

# Statement of Life and Conduct

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The following statements are the application of Christian moral principles to the life and conduct of paid and volunteer members of the school community, as well as students of Niagara Christian Community of Schools. These statements have specific relevance to the legal right of the school to ensure the preservation of its understanding of a Christian educational community.

## II ASSUMPTIONS AND PRINCIPLES

Niagara Christian Community of Schools affirms the following biblical principles as pertinent for individual and corporate Christian life:

1. Life within a Christian community must be lived to the glory of God, in which we daily conform ourselves to the image of Christ and recognize the Lordship of Christ in every activity (Matt. 22:36-38, I Cor. 10:31, Col. 3:9, 10, 17).
2. Love and accountability to God should motivate Christian conduct (Deut. 6:5, II Cor. 5:10).
3. Consistent with the example and command of Jesus Christ, love and justice must be the determinative factor in the relationships of Christians with others (John 15:12-17, I John 4:7-12).
4. Christians bear responsibility for service to others. They are responsible for serving their neighbours and being involved in the process of alleviating such pressing worldwide problems as poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, sexism, and racism (Matt. 7:12, 25:31-46, Gal. 5:14, 6:10).
5. The actions of Christians within a community are not solely a private matter. Accordingly, members of the NCC community must hold their neighbours accountable for the implications of their conduct when it directly affects the welfare of community living (Matt. 18:15-17).
6. The community collectively and members individually are responsible for the effective stewardship of abilities, opportunities and institutional resources (Luke 19:11-27, I Cor. 4:2).

7. Certain actions are expressly prohibited in scripture and are, therefore, wrong. Christians should avoid those practices which are called sinful in scripture. Similarly, scripture commends some actions which are, therefore, right. There are other actions which are matters of individual conviction based on a given situation. In this latter area we must exercise care so as not to judge one another nor to cause another to stumble nor to cause ourselves to fall (Matt. 7:1, Rom. 14:1-23).
8. Attaining common goals and ensuring orderly community life may necessitate the subordination of some individual prerogatives. Specifically, as servants of Christ we are called to practice forbearance. Christian freedom includes the option of not doing some things in order to contribute to the good of the larger community (I Cor. 8:9-13, 9:19-23, 10:23-33).
9. Christians are not asked to live the Christian life simply on the basis of their own moral character and strength. God has provided the authoritative word of Holy Scripture, the guiding power of the indwelling Holy Spirit and the counsel of the Church – the body of believers both past and present. Christians are expected to study and obey the scriptures, to cultivate a heart attitude which allows for the guidance of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and to give serious consideration to the counsel of the people of God (II Tim. 3:16, II Peter 1:19-21, I John 2:27, I Peter 5:1-6).
10. “Worldliness” is a subtle issue involving uncritical conformity to the prevailing spirit of the age. One’s disposition concerning matters such as materialism, secularism, isolationism, security, success, injustice, hedonism, and moral relativism must stand in perpetual review.

### III STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

In light of the above assumption and principles of Christian conduct, members of the Niagara Christian Community of Schools community – paid and volunteer members of the school community – are expected to pursue new life in Christ and students are encouraged to do so as well as to respect and follow the conduct which is in accordance with this new life. This new life involves inner desires, attitudes and thoughts, and outward standards of behaviour. While the latter do not always accurately reflect the former, outward behaviour is often evidence of inner desires, attitudes and thoughts. Thus, the school community does require standards of conduct to promote and safeguard its educational goals.

While recognizing that all Christians are in the process of growth toward maturity in Christ, the Niagara Christian Community of Schools community finds certain practices, and the promotion of such, unacceptable for its members. Members may, on occasion, fall into these practices as unfortunate exceptions to their normal way of life. However, unrepentant or persistent sinful behaviour constitutes grounds for dismissal of students as well as paid and volunteer members from Niagara Christian Community of Schools.

The unacceptable practices which students and paid and volunteer members of Niagara Christian Community of Schools acknowledge as being within jurisdiction of the school community include:

1. Profane and blasphemous language
2. Lying or deceit
3. Substance abuse
4. Plagiarism or dishonesty
5. Theft or fraud
6. Racial prejudice and membership in organizations that promote it
7. Homosexual practice or promotion
8. Fornication, co-habiting in a sexual relationship before marriage, and adultery
9. Sexual exploitation and pornography
10. Induced abortion (in non-life threatening situations)
11. The profession and practice of non-Christian religious beliefs (or for students, the active promotion of non-Christian religious beliefs)
12. Violent or abusive behaviour
13. Sexual and gender harassment/abuse
14. Criminal activity

#### IV DISCIPLINE

The school will continue to demonstrate love and compassion to any student and paid or volunteer member of the school community whose conduct appears to breach the standards of conduct set herein. Recognizing the healing power of Christ's redemption, the school will explore possibilities of restoration. However, those who are unrepentant, and who by their own admission or by the weight of accumulated evidence continue to transgress, disregard, or disdain the Christian principles and practices referred to in this document, may be dismissed from studies or employment or volunteer work at the school. Such matters shall be addressed within a reasonable amount of time.

**Those who join the Niagara Christian Community of Schools academic community do so voluntarily, accepting the privileges and responsibilities that distinguish it as a Christian academic community. This community seeks to increase its understanding of the Christian faith, and to apply that faith to all areas of life for the glory of God and the coming of His Kingdom.**