

OHCS Statement of Faith/Society Membership Agreement

The basis of this Society is the infallible Word of God. The Society is committed to the following fundamental beliefs.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**meaning the universal Christian church--
all believers in Jesus Christ*

Furthermore,

- I believe, although human beings were originally created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), we rebelled against God (Genesis 3) and are now slaves to sin (Romans 7), incapable of saving ourselves.
- I believe "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Rom. 3:23) and "the wages of sin is death." (Rom. 6:23) but this is how God showed love: "God gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16) Those who do accept this gospel and embrace Jesus the Savior with a true and living faith are delivered through him from God's wrath and from destruction, and receive the gift of eternal life (Romans 10).
- I believe God in boundless mercy has given us as a guarantee the only begotten Son, who was made to be sin and a curse for us, in our place, on the cross, in order that he might give satisfaction for us (Hebrews 4). This death of God's Son is the only and entirely complete sacrifice and satisfaction for sins; it is of infinite value and worth, more than sufficient to atone for the sins of the whole world. However, though many who have been called through the gospel do not repent or believe in Christ but perish in unbelief, this is not because the sacrifice of Christ offered on the cross is deficient or insufficient (1 Corinthians 1).
- I believe God's act of salvation through Jesus Christ is a gift, as Paul wrote, "It is by grace you have been saved through faith and this is not your own doing but a gift from God" (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- I believe God is faithful, mercifully strengthening believers in the grace conferred on them and powerfully preserving them in it to the end (Matthew 28:20; John 14).
- I believe the Holy Scripture (consisting of the Old and New Testaments) contains the will of God completely and that everything one must believe to be saved is sufficiently taught in it (2 Timothy 3:16)

As a member of the OHCS Society, I unconditionally accept and hold the beliefs set forth in this Statement of Faith, and agree to uphold Articles III and IV of OHCS' Articles of Amendment and Articles 2 and 3 of OHCS' Constitution, as now exist or as hereafter amended.

Oak Harbor Christian School

Position Statement on Human Sexuality*

Because human beings are created in the image of God their Creator, we affirm that all humans, male and female, homosexual and heterosexual, have inestimable value and must be treated with dignity and respect.

As a community that seeks to be an authentic Biblical community, Oak Harbor Christian School is committed to addressing all issues of human sexuality with grace and truth.

We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

In Truth we affirm:

- A. The Creator's intent for human sexuality finds its fulfillment between a man and a woman within the bond of the marriage covenant. To experience the fullness of God's loving intent in human sexuality, sexual experience is intended to be celebrated between a man and a woman within that covenant union. (*Genesis 2: 22-24; Proverbs 5:18-19; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16*)
- B. Same gender and heterosexual lust is a condition contrary to God's created order which reveals the brokenness of our sinful world and the effects of sin on God's perfect intent for human sexuality. (*Matthew 5:28; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Ephesians 5:3*)
- C. Heterosexual practice outside the covenant of marriage and all homosexual practice is incompatible with the will of God as revealed in scripture and is sin demanding confession and repentance. (*Leviticus 20:10; Proverbs 5; Hebrews 13:4, Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1:26-27*)
- D. Our sure and certain hope that those guilty of violating God's perfect will for human sexuality, whether heterosexual or homosexual, can find grace, forgiveness and restoration through Christ. (*Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-10*)
- E. Our commitment to communicate and uphold God's standards for human sexuality with grace, mercy and equity. (*Philippians 2:1-5, Ephesians 5:1,2*)

With Grace we commit to:

- A. Exercising patient understanding of and compassion for all students with issues of sexuality and practices contrary to God's created order.
- B. Ensuring an environment that is filled with grace and respect.
 - a. No student, heterosexual or homosexual, will be forced to admit their sexual

- orientation.
- b. No student will be expelled or excluded on the basis of their same gender attraction. School discipline will be in accordance with Oak Harbor Christian School discipline policy.
- C. Insisting upon an atmosphere that is a safe learning environment for all students.
- a. Physical assault, harassment (snide remarks, jokes, innuendo, slogans, disparaging terms), or bullying on the basis of one's sexual orientation will not be tolerated.
 - b. "In your face" gay or anti-gay militancy is regarded as incompatible with Christian community and will therefore not be tolerated.
- D. Providing students whose sexuality does not align with God's perfect intent with:
- a. A humble, compassionate, understanding venue in which to engage in authentic dialogue regarding human sexuality.
 - b. School counselors who will offer biblical guidance, resources and options for referral for counseling.
 - c. An assurance that the dignity of all students and families will be guarded.
- E. Acknowledging our own human frailty and dependence upon Christ for His humility, grace and wisdom in our considerations of human sexuality, seeking always to love one another as He has loved us.

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* We acknowledge with gratitude the influence of the following institutions upon the writing of this document

- Society of Christian Schools of British Columbia, *Same Gender Attraction: A Discussion Among Our Christian School Communities*
- Seattle Pacific University, *Statement on Human Sexuality*
- Abbotsford Christian School (Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada), *Same Gender Attraction Statement*
- Unity Christian School (Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada), *Guidelines for Respecting Diversity*
- Christian Reformed Church of North America, *Committee to Study Homosexuality, Report 42, art. 53*
- Christian Reformed Church of North America, *Pastoral Care for Homosexual Members*
- Lynden Christian School
- Mount Vernon Christian School