3.119.11.1. A two to three page statement describing the candidate’s philosophy and practice in creating a unity of faith and learning.

In a sense, all teachers necessarily create a unity of faith and learning: one's actual faith manifests itself in one's behavior. The real challenge for me, therefore, is to ensure that I truly embrace the biblical faith fully and without alloy. If my faith is in God--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--and I consequently am being transformed and empowered by Him and by His Word, then the learning I undertake and the learning I impart will befit a member of the faculty of Regent University. I believe I have such a faith, and pray it continues to grow and to deepen.

This unity of a biblical faith and learning presents two aspects. First, the learning I impart to students manifest this faith, I trust, in its method. With God's help, I endeavor to be gracious, patient, and encouraging, especially since I strive for rigor and expect much of my students. My student evaluations of teaching suggest that I succeed in this endeavor pretty well. My faith in God leads me to reflect His work in my life and His ministry through me in how I teach.

So too with what I teach. My faith leads me to embrace firmly biblical integration in the substance of my teaching of students and of my works of published scholarship. (This aspect of my faith also has found corroboration in the recognition of colleagues.) Biblical integration serves four major ends as directed by my faith in the God of the Bible. First, it brings to the study of law God's truth as the scale of normative judgment on the positive law. Second, it
enriches the understanding of our positive law, developed as it was by Christians reflecting upon the Holy Scriptures. Third, it fosters rigor, enabling students of the law to dig deep into fundamental principles, to ask questions and find answers regarding the essential elements of the law. Fourth, and perhaps most important, biblical integration helps prepare law students--aware of how our law reflects God's--for a life of practicing law as ministry, a life as wholly Christian in the workweek as on Sunday. These four ends I value as a Christian teacher of the law, trusting in God and living my life in Christ. They are the fruit of a unity of biblical faith and learning.