

# BRIERCREST

CARONPORT HIGH SCHOOL — COLLEGE — SEMINARY

## CORPORATE MISSION AND OBJECTIVES - INSTITUTIONAL COVENANT

### WHO WE ARE

Briercrest College and Seminary, which is interdenominational and evangelical, operates several educational units, each of which has a specific role to serve as an ally of the Church, in providing Christian education and guided by the following mission:

*Briercrest College and Seminary is a community of rigorous learning that calls students to seek the Kingdom of God, to be shaped profoundly by the Scriptures, and to be formed spiritually and intellectually for lives of service.*

#### Derived objectives:

Together as a learning community we desire by God's grace to be characterized by:

1. A vibrant love for the triune God that aims for God's honour in every area of life.
2. An integrity that loves truth and regards obedience to the truth as the goal of study.
3. A profound sense of calling to serve God with one's whole life by sharing in the church's mission in the world.
4. A growing love for and submission to the Scriptures and a commitment to handle these texts with skill and care.
5. A competency and confidence to read enduring texts with insight, communicate with clarity, and reason with wisdom.
6. A love of learning wed to a humility that is nurtured by God's Spirit.
7. A relational capacity that fosters lasting friendships, enables the working out of difference and disputes, and allows effective team work.
8. A growing understanding of and appreciation for the world in which we live and the people with whom we live.
9. A love for life that embraces the good gifts of God.

### ***CARONPORT HIGH SCHOOL***

Caronport High School provides provincial secondary education within a distinctly Christian environment, assisting students in balanced development of their intellectual, personal and spiritual potentials.

### ***BRIERCREST COLLEGE***

Briercrest College provides post-secondary education equipping students to minister in the church and society by preparing them to think, value, live and serve in accord with biblical principles.

### ***BRIERCREST SEMINARY***

Briercrest Seminary provides Christ centered graduate education designed to equip students with the biblical perspectives, personal vision, professional skills and theological convictions necessary for Christian life and ministry in their generation.

## ***BRIERCREST CONTINUING & DISTANCE EDUCATION***

Briercrest Continuing & Distance Education provides quality education in formats and locations which allow students to choose educational options which further their life long learning goals in accordance with the mission and goals of Briercrest College and Seminary.

### **WHAT WE BELIEVE AND TEACH**

We embrace the revelation given by God in the Christian Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. We likewise appreciate the faith which is taught in the Scriptures and summarized in such orthodox statements of the whole Christian church as the [Apostles' Creed](#) and the [Nicene Creed](#). We understand our own faith in continuity with the [Protestant confessions of the Reformation](#) and the evangelical awakenings in subsequent centuries. We affirm our own heritage since the 1930s within the global, interdenominational evangelical movement. Our own community therefore reflects a range of evangelical traditions, denominations, mission societies, and other associations. In continuity with our previous statements of faith and with the beliefs of evangelical Christians throughout the world, we affirm and have based the statements to follow on national and international evangelical movements such as the [World Evangelical Alliance](#) and the [Evangelical Fellowship of Canada](#). We regard the doctrines to follow as essential to the understanding and proclamation of the gospel and to Christian life and practice.

We believe in:

*The Holy Scriptures* as originally given by God, divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy; and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct;

*One God*, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;

*Our Lord Jesus Christ*, God manifest in the flesh, His virgin birth, His sinless human life, His divine miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, His mediatorial work, and His personal return in power and glory;

*The Salvation* of lost and sinful humanity possible only through the merits of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ received by faith apart from works, and as characterized by regeneration by the Holy Spirit;

*The Holy Spirit*, by whose indwelling the believer is enabled to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ;

*The Unity of the Spirit* of all true believers, the Church, the Body of Christ;

*The Resurrection* of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

Moreover, we strive to reflect this gospel in our life together. We share the ideals of movements such as the [Lausanne Covenant \(1974\)](#) regarding the authority of Scripture, the priority of evangelism, the need for Christian social responsibility and personal holiness, the costliness and urgency of world mission, and the importance of theological education. The perspectives to follow identify priorities applied to the Briercrest situation.

## What We Practice

People generally make strong moral claims (such as that life is to be respected, persons have dignity and therefore 'human rights', suffering ought to be minimized, the ordinary life of work and home is important, and so on), but more often than not these claims are not properly grounded. As Christians we want to affirm many of these same values, but also to show how they have a firm basis in the character of the triune God of Holy Scripture who has revealed himself by word and deed throughout history, and supremely in the person of Jesus Christ. Our practice ought to be informed by our most deeply cherished religious beliefs.

In continuity with what we believe and teach, therefore, we affirm the central Christian tradition, expressed so well in the Westminster Confession, that 'the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.' This is the 'good life'. If 'ethos' is the characteristic spirit of a community or institution, then our desire is that the ethos of Briercrest College and Seminary would be the pursuit and enjoyment of God's glory on the basis of the Scriptures.

God's grace does not free us from obligations. Rather, because our human condition is so fallible we need both forgiveness and moral guidance. The Ten Commandments epitomize God's moral will for the good and the protection of human life. The liberating teaching of the New Testament is that through Christ, the Spirit frees us from our self-serving patterns of life, to a life which is radically orientated toward God and others (2 Corinthians 5. 15-16; Galatians 5. 5-6). The whole law is summed up in the love of God and neighbour:

*One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matt. 22:35-40)*

Moreover, because of our evangelical heritage and our mission to provide 'spiritual and intellectual formation' for the whole person, we affirm the declaration of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism of the need for integrity on the part of those who teach and proclaim the gospel.

## What We Expect

Briercrest is not, however, an abstract community of Christians. It has a particular history and calling in theological education, and to this end it is necessary to identify those aspects of conduct which form part of the contractual obligations of those serving within Briercrest College and Seminary (including Board members, staff, faculty, and faculty of associate schools). To define those areas of conduct which are contractual, and are therefore grounds for discipline or for termination, is not however to reduce our ethos to the contractual.

Signatories are expected to agree to and support the objectives of Briercrest College and Seminary and seek to contribute to the educational mission of the schools in and out of the classroom, in academic and non-academic roles. Signatories are to conduct their lives in a way which is exemplary and supports the principles and practices that follow.

Signatories are also expected to establish in their lives the spiritual disciplines needed to maintain and promote a relationship with God, which is essential to effective service to Christ, including such practices as prayer, Bible study, corporate worship, stewardship, and faithful Christian witness. Signatories are to

attend regularly and participate faithfully in a church whose beliefs are consistent with what is believed and taught within Briercrest College and Seminary.

Moreover, because of our commitment to Christ and our particular identity as an educational community, we affirm the following guiding principles as central to our life together. Signatories are expected to conduct themselves in the light of these principles:

- We view learning and the pursuit of truth as a Christian calling.
- We believe that life is sacred and people have worth because they are created in God's image.
- We believe that our relationships should reflect our connection in the body of Christ.
- We believe our minds and bodies should be used in God-honouring ways.
- We believe that marriage is a covenant instituted by God to be marked by a loving, lifelong union of one man and one woman for the purpose of bringing glory to God.
- We view sexuality as one of God's good gifts.
- We value the wise stewardship of resources.
- We believe that maturity calls for us to exercise discretion in our behaviours.
- We believe that everyone should be treated with equal respect and care regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, age or disability.

Without limiting the spirit of these expectations and principles, Briercrest College and Seminary will not condone conduct such as the following in any context:

- dishonesty and deceit in personal or business relationships, including plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty
- theft or fraud
- addictive and destructive behaviours as related to substance abuse, alcohol, or gambling
- verbal or physical abuse
- slander and other breaches of trust or confidence
- the possession and use of pornographic material
- sexual and other forms of assault, exploitation, harassment or abuse
- sexual immorality; any form of interpersonal sexual activity conducted outside of a church or civil ceremony sanctioned monogamous, heterosexual marriage
- any criminal activity

Such conduct on the part of a signatory is just cause for disciplinary action, up to and including immediate dismissal with due process. This agreement will not be used to help create or maintain a climate characterized by inordinate intrusion, suspicion or gossip. Instead, signatories can expect to be treated with respect in an atmosphere of trust and mutual accountability.

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## CORPORATE MISSION AND OBJECTIVES - INSTITUTIONAL COVENANT

The Corporate Mission and Objectives articulate the unique community of faith to which all staff, faculty, faculty of associate schools, and board members serving with the Briercrest ministry join themselves. The Institutional Covenant is a regularly renewable covenant that serves to remind one another of who we are, what we believe and what we practice. It should be understood that references to other historic and current covenants, creeds, or statements (such as the Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, the Lausanne Covenant, etc.) simply show our heritage in Christian orthodoxy. This document and covenant are intended to stand alone and when signed, they alone are being agreed to.

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|---|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Signature of Affirmation</b>   |                          |                 |
| <i>I have read the Corporate Mission and Objectives of Briercrest College and Seminary, and I am in full agreement with them. As an employee of Briercrest, I will support this position before students and other constituencies of the institution.</i> |                          |                 |
| Full Name (Please print)  | Signature of Affirmation | Date (mm-dd-yy) |
|   |                          |                 |