

## COMMUNITY DECLARATION

ADOPTED MARCH 3, 2010

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We, the faculty, staff, and students of Bethlehem College and Seminary, exist to spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples through Jesus Christ.

As those who, by grace, have come to embrace Jesus Christ as Lord, Savior and Supreme Treasure of our lives, we set forth this declaration as a testimony of our intention to live in Christian community. We declare our earnest desire to live under the authority of God's inerrant Word and, as dependent creatures, we affirm our fundamental reliance on God's grace to live out these commitments.

Therefore, as members of this community, we engage, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this institution in knowledge, holiness and peace; and to promote its spirituality and fruitfulness.

We engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; and to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

As members of Christ's body, we engage to discern and employ our gifts for the upbuilding of others and the glory of Christ; to faithfully attend and support the ministry of the local church; and to be wise in our stewardship of the financial resources that God provides, contributing cheerfully to the needs of the saints and the work of gospel-ministry locally and globally, bearing particularly in mind the needs of the poor.

We will seek God's help in abstaining from all drugs, food, drink, and practices which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith. While we affirm that God has given all things for our enjoyment, we recognize the necessity of wisdom in discerning what is useful in building up the body of Christ and glorifying God in all that we do. As such, we endeavor to faithfully live under the authority of biblical teaching, our conscience, and the laws of the state.

Moreover, we engage, by God's grace, to live with uprightness, thoughtfulness, respect, and purity in our relationships with members of the opposite sex; to avoid participation in any kind of immodest, prurient, or harmfully violent activity; and to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the counsel of fellow believers when participating in all forms of entertainment.

As those particularly engaged in the life of the mind, we commit ourselves to the highest standards of integrity and honesty, wholeheartedly affirming the Lordship of Christ over all of life and thought.

## **STUDENTS**

As students, we will welcome and test biblically all instruction by faculty, teachers, and staff, seeking to grow toward biblical unity in the truth.

Furthermore, we joyfully agree to be governed by the policies and procedures outlined in the Bethlehem College / Seminary Student Handbook, and we commit to achieve the objectives of our academic programs and courses.

## **FACULTY**

As faculty, we joyfully agree to abide in our instruction by the BCS Affirmation of Faith, modeling by our lives what we believe and teach. We will take the lead in cultivating a learning environment marked by radical Christ-centeredness, academic rigor, personal holiness, and self-effacing humility.

Furthermore we agree to be governed by the policies and procedures outlined in the Bethlehem College and Seminary Employee Handbook and the Bethlehem College and Seminary Faculty Handbook, and we commit to fulfill the objectives of our academic programs and courses.

## **STAFF**

As staff members, by God's grace, we will model humble service and glad-hearted stewardship of our time and resources, seeking to glorify God in whatever our hands find to do.

Furthermore, we joyfully agree to be governed by the policies and procedures outlined in the Bethlehem College and Seminary Employee Handbook.

*This document is a formal statement of the shared commitments of our community. I understand that by signing my name, I declare my intention, God helping me, to fulfill the commitments of this declaration.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_