



December 6, 2021

President William C. Dudley
Washington & Lee University
204 W. Washington Street
Lexington, VA 24450

**Restoring Lee Chapel
and Its Endowment**

Dear President Dudley:

Pamela Simpson, the distinguished former Washington and Lee professor, for whom a campus building was recently renamed, captured the essence of Lee Chapel, describing it as the “soul of the University.” The University embraced Lee Chapel as “both the heart and soul of the University” and constant reminder of “our core values and historic origins” when it launched in 2006 “A Campaign for Lee Chapel & Museum.” The action taken by the Board of Trustees on June 4, 2021, with your encouragement, to abolish Lee Chapel and subsequent conversion by the University of the donor-restricted “Lee Chapel Endowment” to something now called the “University Chapel Endowment” constitute a breach of trust and disavowal of promises made to the many alumni who responded in good faith to the Campaign and donated to the University with the specific intent to fund the Lee Chapel Museum and Endowment, in perpetuity. This letter will explain why that is so.

The Campaign for Lee Chapel & Museum

Fifteen years ago the Administration enlisted The George Washington Society to spearhead the Campaign for Lee Chapel & Museum. Farris Hotchkiss invited Bill Latture to chair the Honorary Committee for the Campaign for Lee Chapel & Museum. Bill enlisted members of The George Washington Society to serve on the Honorary Committee. Myself and numerous others, including former and future members of the Board of Trustees, responded to the University’s call.

1. The Solicitation Documents

As reflected in correspondence and other solicitation materials disseminated by the Development Office, W & L launched the Campaign to raise \$1 million for a capital budget to implement significant exhibit changes in the Lee Chapel Museum and \$5 million “for an endowment to support Lee Chapel in perpetuity.” (Emphasis added).¹ Over the course of three years the Development Office, with assistance from members of the Honorary Committee, identified, nurtured and solicited prospective donors to the Campaign for Lee Chapel & Museum. One solicitation document prepared and disseminated by the University entitled “Why Endowment” articulated the purposes of the “Lee Chapel Endowment”, including the following:

¹ Letter of Bill Latture to Matt Calvert, December 14, 2006.

Lee Chapel and Museum has never had an endowment. Operating expenses have come from the University's annual revenues. A restricted Lee Chapel and Museum Endowment will insure a base level of support in perpetuity, not subject to the "whim" of a future administration.

Lee Chapel and Museum Capital and Endowment Campaign document dated January 23, 2008 (Emphasis added)(attached as Exhibit 1).

The goals of preserving in perpetuity Lee Chapel and honoring the memory of Robert E. Lee and his contributions to the University were predicates for the campaign and keys to attracting funding from loyal alumni and friends of the University. The campaign description distributed to countless prospective donors explained:

An endowment to secure the financial stability of Lee Chapel & Museum on the campus of Washington and Lee University is essential. The historic building is both the heart and soul of the University and stands to remind us of our core values and historic origins. It is these values, which are manifest in our honor system and in speaking tradition, that make us unique among our peers. It is also these same values of honor and integrity that our visitors can appreciate long after they leave Lee Chapel. Without a strong endowment we risk the preservation of one of our most precious gems – a sacred place where we fulfill our mission of external education and hold occasions of gravity and dignity.

Lee Chapel & Museum promotes the value of learning and the virtues of character, leadership and social responsibility by interpreting the history of Washington and Lee University; the contributions of our institution's namesakes to our country; and their respective visions of education as the basis for nation-building and nation-healing. We support the University's mission as a resource for teaching a broad audience through the preservation, study, interpretation and exhibition of its historic building and interdisciplinary collections.

Envisioning the Future, *A Campaign for Lee Chapel*, p. 1 (Attached as Exhibit 2). This document concludes with the following appeal and representation to "The Donors":

Those who support this campaign will have the satisfaction of ensuring that the University is a good steward....Our donors will **ensure that Lee Chapel remains the heart, even the soul, of the University** – a monument to personal character and educational ideals. Our donors will become **part of something that is enduring** and enriching to this institution and nation.

Id. at p. 5. (Emphasis added).

To assist members of the Honorary Committee in soliciting contributions to the Lee Chapel and Museum Endowment Campaign the Development Office provided a form solicitation letter encouraging prospective donors to "significantly honor Robert E. Lee by

supporting a special fund-raising initiative for Lee Chapel & Museum.” This letter emphasized that the Campaign, including the restricted, permanent endowment, was intended to insure that:

As time passes, we want future generations to be as aware as our generation of the important contributions that our namesakes – George Washington and Robert E. Lee – made to the advancement of education nationally, and specifically, to Washington and Lee.... George Washington and Robert E. Lee placed great value on tradition, honor, civility and duty which are still a vital part of Washington and Lee today. Please help us preserve their legacies with your gift to Lee Chapel & Museum.

Form Solicitation Letter. (Attached as Exhibit 3). Donors to the Campaign, myself included, contributed for the specific, restricted purposes outlined in the solicitation materials and in reliance on the University’s representations as to the intended perpetual use of the funds to preserve Lee Chapel and Lee’s legacy.

2. The Board of Trustees’ Decision

The Board of Trustees’ decision in June to rename Lee Chapel cannot be reconciled with, and effectively disavows, the promises made by the University to Campaign donors and thousands of others from whom contributions were solicited for purposes of preserving Lee Chapel and the legacy of its namesake in perpetuity. The University, whose core values of honor and trust were nurtured and exemplified by President Lee, had an obligation to honor the representations made to those who contributed generously to the Campaign to “ensure” that Lee Chapel, the heart and soul of the University, “is enduring”. If the University cannot be relied upon faithfully to honor and abide by commitments to past campaign donors (as well as loyal alumni who solicit donations for a specific purpose) what are the implications for future fundraising campaigns? Will the “whim of a future administration” forever override commitments made to donors seeking to preserve honored legacies and historic buildings on campus? Is the University prepared to refund all donations when that occurs?

3. The Converted Endowment

Following the “renaming” of Lee Chapel, I grew concerned about what had come of the “Lee Chapel Endowment.” Tom Jennings kindly and promptly responded to my inquiry. But rather than receive a report on the status of the “Lee Chapel Endowment”, I received a recently drafted letter to “Donors to the University Chapel Endowment”, which stated that “the Chapel became officially known as the University Chapel with the Board of Trustees announcement on June 4.” The accompanying Endowment Performance Report was titled “The University Chapel Endowment”, and represented that it was established as part of the “Campaign for the Lee Chapel and Museum.” That Campaign, however, did not establish, nor was it conducted for the purpose of establishing, an endowment for something called “The University Chapel.” It was established specifically to fund and endow in perpetuity “Lee Chapel” and to honor the legacy of President Lee.

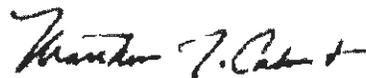
President William C. Dudley
December 6, 2021
Page 4

Neither I nor the other Honorary Committee members and donors to the Campaign whose signatures appear below would have entrusted our assets to Washington and Lee in 2007 and 2008 or solicited contributions for purposes of endowing "The University Chapel" or if there had been any possibility that "Lee Chapel", rather than "enduring" as the "heart and soul" of the University, would be abolished, Lee's legacy and images disassociated from the sacred building he constructed and the structure renamed "The University Chapel". The disingenuous rationale that the chapel is somehow being restored to the unadorned "College Chapel", as President Lee originally intended, is a thinly veiled excuse for an action specifically intended to revise the past 150 years of the institution's history and to diminish Lee's legacy on campus. By converting the Lee Chapel Endowment to the University Chapel Endowment, without prior notice to and the express consent of the donors to the Campaign for Lee Chapel Museum & Endowment, the University has breached promises it made little more than 10 years ago.

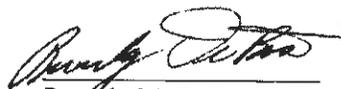
The "Lee Chapel Endowment" was one of many donor-restricted endowments characterized as Permanently Restricted Net Assets within the University's endowment. The specific purpose of the Lee Chapel Endowment was outlined in the documents and solicitation materials described above. Although it is not my purpose in writing this letter to articulate any legal position with respect to the conversion of the Lee Chapel Endowment, I invite the University to explain how it can disregard the commitments made to donors and gift instruments reflective of the intent of donors to the Campaign and the specific purposes for which funds were contributed. To be abundantly clear, those who have evidenced their support for this letter take issue with what has occurred. Moreover, the many alumni and friends of the University who contributed so generously to the Lee Chapel Museum & Endowment Campaign in reliance on the University's promises are entitled to a full explanation.

For all of these reasons, we call upon the University, consistent with its core values of honor and trust, to once again officially embrace its historic chapel as "Lee Chapel" and to restore the Lee Chapel Endowment to its intended purpose.

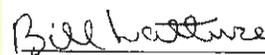
Sincerely yours.



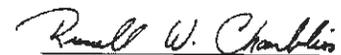
Matthew J. Calvert
Class of 1975 and 1979 Law



Beverly M. DuBose, III
Class of 1962



William E. Latture
Class of 1949



Russell W. Chambliss
Class of 1974

cc: Board of Trustees
Mr. Thomas Jennings

LEE CHAPEL AND MUSEUM CAPITAL AND ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

WHY ENDOWMENT?

- **Superior care and conservation of Lee Chapel and Museum and the valuable Lee and Washington collections – a must.**
- **Collections are the basis of a fine museum. Expanded collections allow for better interpretation of the University's story and its role in our nation's history.**
- **Several educational programs are being studied that will rely on funding from the Endowment Fund. They include public school outreach, expanded public lectures, a teacher's institute, summer internships, exhibition catalogs, research articles and a website with ties to a collections database.**
- **To help fund staff salaries – three full-time and eighteen part-time employees.**
- **Lee Chapel and Museum has never had an endowment. Operating expenses have come from the University's annual revenues. A restricted Lee Chapel and Museum Endowment will ensure a base level of support in perpetuity, not subject to the "whim" of a future administration.**

Jan. 23, 2008



Lee Chapel & Museum

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY *Lexington, Virginia*

LEECHAPEL.WLU.EDU

(540) 458-8973

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

A Campaign for Lee Chapel

An endowment to secure the financial stability of Lee Chapel & Museum on the campus of Washington and Lee University is essential. This historic building is both the heart and soul of the University and stands to remind us of our core values and historic origins. It is these values, which are manifest in our honor system and the speaking tradition, that make us unique among our peers. It is also these same values of honor and integrity that our visitors can appreciate long after they leave Lee Chapel. Without a strong endowment we risk the preservation of one of our most precious gems—a sacred place where we fulfill our mission of external education and hold occasions of gravity and dignity.

Lee Chapel & Museum promotes the values and virtues of character, leadership and social responsibility by interpreting the history of Washington and Lee University; the contributions of our institution's namesakes to our country; and their respective visions of education as the basis for nation-building and nation-healing. We support the University's mission as a resource for teaching a broad audience through the preservation, study, interpretation and exhibition of its historic building and interdisciplinary collections.

THE CASE

We have a unique story to tell.

No other institution in the country can claim through natural inheritance the story of both George Washington's vision of education in a new nation, and Robert E. Lee's view of education as a tool for reconciliation and harmony and his important role as a progressive educator both before and during post-Civil War reconstruction.

Washington's financial support of schools like the University's predecessor, Liberty Hall Academy, demonstrated his strong belief and personal support of education, as well as his qualities of leadership and personal sacrifice. Renamed in his honor, Washington College embodied the ideals of democracy and paralleled the growth of the nation. Barely surviving the Civil War, the school elected the defeated General Robert E. Lee, who was related to Washington by marriage and heritage, as president in an attempt to regenerate itself. Lee accomplished that—and more.

Robert E. Lee was an innovative educator, a fact that is often lost in the shadow of his stellar military career. As Superintendent of the United States Military Academy and then as President of Washington College, his goal was to give his students an education that would empower them economically and as future leaders in a nation struggling to heal. His vision to incorporate schools of journalism, business, law, agriculture and medicine into the curriculum was decades ahead of its time, coming to full fruition nationally in the 20th century.

Aware of his public status and responsibility after the war, Lee became a role model for reconciliation and a united republic. His devotion to honor, duty and personal integrity was modeled in part on George Washington. Lee's character and legacy live on at Washington and Lee University in our honor system, speaking tradition and academic leadership.

The year 2007 marks the 200th anniversary of Lee's birth, set within the commemoration of the founding of Jamestown and the 400th anniversary of the Commonwealth of Virginia. We plan to contribute to the celebration of the Commonwealth's rich history—and make history ourselves.

Lee Chapel & Museum seeks to follow in Lee's footsteps by being educationally innovative and fiscally responsible. It is now imperative that an endowment be created to support this work into the future.

Financial stability will ensure that our unique story is related to and preserved for generations to come. It will secure enhanced stewardship of the historic building; the preservation and expansion of the museum's collections; the development of lively interpretation; and the creation of exciting new educational programs and exhibitions.

A financially secure Chapel will enrich the legacy of our great namesakes and the institution that Lee steered into the modern age of education.

University faculty and students will benefit, as the endowment supports new learning resources and opportunities. New exhibitions, enhanced school programs, and an educationally interpretive website will enlighten our broad and expanding national audience to the little known story of the last years of Lee's important work, as well as his relationship to George Washington.

Lee Chapel lies at the heart of the Washington and Lee University campus and has served as its primary gathering place for important academic and spiritual events since it opened in 1868 as the first physical project of Lee's presidency. The college Chapel became a national shrine upon Lee's burial in 1870; a public museum was created here in 1928; and the Chapel was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1961. Today, 60,000 visitors from all over the world come annually to Lee Chapel to honor Lee and his legacy.

THE TIMING 2006-2009

To properly and most effectively commemorate the occasion of Lee's birth, the museum will undergo a significant exhibit revitalization that will showcase the unique relationship of George Washington and Robert E. Lee and highlight Lee's role as educator, which has received little national attention and is often lost in the shadow of Lee the general. The plan calls for a thematic expansion and reconfiguration of our present exhibition, now nearly eight years old, to place Washington's and, especially, Lee's connections and service to the history of Washington and Lee University into a broader national context.

Specific plans for the updated exhibit are outlined below under the heading "The Capital Campaign Components."

With the 2007 date getting ever closer, we have a tight deadline for securing the appropriate funding to complete the new exhibition and fund the myriad activities that are centered around the anniversary of Lee's birth.

Thus, the capital campaign must be completed within the next 15 months and the goal for the endowment campaign should be met within three years.

THE GOALS

Our primary goal is to ensure that our story is related to and preserved for generations to come. A generous endowment will not only help to make Lee Chapel & Museum self-sustaining, it will provide the superior care and conservation of the Lee and Washington collections, allow for the acquisition of important papers and artifacts to bring vitality and expanded interpretation of the University's unique story, and enable the University to fund exciting new educational programs.

There are several naming opportunities available. The most distinguished opportunity is the naming of the museum at Lee Chapel for \$5 million. Other visible naming opportunities are available for the two major gallery spaces within the museum. Each would require a \$1 million private gift. Another significant opportunity would be to name the endowment fund. Within each component of the campaign, there are also opportunities to fund specific projects (i.e. the preservation of the map in Lee's office). Or, fully fund the conservation of the Barlow Orrery—one of only three in existence. This rare and highly important planetarium was purchased by Robert E. Lee in 1867. In these cases, donors would receive recognition for their contribution on a plaque or in publications, but would not necessarily have their names attached to a specific artifact.

Capital Campaign \$1 million

Endowment Campaign \$5 million

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMPONENTS

- **Enhanced interpretation of General Lee's office as President of Washington College.**
Introduce first-time interpretation into Lee's Office with explanatory panels, enhanced lighting, improved accessibility, audio reminiscences, and an accompanying website focusing on Lee's role as the President of Washington College and his legacy to the University.

Design and production fee: \$180,000
- **Redesign and reinstallation of museum galleries and exhibitions**
Expand the interpretation in the Main Gallery to include Washington's vision of education for a new nation and to focus on Lee's contributions to post-war education and reconciliation. The exhibit, tentatively entitled *Not Unmindful of the Future* (both the Lee family and W&L mottoes), will include the addition of major artifacts, including the Barlow Orrery, purchased by Lee in 1867, to illustrate his far-sighted educational vision.

Design and production fee: \$430,000
- **Exhibition script**
A unified "voice" is needed for Lee's office and the museum galleries

Exhibit script writing fee: \$14,500
- **Conservation of Lee's 1867 orrery (planetarium)**

Conservation fee: \$80,000
- **Signage**
Signage, both directional and interpretive, for the statue chamber, main entrance, Traveller's grave, lower entrance and the family crypt.

Design and production fees: \$50,000

- **Exhibition geared towards school-aged children**

An exhibit focused on character education, using Lee and Washington, will help teach children the values of honor, civility, leadership and social responsibility. This exhibit, planned for the back hall of museum, will be duplicated as a traveling, panel-style exhibition for use by regional schools.

Design and production fee: \$20,000

- **Website**

A new website will be developed to extend the new interpretation to an audience far beyond the 60,000 visitors we host each year. The new site will allow scholars, both junior and senior, much greater access to the myriad artifacts and rare papers that make up the exhibition and our archives. It will also enlighten a broad and expanding national audience to the story of Lee in his last five years, and his family relationship to George Washington. The character and integrity of both Washington and Lee will become more vivid for all the museum's visitors—both actual and virtual.

Design and production fee: \$25,000

TOTAL: \$1,000,000

THE ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN COMPONENTS

- **Operating Fund**

Current annual budget is \$234,000 (includes salaries for director, site manager, temporary staff, basic operations and museum shop).

- **Preservation / Conservation Fund**

Superior care and conservation of the Lee and Washington collections is imperative. Preserving a single object can cost between \$6,000 and \$15,000. The historic building also must be maintained and preserved, as must the Erben organ. Just last year the organ required \$18,000 in repairs, in addition to its annual care budget of \$1,000.

- **Collections Acquisitions**

Collections are the basis of fine museums. The expansion of collections is critical to the vitality and improved quality of the collections. Expanded collections will allow for better interpretation of the University's story and its role in the nation. Unique artifacts related to Lee and his family can be sold at auction for hundreds of thousands of dollars and the museum must be able to compete for relevant and significant pieces to add to our collection.

- **Educational Programs**

The following educational programs are still being studied by the University's administration, the director of Lee Chapel, and related faculty. Some are more fully developed than others. Some that come to fruition may be funded entirely by the University while others may rely on funding from the Lee Chapel & Museum endowment fund. These programs will be evaluated and prioritized based on relevancy, interest and funding.

A. American Cultural Studies – an interdisciplinary university program in association with the Art, History, East Asian Studies, English and Archaeology departments, among others.

B. School Programs – a combination of web-based and traditional hands-on grade specific programs, offered under the direction of a Museum Teacher (proposed position).

C. **Public Programs** – expansion of present annual Lee Memorial Program, as well as the development of lecture series, symposia, special tours and cultural events.

D. **Teacher's Institute** – development of a program geared to teachers' continuing education and certification.

E. **Summer Internships** – paid opportunities for university students to gain on-the-job experience in museum studies.

F. **Publications Program** - as an educational institution, research and publications are a primary goal and include exhibition catalogs, articles, printed brochures and pamphlets on relevant topics. Such publications act as ambassadors for the University and offer the public insights into new information and ideas.

G. **Website** – staffing and maintenance to retain relevancy, increase interactive components and ties to collections database.

THE DONORS

Those who support this campaign will have the satisfaction of ensuring that the University is a good steward, fulfills its educational mission and, as its institutional model states, is "*not unmindful of the future.*" Our donors will ensure that Lee Chapel remains the heart, even the soul, of the University—a monument to personal character and educational ideals. Our donors will become part of something that is enduring and enriching to this institution and nation.

Date

Name

Address

Address

Dear <Insert Alumni Name>:

I am pleased to write you about Washington and Lee's plans to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Robert E. Lee's birth. The University will honor Lee and his exemplary life in a variety of ways—lectures, exhibitions, special events and funding initiatives—this year and beyond. Please take a look at the new website <http://lee200.wlu.edu> to learn more and to view a schedule of events.

You can significantly honor Robert E. Lee by supporting a **special fund-raising initiative for Lee Chapel & Museum**. With a goal of \$6 million, this effort will provide for better stewardship of the historic chapel, provide for the preservation and expansion of the museum's priceless collections, and help to ensure stimulating educational programs and exhibits for the 60,000 visitors annually, including thousands of school children.

As time passes, we want future generations to be as aware as our generation of the important contributions that our namesakes—George Washington and Robert E. Lee—made to the advancement of education nationally, and specifically, to Washington and Lee.

As a member of the George Washington Society, Committee for the Campaign for Lee Chapel, I am privileged to strongly support the University's effort to undertake this important fund-raising initiative. George Washington and Robert E. Lee placed great value on tradition, honor, civility and duty which are still a vital part of Washington and Lee today. Please help us preserve their legacies with your financial gift to Lee Chapel & Museum.

The enclosed brochure with a gift/pledge form offers a detailed description of this important effort. I hope very much that you will want to participate in it. Pledges are payable over five years (2007-2011). If you have questions about the Campaign for Lee Chapel & Museum, please don't hesitate to call any one of us or Ronni Gardner, in the development office, at 540.458.8973 or rgardner@wlu.edu.

All my best,

Bill Latture '49
Chair

WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 19, 2022

Dear Messrs. Calvert, DuBose, Latture, [REDACTED], and Chambliss:

Thank you for your letter of December 6, 2021, regarding the University Chapel Endowment. The University Chapel, originally named "College Chapel" during Robert E. Lee's presidency of Washington College, and officially renamed "Lee Memorial Chapel" in 1918, remains a core feature of the University's architectural and historical legacy. The Chapel auditorium and associated galleries continue to host important campus gatherings and to provide historical education for the benefit the W&L community and the wider public.

The endowed funds you reference continue to be used for precisely the purposes for which they were raised. These include the historic preservation, maintenance, and ongoing operations of the Chapel and galleries. Programming supported by these funds includes high-quality educational exhibits about the history of the University, the Chapel itself, and the contributions of our namesakes. Portraits of George Washington and Robert E. Lee and other historic figures are featured in a new exhibit in the galleries on the ground floor.

On college campuses, building names may change over time, but that does not mean the purposes for which funds were designated have changed. The University is investing more than ever in presenting its history through the University Chapel, its galleries, and the planned University museum of institutional history. We will continue to report annually to donors regarding the value of these endowed funds and their spending for the designated purposes of supporting the Chapel and its programs.

I appreciate your longstanding devotion to Washington and Lee and hope you will join me in working toward the brightest possible future for the University.

Sincerely,

William C. Dudley
President

cc: W&L Board of Trustees
Tom Jennings, V.P. for University Advancement

Founded in 1749

204 W. Washington Street | Lexington, VA 24450-2116
(540) 458-8700 | Fax (540) 458-8745 | www.wlu.edu



February 7, 2022

Rector Michael R. McAlevy
204 W. Washington Street
Washington & Lee University
Lexington, VA 24450

Restoring Lee Chapel and Its Endowment

Dear Mr. McAlevy:

President Dudley's January 19 response to my letter of December 6 is disappointing and unpersuasive. A great deal of time and thought went into articulating and documenting the concerns placed before him. The response appears to be an effort simply to brush those concerns aside. Significantly, the response glosses over two key facts: (1) the fundamental purpose and characterization of the Campaign for Lee Chapel & Museum; namely, to preserve and endow Lee Chapel in perpetuity, and (2) donor intent. I urge the full Board of Trustees to reconsider the January 19 response, to honor the University's previous Campaign promises, and to restore Lee Chapel and its Endowment.

I will not rehash the points made in my December 6 letter, a copy of which the Trustees have already received. Instead, I will highlight inconsistencies between statements in the January 19 letter and the historical record, as well as certain erroneous conclusions in that letter.

1. The Chapel's Name

The January 19 letter says the Chapel was "originally named the 'College Chapel'" and "officially renamed 'Lee Memorial Chapel'" in 1918. It is true that the Chapel was originally known as the College Chapel and that Board of Trustees in 1918 amended the By-Laws to recognize that the Chapel was named "Lee Memorial Chapel." But the University embraced and publicized the name "Lee Memorial Chapel" many years before 1918. The enclosed excerpts from the Washington & Lee Bulletin issued in 1907 in connection with the Lee Centennial refers to the Chapel as "Lee Memorial Chapel." At all events, the suggestion that the Chapel was once named in honor of Lee, simply because the Board of Trustees "officially" documented that name in the By-Laws and, hence, the Board had the discretion to rename the Chapel over 100 years later (irrespective of the University's representations and commitments to Lee Chapel Campaign donors less than 15 years ago) is misguided.

2. The "heart and soul of the University"

Ensuring that Lee Chapel remained "the heart and soul of the University" and a monument to the legacy and contributions of President Lee was the expressly stated, overarching purpose of the Lee Chapel Campaign. In contrast, the building now "officially" named the "University Chapel" is described by President Dudley's letter as simply "a core feature of the University's architectural and historical legacy." That can be said of numerous buildings on campus.

President Dudley's bland characterization of the Chapel, in its present incarnation, underscores that a once sacred structure, more important than any other on campus to many, including vast numbers of alumni, has been downgraded. Lee Chapel, which was until recently treasured and lauded by the University, including for fundraising purposes, as the "heart and soul of the University," is no more. The

University promised thousands of prospective donors that, by contributing to the Campaign, they would “ensure that Lee Chapel remains the heart and soul of the University” and be “part of something that is enduring.” The Board of Trustees disavowed that promise, and President Dudley’s letter, as well as his plan to reconfigure the Chapel, ignores it.

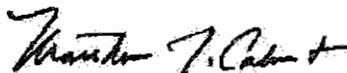
3. The Intended Use of the Endowed Funds

Instead, the January 19 letter attempts to assuage our concerns by representing that the funds raised in the Campaign “continue to be used for precisely the purposes for which they were raised.” That any of the permanently restricted Lee Chapel Endowment income may recently have been applied to some new exhibit in the Chapel does not mean that the endowed funds were applied “for precisely the purposes for which they were raised.” That argument disregards that the overarching purpose of the Campaign was to preserve Lee Chapel in perpetuity. As my December 6 letter states, its signatories would not have solicited or contributed funds for something called the “University Chapel” or if there had been any possibility that “Lee Chapel,” rather than “enduring,” would be abolished.

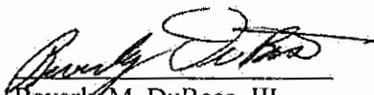
Consider this. Assume that the University were to solicit and raise restricted funds, perhaps in the upcoming capital campaign, to build an athletic facility, or to endow a scholarship, or to refurbish a classroom. In consideration of the gift W&L provides a “naming opportunity” to the generous alumnus. Surely Washington & Lee would not take the position after the donation was procured, in reliance on the University’s naming commitment, that the building, or scholarship, or classroom could be renamed later without express donor consent, so long as the funds donated or income generated were still used for the “same purpose” (i.e. to finance the building, to maintain the classroom or to fund the scholarship). The University’s solicitation of donations for the express purpose of supporting and preserving Lee Chapel “in perpetuity” is no different. Abolishing “Lee Chapel” and converting its restricted, perpetual endowment into something called the “University Chapel Endowment”, despite the reliance of countless donors on the University’s promises, was consistent with neither the University’s treasured core values of honor and trust nor the principles governing charitable contributions.

In closing, we urge the Board of Trustees to give these issues the serious attention they deserve and to take the steps necessary and appropriate to restore and preserve Lee Chapel and its Endowment, thereby honoring the University’s prior commitments to its donors and the donors’ intent.

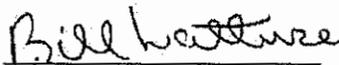
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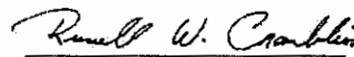
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William E. Latture
Class of 1949



Russell W. Chambliss
Class of 1974

Cc: President Will Dudley
Board of Trustees
Mr. Tom Jennings

428383

Washington and Lee University
BULLETINS

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

NEW SERIES

JULY, 1907

VOL. 6, No. 3

ROBERT EDWARD LEE.

THE LEE CENTENNIAL—JANUARY 19, 1907.

PROGRAM OF EXERCISES.

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Summer Bulletin

Following the suggestions which came from so many sources, both of a public and of a private character, the joint committees of the Lee Camp of Confederate Veterans and of the Daughters of the Confederacy of Richmond, called a mass-meeting in that city on March 8, at which addresses were delivered by President Denny, Governor Swanson, Dr. Hamilton W. Mabie and others. Thereupon, the Lee Memorial Association was formed. President Denny was elected president, Mrs. Kate Pleasants Minor, of Richmond, secretary, and Mr. John L. Campbell, treasurer. Richmond, secretary, and Mr. John L. Campbell, treasurer.

It was resolved to raise at least \$100,000 to be used (1) for the rehabilitation of the Lee Memorial Chapel and (2) the endowment of a Robert E. Lee Chair of American History. The appeal will be made to the nation through agencies now being organized. President Denny announced some time ago that the first contribution to this fund had already been made by a Philadelphia lady whose admiration for General Lee caused her to send her check without solicitation or suggestion. It is to be hoped that various

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INTER-COLLEGIATE DEBATING.

For several years there has been a marked revival of interest in inter-collegiate debating, and during this session there have been several excellent contests in Lee Memorial Chapel.

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FINAL EXERCISES OF 1907.

Sunday. The closing exercises were opened auspiciously with two strong addresses to young men from the platform of Lee Memorial Chapel on Sunday morning and evening. The many strange faces in the audience showed the assembling of parents and friends to see sons graduated, and of fair girls to

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From: Board of Trustees <BoardofTrustees@wlu.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2022 5:17 PM
To: Calvert, Matthew; bodubose3@gmail.com; russ@littleriverfarmal.com;
billattu@gmail.com
Cc: Dudley, Will; Jennings, Thomas
Subject: Re: Lee Chapel and the Lee Chapel Endowment

[REDACTED]

Dear Messrs. Calvert, DuBose, Latture and Chambliss,

Thank you for your reply to President Dudley's letter of January 19. As President Dudley confirmed in his letter, the endowment continues to be used for the purposes for which funds were raised. It is clear that you care deeply about this issue, and we thank you for your continued interest and longtime support of Washington and Lee. While we may disagree about the actions the Board of Trustees announced on June 4, I want to assure you that the Board considered these decisions carefully. We remain committed to the course we have laid out.

Sincerely,

Mike McAlevey

Michael R. McAlevey '86
Rector
Washington and Lee University