

Covenant for Board Membership of Lynden Christian Schools

As a member of the Lynden Christian School Board, I am:

- A Christian, chosen by Father's electing grace, purchased by Christ's redeeming blood, and sanctified by the Spirit's continuing presence in my life.
- A member of a Christian church where the Bible is the sole, inspired Word of God.
- A member of the Lynden Christian School Society.
- Committed to knowing, upholding and promoting the mission and educational philosophy as articulated in "*Lynden Christian School's Philosophy, Goals and Objectives*," *The Twelve Affirmations*, and *Our Mission: Linking Head and Heart, Home and School, Child and God*, as summarized here below.
- By means of my signature, I declare truthfully and in good conscience before the Lord that I sincerely believe and will actively work to support and prayerfully pursue the following statements regarding the mission, task and uniquely Reformed perspective of Lynden Christian Schools:

I. Our Mission

The mission of Lynden Christian Schools is to be an effective instrument of God. Together with Christian parents and the church, we seek to educate children and young people so that they may grow and mature into perceptive and caring Christians. Finally, our goal is to produce citizens who have a transforming influence in the world.

II. Our Task

Lynden Christian School seeks to acknowledge the Lord by promoting teaching in which the light of His Word shines in all learning, where students, of whatever ability, are treated as persons who bear God's image and have a place in His plan to restore "every square inch" of this sin-marred creation to its originally intended purpose, the glory of God.

(adapted from *A Contemporary Testimony: Our World Belongs to God*)

III. Our Purpose and Perspective:

Fundamental to the purpose and perspective of Lynden Christian Schools is our confession that The Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the infallible, authoritatively inspired Word of God.^[1] Specific to the task of Christian education, we promote the truths of Scripture articulated and affirmed in what has historically been referred to as the **Three Forms of Unity** (*Heidelberg Catechism, Canons of Dort, Belgic Confession*) and summarized in *A Contemporary Testimony: Our World Belongs to God*.

The mandate of Lynden Christian School is shaped by our understanding of the four movements of the Biblical story.

^[1] 2 Timothy 3:16

1. Creation:

We believe that in the beginning was God who created all things good^[2]. In Him, by Him, for Him and through Him were all things made.^[3] Moved by love, God, with great care, unmatched creativity and boundless compassion called the world into existence for the sole purpose of revealing and displaying His glory.^[4] We affirm the sovereignty of God over all creation^[5] proclaiming “there is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over *all*, does not cry: 'Mine!'”^[6] As Sovereign, God our Father continues to uphold and preserve all he has made and demands perfect obedience. Therefore, we make no separation between the sacred and the secular for all of life is a response to God's rightful claim as Sovereign King. Our mandate is to study, examine and understand this world to gain and proclaim scripturally informed insight into the created order and to instruct students in acknowledging God's claim on every endeavor, academic or otherwise. In every pursuit we proclaim, “Our world belongs to God.” Whether mechanic or missionary, millworker or minister, we commit, empowered by the Spirit, to convince our students that all work is a sacred vocation for the purpose of glorifying God.

(Belgic Confession, Articles 2, 12)

2. Fall:

We believe that through pride, humanity was enticed by Satan to willfully disobey God.^[7] Consequently man is the just recipient of our just God's fierce wrath against sin and all of creation was contaminated by sin and suffers its pervasive consequences. Sin's impact is universal. Nothing in all of creation is free from the totality of sin's contamination.^[8] Therefore, we believe that our students, yet bearing the image of God,^[9] are born into sin^[10] and are in desperate need of a Savior^[11] and that God's creation has fallen from its original goodness and in need of redemption.^[12] Apart from a Savior we have no hope. Apart from redemption creation has no future. Our mandate is to impress upon our students the deadly stain of sin in their own lives and the world in which they live and their utter dependence upon Christ for salvation.^[13]

^[2] Genesis 1:31

^[3] Colossians 1:16,17, John 1:3

^[4] Romans 11:36, 1 Corinthians 10:31

^[5] Psalm 24:1,2

^[6] Abraham Kuyper

^[7] Romans 3:23

^[8] Genesis 3:14-19

^[9] Genesis 1:27

^[10] Psalm 51:5, Romans 5:12

^[11] Romans 6:23

^[12] Romans 8:22

^[13] Romans 6:23

(Heidelberg Catechism, Part 1, Q & A 003-011)
(Belgic Confession, Article 14, 15)
(Canons of Dordt, The 1st Main Point of Doctrine)

3. Redemption:

Before the creation of the World, God covenanted to provide a fallen world with a Savior.^[14] We believe that in Love, our Father in heaven predestined to send His Son Christ Jesus into the world to regain what sin lost not only in humanity but in all of creation.^[15] As fully God and fully man, in death Christ took our place in taking upon himself the just wrath of God toward sin.^[16] Christ rose from death, breaking the dominion of Satan and rescuing all of creation from the curse of sin^[17] and displaying His victory over sin and the grave.^[18] Christ's death and resurrection assure us of redemption for lost souls. Therefore we affirm with conviction the truth expressed in the Heidelberg Catechism:

My only comfort in life and death is that I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.^[19]

Christ not only redeems lives but assures us of the ultimate renewal of all creation.^[20] Because of Christ's death and resurrection, there is bright hope for this sin-broke world. The covenant community of believers is the embodiment of Christ's hope in this world.^[21] Our mandate is to impress upon our students their role as Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation, equipping them to participate through and with His Spirit as agents of renewal, insisting upon God's divine claim to in every area of life.

Further, we believe that Christ's promises are not simply made to individuals but to a community^[22] and view Christian education as our responsibility as God's covenant people. We accept our role, in cooperation with Christian

^[14] Ephesians 1

^[15] John 3:16

^[16] 2 Corinthians 5:21

^[17] Matthew 28:18

^[18] Philippians 2:9-11, 1 Corinthians 15:51-56

^[19] Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #1

^[20] Revelation 21:5

^[21] 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; 19-20

^[22] Genesis 17:7

parents and the church, to train children to love the Lord with all their heart, mind and strength and their neighbor as themselves.^[23]

(Heidelberg Catechism, Part II, Q & A 012-064)
(Canons of Dort, The 2nd, 3rd, 4th 5th Main Points of Doctrine)
(Belgic Confession, Articles 16-23)

4. New Creation:

We believe that Christ Jesus is coming again to bring his kingdom, which is now not yet fully realized, to fulfillment.^[24] When Christ returns he will do away with all evidence of sin's contamination. Suffering, injustice, brokenness, alienation and death will be fully eradicated.^[25] Christ the King will restore not only humanity but all of creation to its original purpose of glorifying Him. We seek to equip our students to be kingdom citizens who realize that the Kingdom of God is both "now" and "not yet." Until He comes again, it is our mandate to engage the created world through the lens of God written and revealed Word so that we might equip our students to be instruments of cultural change -from what is to what ought to be – as we eagerly anticipate the return of our Lord.

(Belgic Confession, Article 24, 37)

Signature

^[23] Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 78:1-7

^[24] Matthew 24-25

^[25] Revelation 21:1-5