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GWU's Pittman Center Announces Partnership with Virginia Baptist Group

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Office of University Communications

June 18, 2014

Collaboration to Result in Resources for Leadership Training

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The Gardner-Webb University Pittman Center for Congregational Enrichment is announcing a new partnership with Christian Leaders Link, a leadership training entity of Virginia Baptists, located in Roanoke, Va.

Beginning in July, the Pittman Center will provide resources for use by the Link. These funds will allow the two ministries to co-host workshops, conferences, and other non-degree training events during the year. Events will be hosted in a variety of locations throughout Virginia, especially in southwest and southern Virginia.

Rev. John Bridges, director of the GWU Pittman Center, noted the center's recent efforts to provide off-campus training initiatives. "Our intent is to provide churches and their leaders with the training they need," he said. "Partnering with Christian Leaders Link and relying on their knowledge of leaders and churches in the region allows us to better target particular training needs that need to be addressed. We are excited about the opportunities to unite for Kingdom work in Virginia."

Dr. Gary Chapman, director of the Christian Leaders Link, indicated planning for the initiative has already begun. "We look forward to this innovative partnership," Chapman noted. "The commitment of the Pittman Center will only enhance the training we are able to offer Virginia Baptists."

The mission of Christian Leaders Link is to provide practical church training and theological study for laypersons and ministers in order to further the cause of Kingdom advance, enhance the ministry of our churches, and provide spiritual renewal for individuals. More information is available at ChristianLeadersLink.org.

In 1999, Gardner-Webb University launched the Center for Congregational Enrichment as an auxiliary of the School of Divinity. In the fall of 2004, the Center was renamed the James and Ganell Pittman Center for Congregational Enrichment. The Pittman Center's purpose is to address the need for competent leadership in the local church by providing quality religious educational opportunities for laity and continuing education for clergy who are not enrolled

as degree-seeking students in the School of Divinity. The Pittman Center offers classes, seminars, and conferences on the Gardner-Webb University campus and at various off-campus sites. Additional information is available at Gardner-Webb.edu/Pittman-Center.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University blends a liberal arts core curriculum with more than 55 major and minor professional programs of study, a comprehensive academic experience that flows from our Christian commitment to intellectual freedom, service and leadership.