capital funds drives involving approaches to Sessions and congregations as corporate bodies within the Presbyteries.
1. Individual donors from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) within the bounds of the Presbyteries may be asked to give directly to support Bellewood without prior approval of the Presbyteries.
 2. Presbyteries will encourage churches to consider the 5th Sunday Offering as a way of maintaining financial support of Bellewood. Bellewood will provide promotional materials to assist in interpreting the ministry of Bellewood.
- B. Bellewood shall consult with responsible units of the covenanting Presbyteries about plans concerning the opening of facilities and services in new locations and about interpretation strategies and educational programs related thereto.
- C. Bellewood is encouraged to work in cooperation with the covenanting Presbyteries in developing advocacy strategies on behalf of hurting, abused, and "at-risk" children and their families.
- D. The appropriate committee from each of the Presbyteries will take the initiative to meet with representatives of the staff and the Board of Directors annually.
- E. The Bellewood Board of Directors shall consult with each of the Presbyteries through its appropriate committee concerning any major changes in corporate structure, including but not limited to mergers or dissolution, or changes in services not in conformity with the mission statement contained herein.
- F. Disposition of Property: In the event the corporation abandons its purpose to serve as a home for children or as a child care center, or agency, its assets, real and personal, not otherwise restricted, after payment of all debts of the corporation, shall be conveyed and transferred to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation, or any successor of that Foundation, for use by the General Assembly for the general mission work of the church.

The Bellewood Presbyterian Home for Children, Inc. has been granted 501(c)(3) status by the I.R.S. The previous paragraph is written to carry out the provisions of that section of the I.R.S code which states:

"In the even of dissolution, the resident assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any prior or future law, or to the Federal, State or local government for exclusive public purpose."

The Board of Directors of Bellewood agrees to consult with appropriate representatives of the covenanting Presbyteries in carrying out these requirements.

VI. RATIFICATION AND REVISION

A. This covenant becomes effective upon ratification ~~for~~ **(by)** the Board of Directors of Bellewood and all the Presbyteries. Any proposed amendments, deletions or additions to this covenant agreement will not be in effect until approved by all the covenanting parties.

B. This covenant shall be reviewed by all parties ~~after~~ **(every)** three years. Six months prior to that date, responsible units of the parties to the covenant shall meet to propose needed changes or modifications.

C. Signatures:

Bellewood Presbyterian Home for Children, Inc. Date
President of the Board of Directors

Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky, Moderator of Presbytery Date

Presbytery of Transylvania, Moderator of Presbytery Date

Presbytery of Western Kentucky, Moderator of Presbytery Date