Word from the President

A decade of Sabbath Jubilee

Walla Walla University, in service of its mission and core themes, will pursue a Decade of Sabbath Jubilee—celebrating and sharpening the best of who we are and what God has called us to be: a university offering unparalleled higher education in the context of wholistic, Christian community.

Our Theme: Sabbath Jubilee

The seventh-day Sabbath, with its call to weekly rest and the rhythms of grace, is rooted in the creation story (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11). In Old Testament times, the year of Jubilee was celebrated as a year of rest and release (Leviticus 25:1-17). Jesus powerfully joins Sabbath and Jubilee in a synagogue reading, announcing the arrival of “the year of the Lord’s favor” with good news offered to the poor, liberty to captives and the oppressed, and sight to the blind (Luke 4:16-21).

Together, the board of trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and students will tune our ears to hear this announcement of Sabbath Jubilee by Jesus, exploring and actualizing its meanings for Walla Walla University. Sabbath Jubilee will inform everything we do as we seek the margin, balance and rest it harbors.

Our attention to this theme will be evidenced in five bold commitments:

Sabbath Jubilee Commitment One: Economic Jubilee

Sabbath Jubilee Commitment Two: Excellence in Thought

Sabbath Jubilee Commitment Three: Generosity in Service

Sabbath Jubilee Commitment Four: Beauty in Expression

Sabbath Jubilee Commitment Five: Faith in God

John K. McVay
President
Commitment One: Economic Jubilee

Walla Walla University will pursue, and celebrate, a biblical vision of economic Sabbath Jubilee—a fresh, resource reality marked by the absence of financial debt, the presence of fiscal margin, and the generous investment of funds toward academic innovation and campus life excellence. This economic jubilee will consist of three major objectives:

**Priority One:** Reinvestment. Walla Walla University will adopt a keystone habit of annually deploying the equivalent of 1% of gross tuition income during the 10-year period of economic jubilee. These resources will be reinvested to foster institutional sustainability and academic innovation.

**Priority Two:** Comprehensive Campaign. Walla Walla University will raise $35 million in a comprehensive campaign for the purpose of growing our endowment, renewing our physical campuses, and investing in academic innovation. This fundraising goal shall be realized by the completion of the 2019-2020 school year.

**Priority Three:** Enrollment Management. Walla Walla University will determine an appropriate student population size and strategy. This proactive enrollment management will assist institutional economic predictability and year-to-year stability.
Walla Walla University will pursue, and celebrate, a biblical vision of academic Sabbath Jubilee. Our motivation for all intellectual inquiry is original, and unsurpassed in importance: the Creator made the whole of creation very good. Upon completion of His creation, God invited human beings to join him in an enduring admiration and celebration of His creative excellence: Sabbath Jubilee. In the next decade, in service of this commitment, we shall pursue the following four objectives. This means we will sharpen our identity as a university offering unparalleled higher education in the context of wholistic, Christian community.

**Priority One:** Balance and Wellness. We will ensure that the values of balance and wellness mark our academic life.

**Priority Two:** Student Success. We will design and implement a more structured student success strategy that will feature an invigorated academic advising process and a personal success plan for each undergraduate student.

**Priority Three:** Faculty Excellence. We will develop clear markers of excellence for faculty in teaching, advising, professionalism and scholarship within a framework of heightened accountability and increased remuneration.

**Priority Four:** Innovative Curricula. We will emphasize critical thinking, problem-solving and communication as essential skills by integrating them across the curriculum and student life. Early in this decade, we will redesign all curricula to ensure: 1) Scope of requirements encourages student success; 2) Delivery meets sustainability goals; 3) Curricula are innovative and forward-looking.
Commitment Three: Generosity in Service

Walla Walla University will pursue, and celebrate a biblical vision of humanitarian Sabbath Jubilee. This means all members of our academic community—the board of trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and students will participate in service to our world. Walla Walla University will work to intentionally prepare our students for a lifetime of dedicated service to God, the church, and the world. In the next decade, in service of this commitment, we shall pursue the following three objectives:

**Priority One:** Center for Humanitarian Engagement. Walla Walla University will develop the Center for Humanitarian Engagement for the purposes of defining university-wide expectations for service and developing service opportunities and service learning in both local and global evangelistic and humanitarian work.

**Priority Two:** Signature Service Project. Walla Walla University will develop an institutional-level, long-term service relationship with the community whereby WWU serves its community with a signature project/relationship and become “known” for this endeavor.

**Priority Three:** Low-debt and No-debt Trajectories. Walla Walla University will develop and implement low-debt and no-debt trajectories to help students more easily live as postgraduates in productive service to God, church, and the world.
Commitment Four: Beauty in Expression

Walla Walla University will pursue, and celebrate, a biblical vision of aesthetic Sabbath Jubilee. We will, over the next decade, commit ourselves to these three objectives, three expressions of beauty:

**Priority One:** Campus Beautification. Walla Walla University will beautify its physical campuses with the elimination of all deferred maintenance and the renovation and renewal of existing buildings.

**Priority Two:** Professionalism. Walla Walla University will develop a new professionalism program for all students, including academic and nonacademic experiences, wherein men and women are taught to live, act, and work—to express themselves, as leaders—with beauty, excellence, and grace.

**Priority Three:** Sharing the Arts. Walla Walla University will infuse beauty into the Walla Walla Valley—deploying faculty, staff, and students in an effort to bring the arts to underserved communities, with particular attention to children who enjoy little or no access to music and visual art.
Commitment Five: Faith in God

Walla Walla University will pursue, and celebrate, a biblical vision of faith-focused Sabbath Jubilee, in the tradition of Seventh-day Adventist Christianity. To this end, we commit ourselves to the following three objectives:

**Priority One:** Center for Sabbath Celebration. Walla Walla University will form a Center for Sabbath Celebration. This new entity will promote—within Adventism and beyond—the way a Sabbath-keeping and a Sabbath lifestyle can bring glory to God, and health and beauty to human community.

**Priority Two:** Religious Instruction. Walla Walla University will consider carefully all major religious instruction on our campuses—theology courses, convocations, Sabbath Schools, church services, and other gatherings—to ensure each student has opportunity to consider Christian faith and practice in a thorough and systematic way, and to reflect on philosophical, doctrinal, and behavioral questions relevant to the contemporary world.
The Walla Walla University Campus
Our Mission
Walla Walla University
Seventh-day Adventist Higher Education

Core Themes
We are a community of faith and discovery committed to:
• Excellence in thought
• Generosity in service
• Beauty in expression
• Faith in God

Philosophy
Walla Walla University is founded on Christian teachings and values as understood and appreciated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Central to these teachings is the belief that every person is created in the image of God as a being of inestimable value and worth, imbued with powers of intelligence, stewardship, and creativity akin to those of the Creator. Walla Walla University, therefore, seeks in its mission to foster the unique gifts of every individual within this Christian community of faith and discovery. Committed to excellence in thought, the University seeks to impart a broad knowledge of the arts, sciences, and professions by careful instruction and open inquiry at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Recognizing that God is the source of all truth, goodness, and beauty, the University seeks to convey to students a wisdom that translates academic achievement into responsible citizenship, generous service, a deep respect for the beauty in God’s creation, and the promise of re-creation through Jesus Christ.