

## Statement by Guilford's Board of Trustees

# GUILFORD COLLEGE

January 3, 2025

During the December break and after a series of communications with the Board on prospective strategic and operational changes, President Kyle Farmbry has decided to step down from his role as President of the College. President Farmbry has agreed to continue to serve as an advisor to the Board Chair during the initial transition period. The board of trustees wishes to thank Kyle for three years of service to Guilford at a challenging time, during which he dealt with a number of unexpected crises including the cyberattack in 2022 and growing budget deficits. His initiatives to make Guilford a visible presence and build relationships in greater Greensboro, nationally, and internationally have advanced the college in several ways. He was also instrumental in growing new programs, including our MBA Program, and establishing new and innovative initiatives such as the Presidential Fellows, Guilford Rise (our summer institute for rising high school seniors), the Guilford Dialogues and Conceptualizing Peace forums. In addition, he established a more robust infrastructure that increased Guilford's funding from federal agencies.

Until a new president is chosen, the Board of Trustees will organize the college faculty, staff, students and friends to address the challenges Guilford College faces in the spirit of Quaker problem solving -- with transparency, intensive collaboration and a focus on what makes Guilford unique.

At a board meeting on January 2, 2025, the trustees created two new positions, Acting President and Acting Chief Operating Officer, and a trustee coordinating committee. Board clerk/chair (Jean Parvin Bordewich) will serve as Acting President until a new president is chosen, and trustee Keith Millner will serve as Acting Chief Operating Officer during the transition period. The Coordinating Committee will consist of the Acting President, Acting Chief Operating Officer and trustees Carla Brenner, Paula Sours and Daniel Mosca.

We will be on campus as the new academic semester begins the week of January 6. We will work hands-on and in the spirit of community in the coming months with faculty, staff, students and alumni, many of whom already have proposed solutions to the College's persistent financial challenges. The Coordinating Committee will have authority over and represent the Board on all operational and strategic matters until new presidential leadership is in place. There will be difficult decisions as we align Guilford's current expenses to its current revenue, and achieve compliance with SACSCOC accreditation standards related to financial responsibility and

resources. We intend to make those decisions expeditiously to provide clarity for everyone who might be affected.

I am optimistic and excited about Guilford's future -- but first we must navigate out of our financial difficulties. We have within us the ability and wisdom to change and adapt to the new era that has arrived in higher education and in the world. Together, Guilfordians -- all of us -- will find the way to a vibrant, sustainable future for our very special community.

Respectfully yours,

Jean Parvin Bordewich  
Clerk/Chair  
Guilford College Board of Trustees