



ROBERTS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

AN EXPOSITION OF THE CHRISTIAN VISION IN THE ROBERTS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

The following remarks offer a brief exposition of what we mean when we describe ourselves as Christian in the Mission Statement, the primary self-definition of the University community. It does not intend to go beyond what is given in the Mission Statement, either explicitly or implicitly. Because the term Christian has been used to cover a wide range of views, it may be helpful to clarify our use of that term.

A Heritage of Essential Christian Teachings

The Mission Statement notes that we affirm central teachings derived from the Scriptures and embodied in classic Christian documents, such as the Apostles' Creed. Among these are the teachings that:

God has revealed Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God in three Persons;

God is the Creator and Preserver of all things;

The Word of God was incarnate in Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, was raised on the third day, ascended into heaven and will return at the end of time to judge the living and the dead;

The Holy Spirit works in the Church and in the world to overrule in human affairs and to bring salvation;

The thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament comprise the uniquely inspired written Word of God, are true and reliable, and teach authoritatively about God, human nature, the way of salvation and the life of faith;

The Church is the particular instrument, though not the only means, by which God calls people to salvation and the life of faith;

All persons are born in sin, willingly commit sin, and cannot earn or bring about their own salvation;

God faithfully calls and awakens persons to the need of salvation;

Those who repent of their sin and trust in Christ are freely and undeservedly forgiven of their sin, put in a right relationship with God and given the Holy Spirit who sanctifies and transforms them;

The Christian life involves obedience to God's commands and service to Him and others.

A Christian Worldview

The Mission Statement further notes that the University remains committed to the integration of a Christian worldview and a liberal arts education. A Christian worldview affirms that all truth is God's truth, and assumes that:

Christian teachings, as those noted above, give perspective to intellectual inquiry, and liberate rather than inhibit the intellectual quest;

The world in which we live is rational, reflecting the mind and purposes of its Creator and Preserver;

The human being, unique among the creatures of our material world, has the capacity to understand, to some degree, the world;

One of our God-given tasks is to reflect upon the world with rigor, precision and skill;

The various liberal disciplines, when vigorously pursued, yield insight and knowledge about the world;

The methodologies of these liberal disciplines, when properly applied, are compatible with the Christian faith, and their findings complement rather than contradict its teachings;

God's truth is both comprehensive and absolute;

Our educational task is to study and teach God's truth to the extent that we can come to know it.

A Christian Concern for Human Values

The Mission Statement also notes that Roberts Wesleyan University is strengthened by its historic Christian concern for human values. As such, Roberts Wesleyan University seeks to provide excellent Christian higher education for qualified persons. The university supports the spiritual growth of its students as it affirms these beliefs:

- Roberts Wesleyan University affirms the inherent value and equitable treatment of all people. Grounded in this unwavering affirmation, the University and the Seminary are committed to the promotion of a community that celebrates the beauty of human diversity, values diverse individuals and perspectives, and endeavors to create a campus where all people feel welcomed, and respected. This commitment flows from our originating history and key foundational theological perspectives, including the belief that all people are created in the image of God.
- Roberts Wesleyan University affirms that
 - Human beings are created in the image and likeness of God and flourish as they reflect and are being restored in that image.
 - All people are called through the free offer of the Gospel to repentance and faith, and to a life of obedience and service.
 - Everyone can be enriched and develop strong, positive, and healthy character through a life of piety.
 - All people have gifts from God through which they may serve Him and society.
 - Our students, while at Roberts Wesleyan, should be equipped for competent service in a broad array of secular and religious venues.