



# Calvin Christian School

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## Foundational Beliefs and Education Principles

**Purpose:** The purpose and object of the society is to maintain a school or schools for the daily instruction of the children of the members in accordance with Article 12 and directed towards the end that these children may be well prepared to serve the Lord competently and responsibly in every area of life and to carry out such other activities as are incidental or conducive to such objects.

**Basis:** (a) The basis of the Society is the infallible Word of God of which the educational relevance is summarized and reflected in the following Foundational Beliefs and Educational Principles - which the members believe are true to the Word of God in harmony with the Confessions of the Reformation.

- **BIBLE:** We believe that the Bible is God's written Word through which He reveals Himself, renews man's understanding of God, of man himself, of his fellow man and of the world; directs man in all his relationships and activities and therefore guides His people also in the education of their children.
- **GOD:** We believe in one triune eternal God, in whom are three distinct persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This triune God created, sustains and governs the world for His glory and its well-being.
- **JESUS CHRIST:** We believe that the Christ of the Scriptures, truly God and truly man, has reconciled the world to God and redeems our life in its entirety. Since "He is before all things and in Him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17-20), we honour His supremacy in the education of our children.
- **HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity, co-eternal with the Father and the son, who regenerates, sanctifies, comforts and guides in the way of truth and obedience. He redirects our understanding rightly to know God, ourselves and the world.
- **CREATION:** We believe that since God, who has created all things by His Word and Spirit, constantly reveals His wisdom and power in the cosmos and exercises His lordship everywhere, we can rightly understand the world in its relation to the triune God.
- **MAN:** We believe that man was created by God in His image to enjoy fellowship with His Creator. Furthermore, man, endowed with special gifts far above any other living creatures, received the mandate to have dominion over all things in accordance with God's will, to His honour and glory.

- **SIN:** We believe that man's sin, which brought upon all mankind the curse of God, alienated him from his Maker, his neighbour and the creation. It has also corrupted and distorted his understanding of the true meaning and purpose of life, human culture and of the education of children.
- **COVENANT:** We believe that God has entered into the Covenant of Grace with His people; therefore, believing parents are obliged to educate their covenant children in the fear of the Lord.
- **KINGDOM:** We believe that Jesus Christ, through the light of His Word and the working of the Holy Spirit, presently establishes His rule in our hearts and lives, requiring that we in obedience to Him as our Lord submit every area of our life to His commandment to love Him with all our heart and mind, thus giving meaning and direction to the education of His children.
- **BELIEVER:** We believe that a believer is a person who trusts in Jesus Christ alone for his salvation, is born again through the power of the Word and the Holy Spirit, and by living in Christ bears the fruits of the Holy Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, patience, faithfulness and self-control.
- **SCHOOLS:** We believe that the Christian school is to educate children for a life of obedience to their calling in this world as image bearers of God; that this calling is to know God's Word and His creation; to consecrate the whole of human life to God; to love their fellow man and to be stewards in their God-given cultural task.
- **PARENTS:** We believe that the primary responsibility for education rests upon the parents to whom children are entrusted by God and that Christian parents should accept this obligation in view of the covenantal relationship which God established with believers and their children. They should seek to discharge this obligation through school association and school board which engage the services of Christian teachers in Christian schools.
- **TEACHERS:** We believe that Christian teachers who love Christ, who honour God, who are dedicated to high academic and moral standards, are servants of God who have the task of educating children. We believe that the teacher in loco parentis exercises authority over the children while they are in school. Furthermore, in cooperation with the parents, teachers accept the responsibility to develop each pupil's ability to know and to serve God in His created world through the study of both His Word and His created works.
- **THE CHILD:** We believe that the child has been created in the image of God, capable of learning, knowing and obeying the truth of God's Word and the laws of His creation. Although sin has diminished that ability in varying degrees, we believe that in Christ are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, which the child comes to know through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. We believe that in this manner Christ aims to meet the intellectual, emotional, moral and social needs of the child. Therefore, the child is entitled to respect as an image bearer of God, and to an education in which Christ is the supreme Teacher.

- **LEARNING PROGRAM:** We believe that the Christian school must take into account the variety of abilities and needs God has given to each child. Therefore, a learning program (curricular and extra-curricular) must be established to develop fully all the abilities of each boy or girl. Although such a program must take into account the educational standards of the Province of Manitoba, the integration of the above-mentioned pedagogical concerns and principles with the curriculum will ensure a Christ-centered education.
- **COMMUNITY:** We believe that because God's covenant embraces not only parents and their children but also the whole Christian community to which they belong and because Christian education contributes directly to the advancement of God's Kingdom, it is the obligation not only of the parents, but also of this Christian community to establish and maintain Christian schools, to pray for, work for, and give generously in their support.
- **EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM:** We believe that Christian schools, organized and administered in accordance with legitimate standards and provisions for day schools, should be fully recognized in society and free to function according to these principles.

### **Membership (Article 21 of the By-Law)**

All persons who, in the Board's discretion, faithfully profess and serve Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and who are in wholehearted agreement with the Purpose and Basis of the Articles are eligible for membership in the Society. Membership includes the right of voting at membership meetings, the privilege of serving the Society as a duly elected Director and appointment to a committee.