

Name Changes

Since its opening, Meredith College has gone by three different names. The College was chartered, in 1899, as the Baptist Female University. In 1905 the name was changed to Baptist University for Women. About four years later the convention decided to change the name to Meredith College, in honor of Thomas Meredith. This document, from the May 1909 convention, shows the reasons why the name was changed from Baptist University for Women to Meredith College. The name change was officially ratified on January 24, 1911. To learn more about the history of the College's former and current names click on the links below or visit the [College Archives](#).



Click on the image to enlarge.

Learn more:

- [A History of Meredith College](#) by Mary Lynch Johnson (Meredith College Archives Website)
- [Board of Trustees Minutes, 1889-1915](#), Meredith College Archives, Raleigh, N.C.
- [Meredith College Name Change Act](#)

name changed
May 21 1909

Secretary Ray read communication from Senate as to change of name of the University as follows:

To the Trustees of the Baptist University for Women:

The Senate of the Baptist University for Women do earnestly request the Trustees to change the name of our institution for the following reasons:

I. Since the word University does not mean a high class college, but designates an institution organized on a basis of professional schools such as law, medicine, etc with departments providing for original research after graduation from college, the name does not give us the ideal we are striving for - a first class college for women.

II Since there is no other institution in the world exclusively for women that claims to be a university, we are constantly made the subject of ridicule. And what is of far greater importance, educated people consider our name a mark of ignorance, and hence fail to give us credit for the really high grade work we do.

III Our name is thus a bar to aid from organizations which have as their aim the helping of the best educational institutions in any section; and the recognition of their organization is worth more than their money.

Request, really unanimous.

E. A. Colton

Sec. of Senate.

name
Meredith
College

N. B. Meredith College is the unanimous choice of the Senate as the substitute name. For Women is not used in the charters of the best colleges.

E. A. C.

Ray moved to adjourn to 8:00 this evening.

J. E. Ray. Secretary.