

Lives of Significance and Service

**NORTH PARK**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
CHICAGO

***FACULTY/ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATION***

*Where Faith and Learning Meet*

**MISSION AND VISION**

The mission of North Park, as an intentionally Christian university of the Evangelical Covenant Church, is to prepare students for lives of significance and service through liberal arts, professional, and theological education. The vision of North Park, building on our core institutional identity – Christian, urban, multicultural - is to fashion a university of uncommon character and enduring excellence where faith and learning meet.

**CORE VALUES**

- Learning as a gift, joy, and sacred obligation
- Cultivation of the University, including both internal and external constituencies, as an interrelated learning community
- Personal concern for students and devotion to their development as whole persons
- Fidelity to the Christian faith and to our particular heritage in the Evangelical Covenant Church
- Affirmation of racial and ethnic diversity as reflective of the vision of the Kingdom of God
- Engagement of Chicago as our dynamic context for education and service

**DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS**

- Intentionally and Distinctively Christian. North Park faculty and staff integrate Christian faith, values and personal concern for students into the University's academic and co-curricular programs. Aiming at an interactive rather than insular Christian community, North Park draws together Christians from various traditions within the wider Church and admits students into all its academic programs (with the exception of its Seminary) without regard to religious belief.

- Residential Campus in a World-Class City. North Park cherishes its character as a residential learning community in which deep and often life-long personal relationships are formed. All North Park students -- residential and non-residential, traditional and non-traditional -- benefit from the rare combination of the intimacy of a small university campus surrounded by the richness of one of America's great cities. The University integrates traditional classroom study with downtown internships, neighborhood service-learning opportunities and Chicago cultural fare.
- Diverse Campus Community. Founded by Swedish immigrants in 1891 and located in a vibrant, multi-ethnic neighborhood, North Park attracts a broad diversity of students, faculty and staff from the greater Chicago area, across the United States and around the world. Through innovative programs such as its Institute of International and Cultural Studies, the University supports a welcoming environment for all of its people.
- Comprehensive, Undergraduate Liberal Arts Curriculum. The liberal arts provide the foundation of North Park's academic culture. The University is committed to a comprehensive liberal arts undergraduate curriculum through which students gain exposure to the modes of thought and expression distinctive to the various academic disciplines. Contemporary culture is placed in historical context, and familiar truths are critically examined.
- Tradition of Excellence in Professional and Theological Education. The University's theological seminary as well as its graduate and undergraduate professional programs enjoy a growing reputation for excellence. For many students, a foundation in the liberal arts leads naturally to preparation for careers in business, community development, education, health sciences, music, nursing, theology and ministry.
- Educational Focus on the Whole Person. High quality co-curricular programs reflect North Park's commitment to educating the whole person. The University has won five national championships in men's basketball and competes in one of America's strongest NCAA Division III athletic conferences. Music performance groups tour nationally and internationally. Through regular, voluntary chapels, fellowship, prayer, Bible study groups, ministries to the poor and needy, and other services, North Park offers an array of resources to facilitate the spiritual formation of students.
- Church and Community Serving. A primary focus of North Park is the equipping of the Evangelical Covenant Church (our sponsoring denomination) and the wider Church to fulfill the unique calling of proclaiming and living God's good news in Jesus Christ. Through North Park Theological Seminary and other academic and co-curricular programs, the University provides specific preparation for church vocations as well as lay leadership at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Through such initiatives as Urban Outreach, a nationally recognized model of student voluntary community service, the University responds to the needs of its surrounding community and encourages its students to receive their education as a gift from God for the good of others.

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Evangelical Covenant Church, which founded and continues to operate North Park, has its roots in historical Christianity as it emerged in the Protestant Reformation, in the biblical instruction of the Lutheran Church of Sweden, and in the great spiritual awakenings of the nineteenth century. Appreciating this classical Christian heritage and hungering for an ever deeper experience of new life in Christ, Covenanters affirm a number of evangelical emphases. Among these are: the centrality of the scriptures; the necessity of the new birth; the Church as a fellowship of believers; the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the reality of freedom in Christ.

*“Covenant Affirmations”  
The Evangelical Covenant Church*

### **APPLICANT'S RESPONSES**

After reviewing the above statements of the history and mission of North Park University, submit three short essays on the following topics:

1. State your philosophy of education.
2. Describe your faith journey and how it aligns with the mission and values of the university.
3. Write an essay that addresses your understanding, experience and commitment to the three core identities of the university.

Send these statements, with your curriculum vitae, transcripts, and three references (including position titles, address, phone and e-mail) to the chair of the search committee.