

## **Mid-Atlantic Christian University Institutional Policy #18**

SUBJECT: Policy on political activity

DATE: January 2008

REVISED: January 2008; April 2020

NEXT SCHEDULED REVIEW: February even numbered years, February 2022

APPROVED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: October 18, 2013

Policy for: Mid-Atlantic Christian University

Procedure for:

Authorized by: President

Issued by: Board of Trustees

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### I. Purpose

To clarify 1) that the university as an institution may not campaign for or against any candidate for public office and 2) that while employees may engage in political activities, such activities must be conducted entirely on the employee's own time and at the employee's own expense.

Recognizing that political activity can be divisive and may harm relationships with donors, churches, and constituents. The university should be viewed as a neutral entity, not endorsing any political party or candidate.

### II. Policy

The university holds a federal income tax exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (Code). As an organization with this exemption, the university is prohibited from:

1. directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office; and
2. devoting any substantial part of its activities to the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (except as otherwise provided by federal laws or regulations)

### III. Procedure

The university strictly prohibits any employee from engaging in any activity that would cause the university to violate any of these restrictions. These restrictions in no way prohibit an employee's individual political activities, as opposed to political activities on behalf of the university. However, any such individual political activities must be conducted entirely on the employee's own time. University resources (for example, facilities, telephones, copiers, materials, or personnel time) may not be used in connection with those individual political activities.

IV. Published: Policy Manual

V. Reason for Revision

VI. Appendices