

## **Mid-Atlantic Christian University Board of Trustees Policy #15**

SUBJECT: Awarding of Lighthouse Award

DATE: October 2014

REVISED: April 2020

NEXT SCHEDULED REVIEW: Spring meeting of even numbered years, February 2022

APPROVED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: May 2015

Policy for: Mid-Atlantic Christian University

Procedure for: President

Authorized by: Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Issued by: Board of Trustees

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### I. Purpose

The University chooses to recognize and honor the life and work of individuals whose work is of an exceptional nature in any field, vocational or voluntary, over their entire career. In so doing, the University uses the occasion to make a public statement about its mission, its aspirations, and its institutional values. The Lighthouse Award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated superior performance in their chosen fields of endeavor and in their service to society. Individuals who have made unique and significant contributions to the university are eligible for this award.

### II. Policy

The University chooses to present this award for reasons which can be summarized as follows:

1. To recognize superior leadership or achievement in a chosen field of endeavor or in the face of extraordinary circumstances;
2. To acknowledge a selfless spirit of service that has contributed significantly to improving the world, the church, or the individual's particular community;
3. To express appreciation for exceptional generosity that has advanced the vision of Mid-Atlantic Christian University to be a national leader in Christian higher education; or
4. To publicly identify and recognize worthy role models for students, faculty, alumni, and the community to emulate in their own lives.

The recipients of the Lighthouse Award, although chosen for any of the reasons listed above, exemplify Christ-like characteristics of leadership and service. They have been determined to be living role models, working tirelessly for the good of others. The University uses the bestowing of this award to demonstrate and reinforce the importance of taking an active role in serving the Kingdom of God.

The Lighthouse Award is the second highest honor awarded by the University.

At Mid-Atlantic Christian University, such honors are conferred in a public ceremony, most likely in connection with commencement exercises but perhaps at convocation or any other service deemed appropriate. Relating the experiences of Lighthouse Award recipients to students and the entire Mid-Atlantic community serves as reinforcement to the University's efforts to develop in students the knowledge, skills, motivation, and religious and moral convictions that will compel them to join others in addressing critical issues facing society and the church or to devote themselves to selfless service.

### III. Procedure

The Lighthouse Award is awarded by the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the President.

1. Presentation of the candidate's name to the Lighthouse Award Task Force may be made by any member of the Board of Trustees, Foundation Board, or full-time Faculty.
2. Early in the academic year, the President's office will invite nominations for this award. The deadline for submission of all materials related to the nomination will be October 15.
3. Nominations shall be written and should include:
  - a) A biographical statement containing name, address, professional title, place of birth, educational background, employment history, and other significant awards, if any;
  - b) Appropriate written documentation for the nomination, including a list of primary contributions that qualify the individual for the award;
  - c) A minimum of three written references from knowledgeable persons (other than the nominator) in academia or in public or private sectors who are familiar with the nominee's contributions. The letters should speak to the magnitude of the individual's impact in his or her profession and/or community.
4. By November 1, the President will forward complete nomination files that are deemed appropriate for consideration to the chair of the Lighthouse Award Task Force, who will call a meeting. The President is not obligated to forward a nomination.
5. The Lighthouse Award Task Force shall study the candidate's credentials, and, based on the criteria listed above, make a recommendation to the President

regarding the conferral of the award. Nominees receiving a majority vote will be recommended to the President as suitable for the award.

6. The President may
  - a) Reject the nomination, ending all action;
  - b) Endorse the nomination with appropriate comments, and forward the file to the Board of the Trustees; or
  - c) Extend the study.
7. Nominees usually are not persons actively engaged at the University in full-time, contractual, or salaried positions or currently members of University boards, councils, or committees. They may be local, national, or international.
8. This award shall not be awarded in absentia or posthumously except under extraordinary circumstances.
9. Only under exceptional circumstances will the University grant more than one Lighthouse Award during an academic year, and, likewise, the University may choose not to grant this award in any particular year.

**Considerations:**

Those wishing to bestow said honor or charged with the responsibility of doing so should consider the following:

1. The Lighthouse Award should be conferred sparingly lest its worth be diminished. Indiscriminate bestowal exposes the University to demands on behalf of unworthy candidates as well as to a charge of lack of integrity.
2. The bestowal of this award should honor achievement spanning decades rather than acknowledge a candidate's potential for achievement.
3. The university should not restrict the granting of this award to one profession.
4. The award should not be limited to academic attainment, rather, any alumnus having made a significant contribution to the lives of others, including the welfare of Mid-Atlantic Christian University, would be eligible for consideration.
5. Said honor may be received only once by any one person.

**Task Force:**

The Lighthouse Award Task Force is comprised of representatives of the administration, faculty, staff, and alumni. The President is an ex officio member of the committee. The Task Force is usually comprised of the Director of Institutional Advancement and the following, appointed by the President: one faculty member, one staff member, and one member from the Alumni Association. A chairperson will be appointed by the President from among the committee members. The length of service on the task force is determined by the President.

The Task Force conducts its meetings as needed and makes its suggestions to the President by January 15. Because the committee's work is advisory in nature, the deliberations of the committee will remain confidential and reported only to the President.

### **The President and the Board of Trustees**

The President receives the report of the Lighthouse Award Task Force. The President confers with the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees about the nominees. After consulting with the Executive Committee, the President makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The board makes the final decisions on the awarding of the Lighthouse Award and must have a 75 percent majority to present the award.

### **Rescinding the Lighthouse Award**

The University reserves the right to rescind this award from individuals who, through their actions, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees, have brought the University into disrepute. The exercise of these powers shall be rare and may only be taken after thorough consideration of the relevant evidence at an appropriate meeting. The holder of this award should be given a full opportunity to respond to the University's proposed action before a final decision is made.

IV. Published: Policy Manual

V. Reason for Revision

VI. Appendices